



CITY OF WHEATON NEWSLETTER

February 2019

CITY NOTES

City Offices Closed

Non-emergency City of Wheaton offices will be closed on Monday, Feb. 18, in observance of Presidents' Day. Offices will reopen on Feb. 19. Garbage/recycling pickup will not be affected by the holiday.

Keep Sidewalks Clear

The City encourages you to keep the sidewalks near your home clear of snow for the safety of children walking to school or bus stops and other pedestrians. Please consider assisting neighbors who may be unable to clear their sidewalks.

Businesses in the C-2 and C-4 Zoning Districts are required to remove snow and ice from the sidewalks along their buildings within 24 hours after snow/sleet/freezing rain ends. [Please see this section of the City Code](#) for full details and penalties for violation of this Code.

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Mayor Gresk Presents Final State of the City Address

Mayor Michael Gresk presented his 12th and final State of the City Address on Jan. 17 at the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce's monthly luncheon. During his presentation, Mayor Gresk presented a [video recap](#) of the City's accomplishments of 2018 and shared some upcoming projects on the horizon for 2019.

One highlight for Wheaton was being named the safest city in Illinois, and public safety continues to be a priority for the City. In 2018, Wheaton enacted a new 25 mph neighborhood speed limit to ensure motorists are driving with care through our residential areas. Also in 2018, the City welcomed new Police Chief Bill Murphy, who took the reins from Chief Volpe, who retired after 35 years with the Wheaton Police Department.



Mayor Michael Gresk presented his 12th and final State of the City Address on Jan. 17. [Watch the video on the City's website.](#)

Another public safety highlight for 2018 was the Wheaton Fire Department graduating another class of residents in its Citizens Fire Academy, giving them a hands-on experience to understand how the Fire Department operates.

Mayor Gresk also highlighted work the City has done to improve its infrastructure and above-ground amenities, including completing Phase 1 of the Downtown Streetscape Plan. In 2018, the City celebrated

the completion of Front Street improvements and its centerpiece, the new Martin Memorial Plaza. The community can enjoy new seating areas, an outdoor fireplace, water feature, overhead light strings and more in the plaza, in addition to improvements throughout the Front Street project area. This includes wider sidewalks, new planters, dark-sky friendly LED streetlights, benches and more.

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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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Stormwater Meeting

The DuPage County Stormwater Management Planning Committee will hold a public meeting as part of their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 5, at 7:30 a.m. in the County Board Room at 421 North County Farm Road, Wheaton, to allow the public to provide input as to the adequacy of the DuPage County Water Quality Program. The full DuPage County Stormwater Management Program Plan can be found on [DuPage County's website](#).

Commission Seeks Members

Wheaton's Community Relations Commission seeks residents interested in joining the commission. Wheaton's Community Relations Commission is responsible for promoting community involvement and volunteering, and they organize programs such as the Good Citizens Awards and Festival of Cultures. To apply, [fill out this online application](#).

Community 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 Channel 10.

Some of the available programs include:

- 2019 State of the City Address
- Chat with the Mayor: Wheaton Mosquito Abatement District
- Talk About Choices: Rev. Dr. Christopher Pierson

Employment Opportunities

The City of Wheaton is seeking candidates for the following positions:

- Maintenance Worker
- Seasonal Crossing Guard
- Seasonal Summer Laborer

To find out more about these positions and to learn how to apply, see the City's website at www.wheaton.il.us/jobs.

Commission News

The Wheaton City Council reappointed Sarah Antas to a 3-year term on the Fine & Cultural Arts Commission; reappointed Paula Barrington and Kevin McGuire to 3-year terms on the Downtown Wheaton Design Review Board; and appointed Kristine Eisenmann to a term through Feb. 2, 2020 on the Housing Commission to complete a former member's term.



In 2018, the new Martin Memorial Plaza was completed.

State of the City

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Other improvements to the City's infrastructure in 2018 included paving 5 miles of roads, planting 517 trees, cleaning 143,000 feet of sanitary sewer lines, and more. The Engineering Department completed eight stormwater studies and is developing a cost-effective long-term flow reduction plan for the sanitary sewer system. The City also launched a new sidewalk program to add sidewalks in areas identified as a priority for children who walk to and from school, and for other pedestrian traffic. This year's program added sidewalks to Thomas, Park and Howard.



Watch the Video

You can see the Mayor's video presentation [on the City's website](#).

Besides new sidewalks and upgrades to infrastructure, new businesses and homes were welcome additions to Wheaton in 2018. New businesses included Joy & Favored, Moveable Feast, The Hen House of Wheaton, Dollar Tree and Planet Fitness. Coming soon will be Pete's Fresh Market, a new Dunkin' Donuts, Eat the Frog Fitness, Cousins Subs and Lemon Shark Poke. Wheaton gained 22 newly constructed homes in 2018, including the first homes in the Loretto Club community.

Mayor Gresk pointed to Wheaton's ranking by Money Magazine as the No. 1 Best Place to Live in Illinois as evidence of the fantastic community in which we live. As Mayor Gresk finishes his third term serving as Wheaton's mayor this spring, he took this last State of the City as an opportunity to thank the community for your support and all that you contribute to this outstanding city.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Restaurant Week 2019

Dates: January 26-Feb. 2

Location: Downtown Wheaton

Enjoy Wheaton's tastiest during Restaurant Week, the best week to [visit Downtown Wheaton's restaurants](#) as they offer special menu items, discounts, prix fixe menus, special events and much more.

Electronic Recycling

Date: Saturday, Feb. 9

Time: 9 a.m.-noon

Location: Public Works Storage Yard, 820 W Liberty Drive

Bring unwanted electronics, cooking oil, scrap metal and compact fluorescent tubes to the City's monthly electronic recycling drop-off event. Please note there is a charge to recycle televisions and monitors.

Ice [Cubed] Fest

Date: Saturday, Feb. 9

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

Location: Downtown Wheaton

Plan a day in Downtown Wheaton with the family to tour the many ice sculptures sponsored by and displayed outside the local businesses. Be sure to stop by Martin Memorial Plaza from noon to 3 p.m. to enjoy a live ice sculpting demonstration too.

Ice-A-Palooza

Date: Saturday, Feb. 9

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

Location: Central Athletic Complex Ice Rinks

The Wheaton Park District will host Ice-A-Palooza at the Central Athletic Complex Ice Rinks. This free event includes ice skating, hockey, games, a DJ, bonfires, concessions, character visits and ice performances. For

more information, visit www.wheatonparkdistrict.com.

Library Concert: Fareed Haque & AnDrea James

Date: Sunday, Feb. 17

Time: 2 p.m.

Location: Wheaton Public Library, 225 N Cross Street

Classically trained soprano singer AnDrea James performs classical Spanish songs accompanied by renowned guitarist Fareed Haque. Originally written for piano and voice, these beautiful songs have been arranged for the first time ever for guitar and voice by Fareed. No registration required.

Stroke Education & Prevention

Date: Monday, Feb. 18

Time: 10 a.m.

Location: Wheaton Public Library, 225 N Cross Street

Join Ryan Keiler, Stroke Education Coordinator of Northwestern Medicine as he presents on the common risk factors for stroke, warning signs, and correct actions to take when stroke occurs. Coffee provided. Registration required at wheatonlibrary.org/calendar or call 630-868-7520.

The Underground Railroad in Illinois

Date: Thursday, Feb. 28

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: Wheaton Public Library, 225 N Cross Street

Author and Wheaton resident Glennette Tilley Turner gives a presentation about her book, "The Underground Railroad in Illinois." Registration required at wheatonlibrary.org/calendar or call 630-868-7520.



Voter Information for Upcoming Election

On April 2, Wheaton registered voters can vote for Wheaton Mayor and two at-large positions on the Wheaton City Council. While Wheaton is divided into four districts, all registered Wheaton voters can vote for the two at-large City Council positions. This election also includes the election of Park District and School District officials.

Key Dates

Note these dates as we approach election day:

- **Feb. 21:** Early voting opens at the DuPage County Election Authority
- **March 5:** Last day for regular voter registration
- **March 6:** Grace Period Registration & Voting begins
- **March 18:** Early voting begins at multiple locations throughout DuPage County
- **April 1:** Last day for early voting
- **April 2:** Election Day; last day of Grace Period registration & voting

Need to Register?

If you need to register

to vote or change your registration, you can do so at Wheaton City Hall, 303 W Wesley Street, through March 5. Bring two forms of identification – one of which must have the current name and address – to the Finance Department counter on the first floor of Wheaton City Hall, between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. All applicants must know their Social Security number and provide at least the last four digits. Naturalized citizens need to know their date and place of naturalization.

Absentee Voting

Registered DuPage County voters who expect to be absent from the county on Election Day can vote using an absentee ballot. Wheaton residents can pick up a mail-in application for an absentee ballot form beginning about 30 days before an election. Voters also can receive an absentee ballot application from the DuPage County Election Authority. For more information about absentee voting, [see DuPage County's website](#).

Life-Saving Awards Given



At the Jan. 22 City Council Meeting, the City honored three civilians, two Wheaton Fire Department paramedic/firefighter crews, and three Wheaton Police officers for their life-saving actions in three emergency incidents.

Civilian Life-Saving Awards presented to:

- Mark Wedow of the City's Engineering Department
- Maria Ghanayem
- Christina Ghanayem

Unit Citation – EMS Awards presented to:

- Paramedics Beckley, Ochoa, Greene and Kelly
- Lieutenant Franzone
- Lieutenant Siemsen
- Firefighters Mellinger, Fennell, Ruck and Gerdes.

Also honored for their life-saving roles in these incidents:

- Wheaton Police Officers Jerry Zywczyk, Tamra Lundy and Miguel Palomo.

Take Steps to Discourage Coyotes from Your Property

Coyotes' 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.

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 abnormally attracts coyotes and promotes increased numbers of rodents, birds and other creatures that can provide major portions of the coyote's natural diet.



How to Prevent Frozen Pipes

A few valuable tips can save you the hassle of dealing with frozen pipes this winter.

- Make sure to insulate pipes in unheated areas or against outside walls and seal any leaks that may let cold air in.
 - Keep your garage door closed if your water meter is in that area.
 - Disconnect your garden hose and shut off the water supply to outside faucets.
 - If the temperature gets extremely cold, open cabinet doors under sinks to allow heat to get to pipes and let a faucet drip at a trickle if possible.
- Questions may be directed to the City of Wheaton Water Division at 630-260-2090.

Radon Gas Awareness

Radon gas is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the United States.

Radon is an invisible, odorless, tasteless radioactive gas that comes from the natural breakdown of uranium

and enters homes, schools and other buildings from the soil.

Performing a radon test is the only way to know if radon levels in your home are high. To learn more about how to test your home, [visit the Illinois Emergency Management Agency's website](http://www.illinoisemergency.com).



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 2019

- 2** Coffee with Council, 10 a.m.
- 4** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 11** City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 18** City Offices Closed
- 19** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 25** City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.