



City of Wood River, Illinois

The City News •
PIPELINE

We're 13th!

The City of Wood River recently undertook a study, comparing the cost of City services to the "average homeowner", in the 16 Madison County municipalities over 1,000 population. The study included comparisons of taxes and user fees. Taxes consisted of property taxes, plus utility and wheel taxes (if applicable). User fees consisted of sewer, water and refuse fees.

Municipalities were ranked in descending order, with #1 being the highest in cost, and #16 being the least in cost. Wood River ranked #14 in terms of taxes, and #10 in terms of user fees.

Taxes and user fees were then combined into one total cost figure. Madison, Venice, and Alton, ranked #1 through #3 in highest total cost, with the highest cost being \$484 per year in Madison. Hartford, Roxana, and Troy, ranked #14 through #16 in least total cost, with the lowest cost being \$187 per year in Troy. Wood River ranked #13 in total cost, with the "average homeowner" paying \$248 per year in City taxes and user fees.

Several conclusions were drawn from the study concerning the "high cost" cities:

1. These cities have the highest water rates, and are serviced by private water companies;
2. Citizens are charged local utility taxes on some, or all, of their utilities (gas, electric, telephone, water);

3. Refuse collection is paid for only by property taxes.

Wood River Keeps Cost Down

In light of the above conclusions, it is important to note that Wood River:

1. Provides water to it's citizens through a public water "company";
2. Does not charge any local utility taxes;
3. Refuse user fees are paid separately by residents.

The results are clear. Wood River keeps the costs of providing City services to it's citizens way down. This is largely due to a good tax base and the efficient delivery of City services. So, next time you're looking for a full set of City services at low cost, don't look further than the Wood River City limits.

Bundle, Haul or Pay

Ten years ago, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) placed restrictions on certain types of burning. Consequently, residents stopped burning, and the City also stopped burning at the City Garage. In order to assist citizens in disposing of their brush and limbs, the City began a free pick-up service. This procedure has been followed up until the present.

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Dog Days are Coming

May 1st is an important date for Wood River dogs (and owners). If your dog is over six months old, you are responsible for:

- 1) obtaining a dog license; and
- 2) inoculating your dog against rabies.

Both licensing and inoculation are required by law every year.

Apply for your dog license prior to May 1st in City Hall. Dog owners have a grace period of 30 days, for which there will be no penalty. However, after May 31st, you will be required to pay an additional 50% for a license.

License fees are as follows:

May 1st - May 31st

- A. \$3.50 for each male or spayed female dog.
- B. \$5.50 for each unspayed female dog.

After May 31st

- A. \$5.25 for each male or spayed female dog.
- B. \$8.25 for each unspayed female dog.

After license application and payment of fees, you will receive a metal tag. This tag is to be attached to your dog's collar and worn at all times.

If the metal tag is lost, a duplicate tag can be issued upon the payment of \$3.00. Also, if there is a change in ownership of a dog, the new owner can have the license transferred to his/her name upon the payment of \$3.00.

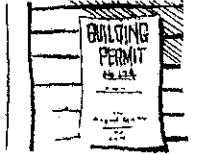
Vaccination Clinic Offered

Before dog licenses are issued, dogs must have been inoculated against rabies within the past year. If your dog needs to be inoculated, you may bring him/her to the inoculation clinic at the City Garage, on April 17, from 2:00-3:00 PM. Dr. Robert Brakeville, from Alton, will be inoculating dogs against rabies for a fee of \$7.00.

Also, remember that no more than 2 dogs may be kept at one address - unless a special kennel license is issued.

So, don't forget the date - May 1st. Get your dog inoculated and licensed. The sooner the better - for both you, and your dog! For more information, call the Water Office at City Hall - 254-0131.

Permits, Permits, Permits



As Springtime approaches, many of us are planning to do some repairs and/or construction, both inside and outside of our homes. It is important for you, as a homeowner, to remember that new additions or alterations generally require a permit from the City. Also, garage and yard sales, and fence construction require permits. Permits are required to protect you - and your neighbors!

Here are some basic rules concerning permits for building construction, and garage and yard sales:

BUILDING PERMITS

1. Never assume anything! Before beginning a home improvement project, call City Hall and ask about required permits and fees for any repairs or work on buildings, plumbing, electrical, demolition, patios, and swim pools.
2. All permits must be posted at the site where work is being performed.
3. The construction of fences requires permits. Maximum heights of fences vary depending on: a) Whether the property is in a residential or commercial district, and b) If the property is a corner lot.

GARAGE & YARD SALES

1. Permits are acquired from the City Clerk and must be visible during sales.
2. Garage and yard sales can be conducted no more than two (2) times a year, on a specific property.
3. A garage or yard sale cannot last for more than 72 hours.

Remember, when building additions or making alterations --- DO NOT ASSUME ANYTHING!! Call City Hall at 254-0123 for more information regarding required permits; taking this precaution can save you time and money - resulting in a well-done job.

Fore!

Many years ago, Robert E. Belk gave 234 acres of farmland to the City of Wood River, providing the land be used as a recreational area. Today, that land is a beautiful park and golf course, located along Rock Hill Road.

Belk Memorial Park Golf Course has proven to be an asset to the City, by earning the reputation of being one of the best courses in the St. Louis metropolitan area. Citing a survey from 1980, the Golf Course Manager states that:

- 1) 46% of all cash customers are Missouri residents;
- 2) 29% of all cash customers are Illinois residents;
- 3) 5% of all cash customers are Wood River residents.

The golf course has never been subsidized by the City's general tax dollars. It has been totally self-supporting. Golf rates are adjusted each year to ensure that golfers pay all expenses --and not City taxpayers.

Belk Memorial Park Golf Course is open from March 1st to November 30th, and other times, weather permitting. Several types of passes are available:

- 1) Resident and non-resident season passes
- 2) Senior season passes
- 3) 20-play cards

It you're a golfer and haven't yet been out to Belk Park, now's your chance. March 1st is only days away, and this year should be a great year for the green! Call the Clubhouse at 254-9065, if you have any questions concerning rates, course conditions, reservations, etc.



Avid golfers are pleased to find Belk Park Golf Course open, on this mild January day.

P.S. Fishing is allowed in Belk Park's Wright Lake--and picnic shelters may be reserved by calling City Hall at 254-0123.

Limit the Growth

One of the most nuisance-type problems the City deals with each Spring is weed control. While most City residents keep up their properties, there are a small number who do not. These unmaintained properties look shabby, and may also cause hazards to both drivers and pedestrians.

For the past several years, an increasing amount of staff time has been spent issuing continual reminders and notices to this small group of property owners. A new ordinance has been approved by the City Council, to reduce staff time spent on enforcement procedures and to develop better-kept properties.

Ordinance Ensures Safety

The new revised Weed Ordinance includes the following regulations:

- 1) Grass and weeds must not exceed a height of 8 inches. This includes any area between the sidewalk and curb/street adjacent to your property.
- 2) The City may cut weeds and grass without notice and bill the owner for all expenses involved, for neglecting to follow the 8" rule.
- 3) The City may also file a lien on the property, and/or initiate a civil complaint for court action, if the owner fails to cut grass/weeds, or pay billed expenses.

The new ordinance's purpose is to better ensure the safety of all Wood River residents. Weeds and grass which are not properly cut, may result in the blocking of vision at crosswalks and intersections. Also no one wants to live in a neighborhood where people don't keep up their properties.

The City asks all property owners to make a special effort this year in cutting all weeds and grass. If you do your part, then the City won't have to. Make your property one that you can be proud of!

*Call City Hall at 254-0123 for information, assistance, or complaints.

Adventure through Recreation

- YOUTH ACTIVITIES -

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>AGES</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>FEE</u>	<u>REGISTER</u>
Gymnastics Pre-School	boys & girls 4 & 5 yrs	W 10:30 & 11:30	\$10/8wks	Mar 3, 4, & 5 1 to 5 pm
Beginners	6 and older	W & Th 4-5:30pm Sat 9:30-11am	\$18/8wks	at the Roundhouse Rec Center
Intermediates	6 and older	T & Th 5-7pm Sat 10:30-12:30pm	\$21/8wks	
Baton Lessons	girls, 6 yrs and older	Sat 1:30PM	\$12/8 wks	Mar 3, 4, & 5 1 to 5 pm

YOUTH SOCCER PROGRAM

League play for boys and girls from age 6 thru 13.
Spring session to begin March 20.
Games on Saturdays beginning at 9am and continuing
thru 2 pm.

REGISTER: February 22 - 27, 1 to 5pm at the
Roundhouse Rec Center. Fee \$6
Fee covers spring and fall sessions



YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL

Morning clinics for 7, 8, & 9 yr old boys & girls.
Clinics will begin June 7 thru July 16, 1982

League play for boys 10 thru 17 and girls 10 thru 15
(9 yr olds that participated in clinic for 2 yrs are
eligible for league play.)

REGISTER: March 29, 30, 31, and April 1, 2, & 3,
1 to 5 pm at the Roundhouse Rec Center.

Baseball and Softball Coaches Annual Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 31,
at 7:30 pm at the Roundhouse Recreation Center.

Annual Opening Night Parade scheduled for Tuesday, June 1, 6PM. League play will
get underway June 1, immediately following parade and opening night ceremonies
at Jaycee Field at Sixth Street Park.

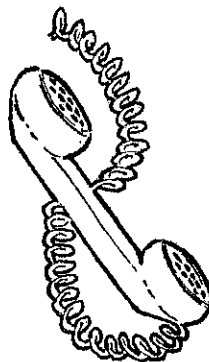
- ADULT ACTIVITIES -

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>AGES</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>FEE</u>	<u>REGISTER</u>
Slim Talk	Men & women	M 10:00 am	\$10 membership \$3 weekly dues	Any Monday am
Ladies Exercise	Women	T 1-2PM F 9:30-10:30am	\$12/8 wks	Mar 3, 4, & 5 1 to 5 pm
Aerobic Dance	Women	M-Th 7 pm	\$15/8wks	Mar 3, 4, & 5 1 to 5 pm
Senior Citizens	Men & women	2nd & 4th Th 11 am to 3pm	\$5/yr dues	
Square Dances	Men & women	2nd & 4th Sat	\$3/couple	

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL THE ROUNDHOUSE REC CENTER AT 254-5521 or 254-7008.

Abandoned Cars (on streets)	254-8923
Abandoned Cars (private prop.)	254-0123
Agency for Aging (State)	1-800-642-3859
Alley Maintenance (City)	254-5822
Ambulance (Emergency)	254-9411
Animal Control	254-4303
Assessor's Office (Twp.)	259-1532
Belk Park Golf Course	254-9065
Birth Certificates (County)	1-692-4482
Birth/Death Records (County)	1-692-4482
Brush/Limbs Pick-up (City)	254-0123
Building Inspections	254-4302
Building Permits	254-0123
City Clerk	254-0123
City Hall	254-0123
City Manager	254-0123
County Clerk	1-692-4482
Court Office (County) small claims; traffic	254-4018
Demolition Permits	254-0123
Dog Catcher	254-4303
Dog Licenses	254-0131
Dog Redemption/Kennel	259-4160
Driver's License	258-0600
Electric Bill (IL Power)	254-0133
Electrical Permits	254-0123
Emergency Room (hospital)	254-4311
Employment Office (State)	466-8110
Energy Assistance (State)	258-1231
Energy Audit, home	1-876-1280
Fence Permits	254-0123
Fire Emergency	254-4301
Fire Home Safety Survey	254-4302
Fire Inspection	254-4302
Food (Emergency)	259-2366
Food Stamps (State)	465-4430
Garbage Collection	254-0131
Gas Bill (IL Power)	254-0133
General Welfare Assistance (Twp.)	259-2366
Golf Course (Belk Park)	254-9065
Heat Assistance (Emergency)	258-1231
Hospital (W.R.Twp.)	254-4311
Housing Assistance & General Welfare (Twp.)	259-2366
Inspections, bldg. & fire	254-4302
Inspections, property	254-0123
Junk Cars	254-0123
Large Item Refuse Disposal	254-5822
Legal Assistance (low- income persons)	462-0029
Library (Wood River Public)	254-4832

Wood River Services Directory



"Pick Up
and
Call Someone"

License Plates (non-dealer sales)	258-0600
Liquor Licenses	254-0123
Litter & Debris Complaints	254-0123
Low-Income Housing	259-2366
Maps & Plats (County)	1-692-4586
Marriage Licenses	254-6768 or 259-7522
Mayor (City Hall)	254-0123
Meals-on-Wheels	259-2106
MEDCO (Ambulance)	254-9411
Mini-Bus (Senior Citizens)	254-1744
Parks (City)	254-5521
Permits (Bldg., elec., plbg., demolition, signs)	254-0123
Personnel (City)	254-0123
Picnic Shelter (Belk Park)	254-9065
Plumbing Permits	254-0123
Police Emergency	254-4303
Police Records	254-0588
Property Taxes (Twp.)	259-1532
Public Defender's Office	1-692-4418
Public Library	254-4832
Recorder of Deeds (County)	692-4474
Recreation Programs (City)	254-5521
Refuse Collection, bills & service	254-0123
Roundhouse Recreation Ctr. (City)	254-5521
Senior Citizen Mini-Bus	254-1744
Senior Citizen Gov't. Programs	1-800-642-3859
Sewers, bills & service	254-0131
Sidewalk Repairs	254-5822
Sign Permits	254-0123
Small Claims (County Court)	254-4018
Smoke Detector Installation	254-4302
Snow Removal	254-0123
Social Security Office (Fed)	463-6565
Social Services, referrals	259-2366
Streets (repairs, sweeping lights, etc.)	254-5822
Swimming Pool (in season-City)	251-4955
Tax Assessor (Twp.)	259-1532
Traffic Court/Tickets (County)	254-4018
Treasurer (City)	254-0131
Township Clerk	259-7260
Unemployment Office (State)	466-8221
Vacation Check (WR Police)	254-8923
Voter Registration	254-0123
Water, bills & service	254-0131
Weed Complaints	254-0123
Welfare (State - Social Services)	465-4430
Zoning Variances (City)	254-0123

February 1982

Twp. = Wood River Township



Wood River Senior Citizen Club Members enjoy an afternoon of BINGO, at the Roundhouse Rec Center.

Services for Seniors: Wood River Senior Citizen Club

Twice each month, around noon, the Roundhouse Recreation Center comes alive with busy-ness and friendly conversation. Who's making all the noise? It's the Wood River Senior Citizens Club, and are they having fun!

The Club meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of every month at the Rec Center. On the 2nd Thursday of the month, a potluck luncheon at Noon is followed by a business meeting. On the 4th Thursday of the month, everyone brings their own "sack lunch", and bingo or a band and dancing happens from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

The club has 150 members and always welcomes more. Here's how you can join:

- 1) You or your spouse must be 55 years old or older;

AND

- 2) You must live in Wood River Township.

If you are not a member and might wish to become one, come down to the Rec Center on the 2nd or 4th Thursday of the month. If you like what you see, you can join the club for only \$5.00 per year. If you are interested in becoming a member or would like additional information, please call Dorothy Schuette, Wood River Senior Citizen President, at 254-4542.

Cost Cutters:

Police Overtime Slashed

Working extra hours is sometimes needed to "get the job done" in the Police Department. However, overtime can and should be kept at a minimum to allow the best possible job performance - while protecting the taxpayer's pocketbook.

Over the past two years, the Wood River Police Department has been trying many things to reduce overtime hours by police employees. Looking at the data for total overtime hours over a three-year period, between July and December, we see these figures:

1979 - 1946 overtime hours

1980 - 1583 overtime hours

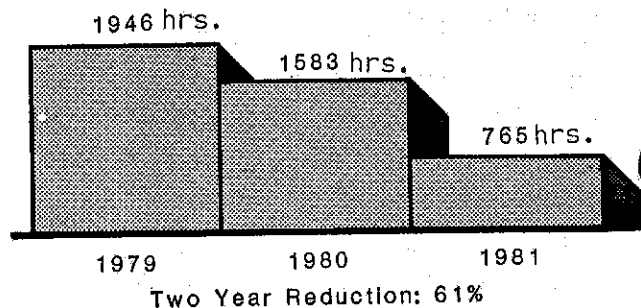
1981 - 765 overtime hours

Cost Reduction Measures Taken

Between 1979 and 1981, the number of overtime hours has been slashed by 61%, with annual savings now at \$14,300. The Police Chief credits this dramatic reduction to a step-by-step program specifically designed to reduce overtime costs. These steps include:

1. Hiring of part-time dispatchers.
2. Designation of a court liaison officer.
3. Adoption of a 40-hour week schedule.
4. Adjustment of shift times.
5. Beginning of Team Policing.
6. Adoption of 10-hour, 4-day, work schedule.

These changes have allowed the Police Department to operate more efficiently and cut down on the costs to Wood River taxpayers -- without reducing the level of police services provided to City residents.



Bundle, Haul or Pay

(continued from page 1)

However, over the past few years, the piles of brush and limbs put out for pick-up have been getting larger and larger. It has reached the point where it now costs the City over \$25,000 per year to keep up with citizen demand. This figure represents one full-time man and one piece of equipment to do nothing but haul limbs all year for individual residents. This clearly places a burden on the City's 5-person street crew, and reduces our level of street maintenance.

New Ordinance Offers Choices

A solution to balance "citizen" need" with skyrocketing demand and costs has been developed. This approach will allow residents four ways to dispose of brush and limbs:

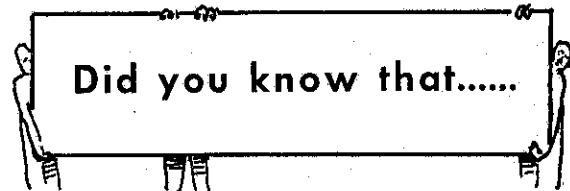
- 1) Haul their own brush and limbs (ONLY) to a site behind the City's water treatment plant, for burning by the City.
- 2) Cut brush and limbs into 2½-3 feet lengths, tie in bundles, not larger than 10-12 inches in diameter. These bundles can be placed out with regular refuse for pick-up.
- 3) Hire a tree-trimming firm to trim and dispose of brush and limbs.
- 4) Place brush and limbs out in front of your property and call the City's street crew for pick-up. This will cost the requesting resident \$20 per truckload (with a one truckload minimum charge). The resident must sign a commitment sheet and will be billed by the City upon completion of the job.

An ordinance has been approved to impose penalties on persons found dumping items other than brush or limbs at the water plant site. Also, only City residents may haul brush and limbs to this site.

The City believes that this approach to the brush and limb problem, will:

- 1) Allow citizens to help themselves by transporting their own brush and limbs to a disposal site.
- 2) Reduce demand for the City-offered service.
- 3) Cut the costs to the City (and all taxpayers) for such a service.
- 4) Allow the street crew to spend more time on street maintenance.

Please call 254-5822 to request City pickup at \$20 per truckload.



1. The City of Wood River maintains six parks, with over 265 acres of facilities.
2. The City of Wood River has only 74 full-time permanent employees. This is only one position more than seven years ago.
3. One-third of all taxes paid by Illinoisans are property taxes. Although the City of Wood River (in 1980) charged a rate of \$10.73 per \$1,000 of taxable property value, only 16-19% of the property tax bill actually went to the City. The remaining 81-84% of the property tax is collected by the public schools, the hospital, the airport, the community college, Madison County, and Wood River Township.
4. The Wood River Fire Department will sell and install smoke detectors in your home for \$10 a piece. Please call 254-4302, and protect yourself and your family!
5. In Summer 1981, the Wood River Municipal Swimming Pool was open for 73.5 days, averaging 519 swimmers per day, with the highest single day use of 1,312 persons.



A Word About the PIPELINE

Welcome to the second issue of *The City News Pipeline*! *The Pipeline* is a quarterly information newsletter which is distributed to all City residents' homes. It's main purpose is to tell citizens of available City services and how best to utilize what your tax dollars provide. Be sure and see the "Services Directory" in this issue on page 5.

The Pipeline also tells residents of major improvement projects, plans for future development, and other important activities of your City government.

City officials encourage input from City residents, in hopes if improving programs and policies which can best serve the community. If you have any questions or problems or know someone who hasn't received their copy of *The Pipeline*, please contact City Hall at 254-0123. Also, we ask you to share with us your comments concerning this publication. We hope you will continue to find *The Pipeline* both informative and enjoyable.

Gary Webster, City Manager

on behalf of

WOOD RIVER CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Lon Smith
 Councilwoman Dorothy Council
 Councilwoman Anna Culp
 Councilman Michael McClintock
 Councilman Robert Stocker

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Coming Community Events

1. City Budget Public Hearing

Monday, March 15th
 7:30 PM - City Hall

Public comments to be received on proposed City budget, which begins on May 1, 1982.

2. Annual Police Auction

Saturday, April 24th
 9:00 AM
 Fire House #1, Madison & Wood
 River Avenues

Bicycles and other unclaimed items will be subject to auction.

3. Citizen Committee Appointments

Wood River residents who are interested in serving on various citizen committees, should contact Mayor Lon Smith before May 1. Please call the Mayor at 254-0123 or send resume to City Hall, 111 North Wood River Avenue.

4. Dog Licensing and Vaccinations

DATE: Saturday, April 17th

TIME: 2:00-3:00 PM

PLACE: City Garage
 14th Street &
 Madison Avenue

FEE: \$7.00

City of Wood River Monthly Meeting Dates at City Hall

City Council - 1st & 3rd Mondays 7:30 PM
 Plan Comm. & Board of
 Zoning Appeals - 1st Thursday 7:30 PM
 Parks & Recreation
 Commission - 2nd Thursday 7:30 PM
 Traffic Commission-3rd Tuesday 7:30 PM
 Fire & Police Comm-1st Wednesday 7:00 PM
 Library Board (meet at Library)
 Last Thursday 7:00 PM

*Wood River residents are encouraged to participate in the above meetings. Your ideas and views are always welcomed. Always call 254-0123 in advance to confirm times and dates, if you plan to attend meetings.