

## *From the desk of Mayor Gary W. Manier*



We have just completed another great school year here in Washington and celebrated many accomplishments. Congratulations to the WMS Panther 7th Grade Boys' Basketball Team on winning the Class 3A State Championship. Congratulations to the WCHS Wrestling Team on winning back-to-back State Championships. Also, a shout out to our WCHS Band and Choral programs for their 1st place award as IHSA Music Sweepstakes 2017 Class A State Champions. Congratulations to all our 2017 graduates!

On May 1, our City Council welcomed two new Aldermen, Brett Adams (Ward 2) and Daniel Cobb (Ward 4). We are excited to work with both Brett and Daniel in the coming years as they serve and I would like to thank former Aldermen Tyler Gee and Jonathan Moehle for their dedicated service to our great city.

We were truly blessed with another wonderful Memorial Day parade and ceremony. Thank you to everyone that played a part in this year's event that is sponsored by the City, VFW, and American Legion. Thank you to our guest speaker, Max Tessier, who delivered a very heartfelt message.

We were pleased to announce that Peoria County Sheriff Mike McCoy will become our Police Chief at the end of June. Sheriff McCoy is highly regarded throughout the state and will bring many years of experience with him.

We have had to say goodbye to so many since our last newsletter. Please keep all those families that have experienced a loss of loved ones in your thoughts and prayers. Let us remember the families of Ron Naffziger, who served as a volunteer firefighter, Fire Department Board of Directors, and a member of the Pleasant View School Board; Ada Nofsinger, who served as Washington Township Clerk and on the Township Board of Trustees; Dr. Francis Johnson, who served as Senior Pastor at St. Mark's Lutheran Church; and Fannie McCoy, who received the 1988 Washingtonian Award.

Congratulations to this year's Good Neighbor Award winner, Tom Horning! The Good Neighbor Days festival was well attended and very successful again this year—thanks to the Chamber of Commerce Team for all their hard work in making this event possible!

We have started working on our capital projects for this fiscal year and hope to accomplish most of them. We are in the process of completing work on the City parking lot on the southeast corner of the Square, which will hopefully encourage folks to shop here in Washington

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. Also, Sunnyland Christian Church has partnered with Neighborhood House and will be offering a free meal to children throughout summer vacation. For more information contact the church at (309) 699-1332.

Continued prayers for the Grillot family as they recover from the recent fire that destroyed the house of their daughter, Sarah Rogers, and her three children. The family has unmet needs and if you would like to make a contribution you may contact John & Kay Grillot at (309) 444-4664.

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



GOD BLESS WASHINGTON,

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

Gary W. Manier, Mayor

## CITY OFFERS MULTIPLE PAYMENT OPTIONS FOR WATER BILL

There are now multiple ways to pay your water bill as follows:

CITY OF WASHINGTON WATER/SEWER DEPT. 301 WALNUT ST. • WASHINGTON, IL 61571			
WATER / SEWER BILL			
ACCOUNT NO.	SERVICE FROM	SERVICE TO	
SERVICE ADDRESS			
METER READING		CONSUMPTION	NET AMOUNT
CURRENT	PREVIOUS		

- ◆ **Snail mail** – we will always accept payments made through the mail – just make sure you leave plenty of time for the Post Office to deliver so we receive payment by the due date in order to avoid those pesky late fees!
- ◆ **In person** – we are also happy to accept your payment in person at City Hall located at 301 Walnut Street.
- ◆ **Bank** – both Washington State Bank (1110 Peoria Street) and Ipava State Bank (116 Washington Square) will accept water payments.
- ◆ **Drop-off** – we have a box located on the N. Elm Street side entrance that is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Anything in the box at 8:00 a.m. will be treated as received the day before.
- ◆ **Electronic debit** – if you haven't already, consider signing up for automatic withdrawal from your checking or savings account. You will still receive a bill every month showing usage and amount due, but you never have to worry about being charged a late fee or possibly having service terminated for non-payment. You can request a form at City Hall, by calling (309) 444-8292, or you can download a form from our website at [www.ci.washington.il.us/egov/documents/1484700349\\_32977.pdf](http://www.ci.washington.il.us/egov/documents/1484700349_32977.pdf).
- ◆ **Credit card** – as of May 1, 2017, the City is no longer using Epay for credit card payments and is instead accepting credit card payments made through our new website online payment center. VISA, Mastercard, American Express and Discover cards are accepted. The payment center can be accessed on our website at [www.ci.washington.il.us](http://www.ci.washington.il.us).

If you have any questions about these payment options or would like to discuss your bill, please contact the Water Department at (309) 444-8292. Please keep in mind that bills are due each month on the last day of the month billed, late fees are applied if payment has not been received by the due date, and an account is subject to termination if payment has not been received by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month following the month the bill was issued. A previous balance along with a late fee will be indicated on the next month's bill if the payment was not received by the due date.

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## BE AWARE OF SUMMERTIME HEAT RELATED ILLNESS!

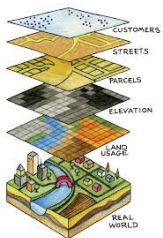
Our Fire Department shares the following information: Your body normally cools itself by sweating. During hot weather, especially with high humidity, sweating just isn't enough. Your body temperature can rise to dangerous levels and you can develop a heat illness. Most heat illnesses occur from staying out in the heat too long, but they can also occur indoors from an underlying illness or lack of hydration. Certain medications can cause you to easily become dehydrated as well. Sometimes consuming water may not be enough and the electrolyte Sodium, found in Gatorade-type beverages, is also needed. Call 911 if any signs and symptoms of a heat related illness are observed. These include: fainting; light-headedness; fast heart rate; red/dry pale skin; headache, body cramps; and severe thirst. *Have a safe and happy summer!*



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## NEW PUBLIC MAPPING AVAILABLE SOON!



City staff has used products through our Geographic Information Systems (GIS) vendor ESRI called ArcMap and ArcReader for many years for its mapping needs. GIS offers an array of map and data options that provide considerable assistance to our residents and businesses. ESRI has been slowly phasing out the ArcReader platform as cities have looked for more dynamic ways to bring this data to the public. Staff have recently been migrating from ArcReader to ArcGIS Online for many of our internal mapping needs. And we're now ready to offer the public the benefits of this product!

We plan on launching this through the City's website [www.ci.washington.il.us](http://www.ci.washington.il.us) on July 3. ArcGIS Online will offer many layers, including zoning, school districts, buildings, floodplains, parks, and school districts. Available attribute data includes acreage, short legal description, and assessed value. Aerial imagery from 2015 is also accessible as part of the mapping.

We would like to hear your feedback on other layers or maps that you may suggest that would appeal to the general public. Please email any thoughts to: [cityhall@ci.washington.il.us](mailto:cityhall@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](http://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.

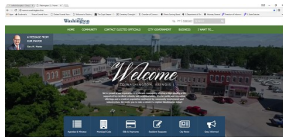
*We encourage you to check out all of the great Washington businesses and to shop local!*

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## **CITY LAUNCHES NEW RESIDENT-FOCUSED WEBSITE!**

The City of Washington launched a [new website](#) this spring focused on improving city services for residents. “We are excited to release our new website and I want to encourage folks to look at how much it has been improved,” stated Mayor Gary Manier.



The website offers four new tools that modernize the delivery of city services.

- ◆ [Resident Request Center](#) allows residents to report concerns 24/7 online.
- ◆ [Payment Center](#) accepts credit card payments 24/7 online and at City Hall.
- ◆ [Utility Bill Lookup](#) allows you to view the balance due on your utility bill.
- ◆ [E-Notify](#) is an email & text news subscription tool to help residents stay informed.

The new site is also mobile friendly and designed to allow residents to take advantage of all four self-service tools from a smart phone, tablet, or desktop computer. “We've made it easier for residents to request a service, pay their utility bill and stay informed,” explained Jim Culotta, City Administrator.

Another reason for redesigning the website was to represent the community well to others outside the city by illustrating Washington's high quality of life. The homepage now features aerial video taken last summer, including the historic Washington Square, Five Points, parks, schools, and other areas. We hope you take advantage of all that it offers!

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## **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—Vehicle Burglaries

Nice summer weather makes it easier for people to get outside, but not all of our neighbors have our best interests in mind. Summer brings increased opportunities for thieves to benefit at our expense through vehicle and other burglaries. Washington and surrounding areas have seen a seasonal uptick in burglary reports involving vehicles. You can help cut down on your risk and benefits to thieves by removing valuable items, including keys, cash and change, from your car and locking it. Of several recent Washington and Washington-area car burglaries, only two involved forced entry to the cars. In both of those cases, a potentially valuable item such as a purse or wallet was in plain view. Burglaries to locked cars are rare and almost never occur when the thief does not know for certain a desired item is present. Another note relates to concealed weapons permit holders: always remove firearms from your vehicle and store them in a truly secure location. These steps can reduce the likelihood of you taking a day to replace driver's licenses, credit cards, or other valuables you earned (and that other guy didn't). Thanks!



**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!

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## ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

The City of Washington's 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). To view the Annual Water Quality Report online please go to [www.ci.washington.il.us/egov/documents/1496420563\\_25437.pdf](http://www.ci.washington.il.us/egov/documents/1496420563_25437.pdf) and learn more about your drinking water. This report contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water during 2016. If you would like a paper copy of the Annual Water Quality Report mailed to your home, please call (309) 444-1137.



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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



Washington Night at the Chiefs scheduled Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>

Washington Fine Arts Festival scheduled Saturday & Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>

Annual Fall Fire Hydrant Flushing tentatively scheduled week of September 5<sup>th</sup>

Taste of Washington scheduled Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>

Autumn Fest on the Square scheduled Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>

Annual Fall Brush Pickup Service tentatively scheduled to begin Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>

Annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast scheduled Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>



Reach us by phone at 444-3196 - Website at [www.ci.washington.il.us](http://www.ci.washington.il.us)



Facebook at [www.facebook.com/CityofWashingtonIL](http://www.facebook.com/CityofWashingtonIL)



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

**Mayor**  
Gary Manier

**Aldermen**

Robert Brucks, *Ward I*      Dave Dingledine, *Ward III*  
Mike Brownfield, *Ward I*      Brian Butler, *Ward III*  
Carol Moss, *Ward II*      James Gee, Jr., *Ward IV*  
Brett Adams, *Ward II*      Daniel Cobb, *Ward IV*

**City Officials**

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

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