

From the desk of Mayor Gary W. Manier



Second Ward Alderman Don Brubaker recently resigned from the Washington City Council after 19 years of service. Don relocated to East Peoria following his marriage to Carol Walton. Carol Moss has been appointed to fill Don's unexpired term which runs through April 30, 2011. Carol previously served as Washington City Clerk from 1985 to 2009. Congratulations and best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Don Brubaker. Welcome back, Alderman Moss!

This past Veterans Day Ceremony was celebrated with the display of 120 United States flags flown along Business Route 24. The flags were on loan from The Patriot Guard Riders. Gary and Stephanie Deiters are leading a fund raising campaign to purchase flags for an on-going annual display on both Memorial Day and Veterans Day in honor of our service men and women. Please contact Deiters Funeral Home at 745-5999 if you would like to make a donation to sponsor the purchase of a flag and pole.

You may have also noticed the display of 50 US flags on the Downtown Square on the Veterans Day Holiday. The city and the Washington Area Chamber of Commerce plan to annually display these flags on the square on the following major federal holidays: Memorial Day, July 4th, Flag Day, Labor Day and Veterans Day.

Over 260 people attended the 16th Annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast on November 18th. Organized by the Washington Area Chamber of Commerce, Pastor Adam Kipp of Grace Bible Church delivered an entertaining and thoughtful message entitled "YOUR work makes Washington Work." Others participating in the event included Pastor Evan Williams, Sunnyland Christian Church; Pastor Thomas Goodell, Threads of Love Ministry; and Rachel West Kramer, Hands of Love Ministry.

I was privileged to join area Mayor's and other elected officials in the Peoria Ballet's production of "The Nut Cracker" earlier this month. While my role was appropriately brief, I developed a renewed respect for the arts and an appreciation for the talents of the cast, directors and crew.

We recently lost two of Washington's finest public servants. William E. "Bill" Brunk passed away on October 2, 2010. Bill worked for the city in the 1970's, was instrumental in the development of the Lincoln Park Veteran's Memorial and was active with Boy Scout Troop 163. Vernon I. Strubhar, Jr. died on November 11, 2010. He served on the Washington City Council, the Washington Planning Commission and the city's Zoning Board of Appeals. Both Bill and Vernon will be missed.

The annual Christmas Sing and Candlelight Stroll on the Downtown Square ushered in the holiday season. These are but a few of the annual events that make Washington special. Thanks to the Downtown Specialty Shops and the Washington Courier for sponsoring these festive events.

Lada and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May we all be mindful to cherish the blessings of friends and family during this holiday season.

Together we can...together we will!



God Bless Washington,



Gary W. Manier
Mayor

DEVELOPMENT HAPPENINGS



The building staff has issued 80 new residential building permits through November 2009 with an estimated construction value of more than \$21 million. Each of the residential permits issued this year has been for single-family construction with the exception of 14 duplex permits. As has been the case each of the last couple of years, the number of permits issued for the year will likely be lower than the number of housing starts earlier in the decade due to a sluggish economy. However, staff is still experiencing strong housing demand in Washington compared to regional and national trends. Twelve commercial/industrial permits have been issued so far this year with a construction value of a little more than \$1.75 million.

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

Historic Preservation Commission

The City's Historic Preservation Commission has been meeting since March 2008 and continues to request submissions for possible historic landmarks or historic districts. If you know of a property or neighborhood that may have some historic qualities and should be preserved, please contact Planning & Development Director Jon Oliphant at 444-1135 for more information. The city will waive the \$100 public hearing filing fee for any nominations that are received through June 2011. Any buildings identified will be assessed according to the guidelines provided by the historic preservation ordinance, which was adopted in 2007. The preservation ordinance is intended to provide a mechanism to identify and preserve the historic and architectural characteristics which represent elements of the City's cultural, social, economic, political, and architectural history. Nomination applications are available on the city website (www.washington-illinois.org). The Commission meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall. All meetings are open to the public.

RECENTLY ADOPTED ORDINANCES. . .



- ◆ Amending code - §154.611, Standards for Certificates of Appropriateness, Historic Preservation
- ◆ Amending code - §154.172, Off-Street Parking, sets maximum for large commercial or industrial uses
- ◆ Vacation - part of a permanent easement located at 310 Madison Street
- ◆ Amending code - §112.20, increase the No. of Class C and decrease the No. of Class D liquor licenses
- ◆ Amending code - various sections relating to Home Occupations
- ◆ Rezoning part of property located at 500 School Street from R-1 to C-3
- ◆ Amending code - Chapter 99, Raffles, to allow raffle permits to be granted by the City Clerk
- ◆ Amending code - various sections of Chapter 160, Building Code, adopting 2006 versions of International Building Codes & requiring a refundable deposit for temporary certificates of occupancy
- ◆ Amending code - various sections of Chapter 152, Subdivision Code, zero lot line multi-family residential developments
- ◆ Amending code - various sections of Chapter 154, Zoning Code, zero lot line multi-family residential developments
- ◆ Granting Landmark Designation status to 116 N. Elm Street
- ◆ Amending code - §75.10A, 90-day load limit on certain public streets – removes N. Cummings Ln. north from US Route 24
- ◆ Vacation – part of an alley located approximately 100' south of Walnut St. and west of Cedar St.
- ◆ Amending code - §154.148, General Standards – (P) political signs



City Hall offices will be closed December 24th, 27th, and 31st



WASHINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS. . .

We are a few steps closer to having a new, renovated Police Facility. The City of Washington signed a contract with the architectural firm to design and run this project. This continues to be a “*work in progress*” and all the members of the Department are very excited to see the results of the final design and plans. We are hoping to break ground on the renovation project in early March 2011.



Community Resource Officer Jim Fussner continues to work with our residents in our Citizen’s Police Academy and to date, over 200 residents have attended and graduated from this 12-week long program designed to familiarize our residents with what the Police Department does to maintain the quality of life our residents so richly deserve. If you are interested in participating in our next class please contact Officer Jim Fussner at 444-2313.

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. The men and women of the Washington Police Department continue to be honored to serve our community while constantly putting “*People First.*”

We hope all of you have a safe and enjoyable holiday season and we would like to give you some helpful tips to remember before leaving a home or office for the holidays.

Tips for Home:

- Keep the outside of your home well-lit with doors locked and window curtains closed.
- Do not display gifts beneath the Christmas tree that can be seen from windows or doors.
- After the holidays, do not advertise gifts received by leaving boxes for the garbage collection. Instead, destroy or flatten for closure in a recycle bin.
- Register for a vacation house watch check at the Police Department by calling 444-2313. Officers will check your home periodically.

Tips for the Workplace:

- All inner-office doors and building exterior doors should be closed and locked.
- Do not prop open an exterior door.
- Personnel working during the holidays should be aware of their personal safety. Let someone know where you are and when you are expected to return.
- All portable equipment such as tools and computers should be secured.
- Close and secure all windows.
- All valuable personal items should be removed.
- Report any suspicious activity immediately to the Police Department by calling 911.

Tips for Parking Lots:

- Shop early and leave early to avoid closing times.
- Park in a high-visibility area and check for lighting in case you leave during hours of darkness.
- Do not park next to a vehicle with dark tinted windows.
- Lock all your valuables in the trunk of your vehicle.
- Leave the store with others.
- If you feel uncomfortable, ask security to escort you to your vehicle.
- Walk briskly, confidently and directly through the parking lot.
- Be cautious of people handing out fliers or asking questions in the parking area.
- Watch for people who may be following you. This can occur inside as well as outside.
- If you suspect that someone is following you, return to the store and report it to security immediately.

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

Donald J. Volk, Deputy Chief of Police, 444-1113

NEW PAYMENT OPTION COMING SOON FOR WATER/SEWER UTILITY BILLS

Electronic Debit Withdrawal

We are pleased to announce that effective with the May/June 2011 billing, City of Washington water and sewer utility customers will have this new payment option for their bills. After the first of the year letters are mailing out with all the detail that is needed to begin using this convenient option of electronic debit withdrawal from your designated checking or savings account. This payment option is becoming more widely used and we are excited to offer it at no additional cost to customers. *Once you sign up for electronic debit withdrawal, you'll never have to write a check for your water/sewer bill again - watch for this detailed letter in the mail after the first of the year!*



CITY MEETING SCHEDULES 2011

All meetings are open to the public and 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 5:00 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.

CITY WARD ALDERMEN AND BOUNDARIES

- ◆ **Ward I** – Bob Brucks and Jim Newman, boundaries are corporate limits on the north; middle of N. Main, Lincoln, and Wood streets on the east; middle of Peoria Street/Washington Road on the south; middle of Gillman Avenue on the north and west; Dallas Road on the west.
- ◆ **Ward II** – Todd Clanin and Carol Moss, boundaries are corporate limits on the north and east; middle of Holland on the south; middle of Lincoln, N. Main, and S. Main streets on the west.
- ◆ **Ward III** – Dave Dingedine and Al Howerter, boundaries are corporate limits on the south and east; S. Cummings Lane on the west; middle of Washington Road/Peoria Street and Holland on the north.
- ◆ **Ward IV** – Jim Gee, Jr. and Gene Schneider, boundaries are corporate limits on the north, south, and west; middle of S. Cummings Lane, Gillman Avenue, and Dallas Road on the east.

Reach us by phone at 444-3196 or Email at cityhall@ci.washington.il.us
Website Address: washington-illinois.org

Mayor
Gary Manier

Aldermen

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

City Officials

Bob Morris, *City Administrator*
Pat Brown, *City Clerk*
Ellen Dingedine, *City Treasurer*

City of Washington
301 Walnut Street
Washington, IL 61571

Postal Customer
Washington, IL 61571

Presorted STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 23