

CITY OF WHEATON NEWSLETTER

February 2018

CITY NOTES

City Offices Closed Feb. 19

Non-emergency City of Wheaton offices will be closed on Monday, Feb. 19, in observance of Presidents' Day. Offices will reopen on Feb. 20.

Garbage pickup will not be affected.

Employment Opportunities

The City of Wheaton seeks applicants for three positions: plan examiner in the Building & Code Enforcement Department, temporary seasonal workers in the Public Works Department, and a forestry intern/temporary seasonal worker in the Public Works Department.

For more information on these positions and how to apply, visit www.wheaton.il.us/jobs.

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Second Phase of Downtown Construction Begins this Spring

New Martin Plaza among updates

In the first phase of the City's Downtown Streetscape plan, crews replaced sanitary sewers and water mains along Front Street, between West and Cross streets. This work was completed this past fall. Now, crews are getting ready to begin a phase that will bring more visible, above-ground improvements to the downtown.

Starting in March, crews will return to Front Street to make many above-ground changes, including wider sidewalks, new lighting, a new Martin Memorial Plaza and much more.

Crews will be working along Front Street in segments to ensure that one lane of traffic will



Initial plans for Martin Memorial Plaza will move it to the north side of Front Street and will include a gathering area, decorative lighting, a water feature and more.

remain open throughout the project. While there may be temporary lane closures to allow construction trucks to pour concrete or bring in materials, crews will work on one side of Front Street at a time to keep traffic moving.

Please note that downtown businesses will be open and accessible during construction, and

downtown business owners appreciate your continued patronage through the construction process. The City's contracted crews will make all efforts possible to ensure the least disruption for businesses and patrons in the downtown. We appreciate your patience as these improvements take shape.

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CONTACT THE CITY

Police/Fire: 911

After-Hours Water/Sewer Emergency: 630-260-2161

General Information: 630-260-2000

City Hall Hours: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday

Feedback: Please mail your comments to: Communications Department, 303 W. Wesley St., Wheaton, IL 60187
Or email communications@wheaton.il.us

CITY NOTES

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Check Out New Programming

Stay up-to-date with what's happening in Wheaton by watching videos produced by the City of Wheaton. You can find these videos on the City's website at www.wheaton.il.us/video, or Wheaton Comcast subscribers can see them on Channels 10 & 17.

Some of the available programs include:

- A Chat with the Mayor: Cantigny
- City of Wheaton State of the City 2018
- Talk About Choices: Stosh Walsh

Discourage Coyotes from Your Property

While coyotes are valuable in decreasing the rodent population, their presence in populated areas can be minimized by removing things that attract them to places they are not wanted. Coyotes can become a nuisance when they have easy access to food in residential areas, such as pet food or garbage.

Some important reminders:

- NEVER feed a coyote.
- Take steps to ensure that you are not providing them

with a source of food, either intentionally or unintentionally:

- Feed pets indoors or promptly remove dishes when pets complete their meal outside. Store bags of pet food indoors.
- Clear brush and dense weeds from around property to deprive rodents of shelter and reduce protective cover for coyotes.
- Use trash barrels equipped with tight clamping devices on the lids.
- DO NOT feed or provide water for coyotes or other wildlife. This practice abnormally attracts coyotes and promotes increased numbers of rodents, birds and other creatures that can provide major portions of the coyote's natural diet.

Commission News

The Wheaton City Council reappointed Anthony Asta for a 3-year term on the Fine & Cultural Arts Commission. Also, the Council appointed Mr. Asta to a 3-year term on the Community Relations Commission and appointed Erica Nelson to a term on the Community Relations Commission to expire on April 4, 2019.



Mayor Gresk recognized Richard Gerig, center, for his many contributions to the Wheaton community.

Wheaton Honors Outstanding Citizen

At the Jan. 16 Wheaton City Council meeting, Mayor Michael Gresk presented an Outstanding Citizen Proclamation to Richard Gerig.

A WWII U.S. Army veteran, Mr. Gerig has spent decades serving the community through his work at Wheaton College, on the Wheaton City Council, two

City commissions & numerous organizations. He was a founding member of the Wheaton Historic Preservation Council, and also served on the City's Community Relations Commission and Sister City Commission. The City thanks Mr. Gerig for his continued service to the community and congratulates him on this honor.

Downtown

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Specific improvements that will update this portion of the downtown include:

- A reconfigured Martin Memorial Plaza on the north side of Front Street, complete with a water feature, gathering spaces, unique plantings, and overhead

light strands

- A gateway element welcoming people into this part of the downtown
- Wider sidewalks
- New signs, benches, banners and more.

Look for continued updates on this project through the City's email updates, on its Facebook and Twitter pages, and on its website at www.wheaton.il.us/downtownplan.

Mayor Presents State of the City Address

Progress, redevelopment and revitalization were among the main themes of Mayor Michael Gresk's State of the City Address at Arrowhead Golf Club this year.

Mayor Gresk presented the annual presentation to the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce on Jan. 18, and the City has made this presentation available online for all residents, business owners and citizens to see.

In the video, you will see updates from some of the City's departments, updating you on the projects they are working on, such as the Downtown Streetscape Plan. See the video footage from this past year's extensive underground work, digging up decades-old pipes and installing new water and sewer pipes.

Other infrastructure work included replacing



more than 1,300 sidewalk squares, and planting more than 900 parkway trees to replace many of the City's ash trees that were infested by the emerald ash borer.

Wheaton's Fire and Police Departments both highlighted new ways they are serving you. Hear about the Wheaton Fire Department's first year working with the Northwestern Medicine Central DuPage Hospital Stroke Unit,



Watch the Video

[Watch the State of the City Address online](#)

and the Wheaton Police Department's new shift structure that allows more officers to be out in the City at any given time.

The video also highlighted a few of the new businesses

Wheaton welcomed in the past year, such as Sierra Trading Post, PDQ and the newly relocated Whole Foods.

Mayor Gresk and City staff also looked toward the future in the video, outlining some of the major roads that crews plan to resurface this spring/summer, continued work to address flooding, businesses that will be joining Wheaton soon, and more.

[Watch the video now.](#)

Downtown Train Station Reopens Following Fire



The City of Wheaton reopened the indoor waiting area of the downtown Wheaton Metra station at 402 W Front Street on Jan. 29.

The station had been closed since a fire Nov. 22 damaged the station, which the City leases from Union

Pacific Railroad.

While the waiting area is open, some areas are not available for use until additional repairs are completed. Crews have secured damaged areas that still need repair. Temporary heating and electricity have been brought in,

however, the restrooms will not be immediately available for use. The City will post updates when the restrooms will be reopened.

Thank you for your patience. The City apologizes for any inconvenience this has caused.

Apply for Senior Housing Assistance Program

The City of Wheaton and the City's Housing Commission sponsor a program to give monthly financial assistance toward housing to senior residents who qualify. Seniors who meet the three following requirements may apply for Wheaton Housing Assistance:

- **Age:** must be at least 65 years or older
- **Residency:** must

be an incorporated Wheaton resident for at least the last consecutive 3 years

- **Income:** senior's annual household income cannot exceed \$25,800

If you meet these three qualifications and would like to apply for Wheaton Housing Assistance, please contact Lindsay Qualkenbush, City of Wheaton, at 630-260-



2019 for an application and more information.

Please note that if you are receiving Section 8

or DuPage Housing Authority assistance, you are NOT eligible to apply for this program.

UPCOMING EVENTS

In Good Taste Restaurant Week

Dates: Jan. 27-Feb. 3

Location: Downtown Wheaton restaurants

Enjoy Wheaton's tastiest during the In Good Taste Restaurant Week. Downtown Wheaton restaurants will offer special menu items, discounts, pre-fixe menus, special events and more.

For more information, visit the Downtown Wheaton Association's website at downtownwheaton.com.

3rd Annual Ice (Cubed) Fest

Date: Saturday, Feb. 3

Time: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Location: Downtown Wheaton

Brave the cold and plan a day in Downtown Wheaton with the family to tour the many ice sculptures displayed outside local businesses. Stop by Martin Memorial Plaza from noon to 3 p.m. to enjoy a live ice



sculpting demonstration. This is a free event. Note: This event was rescheduled from Jan. 27 due to weather.

Ice-A-Palooza

Date: Saturday, Feb. 3

Time: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Location: Central Athletic Complex Ice Rinks, 500 S. Naperville Road, Wheaton

Join the Wheaton Park District for Ice-A-Palooza, a free event featuring Snow Queen Elsa, Anna and Olaf;

ice skating; ice games; a bonfire and more.

Living History: Harriet Tubman

Date: Thursday, Feb. 8

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: Wheaton Public Library, 225 N. Cross St.

Join actress Pam Welcome as she portrays the legendary abolitionist Harriet Tubman. Registration required at www.wheatonlibrary.org or 630-868-7520.

Saving Lives in Auschwitz

Date: Thursday, Feb. 15

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: Wheaton Public Library, 225 N. Cross St.

Wheaton resident and Lewis University professor Dr. Ewa K. Bacon discusses her book, "Saving Lives in Auschwitz: the Prisoners' Hospital in Buna-Monowitz." Registration required at www.wheatonlibrary.org or 630-868-7520.

Antiqua Baroque Consort

Date: Sunday, Feb. 18

Time: 2 p.m.

Location: Wheaton Public Library, 225 N. Cross St.

This esteemed chamber ensemble, comprised of musical faculty of Northern Illinois University, will perform gems from the Baroque era of music. No registration required.

The Beatles and Sgt. Pepper

Date: Thursday, Feb. 22

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Wheaton Public Library, 225 N. Cross St.

Join Beatles expert Robert Rodriguez he discusses the year of Sgt. Pepper and shows his documentary on how the Fab Four explored rock's boundaries while capturing the vibe of the Summer of Love. Registration is required at www.wheatonlibrary.org or 630-868-7520.

Police Warn of IRS Tax Scams

Tax Day is approaching in America, but this time of year also brings with it criminals intent on preying on taxpayers. Many people have encountered individuals impersonating IRS officials – in person, over the telephone and via email. Seniors are often targeted, but anyone with a phone could receive the call. Don't get scammed. The IRS initiates most contacts through regular mail delivered by the United States Postal Service.

Note that the IRS will not:

- Call to demand immediate payment using a specific payment method such as a prepaid debit card, gift card or wire transfer. Generally, the IRS will first mail a bill to any taxpayer who owes taxes.
- Threaten to bring in

local police, immigration officers or other law enforcement to have you arrested for not paying. The IRS also cannot revoke your driver's license, business licenses or immigration status. Threats like these are common tactics scam artists use to trick victims into buying into their schemes.

- Demand that you pay taxes without the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe. You should also be advised of your rights as a taxpayer.

The IRS instructs taxpayers to make payments to the "United States Treasury." The IRS provides specific guidelines on how you can make a tax payment at irs.gov/payments.

- Never use money services like Western Union or MoneyGram to pay your taxes.
- Never supply an

individual on the phone with your social security number, driver's license number, or personal information.

- Never provide a caller with your banking information, credit card information, or other financial information. They will claim to need the information for verification purposes, but don't fall for it.

If anyone comes to your door representing themselves as a government agent and does not show proper credentials, call 9-1-1 for police assistance.

This information is being provided to help keep our community members from being victimized. If you have any specific questions about scams targeting senior citizens, please contact Police Officer Jill Uhlir, Senior Services Officer for the Wheaton Police Department, at 630-260-2161 or juhlir@wheaton.il.us.

DuPage County Stormwater Public Meeting

Wheaton residents are invited to attend a public meeting hosted by DuPage County Stormwater Management during the regularly scheduled Stormwater Management Planning Committee meeting at 7:30 a.m. Feb. 6 in the DuPage County Board Room, 421 N County Farm Road, Wheaton.

In accordance with NPDES Permit No. ILR40, this meeting is being held for the public to provide input on the adequacy of their municipality's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Program. The City of Wheaton will have engineering staff in attendance to answer any questions. You may contact the Engineering Department directly at 630-260-2065 if you have any concerns or questions regarding pollutants and stormwater management within the City.

To read more about the City's MS4 Program, see www.wheaton.il.us/npdes.



CITY CALENDAR

City Council Meetings and Planning Sessions are held in the Council Chambers at Wheaton City Hall, 303 W. Wesley St. Coffee with Council takes place in the Gamon Room at City Hall. Visit www.wheaton.il.us for a complete list of meetings and events.

February 2018

- 3 Coffee with Council, 10 a.m.
- 5 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 12 City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 19 City Offices Closed
- 20 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 26 City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.