

WASHINGTON

TODAY

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Official Newsletter for the City of Washington, Illinois

Winter/Spring 2009

From the desk of Mayor Gary W. Manier



We recently lost three of Washington's finest: Donald D. Uphoff who served nearly a quarter century on the city's Police Pension Fund Board; Glenn Harkins, a member of the City Council from 1957 to 1965 and the first Washingtonian Award recipient; and Emil C. Haeflinger, a member of the Washington Police Commission and Economic Development Commission during the 1980's and 90's. These individuals set the standard for leadership, civic pride, volunteerism and service. They will be missed. Please remember them and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Department of Public Services crews have been battling the harsh winter weather conditions. Many DPS employees worked extended hours throughout the holiday season in plowing and salting city streets. The severe temperatures have also resulted in a number of water main breaks necessitating immediate repair, often at night in the bitter cold. We appreciate their tireless efforts in difficult conditions.

The 2008-09 school year marks the inauguration of the newly established WCHS girls and boys swim teams. The competition pool at Five Points Washington is home for the teams. Led by Coach Shane Morrison, the thirty-two student athletes are establishing the benchmark for future WCHS swimmers. Be sure to support our newest addition to WCHS athletics.

Planning for the conversion of the vacant Washington District Library building to Washington's new City Hall is progressing on schedule. The city expects to advertise for bids in late February with construction to commence in April. The tentative move-in date is around Labor Day 2009. While the interior will be completely redone for office use, special care is being taken to maintain the colonial look and character of the original building. The current City Hall building will be renovated and converted for the exclusive use of the Police Department as soon as our administrative offices are relocated.


Several major 2009 road projects are in the works: widening and reconstruction of Cummings Lane north of Illinois Route 24, completing of the connecting link of Kern Road between Hillcrest and Cummings, and replacement of the Lincoln Street bridge. Construction of each is scheduled to begin this coming Spring. Watch the local news media for road closures and detours.

Lastly, best wishes to Rusty Dunn, newly appointed Mayor of the City of Pekin. He has big shoes to fill with the recent loss of Mayor David Tebben. We trust that Mayor Dunn and the Pekin City Council will do Dave proud in moving the city forward.

Together we can...together we will!



God Bless Washington,



Gary W. Manier
Mayor

CONTINUE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE! – www.washington-illinois.org

DEVELOPMENT HAPPENINGS



The building staff issued 156 new residential building permits in 2008 with an estimated construction value of nearly \$30 million. The permit total is the fifth highest this decade and the seventh highest since 1960. Of the residential permits issued, 89 were for single-family dwellings, six were for two-family dwellings, and 61 were for multi-family dwellings.

Staff issued eight commercial/industrial permits for a construction value of \$2.58 million. This is a slight decline from the commercial/industrial activity in 2007. In spite of the economic troubles over the past year, we are confident that Washington is viewed as a great city to invest in and that additional development will continue to take place.

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 is now requesting 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. 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 the Library meeting room at Five Points. All meetings are open to the public.***

RECENTLY ADOPTED ORDINANCES . . .



- ◆ Amending code - Chapter 131 – Offenses against Public Order – amending 131.99 relating to penalties – Curfew
- ◆ Amending code - Chapter 131 – Offenses Against Public Order – 131.08 Truancy
- ◆ Amending code - Chapter 132 – Offenses Against Public Order – 132.99 relating to penalties – Tobacco
- ◆ Amending code - Chapter 112 by adding one Class F Liquor License
- ◆ Amending code - Chapter 134 by adding new section §134.04 “Smoke Free Washington”
- ◆ Amending code - Chapter 112 by adding one Class A Liquor License
- ◆ Special Use - to allow construction of commercial storage facility at 704 Catherine Street (Bill Hexamer)
- ◆ Variance - from terms of Zoning Code to property located at 100 Good Neighbor Place (Grand Victorian of Washington, LLC) to allow variance in building height
- ◆ Ratifying purchase of library building located at 301 Walnut
- ◆ Special Use - to allow construction of self storage buildings at 882 School Street (Bill Krumholz)
- ◆ Vacation - vacating part of alleys located north of Walnut St. and east of N. Elm St. contiguous to the library property
- ◆ Amending code - §112.01 & §112.20 of liquor code – adding restaurant license & beer garden license
- ◆ Amending code - Chapter 72 restricting parking on east side of South Spruce from Walnut to Maple
- ◆ Amending code - §112.20 increasing number of Class D liquor licenses and adding the number of Class J liquor licenses
- ◆ Vacation - vacating part of an alley north of Adams Street contiguous to Calvary Mennonite Church
- ◆ Granting building height variance – 721 W. Jefferson – Leuelling – construction of garage
- ◆ Rezoning property located north of Constitution, south of Mallard Crossing, west of Washington Estates from C-3 to R-2 (John Bearce property – 406 Elgin)
- ◆ Entering into recycling collection program with Tazewell County
- ◆ Amending code - Chapter 117 - §117.003 – “Motel Tax”
- ◆ Amending code - Chapter 71 establish 25 mph speed limit along N. Wilmor Rd.

WHY SEALCOAT OUR STREETS?



Several years ago the city began sealcoating most of its streets rather than the mill and asphalt overlay process used previously. Several key factors led to this decision:

- ◆ The cost of hot mix asphalt has been rapidly increasing in recent years due largely to the price of oil. The cost per ton of bituminous asphalt was \$47.65 in 2002; it is currently over \$100 per ton, a 110% increase. (While gasoline prices have been falling in recent months, hot mix asphalt prices have NOT.)
- ◆ The city's Motor Fuel Tax monies during this same five year period increased from \$340,000 to \$375,000, a 10% increase. Clearly, our primary source of revenue for street maintenance has not kept pace with the escalating cost.
- ◆ The city has many miles of streets that are in need of immediate attention in order to avoid more extensive damages and the associated costly repairs. Using the sealcoat process, the city is able to maintain about 10 miles of street per year. Under the more expensive mill and asphalt overlay process, the city would only

be able to repave 2 miles per year.

- ◆ The city's total road mileage has increased by about 50% over the past 10 years due to its growth. Long term maintenance costs will increase accordingly.
- ◆ The city estimates that it would need to raise taxes by about \$1,000,000 per year (a doubling of the city's property tax levy) to resume hot mix asphalt repaving for all city streets.
- ◆ Lastly, due in large part to the city's growth, several of its major arterial streets (i.e. N. Cummings, Dallas) are seeing increased traffic and require extensive reconstruction and widening. While the city has been successful in receiving grant money for several of these improvements, not all projects qualify and even the grant money must still be matched with local funds.

While sealcoat has been successfully used for many years by neighboring cities and towns, it is clearly not as desirable as hot mix asphalt repaving. Given the above factors, however, sealcoat is deemed the best near term solution to preserving and enhancing the longevity of our existing streets.

STORM WATER HIGHLIGHT

Many property owners take great pride in the maintenance of their lawn. However, have you ever considered that lawn care can contribute to pollution of our streams?

When you apply more fertilizer than your lawn needs or apply fertilizer just before it rains, a lot of the fertilizer ends up running off into the nearest stream. Fertilizers help plants grow. In a stream, they help algae to grow. When the algae die, it uses oxygen that fish and other aquatic life depend on.

Chemical pesticides are also used for the care and maintenance of lawns to kill insects and weeds. Many chemical pesticides are toxic to aquatic organisms. Improper or careless application of these chemicals can



also result in pollution of our streams and harm to the aquatic environment.

The following tips should be considered when using fertilizers and pesticides:

- ◆ Follow label instructions for all fertilizer and pesticide products.
- ◆ Check the weather forecast and avoid application of fertilizer and pesticides when rain is predicted within the next couple days.
- ◆ Avoid dropping or broadcasting fertilizer and pesticide on impervious surfaces such as sidewalks, driveways and streets.
- ◆ Sweep up any spilled or loose material.

FIRE HYDRANT FLUSHING NOTICE



As part of a routine maintenance, the City of Washington Public Service Department will be flushing fire hydrants beginning at 8:00 a.m., Monday, April 13th – 24th, weather permitting. All flushing will be done during daytime hours. Fire hydrant flushing typically starts at those hydrants closest to the water tower and progressively moves away from the tower. Flushing of hydrants may produce discoloration of water. To eliminate the discoloration, simply open your faucets and allow them to run until water is clear. There is no need to boil water for consumption. **WARNING: Before using your washing machine, please check for discolored water.** If the water is discolored or sediment is noticeable, run an empty cycle through the washer before laundering clothing.

CITY'S SPRING CURBSIDE PICK-UP SCHEDULED

Washington's Annual Residential Curbside Pick-Up Program will begin on **Monday, April 13th**, and conclude on **Friday, April 17th**. This is a special opportunity to dispose of large, bulky items not collected during normal weekly trash collection.

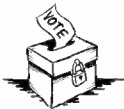


The collection of your items will occur on the same day of the week as your regular household trash pick-up and will be handled directly by Grimm Bros. personnel. Be sure to set out all items at the curb the evening prior to your regular trash collection day to be sure that you are not missed. **No return trips will be made!** Items should be placed in cans, bags, or bundles weighing less than 50 lbs. whenever possible. Large items (furniture, etc.) should be placed as near to the curb as possible. This program is provided to residential customers who fall under the City of Washington's residential waste collection service contract with Grimm Bros.

The following items will not be collected for disposal: tires, large auto parts, appliances*, batteries, used oil, demolition debris and concrete, yard waste, and any type of liquid or household hazardous waste (paint, solvents, turpentine, insecticides, pesticides, fluorescent tubes, etc.).

*Residents may make special arrangements for appliance pick-up (washers, dryers, etc.) by contacting Dave Mulligan at 678-6357 or TNT Recycling at 635-4642. **Do not place appliances at the curb.** Most appliances will be collected free of charge. Appliances containing freon coolants (refrigerators, air conditioners, etc.) may require a nominal fee.

CONSOLIDATED ELECTION INFORMATION



The Consolidated Election will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2009. The Consolidated Election is a biennial election held on the first Tuesday in April in odd-numbered years at which municipal, park district, library district, fire protection district, other special district and school district officers are elected. **The last day to register to vote in this election is Tuesday, March 10, 2009.** You may register to vote at City Hall offices, 115 W. Jefferson Street.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



Residential curbside pickup of unwanted items is scheduled for April 13th through the 17th.

Take Pride in Washington City-Wide Clean-Up Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 18th.

Brush pickup is scheduled to begin on Monday, May 18th.



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 Dingledine, *Ward III*
Donald Brubaker, *Ward II* James Gee, Jr., *Ward IV*
Todd Clanin, *Ward II* Gene Schneider, *Ward IV*

City Officials

Bob Morris, *City Administrator*
Carol Moss, *City Clerk*
Robert Gordon, *City Treasurer*

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