

# From the desk of Mayor Tom:



As we enter the summer months the City of Wood River is busy with a lot of activities. I would like to invite everyone to the Ice Cream Social at Central Park on July 9 from 3:00-6:00 pm. Come and enjoy ice cream and an afternoon of fun with your neighbors, friends, and family. July is also the beginning of the Wood River Farmers Market located in the parking lot between 143 and Ferguson Ave; join us every Thursday from 4:00pm-dusk. Enjoy fresh goods from local farmers, bakers, and artists.

Development on the east end of town, 143 at 255, will start to be seen. The detention pond is complete to handle the flooding issues and new businesses are starting to build. The Sports Barn will break ground in the next few weeks. This is a baseball/softball training facility that draws athletes from all around the area. Midwest Petroleum Company is building a new gas station/convenient store on Hwy 143, next to Schnucks. This will serve customers on our east side of town and Hwy 255 traffic.

Our Downtown district is continuing to grow with the addition of small businesses like Alley Cat Glass Co, C&B Boiled Bagel and Rachel & Co Coffee House. Construction is ongoing for new businesses like Atomic Pinball, Shameless Taco, Mean Street Tattoo and Heaters Chicken, all hoping to open in the coming months.

We are excited to welcome all these new businesses to Wood River and wish them nothing but success.

The new Pickleball Courts at 14<sup>th</sup> Street Park are complete and being enjoyed by all getting a good workout while having a good time playing pickleball.

Renovations to the Roundhouse and bandstand with new roof, tuck-pointing, new siding, painting, and floors sealed to guarantee our citizens a well-kept and comfortable recreation hall for all to use. Call our recreation department for reservations, 618-251-3130.

Ball season is in full swing with baseball, softball games being played across the city at our ball diamonds. It was great to see all our future big leaguers' parade through town prior to the beginning of the season in the annual parade. After this ball season is complete, the baseball field at Emerick Park will get a face lift with new turf, dug-outs, backstops, and a complete overhaul. This investment with the help of grants won on the hard work of our Parks Director will build the new home for the East Alton Wood River Oilers for the 2024 baseball season.

All our City Employees are working hard to better our community with clean streets, water, and sewer services, safe with fire and health support and protection to keep our families safe from harm.

I hope you all enjoy the remainder of your summer. Please stay safe and I hope to see you around town.

Mayor Tom