

From the desk of Mayor Gary W. Manier



We seemed to have had an early blast of winter already this year. Our Public Works Department dedicated their new salt shed in memory of one of our former employees, Troy Pfeifer. The addition of this salt shed will allow easier access for our snow fighters to load their trucks faster in order to keep our streets cleared.

The Chamber sponsored the annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast again this year and was very well attended. Our guest speaker, Mayor Mickey Straub of Burr Ridge, Illinois, shared his experience of visiting fifty capitols in fifty days. Mayor Mickey went to each capitol to search to see if God was still present and in his quest met many amazing people along the way that impacted his journey.

We saw a huge turnout for our 9/11 ceremony this year that featured former NBA player and Washington grad Doug Lee. I want to thank Tom Berlett and his committee for another great event. I want to also give a special shout out to Beth Casillo and Coach Crouch for involving so many of our wonderful high school students.

Congratulations to the Tournament of Champions Committee for another successful event and for bringing great basketball to the City of Washington.

On Saturday, November 17th we gathered at the Washington Fire Department to reflect on our five years of recovering from an EF4 tornado. I cannot thank the Ministerial Association enough for planning this event. We are so blessed to have our churches working together for all of us.

We are excited to see that Uftring's is moving back home in less than one year of the fire that happened last January. Please remember them when you are looking for that next vehicle and please also remember our family owned businesses not just during this time of year, but all year. **Shop Local 365!**

Please keep in your prayers those that have recently lost loved ones. It's always difficult to lose those we love.

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. The Weekend Snackpac program is always in need of service of your time, treasures, and talent and if you are interested in helping you may contact Sunnyland Christian Church at 699-1332. This is a program that provides free nonperishable food to school children in Washington who may not have enough on the weekends.

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



WASHINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

As the holiday season descends upon us, we would like to remind everyone of several things to remember.



Be sure when you are exiting a store, heading back to your vehicle with packages, that you feel safe. Try leaving at the same time others are leaving and look ahead to be sure no one is around your vehicle.

Have your keys in hand as you walk toward your vehicle allowing you a quicker entry into your vehicle as well as a quicker trunk opening.

Lock packages, shopping bags, and gifts in your trunk if possible and don't leave them in open view on your seats. If placing them on your seats is your only option, be sure to keep them out of sight by covering them with a blanket or something similar.

Be aware of your surroundings when you arrive at your destination, look to be sure that no one is near your driveway or garage and if you park in the garage...stay in your vehicle until your garage door closes.

Telephone scams accelerate during this time of year. Realize that no police agency will ask for money over the phone. You will not be asked for money because you did not show up for court or have failed to pay a ticket. Also, the IRS will never call about money owed. If you receive this type of call politely hang up and do not engage in conversation and report the call to us.

Remember! We want to everyone to feel safe this season so if for any reason you do not feel safe as you shop or travel...call us and we will gladly come and assist you!

CROSS-CONTROL CONNECTION DEVICE (CCCD) SURVEY

Please note the survey form inserted in your newsletter. The Illinois EPA requires public water systems to conduct a Cross-Control Connection Device (CCCD) survey which we are again conducting by this mailer.

If you have an irrigation system installed, chances are the City already has your backflow preventer (often called an RPZ) inventoried. There are currently 400 devices in the registry and you should be receiving an annual reminder to have that device tested. Under this active notification, compliance is nearly 100%.



So why the survey? It is possible for a homeowner to complete a do-it-yourself irrigation installation without realizing the requirements for backflow prevention. (Note: a simple garden hose and lawn sprinkler is NOT subject to this requirement since they are considered temporary connections by the EPA.)

Please take a quick moment to complete the survey to see if you have (or need) such a device in your home. We are not seeking to penalize anyone who might not be in compliance and will work with you to help insure the safety of all of our drinking water.

If you have any questions, please contact Cara Hanson at City Hall by phone at 444-1121 or by email at chanson@ci.washington.il.us. The City also maintains a list of regional licensed plumbers that have the additional Cross-Connection Control Device Inspectors (CCCDI) certification to assist in gaining compliance.

References: 77 Ill. Adm. Code 890 Backflow Prevention Devices; 225 ILCS 320 Illinois Plumbing License Law; City Code Section 54.05 Cross-Connection

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY PROJECT



Habitat for Humanity of the Greater Peoria Area recently completed its second house in Washington at 1208 Hampton Road on one of the last remaining vacant lots following the 2013 tornado. This follows the initial house constructed in 2017 at 301 Lynnhaven Drive. Habitat for Humanity has been a great partner to work with and the City of Washington looks forward to other possible projects with this outstanding organization. Habitat for Humanity is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization that requires that families

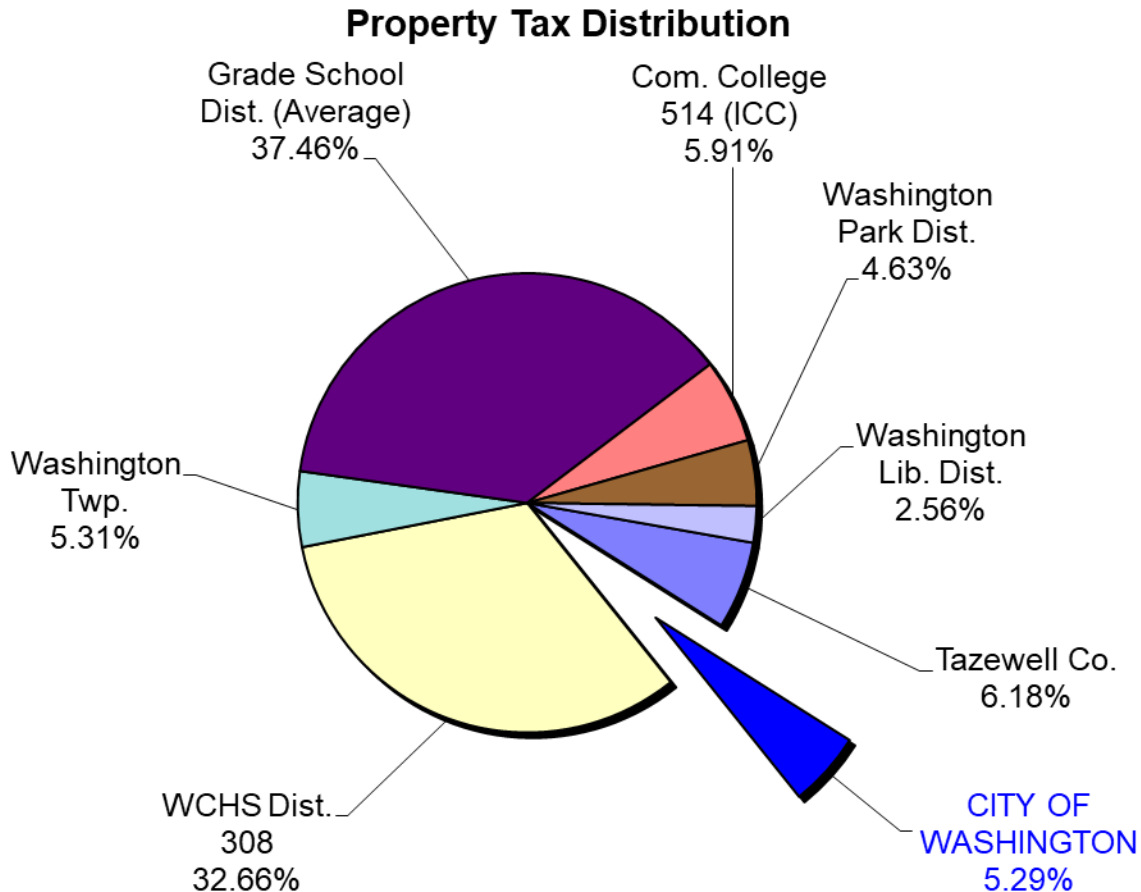
complete 250-500 sweat equity hours to show their hard work and dedication and works closely with local governments to facilitate affordable home ownership in the region.

CITY TAX LEVY AND WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU!

In addition to all the hustle and bustle of the holidays, December also means it is time to prepare the annual tax levy. Property taxes are one revenue source the City uses to fund pensions and other special funds such as for civil defense. A portion of the levy is also used for various General fund purposes.

The 2018 levy of \$1,647,675 represents an increase of 7.5% over the prior year levy amount. This increase will help to move toward restoring the general levy to the pre-Tornado 2013 levy, resulting in a general levy of \$336,075 compared to the 2013 levy of \$360,000.

The City's portion of property tax represents about 5% of the total tax bill. Other taxing bodies included on your bill depending on where you live are grade school, high school and community college as well as the county, township, library and park district. **The City levies only for the taxes indicated by Washington-Corp and has no control over the taxes levied by the other taxing bodies.**



Property taxes were decreased in 1997 in response to achieving Home Rule status. At that time, the property tax rate was \$.8020/\$100 assessed valuation although the rate had been as high as \$1.2619 in 1989. The estimated rate for the 2018 levy for taxes payable in 2019 is \$.47211 based on a projected Equalized Assessed Valuation of \$349,000,000 as provided by Tazewell County.

What does the 7.5% increase mean to you? Based on the projected EAV as indicated above and assuming no changes in your individual assessed valuation, this increase would result in an **increase in the City portion of the property tax bill** (not the total bill) as follows: \$1,000 tax bill - \$3.96; \$2,000 tax bill - \$7.93; \$3,000 tax bill - \$11.89; \$4,000 tax bill - \$15.86; \$5,000 tax bill - \$19.82; \$7,500 tax bill - \$29.73; \$10,000 tax bill - \$39.64.

Property taxes are a small, but important part of revenue sources used to fund City operations, comprising 6.5% of all budgeted revenue for the 2018-19 fiscal year. Other revenue sources include sales tax, income tax, telecommunication tax, motor fuel tax, water and sewer fees, loans, grants and surplus balances. These funds make it possible to provide the services our community has come to enjoy.

WASHINGTON PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

A couple of things to be mindful of this season...

It is against City ordinance to deposit leaves, grass clippings, snow, and ice onto any public street, roadway, alley, sidewalk, fire hydrant, or other public property in the City. Doing so can cause problems for your neighbors by clogging drains and storm sewers and possibly flooding the streets in front of your home or possibly your neighbors, and even flooding inside your homes. It can also cause unnecessary overtime for City crews and possibly puts them in harms way when responding to flooding that has been caused when leaves, grass clippings, and snow have been deposited in the street clogging drains. It can also be dangerous for emergency responders when answering calls if snow is piled around a fire hydrant or snow from your driveway or curb is pushed back into the street.



A parking ban automatically goes into effect on all City streets, with the exception of Washington Square and Main Street from Washington Square to Burton on the south and to Zinser Place on the north, when there has been an accumulation of snow and/or ice of two (2) inches or more. Parking bans as well as the lifting of the bans are publicly announced through news and social media. Police and Public Works work together to clear all the streets in a timely manner so as not to cause hardship for our residents any longer than necessary.



CITY MEETING SCHEDULES 2019

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 12th.**



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



Facebook at www.facebook.com/CityofWashingtonIL



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

Mayor
Gary Manier

Aldermen

Robert Brucks, *Ward I* Dave Dingedine, *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

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



**CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS
CROSS CONNECTION SURVEY**
- City of Washington Water Customers Only -

Name: _____

Address : _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone #: _____

Email (Optional): _____

<p>Please check the box or boxes that best describe the use of water at your residence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Typical water usage, such as bathrooms, household laundry or dishwashing appliances, and outside water faucets. <i>(If this is the only usage that applies to your residence, please sign, date, and return.)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Private well(s) supplying any part of your residence <input type="checkbox"/> Connected into a chemical or agricultural process <input type="checkbox"/> Connected into an underground lawn sprinkler/irrigation system <input type="checkbox"/> Connected into a fire sprinkler suppression system <input type="checkbox"/> Connected into a swimming pool <input type="checkbox"/> Connected into a boiler <input type="checkbox"/> Yard hydrant <input type="checkbox"/> Home based business <i>(if checked please describe below)</i> _____ 	<p>Please check the type or types of backflow prevention devices installed on your plumbing system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Residential Dual Check (RDC) <input type="checkbox"/> Double Check Valve (DC) <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced Pressure Zone Device (RP) <i>(please note a (RP) is not a pressure regulator)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Pressure Vacuum Breaker Assembly (PVB) <input type="checkbox"/> Spill Resistant Vacuum Breaker Assembly (SVB) <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <p>Existing device information is needed if checked above:</p> <p>Manufacturer: _____</p> <p>Model: _____</p> <p>Serial #: _____</p> <p>Size: _____</p> <p>On line to: _____</p> <p>Location: _____</p>
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If backflow prevention devices are installed on your plumbing, fire protection or lawn irrigation system, they are required by Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to be tested annually and copies of the test reports be maintained on file with the water company. If you do not have current copies of the test reports on file with us, please attach copies to this survey.

~~DATE:~~ _____

SIGNATURE OF INDIVIDUAL COMPLETING THE SURVEY: _____

E-mail your completed survey to: chanson@ci.washington.il.us or mail to:

**City of Washington
Attn: Cross Connection Control
301 Walnut Street, Washington, IL 61571
Fax: 309.444.9779 Phone: 309.444.1121**