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March  
2019

# Willard Watch

**ARBOR DAY**  
At The Rec Center  
**April 5, 2019**



# A message from the Clerk....

Spring is coming up quick, which means we are entering the time of year for our biggest threat for Severe Weather. Do you have a plan? Do you have an indoor weather alert radio or alerts set up on your smart phone? Many people rely on the outdoor warning system however the primary purpose of the outdoor warning system is to warn people who are outdoors to seek shelter immediately. Living in this area with severe weather, it is very important that you keep a weather radio on hand, enable emergency alerts on your smartphone, sign up for local weather alerts through media partners, tune in to local news and weather coverage on TV and follow relevant official agencies like OEM and

the National Weather Service on social media. It's better to be overprepared than not prepared at all!

Thank you all for making this City the best place to be in southwest Missouri!

*Jennifer Rowe*

City Clerk / Director of Emergency Management



## Willard News Arbor Day 2019



The City of Willard will be celebrating Arbor day by planting a tree at the REC center on **April 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.** Everyone is invited!

## 2019 Comprehensive Plan



Did you know the City is currently working on the 2019 Comprehensive Plan? Last month citizens of Willard were asked to take a survey on what they would like to see happen to the City of Willard. We have the results! You can see updates, survey results and the timeline on our website

by going to [www.cityofwillard.org](http://www.cityofwillard.org) and clicking the 2019 Comprehensive Plan tab.

## New Lift Station Complete

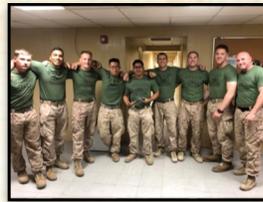
Exciting things are happening in the City of Willard! You may have seen a lot of construction recently around the city. Some of that construction has been completed. The new Force Main project, and the new lift station is now up and running!



## Police News

### PAL Partners With Marines

The photo below depicts a group of overseas marines, a couple of which have ties to Willard. Their family asked if Willard PAL could assist with some hand-wraps and we partnered with them for the Willard PAL T Shirts which have their logo on the back. Willard PAL is honored to assist our military men and women who sacrifice for our country.



### Cozzens Sharpens Coaching Skills

Willard PAL Boxing Coach, Glenn Cozzens, is pictured in a Gracie Survival Tactics advertisement that has nationwide coverage. Coach Cozzens is constantly sharpening his coaching skill both in Jiu-Jitsu and Boxing. In the first week of March, he spent the weekend with USA Boxing president and Turner Boxing Academy head coach, John Brown, gleaning from his coaching clinic. We are proud to have a coach of his caliber, desire, and skill set.

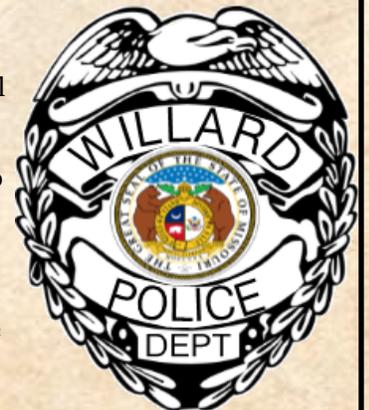


### D.A.R.E. Graduation



Another DARE graduation is set for April 9, 2019 at 6:30 pm at the Willard

Intermediate School where another 200 5th grade students will be recognized for their efforts in completing the DARE program. Students develop real skill in risk assessment and problem solving as they course their way through our 10-week program. It is the officer's honor to work with your children and we look forward to seeing you on graduation.



## Park News



**T**here are some fun things currently redoing the landscaping around the REC Center, which we can't wait for you all to see. We have our annual Indoor Yard Sale event on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, and we still have a few spaces left if you need to reserve a spot to sell your stuff. For those wanting to shop, admission is free to the public for that event.

happening with Willard Parks! Our Open Pickleball is a huge hit; it runs weekdays from 9:00-1:00 (except for Wednesdays) and Tuesday nights from 7:00-9:00. We are



## Now Hiring

**W**e are starting to take applications for our summer/seasonal positions NOW! Anyone interested in working

for Willard Parks over the summer, please apply at the Willard REC Center. We will potentially be hiring for Day Camp Counselors, Life Guards, Sports, and other miscellaneous positions.



You can find information regarding all of our events, course registration, and other important news on our website, [www.willardparks.com](http://www.willardparks.com). You will also find a printable employment application and listings for open positions here as well.



## Distracted Driving



– opinion article by  
**Stefanie Shell**

**I** chose to write this month's column on distracted driving because of the encounters I have had driving into work every day down O Highway. Keep in mind; I am driving for maybe 7 to 8 minutes from my home close to Highway 13 to the station on Z Highway in Willard and every day I watch someone running a stop sign. Recently, I have been passing the same woman every day putting on her eye make-up with a child in her back seat.

What is distracted driving? According to the NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration), it is any activity that diverts attention from driving, including talking or texting on phone, eating and drinking, talking to people in your vehicle, fiddling with the stereo, entertainment or navigation system – anything that takes your attention away from the task of driving.

They go on to say that texting is the most alarming distraction. Sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for 5 seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed!

Take into consideration that may not seem that bad if you are driving down a straight road with no other vehicles or signs on the side of the road. What roads are straight with no obstructions? If you



have driven down O Highway, you barely have room to stay in your lanes, let alone maneuver away from a distracted driver. There are drop-offs and signs. Plus, there are multiple curves and hills!

In 2016 alone, the NHTSA reported that 3,450 people were killed. In 2015, 391,000 people were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers.

What is it going to take for us to understand how important it is to not drive distracted? Is your family not enough? Is it that important to get there a second earlier while you run that stop sign? Is that text worth your life? Is that distraction worth taking another's life?

I was almost run off of O Highway the other day. I do not know what caused the truck to cross the center line but I only had milliseconds to respond. What if I had been distracted? It would have been a head-on collision. I have no desire to be part of the statistics in 2019 or any year. My family is more important than any distraction in my vehicle and

I am more important to them. Make a conscience decision to put your phone down and pay attention to the road. Discipline yourself to think of others as you drive down the road. And for goodness sake, get up a little earlier so you don't have to rush through a stop sign or put on your make-up.

### Avoid Distracted Driving

There are a number of steps drivers can take to make their own experience on the road safer and less prone to distractions. Here are a few:

- Take a few moments in your driveway or parking space to prepare for your trip before you pull into traffic. Adjust mirrors, seats, climate settings, GPS, and radio, and buckle up, so you can focus on driving once you're underway.
- Makeup, neckties, and other grooming should be done before you even get in the car. Seriously.
- Make sure everything is in its proper place, including pets, small children, or loose objects that otherwise may divert your attention from the road.
- Avoid turning your car into a rolling cafeteria. Avoid messy takeout orders and huge drinks. If you must snack, snack neatly.
- Turn off your cell phone. If a call is too important to miss, it's best to pull over so you can give it your undivided attention.
- If something else intrudes in the course of your journey that requires action on your part, pull over to deal with it.
- If you see another vehicle moving erratically or exhibiting other signs of a distracted driver, make an immediate report to authorities. But pull over to do it.

If you have questions or would like further information, please contact us at 417-685-3114 or [info@willardfire.com](mailto:info@willardfire.com). You can visit our website [www.willardfire.com](http://www.willardfire.com) or follow us on Facebook or Twitter.



## Spring Means 4th Quarter

Although it may not feel like it outside, Spring is just around the corner! As spring sports begin, 4th quarter gets underway, and students are involved in more activities than ever, it will be a busy season at Willard Schools!

### School Is In Session

Because we've had an icy winter, we would like our community to take note of a few dates:

- ◆ **Friday, March 8:** Student 1/2 Day (Grades K-6 at 12:30PM and grades 7-12 at 11:30AM)
- ◆ **Monday, March 11:** Classes in session
- ◆ **Tuesday, March 12:** Classes in session 1/2 day (Grades K-6 at 12:30PM and grades 7-12 at 11:30AM)
- ◆ **Friday, March 29:** No School (Parent/Teacher Conferences)



### Kindergarten Screening

Also coming up this busy Spring season, we're inviting our Tigers that turn 5 years old by July 31st to Kindergarten Screening! This is an exciting time to welcome hundreds of Tigers to Willard Schools. Below are the dates and phone numbers to make your appointment.

- 4/9/19: Orchard Hills 417-869-0600**
- 4/12/19: Willard East 417-742-4639**
- 4/16/19: Willard Central 417-831-4440**
- 4/18/19: Willard South 417-862-6308**
- 4/26/19: Willard North 417-742-2597**

If you don't know which building your child will attend, please call District Office at 417-742-2584.

*Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try*

*John F Kennedy*



## Meet Volunteer Chris Gooch

Chris Gooch has been an asset at Willard Fire for almost 8 years. Chris is always willing to help out wherever needed, especially with public relations events. He loves working with kids and educating our community members on fire prevention and health issues. He loves the fire service and loves to serve. Let's meet Chris.

**How long have you been in the fire service?** "7 years with Willard Fire."

**What was your reason for joining the fire service?** "I have a passion for service and wanted to give back to the community. One day one of our firefighters asked if I would be interested in becoming a volunteer. That is when I had the honor to meet Chief Wirth. I always wanted to be a full-time firefighter when I was younger, but life took me in another direction. Now that I'm a father, I wanted to be involved in something that models service and honor and teamwork for my two boys."

**What are your hobbies away from work?** "I enjoy being with my family and coaching and watching my boys play sports. We love hunting and anything to do with the great outdoors."

**What is your favorite thing about being a volunteer?** "Being a volunteer allows me to be part of a team that has fun together and serves our community. We have great comradery and passion for helping others. I have never seen such true TEAMWORK! It's a great feeling when members of the community recognize our efforts and appreciate our service."



Meeting Dates	Contacts
<p><b>Board of Aldermen</b></p> <p>March.....11th &amp; 25th</p> <p><b>Planning and Zoning</b></p> <p>March.....26th</p> <p><b>Park Board</b></p> <p>March.....28th</p> <p><b>Economic Development</b></p> <p>March.....18th</p>	<p><b>Mayor</b></p> <p>Corey Hendrickson.....417-234-4713</p> <p><b>Board of Aldermen</b></p> <p>Brandon Bond.....417-872-9530</p> <p>Donna Stewart.....417-493-9894</p> <p>Sam Baird.....417-844-0636</p> <p>Samuel Snider.....417-839-9444</p> <p>Jon Jones.....417-224-2805</p> <p>Larry Whitman.....417-343-0994</p> <p><b>City Administrator</b></p> <p>Bradley Gray.....417-742-3033 ext 5304</p> <p><b>City Clerk</b></p> <p>Jennifer Rowe.....417-742-3033 ext 5302</p> <p><b>Chief of Police</b></p> <p>Tom McClain .....417-742-3033 ext 5341</p>