

# **Letter To The Editor: My Dad's Legacy Should Remain With The Roundhouse**

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## **Letter to the Editor:**

Tuesday, November 3, 2020, is an important day, not only will you be able to vote for the next President of the United States, but you will be able to vote to save an important part of the history of Wood River, the Roundhouse.

The Roundhouse has been an essential part of the recreation department in Wood River for decades. It was the home away from home to countless teenagers from Wood River, East Alton, Hartford, and Roxana; Tuesday, Friday, Saturday nights, called Jiveland.

Also, it was open every day during the summer with activities for kids. The Roundhouse has been used for gymnastic classes, square dance groups, a voting center, group meetings, high school proms, Oiler Booster Club activities, special party rentals, ice cream socials, and more.

My late father, Leroy Emerick, was the former Parks and Recreation Director. I was blessed to experience firsthand his work and activities, and the importance of the historic Roundhouse to the families of Wood River, East Alton, Hartford, Roxana and other communities. My dad tried to make it a gathering place for all. Leroy Emerick and the Roundhouse are synonymous. He was a role model to all area teenagers, mentoring thousands over his 37-year career. My dad's dedication was awe inspiring. Everyone knew about the Roundhouse and exactly where it was located. Therefore, on November 3rd, I am asking everyone to vote YES on the proposition to Save the Roundhouse.

**Donna Emerick-Smith**

**Linn Creek, MO**

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