

## Letter to the Editor

### Don't Email Your Alderman

The front page Marshall City Council meeting report ("City Council ignores domicile ordinance") for the May 10, 2010 meeting was absolutely factually correct. Unfortunately, since it is a meeting report, whether a statement by a public official is a fact or not isn't noted. Lies get equal billing with the truth. So what happened?

The City of Marshall website was rigged with an old fashioned retaliation set-up adapted to the computer age. If a person wanted to send an e-mail to a city alderman and looked up the alderman's e-mail address on the city website and used that address, the e-mail would not go directly to the alderman. It would go to the City staff and supposedly it would be printed off and put

in the alderman's mailbox. The intent of the deception involved is that at least some of the aldermen didn't know it was rigged that way. Naturally, the trusting public wouldn't suspect city officials would stoop so low. And, naturally, a trusting victim incident occurred.

I interviewed the victim, Tammy Welbom, prior to the city council meeting.

Tammy lives a few blocks south of me. Her grandfather, Dean Alexander, knew my father as well as me. I had never previously talked to her to any extent. She is an Illinois State Trooper. Her complaint about the domicile ordinance not being followed is minor compared to the problems exposed by statements and actions by Marshall city officials. Quoting my previous letter (published 5-4-10) on Freedom of Information: "All official declarations aside, law enforcement is pursued lo-

cally in a political manner and has always been this way. Who you are is more important than what you did and that's how you will be treated. The City police department is under the direct control of a politician (the mayor) and you can always be sure those in favor or connected will be given benefit of the doubt."

Kevin Paddock can violate the domicile ordinance as long as the mayor wants. Another City employee, not in favor or connected, will quickly feel the full brunt of the ordinance to the limits of the law. That's just how it is.

What set off the commotion is a much larger serious problem. Unknown to the general public and kept as secret as possible by insiders is the simple fact that Kevin Paddock is incompetent as chief of police. Police officers in the department can't say anything and certainly won't say anything (even if asked)