

# WASHINGTON

# TODAY

Vol.13 No.1

Official Newsletter for the City of Washington, Illinois

Fall/Winter 2012

*From the desk of Mayor Gary W. Manier*



A welcome to our new City Administrator Tim Gleason! Tim began his duties as City Administrator on Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup> and has hit the ground running. Tim and his wife Becky have five children and currently reside in Morton with plans to relocate to Washington in the very near future. We are excited about what Tim is bringing to the position and look forward to many years of his service to the community!

Congratulations to former Library Director Pam Tomka on her recent retirement! Pam served the Washington Library District for 16 years and through those years was involved in many of the significant changes that occurred, the most recent being the project that relocated the library into the Five Points Washington facility where she was very instrumental in the process of the project showing not only her dedication to the library but to the community as well. I wish you the very best in your retirement, well deserved!

My sincere condolences are extended to the family of Charlie Slonneger. Charlie worked as an electrician and was the City's first commercial Electrical Inspector for new construction as well as a past member of the Washington Fire Department where he served as Fire Chief and Board President. My sincere condolences are also extended to the Wally King family in the passing of Wally's wife Evey. Wally is one of the City's first Building Inspector's for new construction in the community and spent quite a bit of time caring for Evey these past several years. Both Charlie and Evey will be missed and always remembered.

Thank you to Deiters Funeral Home and the Chamber of Commerce for hosting the Veterans Day celebration where Congressman Aaron Schock and Air Force 1<sup>st</sup> Airman Tyler Johnson were the featured speakers. We should never forget what sacrifices veterans have made for us all! Also, thanks to the Chamber of Commerce for all their efforts in making this year's Mayor's Prayer Breakfast a great success! It was attended by over 270 that came to hear a message by Pastor John King from Riverside Community Church and the testimony of Peoria Police Chief Steve Settingsgaard. Thanks to Heartland Bank and Mason Funeral Homes for sponsoring the event and a special thanks to Emcee Joe Russell and all that enjoyed this great morning!

Congratulations to St. Patrick's School for their recent designation as a 2012 National Blue Ribbon School by the U. S. Department of Education. This program identifies and disseminates knowledge about effective school leadership and instructional practices and St. Patrick's School was one of 269 schools in the nation to receive this designation. Well done on this outstanding achievement!

Washington Community High School held its Addition/Renovation Dedication Ceremony on September 30<sup>th</sup> followed by a community open house for the new facilities. The project was quite an undertaking with remarkable results that will be enjoyed by not only the faculty and students, but by the entire community for years to come!

Congratulations to the WCHS Golf Team on its State Championship third place finish; the WCHS Football Team for a great playoff run with a 9-3 season finish; the WCHS Marching Band for its successful Panther Invitational event as well as their 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish at the Class 4A University of Illinois competition; and for the Panthers 1<sup>st</sup> place finish at the State Farm Tournament of Champions basketball event held over Thanksgiving.

I know we are moving into a very busy time of year, but please be careful during your travels and stay safe and also remember those that are less fortunate during the holiday season. Lada and I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year ~ we are looking forward to great things in Washington in 2013!

*Together we can...together we will!*



God Bless Washington,

*Gary W. Manier*

Gary W. Manier, Mayor

## WASHINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS. . .

There were many exciting things happening within the Police Department since our last newsletter. The police station renovation project is finally finished and the end product is outstanding. This past August we held a public open house and dedication for our new and improved facility. We are grateful to Mayor Manier, the Washington City Council, and our entire community for the support to make this project a reality.



This past October the Washington City Council approved the purchase and implementation of our first ever Police Canine Unit. This program was made possible by a very generous donation from lifelong Washingtonians, Mr. Keith & Elmer Zimmerman, in memory Mrs. Pauline Zimmerman, as well as a generous donation from the Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association.

Officer Jim Fussner instructed our 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> session of the Washington Police Department's Citizen Police Academy. To date, over 290 residents have attended and graduated from this 12-week long program designed to familiarize our residents with what your Police Department does in our community. If you are interested in participating in our next class please contact Officer Jim Fussner at 444-2313, we would love to have you! Upon graduation you can stay connected to the Department by becoming a member of the Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association. Our C.P.A.A. is a very active group of highly motivated residents!

In June two new Police Officers graduated from the 12-week Illinois State Police Academy basic training program. These officers, Ryan Grossman and Keegan Smith, have successfully completed their 18-week Field Training Program and are now working in a solo patrol capacity.

Community oriented policing continues to be our policing philosophy. We ask all our residents to engage our Police Officers and our Police Officers to engage our residents to continue to forge strong community partnerships. We will take nothing for granted and we collectively realize that our reputation, as an agency, is on the line every minute of every day. All the members of the Washington Police Department understand that *public trust* is a fragile commodity and we want to keep it! The men and women of the Washington Police Department continue to be honored to serve our community while constantly putting "*People First.*"

We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday season! While you are out shopping during the holidays please remember to lock your vehicle while shopping, do not leave your purchases visible in your vehicle, do not carry large sums of cash, and never display or "flash" any cash you might have. Always remember to get your receipt after you have made a purchase and do not give your credit card number out to anyone. If shopping at night, park in a well-lit area and shop with a friend or family member if possible. Always have your keys ready prior to getting to your vehicle and keep your cell phone readily available.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns I encourage you to contact myself or Deputy Chief of Police Don Volk.

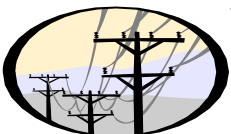
James W. Kuchenbecker, Chief of Police, 444-1112, [jkuchenbecker@ci.washington.il.us](mailto:jkuchenbecker@ci.washington.il.us)  
Donald J. Volk, Deputy Chief of Police, 444-1113, [dvolk@ci.washington.il.us](mailto:dvolk@ci.washington.il.us)

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## SAVE ON YOUR ELECTRIC BILL WITH MUNICIPAL AGGREGATION

As a result of a successful referendum, the City of Washington is able to offer an alternative electric supplier which has translated into savings on electric bills for many residential customers. Homefield Energy was selected through a joint bid process in May 2012 with a low bid of \$.0408 per Kwh. The initial implementation is complete with eligible City residents being able to automatically enjoy the savings unless they specifically opted out of the program or had already signed up with another supplier. To determine if you are in the program or eligible to sign up – please contact Homefield Energy at 866-694-1262.



## DEVELOPMENT HAPPENINGS . . . . .



The building staff has issued 140 new residential building permits thus far in 2012 with an estimated construction value of \$23.28 million. Of the residential permits issued, 42 were for single-family dwellings, 16 were for two-family dwellings, and 82 were for multi-family dwelling units. Staff has issued 18 commercial/industrial permits for a construction value of \$7,618,000. Both the residential and commercial/industrial permits have increased over the past year.

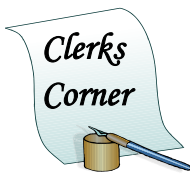
The City of Washington currently has a financial incentive to encourage the construction of new single-family and duplex homes within the city. Under this program, the City of Washington will discount its building permit and utility connection fees by up to \$1,500 per each residential dwelling unit. This discount incentive is available through the end of 2012. Interested persons seeking further information regarding the building permit discount incentive are encouraged to call the City Hall at 444-1122.

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

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## RECENTLY ADOPTED ORDINANCES . . .



- ◆ Amending code – Chapter 136, regulating video gaming
- ◆ Amending code – Chapter 96, collecting fines for nuisance violations
- ◆ Amending code – Chapter 50, special connection fees & charges (water & sewer mains)
- ◆ Granting landmark status to 307 E. Jefferson Street
- ◆ Amending code – Chapter 112, increasing the number of Class D liquor licenses
- ◆ Amending code – Chapter 112, prohibiting video gaming machines on the premises of certain liquor licensees
- ◆ Rezoning a part of 900 Walnut Street from I-1 (industrial) to C-3 (commercial)
- ◆ Granting a special use to allow an assisted living and memory care facility on Independence Court
- ◆ Authorizing agreement for private development with Jeffery Pohl for the redevelopment of a portion of the Downtown Tax Increment Redevelopment District at 102, 104, & 106 Walnut Street
- ◆ Authorizing intergovernmental agreement with Washington Township Road District concerning certain improvements to Centennial Drive
- ◆ Authorizing redevelopment agreement with Ufring Chevrolet, Inc.
- ◆ Authorizing development agreement with Unique Homes & Lumber, LLC and R & M Phillips Investments, LLC regarding an assisted living and memory care facility

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## PAYMENT OPTION FOR WATER/SEWER UTILITY BILLS

### Electronic Debit Withdrawal

City of Washington water and sewer utility customers now have this new payment option for their bills. This payment option is becoming more widely used and we are excited to offer it at no additional cost to customers. Customers can obtain the necessary form to begin electronic debit withdrawal by either stopping by City Hall or visiting the City's website at [www.washington-illinois.org](http://www.washington-illinois.org) and clicking on 'Utility Billing' on the menu bar. *Once you sign up for electronic debit withdrawal, you'll never have to write a check for your water/ sewer bill again!*

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## U.S. ROUTE 8 CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



The project from Summit Dr. to Legion Rd. is 40% complete including the northern portion of storm sewer, pavement, sidewalk, curb-and-gutter and the north leg of School Street. Traffic has been moved to the north two lanes of new pavement for the winter with access to all side roads and left turn lanes at School Street. The contractor intends to work over the winter on storm sewer on the south side of Route 8 as weather permits. This will allow a head start next spring in building the remaining pavement, curb-and-gutter, sidewalk, and driveways on the south side. The project is scheduled to be completed in November 2013 with the possibility of some landscaping work extending into the spring of 2014.

## WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA EVENT SCHEDULED – GLENDALE CEMETERY

Glendale Cemetery/City of Washington, in conjunction with VFW Post 9016 and American Legion Post 100, will conduct its fifth annual Wreaths Across America ceremony at Glendale Cemetery on Saturday, December 15, 2012 starting at 11:00 a.m. Seven ceremonial wreaths will be placed by local veterans to remember those who served and those who are currently serving in our armed forces, and to honor their sacrifices and teach our younger generations about the high price of our freedoms.



Specially made wreaths honoring Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, Merchant Marines and POW/MIA will be placed during the unique ceremony that will be coordinated simultaneously with the ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as over 350 participating locations across the country. All of the specially made wreaths are donated by Worcester Wreath Company in Harrington, Maine. There will also be a lying of sponsored wreaths on veteran's graves as well.

*The entire community is invited to attend this ceremony at Glendale Cemetery on Saturday, December 15, 2012 starting promptly at 11:00 a.m.*

*A special thank you to Carol Moss who annually coordinates this program for Glendale Cemetery! For more information about the event you may contact Carol at 444-9076.*

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## CITY MEETING SCHEDULES 2013

*All meetings are held in the Library meeting room at Five Points Washington, unless otherwise noted.*

- ◆ City Council – *first and third Monday* of each month at 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ Standing Committees – *second Monday* of each month, Committee of the Whole at 6:30 p.m.; Public Services at 5:00 p.m. City Hall conference room; Public Safety at 5:30 p.m. Police Chief's office; Finance & Personnel *first Monday* of each month 5:30 p.m. City Hall conference room. \*Note – times may vary for Public Services, Public Safety, and Finance & Personnel meetings depending on their agenda items.
- ◆ Planning Commission – *first Wednesday* of each month at 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ Zoning Board of Appeals – *fourth Wednesday* of each month at 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ Historic Preservation Commission – *fourth Thursday* of each month at 6:30 p.m. City Hall conference room.

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## CHRISTMAS TREE DROP-OFF SITE



The Tazewell County Health Department will offer a Christmas tree drop-off site at Oakridge Park located at the end of North Cummings Lane for this season's mulching program. Trees can be dropped off between December 26<sup>th</sup> and January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Reach us by phone at 444-3196 or Website at [www.washington-illinois.org](http://www.washington-illinois.org)

\*\*\* City Hall offices will be closed December 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup> \*\*\*

**Mayor**  
Gary Manier

**Aldermen**

Robert Brucks, *Ward I*      Alan Howerter, *Ward III*  
Jim Newman, *Ward I*      Dave Dingledine, *Ward III*  
Carol Moss, *Ward II*      James Gee, Jr., *Ward IV*  
Todd Clanin, *Ward II*      Gene Schneider, *Ward IV*

**City Officials**

Tim Gleason, *City Administrator*  
Pat Brown, *City Clerk*  
Ellen Dingledine, *City Treasurer*

**City of Washington**  
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