

From the desk of Mayor Gary W. Manier



We had a busy construction season with road repairs, nearly 9-miles including new mill and overlay on Jefferson Street and Lexington Drive. We are starting early in identifying street repairs for the upcoming budget cycle with a focus on roadways on the east side of the city.

We are hopeful that our recent special census results will show a significant increase in our population which will result in more state funding revenue that will benefit the services we provide. It's amazing to think that we are continuing to grow after the tornado in 2013.

Almost 300 folks enjoyed this year's Mayor's Prayer Breakfast sponsored by our Chamber of Commerce. Our featured speaker was Shawn Powell, Washington Tournament of Champions Director. Shawn is also the author of the recently released book *Don't Give Up On Me* about Darryl Strawberry. Paul Litten shared his testimony and provided the music as well.

City employees volunteered at the Snackpac program in November and it was great to give of our time to this great outreach that is helping feed our children over the weekends.

Wally King elected retirement after 22 years of dedicated service to the city as Building Inspector in our Planning and Development Department. Ray Torry recently resigned his position as Chairman of our Board of Police Commissioners after serving 15 years. We thank them for their years of dedicated service to our community, they will be missed!

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 Dick Alexander who served as a City Alderman, District 52 School Board, Washington Park District Board, Washington Township Trustee, and was a recipient of the Washingtonian Award; Dr. Shelly McGath who served our community with chiropractic care; Roland Walwer who served on the District 51 School Board and City Historic Preservation Commission; and Bob Gordon who served as our City Treasurer for 28 Years, retiring in 2009, along with many other servant roles he took on within the community over the years.

Congratulations to the Washington Middle School Baseball Team for their State Championship win and to the Washington High School Football Team on another great season with a Class 5A semi-finals appearance!

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.

Lada and I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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 ENCOURAGES AUTOPAY OPTION FOR WATER BILLS

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			
CURRENT	PREVIOUS	CONSUMPTION	NET AMOUNT

Did you know that 1 out of every 3 water payments made is through the AutoPay (also known as Electronic Debit) payment option? This option is not only commonly used but also very convenient for both residents and the City alike. It is the most efficient and cost-effective method to process and thus helps keep overall utility collection costs in check!

In addition to being convenient, payment of water bills through AutoPay reaps the following benefits for customers:

- ◆ NO fees charged for this service.
- ◆ NO need to worry about lost utility bill.
- ◆ NO need to write a check each month.
- ◆ NO late fees as bills are always paid on time.
- ◆ NO fear of disconnection for overlooked payment.
- ◆ STILL receive a copy of bill with usage and amount due indicated that will be debited from bank account on the 20th of the month.

You are now able to sign up for this service on our website at www.ci.washington.il.us. Click on the blue “Resident Requests” button in the middle of the page and follow the prompts for “AutoPay.” Forms are also available at City Hall or by calling (309) 444-8292 and requesting one by mail.



DEVELOPMENT HAPPENINGS...

Special Census Completion

The Census Bureau recently wrapped up their on-site operations associated with the completion of a Special Census in Washington. This has been done to count those new housing units within areas of the city that have experienced the most growth since the last decennial Census in 2010. As required by the Census Bureau, ten temporary employees were hired to assist with the enumeration. The operation went very well and is ahead of schedule. The City anticipates receiving a revised housing unit and population count in the next 90 days.

Illinois municipalities receive shared funds from the State for income, use, and motor fuel taxes on a per capita basis. Once the new population is certified by the Census Bureau, it is sent to the Illinois Department of Revenue and the City should receive new revenue based on this growth by this summer. The population and resulting new revenue would be in place until the 2020 Census is completed and that certified population is certified in the summer of 2021. *Thanks to all of the residents within the neighborhoods that were subject to the enumeration for your assistance!*

Bike Friendly Community Designation

The City of Washington has been named a Bronze Bike Friendly Community (BFC) award recipient by the League of American Bicyclists (LAB). Washington was the only recipient of the award this year and joins 15 other cities in Illinois as BFC designees. That organization accepts applications bi-annually and communities must show proficiency in the “5-E” categories: Engineering, Education, Enforcement, Encouragement, and Evaluation.



The City is fortunate to have some great partners who promote bicycling in Washington. Students are taught early in their education about the Rules of the Road and the many benefits of biking. The City continues to try to increase riding opportunities, via the off-road trail system and recently with the first sharrows in Tazewell County. Funding has been secured for the construction of a 1.3-mile extension of the Cruger Road trail between Nofsinger Road and N. Main Street and from N. Main to Washington Middle School. This will be completed in 2018. Funding is also in place for the completion of a one-mile trail on McClugage Road and Centennial Drive that will terminate at School Street. Completion is anticipated by 2019.

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

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

NPDES What “?”

The National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) is a provision of the Clean Water Act which in 2003 was expanded under Phase II to include all municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) in urbanized areas. The City of Washington has been under an operating permit with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for NPDES Phase II since that time for its 44 miles of storm sewer and associated outfalls into the Ten Mile and Farm Creek drainage sheds.

In the Summer of 2017, the City expanded its annual detention basin inspections to include privately owned basins. In past years, this inspection was limited to basins directly owned by the City. There are 120 basins within the boundaries of the City, with only 24 directly owned by the City. The remainder are a combination of privately held basins, some by the original subdivision developer, Home Owner’s Association (HOA), commercial businesses, etc.

To help streamline this process, the City developed an ArcCollector smartphone app that allowed for direct tracking of these inspections in ArcGIS.



As a private owner, you may have received a form letter that indicated some items that may need attention such as excessive vegetative growth, etc. We found that quite a few basins had excessive weed growth that was reducing the overall volume capacity of the permitted basin.



We wish to thank the many owners that have been working to address these findings and making our recent EPA review a successful one. We will be working to enhance our web presence with additional outreach and education information concerning the program in the coming months.

WASHINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

We would like for the great citizens of Washington to be mindful of a couple of issues this season.

The first is this is prime time for "telephone scams." Scammers from around the world are calling citizens stating such things as "you missed a court date and must pay X amount to stay out of jail" and "you missed a jury summons and for X amount you won't be arrested." Some scammers state that a relative has been arrested and needs X amount to get out of jail and recently some callers have identified themselves as members of a police department or sheriff's office stating that you have not paid a ticket and for X amount you can have the ticket dismissed.



Please remember to never give any personal information over the phone and police will never call asking for money over the phone. All of these are scams and local police should be notified if you get one of these calls.

The second is this is the time of year for slick roads and extended hours of darkness. Please be sure that your windshields are clear before you drive. Snow and frost on any part of your windshield contributes to obstructed driving vision. Continue to realize that it takes longer to stop your vehicle this time of year because of road conditions as well. Finally, PLEASE do not text or talk on your phone while you are driving!



We hoping for a safe winter season! Please call us at 444-2313 if we can assist in any way.

CITY MEETING SCHEDULES 2018

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—Committee of the Whole, second Monday of each month, 6:30 p.m.; Public Safety, third Monday of each month, 5:30 p.m. at Police Department; Finance & Personnel, third Monday of each month, 4:30 p.m. at City Hall; Public Works, first Monday of each month, 5:00 p.m. at City Hall.
- ◆ Planning & Zoning Commission—first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS TREE DROP-OFF SITE



The Tazewell County Health Department will offer a Christmas tree drop-off site at the Washington Park building located at 815 Lincoln Street (near the baseball diamonds) for this season's mulching program. Please remove all lights, ornaments, tinsel and plastic bags before drop-off. *Trees can be dropped off between December 26th and January 9th.*



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



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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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