

Mayor Report – Cheryl Maguire, City of Wood River

Good news is always welcome and there is plenty in the City of Wood River. Our citizens are seeing new city developments, business ownerships, an upswing in housing, and public works improvements.

It's true that good things come to those who wait. It's been 17 years in the waiting since the BP brownfield reclamation began but the City of Wood River is breaking ground on a portion of that property for its \$6.8 million police station. BP donated both the land and the money for this new state-of-the-art facility. Completion is set for spring of 2018.

Other city projects include a new fire truck skid unit that will assist the fire department and in the long term save taxpayers money. This newer and smaller vehicle has a cost of around \$120,000, which will save costs in comparison to operating a full size fire engine. This new support truck has the capacity needed to squelch small fires and will be used primarily for medical calls.

Public Works is beginning a \$922,000 street and drainage improvement project for 6th Street from Edwardsville Road to Woodland. This grant was funded with 75% federal and 25% county money.

Sales of both new and existing houses are going well. Since May 1, there have been sales of 62 owner occupied homes. Phase I of Rock Hill Trails near I-255 is now complete and the developer is taking inquiries on Phase II. A builder is in the planning stage to develop "Lincoln Place" with nine homes on the site of the former Lincoln School and Justine Peterson is finishing up a new home build on 7th Street.

These past six months have had several ribbon cuttings of new businesses, new ownerships and anniversary celebrations. Those businesses are 1st Mid Illinois Bank and Trust, Country Meadows Antiques, Bomkamp Insurance, Werts Welding, Edward Jones-Jim Pipkin, Foxes Grove Supportive Living Community, Hit n Run, Smart Style Salon, Kumar's, and Donzo's Bar & Grill. Also, Burger King will be breaking ground soon.

More good news to home owners in Glendale Gardens subdivision, the city's petition to FEMA to have properties removed from the 100-year flood zone is being granted. After a public hearing waiting period, 35 homes and businesses along the Avalon Street area will no longer have to carry flood insurance.

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