

From the desk of Mayor Gary W. Manier



We are off to great start to the 2016-17 school year. I do want to encourage all of you to obey traffic laws around the schools and bus stops, remember our children are our greatest commodity. The council approved the appointment of Jon Moehle to serve as Ward 4 Alderman to finish Travis Maxwell's term, who has relocated to Florida.

I'd ask that we remember the families of those that have lost loved ones recently, Orbie Byrd who owned and operated Byrd's Barber Shop here for over 55 years, Robert Dubois, former Tazewell County Coroner, and Ray Sanders who was known as a great neighbor by many.

We remembered the 15 year anniversary of 911 with a very moving service at the memorial in Washington Park. A huge thank you to Tom Berlett and John Riopell for organizing. With 500 in attendance, we were most proud of our students that attended. The event was started by Panther Cheerleader Hayli Kalavic and was followed by moving remarks from John Bearce, Congressmen LaHood, Police Chief Papis, and Fire Chief Hurd. I was honored to present plaques of commendation to NTFD, WFD and WPD, we must never for our 1st Responders and what they do for us each day.

This year's Washington Historical Society "Roots Award" went to 1955 WCHS graduate Gene Thrailkill, who after leaving Washington, became the Marching Band Director for the University of Oklahoma as well as having many honors bestowed upon him throughout his music education career.

Congratulations to Russell's Cycling and Fitness for being named one of the 2016 America's Best Bike Shops by the National Bicycle Dealers Association. We appreciate how much Joe gives back to his community. We're excited to see several new businesses coming to our community. We need to continue to patronize all of our local businesses. I hope everyone has noticed and is taking advantage of the new downtown parking lot off of N. Main Street which opened to the public last month.

Congratulations to WCHS for another wonderful and exciting homecoming week! There is nothing like a Homecoming Parade in small town America.

A special shout out to Steve Hullcraz and the Washington Citizens Engaged in Public Safety, Ltd.-NP for their donation of the multiple pedestrian crosswalk signs that have recently been placed throughout the community.

Just a reminder about the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast to be held on November 17th, more details are available by contacting the Chamber office at 444-9921. Please remember to support our organizations that continue to help others. Just to name a few, our Churches, the Snack Pack Program, and WHIP.

Together we can...together we will!



GOD BLESS WASHINGTON,

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

Gary W. Manier, Mayor

AUTOMATED METER READING PROJECT COMING TO A CLOSE

The Automated Meter Reading (AMR) project that began back in April will be coming to a close within the next month or so. Through twenty-two (22) weeks of the project, a total of 6,783 meters are now AMR compatible and reading back to the tower. Of this total, the City's contractor, United Meters, Inc. has replaced 5,055 meters of the 5,500 planned for replacement (for an approximate 92% completion). The remaining 1,728 radio-meter combinations have been installed by City crews.

Bills for September usage were sent the first week of October. **Please note the bill may reflect actual usage for a period of time greater than a single month due to the staggered installation of meters and radios.** Once the program is completed in its entirety and all radios have been installed, all bills will be for a period of approximately 30 days. Some of the changes you may notice in the bills are that the minimum billing for water and water only meters is now based on 850 gallons per month and the new technology fee of \$3.85 for one meter and \$5.50 for two meters is included. If you do not believe your technology fee is correct based on the number of meters you have, please contact us at (309) 444-8292.

Another thing to note is that the City will no longer mail late or "pink" shutoff notices since bills are being sent on a monthly basis. The bill will indicate that shutoff will occur if the PRIOR balance has not been paid by the 15th of the current month. The current balance is still not due until the last day of the billing month. The prior balance represents the prior billing amount plus any penalties applied; however, shutoff will typically only occur if the prior billing amount has not been paid by the 15th.

Automatic payment from a checking or savings account is available and saves the cost of a postage stamp or a trip to City Hall, having to remember to pay a bill that now will be issued monthly, and the anxiety of a lost bill in the mail resulting in late fees or shutoff. If you would like to sign up, the form is available on the City website at <http://tinyurl.com/UtilityDebitForm> or at City Hall.

City staff thanks our residents for their cooperation and patience during this important project and while we continue to transition to monthly billing. Please contact us if you have questions or concerns.

PUBLIC WORKS—WINTER OPERATIONS



Washington's Public Works Department is committed to keeping all roads within the city safe and navigable before, during, and after every winter event as an "open road" objective. This open road objective should not be confused with a "bare pavement" objective. An open road objective provides that the street should be passable with only a reasonable amount of inconvenience, based upon the actual storm conditions, and should provide a safe driving surface, if reasonable driving caution is taken considering weather conditions.

We have 7 single axle 5-yard plow trucks to help maintain over 78 centerline miles of roadways, which include just under 3 miles of alleys and 76 miles of streets. Trucks are assigned to 7 routes with average round lengths of 2 to 4 hours depending on snow accumulation. These routes are primarily staffed by the Streets Department, but in the advent of extended events, we staff 2 around the clock 12 hour shifts using all Public Works staff.

The City plows most of the streets within city limits, however there are a number of roads that are the responsibility of other government agencies: US Route 24 (Boyd Parkway), Business Route 24, McClugage Road and Illinois Route 8 are IDOT's and N. Main St. beginning near Cruger Rd. is Tazewell County's.

Storms can also occur during traffic rush hours, holidays, and daytime hours, creating additional problems. The city will plow the practical full pavement width in order to maintain adequate road capacity for future storms. Plowing is performed with the idea of dispersing equal amounts of snow to either side of a roadway, although some will require up to 4 passes to clear both driving and parking lanes depending on its width. As a result, snow will almost certainly end up in driveways and could result in homeowners clearing their driveways multiple times. As always, we appreciate your patience, understanding, and cooperation during this process.

WASHINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Officers, like other city officials, address needs big and small. We address small things because they can lead to larger problems or because they are a source of irritation to the public. We'll address a few of those small things in hopes of forestalling those more serious or irritating effects.



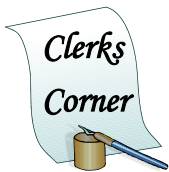
Headlights in the daytime? Illinois and other states require drivers to switch on their vehicle headlights whenever rain, snow, fog, or any atmospheric condition requires the use of windshield wipers. Precipitation and fog reduce visibility and having lights on at the front and back of your car allows pedestrians and other drivers to see you at a greater distance and to clearly recognize the threat of a moving vehicle they might otherwise miss at a glance. Taillights are required anytime headlights are required, so don't rely on daytime running lamps, which are designed for clear conditions and do not activate tail lights. Also, don't rely on your automatic headlight switch, as most rely on a light sensor and will not activate based only on overcast conditions or precipitation.

Grass clippings or leaves in the streets? Some residents are tempted with the relative ease of blowing grass clippings or leaves in the streets during lawn care chores, or burning leaves in the street to avoid damaging their lawns. Both of these practices are illegal and detrimental to city infrastructure. Clippings and leaves can clog street drains and sewers and leave a slippery mess on roadways. Burning on the pavement can fracture or weaken the pavement, causing a great reduction in the service life of a particularly costly city resource.

You may have noticed new signs on some city roadways reminding motorists to stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk. These portable signs show great promise in making crossing safer for pedestrians but like anything new, have raised some questions. First, the crosswalk signs are only a reminder of what the law requires related to crossing pedestrians, so in that sense they are not making a new requirement. Drivers are required to yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk, which means stopping the car when pedestrians are present. While the signs do not make it acceptable for a pedestrian to step suddenly from the curb, endangering themselves and others, the bottom line is that pedestrians in a crosswalk enjoy the right of way. The potential savings of a few seconds here or there is not worth the risk of a ticket or of causing a serious injury, so when you see a pedestrian, stop and let them cross.

Call us at 444-2313 and we'll be happy to answer any questions!

RECENTLY ADOPTED ORDINANCES. . .



- ◆ Amending code—adding Square Building Design Guidelines
- ◆ Granting local Historic District Designation status to multiple properties on the Square
- ◆ Amending code—to restrict parking on a portion of S. Cummings Lane and Cruger Road
- ◆ Amending code—to establish changes required in regards to the Automated Meter Reading Project including establishing a technology fee
- ◆ Granting a special use to allow a daycare facility to operate at 26 Washington Plaza
- ◆ Amending code—by adding Columbarium Rules and Regulations
- ◆ Authorizing borrowing of funds from Water Pollution Control Loan Program for financing Phase 2A improvements to Sewer Treatment Plant No. 2
- ◆ Rezoning a part of 900 Walnut Street from I-1 (light industrial) to C-3 (service commercial)
- ◆ Amending code—for purposes of reorganization and restructuring within the Police Department
- ◆ Amending existing Residential Solid Waste Collection contract with Waste management of IL, Inc. regarding recycling carts
- ◆ Amending code—authorizing the termination of water service for vacant properties



DEVELOPMENT HAPPENINGS...

Since the November 17, 2013, tornado, the building staff has issued 489 residential rebuild permits and three commercial rebuild permits. Additionally, 442 permits have been issued for building repairs for a grand total of 931 tornado-related building permits. Of the hundreds of homes destroyed, nearly all of them are now occupied. About \$135 million in construction value is attributed to repairs or rebuilds. Thanks to all of our residents, businesses, and contractors for their patience and diligence with the rebuilding of Washington!

City staff have issued 25 new residential permits and 12 commercial/industrial permits through September 2016. An additional 9 residential rebuild permits have been issued year-to-date. Since the tornado, 159 additional residential housing units have initiated construction. This helps signify the interest in new residential construction outside of the areas impacted by the tornado.

THE SMELL OF FALL IS IN THE AIR



With fall upon us comes the urge to burn your landscape waste. Landscape waste is defined as grass or shrubbery cuttings, leaves, tree limbs, and other materials accumulated as a result of the care of lawns, shrubbery, vines, and trees. Open burning is permitted of *these materials only* and are allowed under the following conditions:

- ◆ Only can be burned from sunup to sundown each day except the following holidays: New Year’s Day; Easter; Memorial Day; Fourth of July; Labor Day; Halloween; Thanksgiving; and Christmas;
- ◆ Only on private property;
- ◆ Twenty of more feet from any structure; and
- ◆ All fires have to be constantly attended with a means to extinguish it nearby.

Bonfires and fires used solely for recreational purposes or for ceremonial occasions will be permitted as follows:

- ◆ Personal bonfires and personal fires for recreational purposes or ceremonial occasions using only fuel sources approved by the IL Environmental Protection Agency or other state, federal, or county law or agency; and
- ◆ Bonfires and fires in connection with or as a part of an organized school or community activity, event, or function, will be permitted only with the prior written approval of the Fire Chief.

Keep in mind that the Fire Chief or authorized agent may prohibit open burning when the conditions or location constitute a hazard or when a fire produces too much smoke or flying ash, creating a hazard for persons or property in the area. Please enjoy your fall, but be safe and courteous to your neighbors and watch the wind as wind driven fires get out of hand very quickly! *Thank you ~ Roger Traver, Washington Fire Department Director of Operations*

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



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Gary Manier

Aldermen

Robert Brucks, <i>Ward I</i>	Dave Dingedine, <i>Ward III</i>
Mike Brownfield, <i>Ward I</i>	Brian Butler, <i>Ward III</i>
Carol Moss, <i>Ward II</i>	James Gee, Jr., <i>Ward IV</i>
Tyler Gee, <i>Ward II</i>	Jon Moehle, <i>Ward IV</i>

City Officials

Jim Culotta, *City Administrator*
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