

Lacon City Council Approves Permits For Old Settlers, New Police Car

by MJ Langner

Lacon is looking at a busy summer full of events as the Lacon City Council approved several permits for upcoming events at their latest meeting last Wednesday, June 10th.

Several permits were approved for the weekend of Old Settler's, August 28th and 29th. This included the use of the Marina for the event and fireworks display to be held that weekend, and a permit for outside live music on the 29th. The council would go on to approve a donation to the event in the amount of \$2500, an increase of \$500 from last year's donation.

The council also approved a street closure outside 5th St. Revivals on the 100 block of Broad Street. The closure comes as a new chalk drawing contest event is set to be held on July 3rd for kids and families.

The Lacon Chamber of Commerce also approached the board regarding logistics as the date of the Hot Air Balloon Festival comes closer. The Chamber was looking to work with the city for barricades, trash cans, picnic tables and port-a-potties. They also

asked about having a city police presence at the event. The council agreed to help with trash and barricades, but wanted more information on the cost of the port-a-potties before agreeing to help with the cost. They also could not commit to a full time designated police officer at this time. This event will take place on September 26th at the airport, with gates opening at 4 pm to the public.

In other business, the council approved a facelift grant to Wild-ey's for another project. They are eligible for \$6,254 in facelift grant funds and this project will total \$4,949.

The council also approved the purchase of a new 2027 police vehicle. The cost of the vehicle is just over \$55,000 coming in approximately \$1,500 over budget, as they had planned to purchase a 2026, but that is no longer available.

They also approved the sale of city owned property to Hardin Industries. The sale was approved and signed at the meeting by both parties with the closing date set for July 1, with the option to delay by 90 days. The goal is to finish the expansion project by winter of 2028.

County Board Approves Request To Install 3 Meteorological Towers

by MJ Langner

The Marshall County Board conducted regular business at their meeting on Thursday, June 11th.

They discussed and would go on to approve a special use permit for Scout Clean Energy to install three additional MET (meteorological) towers on the eastern side of the county in an effort to gather more data and "ensure overlapping coverage" as the company looks toward developing a clean energy project.

Lael Eason, director of development for this region, spoke to the board about the towers noting that the company is in the fact finding phase and the towers will help gather and confirm data.

The towers are 16 meters high, just under 200 feet and require no FAA lighting or marking, but they will be marked in this case. They also do not plan to have fencing surrounding the towers in an effort to allow farmers to plant right up to the tower. Should the data come

back favorable, the project could proceed at the earliest in late 2029, with the potential to be shifted to 2030.

Scout Clean Energy is headquartered in Boulder Colorado and is working to develop wind solar and energy storage projects throughout the country.

The board moved on to discuss and approve the purchase of a new plow truck through Sourcewell. This would be a 2027 model Mac truck, pre new emissions requirements coming and would include the cab and chassis. The board was originally not planning to make this purchase at this time, but with new requirements coming, purchasing the truck now would lower the cost. The board also recognized that Mac trucks will hold their value better than the Internationals that had been purchased in the past. Down the line, this truck could be sold at a higher value,

(Continued On Page Page 2)

EF-3 Tornado Passes Just North Of Washburn

One of the strongest tornadoes in the state of Illinois this year struck near Washburn at around 5:07 p.m. on Thursday, June 11. The National Weather service's preliminary survey rated the tornado a EF-3, placing it in the "severe" category with estimated winds peaking at 155 mph.

The tornado originally touched down just east of the Illinois River in northwestern Woodford County, then traveled northeast across the Woodford-Marshall County line, strengthening as it passed just to the north of Washburn. It then weakened slightly, then strenthened again, doing major damage to a solar farm just north of Washburn before it lifted and would later touch down in Streator.

According to Lacon-Sparland Fire Chief Rich Koch, the tornado completely destroyed a log cabin home and a second log cabin lost its upper half. Major damage occurred to at least five homes, most of this occurring in Marshall County on Wilburn Road and Pleasant View Road area. Besides the damage to homes, there were six vehicles that sustained severe damage, several outbuildings were destroyed as well as major crop damage.

The tornado was reportedly on the ground for 19 minutes, moving at a speed of roughly 35-40 mph, traveling a total of 11.2 miles with a width of 930 yards.

Fortunately, no injuries or casualties were reported.



After passing north of Washburn, the tornado struck a wind farm doing major damage and spreading debris around the area.



Metal wrapped around a utility pole speaks to the volume of the wind.



Numerous Ameren trucks on the scene working to restore power



One of the homes experiencing severe damage



The tornado heads toward Washburn



TEAM JOY BLIND DRAW

BAGS TOURNAMENT

Ran by Killer Tournament "LB309"

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

Sign-Up 11:30-12:30

Steve & Lisa Mangold Residence

503 Washburn Road, Lacon

Min. 3 Games ♦ Air Mail Contest

Longest Yard Contest ♦ Raffles & 50/50

Food by: Grubbz BBA

Statecoach Sweet Treats & More

To Benefit Alzheimer's Association

In memory of Joy Wunder

\$20 Per Person - 50% Payout

NOTICE!

WATER RATIONING

Beginning June 18, 2026 thru September 30, 2026, the City Council approved issuing a Stage A water rationing.

All residents will be permitted to water daily except from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

■ No person shall use any water sprinkler, sprinkling or perforated hose to water any lawn, garden, shrub, tree or flower between 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

■ These restriction shall apply to all residences and to all businesses and institutions having lawns, gardens, trees or shrubs, and shall be followed at all parks and public buildings owned by the City of Lacon.

■ Any person, firm or corporation violating any provision of this ordinance shall be fined not less than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) nor more than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) upon a first conviction of this ordinance and not less than Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$750.00) for each subsequent offense.



FRONT END ALIGNMENTS AVAILABLE!



Who You Gonna Call?

Jeff Cochran!

Find Us On Facebook

COCHRAN'S COLLISION CENTER

Located at Lacon's East Edge - 1218 Ninth Street (Just Off Route 17)

(309) 246-8000

www.cochranscollisioncenter.com