

From the desk of Mayor Gary W. Manier



Congratulations to Police Chief Don Volk on his recent retirement and thank you for your past 31-years of service to our community—enjoy your retirement! Please welcome Interim Police Chief Ed Papis who will be in the position while recruiting efforts are taking place!

The Memorial Day Parade was well attended again this year! I would like to thank Mr. Gary Deiters, Commander Jim Talaski of the American Legion, Commander Dan Semlow of the VFW, Uftring Chevy for the use of cars, the WCHS Band, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), all Scouts and families, the Legion Riders, Pastor's Jeff Browning and James Frye, and the Washington Police and Fire Departments. A special thank you to Mr. Tom Berlett, Mr. John Bearce, and featured speaker and recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, Colonel Hal Fritz.

I would like us to remember the life of Roger Hagel who passed away on February 1, 2016. Roger served our community as owner and operator of Washington, Morton, Tazewell, and Woodford Courier newspaper and took great pride in providing news to our local areas. I would also like us to remember the life of Dr. Paul Kinsinger who passed away on February 20, 2016. Dr. Paul was not only passionate about his medical practice but his community as well. I would also like us to remember the life of Elmer Zimmerman who passed away on February 29, 2016. Elmer had a love for animals and in 2012 he and his son Keith were instrumental in establishing and financing Washington's first K-9 unit in memory of Elmer's wife Pauline. I would also like us to remember the life of Mel Joos who passed away on June 10, 2016. Mel served on the City's Planning Commission from 1992 until 2014 where he served as Chairman for twenty of those years. Please continue to keep these families in your thoughts and prayers. We must always remember those who are no longer with us.

On May 30, 2016 we held a dedication ceremony in Glendale Cemetery for our new cremation garden area. Our first component in the garden area is an octagon shaped columbarium that consists of niches that are designed to hold cremation urns. This area is located in the western portion of our cemetery among the long standing oak tree grove. Niches within the columbarium will be coming available for purchase in the coming months. Anyone seeking more information may contact City Clerk Pat Brown at 444-1137.

Ward IV Alderman Travis Maxwell will be moving away from the area and served his last meeting as Alderman on Monday, June 6, 2016. We wish Travis and Kathie the very best as Travis' job takes them to Florida!

Congratulations to this year's Good Neighbor Award winners, Jack and Ginger Stone! The Good Neighbor Days festival was well attended and very successful again this year—thanks to Chamber Executive Director Chevie Ruder and her staff for all their hard work!

I would also like to congratulate all of our area schools for their recent accomplishments including the WCHS Band and Choral who finished 2nd in state; the WCHS Wrestling Team who won the Class 2A state Dual Team championship as well as the three individual state titles; the WCHS girls 4x800 relay team who won the Class 2A state title; and the WCHS Lady Panthers Softball Team with a 2nd place finish in Class 3A—congratulations to all!

As a community reminder WHIP food pantry continues to be in need for donations. If you would like to make a donation you may contact Lori Weston at (309) 657-6480.

Together we can...together we will!



GOD BLESS WASHINGTON,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary W. Manier".

Gary W. Manier, Mayor

AUTOMATED METER READING CONTINUES TO PROGRESS

The Automated Meter Reading (AMR) project that is currently being implemented by the City is progressing on schedule. Through six weeks of the project, a total of 1,552 meters have been replaced by the City's contractor, United Meters, Inc. (UMI) and an additional 682 radios have been installed by City crews for a total of 2,234 meters that are AMR compatible and reading back to the tower. A total of 5,500 meters are planned for replacement and thus the project is approximately one-third complete.

The city's system was originally divided into seven areas for manual meter reading and billing purposes as indicated by the first two digits of your account number. Meter replacement started in Area 1 and is progressing sequentially. The first scheduling request letters for Area 1 were mailed on April 16. Of the 1,465 meters in Area 1, only 47 meters (or 3.2%) remain for replacement.

As we progress into each Area, residents will receive an initial letter requesting an appointment be scheduled for work required inside. Follow up notices will also be sent every two weeks up to a total of three courtesy notices. It is our intent to accommodate individual schedules to insure full participation, and as such, after hour and Saturday appointments are available upon request.

Below is the tentative schedule for initial notices by Area:

Area 1	April 16
Area 2	May 9
Area 3	May 31
Area 4	June 17
Area 5	July 18
Area 6	August 22
Area 7	September 12

As a reminder, the following schedule for the transition from quarterly to monthly billing is in effect:

<u>Usage</u>	<u>Bill Date</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
April, May, June	July 1	July 31
July and August	September 1	September 30
September	October 1	October 31

Based on this schedule, monthly billing will not be fully implemented until October for September usage and will continue on a monthly basis thereafter. This intentional, gradual transition has created some confusion, leading some to believe that we are already billing monthly, when in fact they have received a quarterly or bi-monthly bill. Please look at the actual read dates printed on your bill to confirm the time period covered. Once monthly billing comes online, all bills City-wide will be read on the same date.

For a family of three a typical monthly usage is 6,000 gallons. The water/sewer bill, including the technology fee, for a single meter household that uses 6,000 gallons is projected at \$80.05 per month. A bill for a dual meter household that uses 6,000 gallons is projected at \$81.70 per month.

For more information on the meter replacement program, please visit our website at www.ci.washington.il.us.



DEVELOPMENT HAPPENINGS...

Building and Code Enforcement FAQ's

Building a new home, opening a business, or subdividing property can be very nerve-wracking and cause great anxiety. However, the process can go quite smoothly by consulting City staff. The City of Washington webpage (www.ci.washington.il.us) offers considerable information on everything needed to apply for a building permit or submitting a subdivision plat. The site includes downloadable permits, maps, and links to the Building, Subdivision, and Zoning Codes. If there are any questions, residents are urged to contact City Hall at 444-1122.

Building permits are required for any new structure or remodeling of an existing building that includes structural support work. Permits must also be obtained for the construction of garages, sheds, fences, permanent swimming pools, signs, and streetside driveway approaches. Permits are NOT required for non-structural support work, siding, swing sets, inflatable or temporary swimming pools, and non-streetside driveway approaches.

Spring and summer bring a heightened awareness to various code enforcement issues. Every property owner has the duty to maintain their property so as to not negatively impact the nearby property values. The following are different examples of nuisance violations as specified by City Code:

- ◆ Grass and weeds growing to a height of more than eight (8) inches;
- ◆ Abandoned or inoperative motor vehicles and equipment;
- ◆ Abandoned, discarded, or unused equipment such as automobiles or parts, furniture, stoves, refrigerators, or building materials such as lumber, windows, and piping;
- ◆ Unsanitary matter kept on the premises; and
- ◆ Connecting footing tiles or downspouts to the sanitary sewer system.

We encourage you to check out all of the great Washington businesses and to shop local!

CITY TO OVERHAUL WEBSITE—YOUR PICTURES CAN HELP!

Recognizing the importance of communication, the city has approved an agreement with an experienced company to revamp the city website. This project, which should take approximately six months to complete, will enable the city to better serve the community with new and improved features. The new website will provide:

- ◆ Modern, Two-way Communications like emergency notifications via email & text and online service request reporting (i.e. “report a pothole”).
- ◆ Online Bill Payment and Utility Billing that will provide greater convenience for customers and improve the efficiency of city operations.
- ◆ Enhanced Design & Appearance that will accentuate what makes Washington a unique community to live and run a business.



One of the best ways to highlight Washington’s quality of life on the new website is through pictures. The most ideal pictures will capture the city’s character and charm. The pictures can be old or new, taken during any season, and can feature places or people with their permission. Submissions can be made in digital format, preferably as a jpeg, to the following city email account: washingtonilcitygov@gmail.com.

Please take advantage of submitting photos to showcase our community—have a safe and wonderful summer!

LAWN MOWING SEASON IS HERE!

Be reminded that grass clippings cannot be deposited into the street along your property. Disposal of grass clippings result in obstructed storm sewers, which can create a serious problem when it rains. If grass clippings are deposited into the street, we ask that you sweep them and either use as mulch or dispose of as you would your landscape waste. Your cooperation will help ensure that storm sewers in your area are working as they were designed to do. Thank you!



WASHINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT—Protecting Your Home Against Crime



- ◆ Never allow strangers into your home - Use your peephole and don't open the door! Have a person who is stranded and claims to need help wait outside while you call for assistance. Call the Washington Police Department and we will assist the stranded person.
- ◆ Play it smart on the telephone - Don't let callers know if you are home alone, or that your home is empty at certain times of the day. Retrieve answering machine messages often. Never give out credit card numbers or other personal information (unless you have initiated the call to a reputable organization).
- ◆ Vary your routine - Changing your daily patterns (even slightly) may be enough to discourage a burglar.
- ◆ Put away tools and machinery when not in use - Don't leave them lying around where they could be stolen or used to gain entry into your home.
- ◆ Store ladders indoors - Don't provide burglars with a handy way to climb in through balconies, second-floor windows, etc.

Remember! Washington Police Officers are your crime prevention partners. **Planning a vacation?** Call us at 444-2313 to set up a vacation house check while you are away!



Annual Water Quality Report Now Available

Washington IL-1790750 - For the Period of January 1 to December 31, 2015



To view the 2016 Annual Water Quality Report online please go to www.ci.washington.il.us/2016_Report.pdf and learn more about your drinking water. This report contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water during 2015. If you would like a paper copy of the 2016 Annual Water Quality Report mailed to your home, please call (309) 444-1137. The City water utility prides itself on providing safe drinking water to a population of more than 12,000. To ensure safe drinking water, the City regularly tests City wells as well as periodic samples from 30 homes approved by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA).



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



Washington Night at the Chiefs scheduled Saturday, July 30th

Washington Fine Arts Festival scheduled Saturday & Sunday, August 20th & 21st

Taste of Washington scheduled Tuesday, September 13th

Autumn Fest on the Square scheduled Saturday, September 24th

Annual Fall Fire Hydrant Flushing tentatively scheduled weeks of September 5th & 12th

Annual Fall Brush Pickup Service tentatively scheduled to begin Monday, October 17th

Annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast scheduled Thursday, November 17th



Reach us by phone at 444-3196 - Website at www.ci.washington.il.us



Facebook at www.facebook.com/CityofWashingtonIL



Twitter at <https://twitter.com/WashingtonILGov>

Mayor
Gary Manier

Aldermen

Robert Brucks, *Ward I* Dave Dingedine, *Ward III*
Mike Brownfield, *Ward I* Brian Butler, *Ward III*
Carol Moss, *Ward II* James Gee, Jr., *Ward IV*
Tyler Gee, *Ward II* Travis Maxwell, *Ward IV*

City Officials

Jim Culotta, *City Administrator*
Pat Brown, *City Clerk*
Ellen Dingedine, *City Treasurer*

City of Washington
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Washington, IL 61571

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