



# CITY OF WHEATON NEWSLETTER

January 2020

## CITY NOTES

### Christmas Tree Recycling

The City's garbage/recycling hauler will pick up live Christmas trees for recycling on your collection day during the weeks of Dec. 30 and Jan. 6 at no charge, with no sticker needed. Please note that because there is no pickup on Wednesday, Jan. 1, pickups for Jan. 1-3 will be one day later than usual.

During this free two-week collection period, place your tree at the curb, and make sure it has no decorations and is not in a bag. After the collection period, you will need to attach 1 garbage/organic sticker to a live Christmas tree in order to have it collected.

### Holiday Pickup

Due to the New Year's holiday, Lakeshore

*(Continued on next page)*

## Phase 2 of Downtown Wheaton Improvements Completed

**W**esley Street, Hale Street and Cross Street in downtown Wheaton are open for all to use, featuring numerous improvements. The City of Wheaton recently completed Phase 2 of its extensive Downtown Streetscape Project, which is improving infrastructure both underground and aboveground.

"We are thrilled that residents, businesses and visitors can enjoy the wider sidewalks, upgraded streetlights, gathering spaces, holiday planters and so much more," said Wheaton Mayor Phil Suess. "The downtown is being transformed into an even more inviting, pedestrian-friendly place for all to enjoy."

While many of the upgrades are easy to see – such



**Wider sidewalks, new benches, streetlights, underground utility work and more are now complete for Phase 2.**

as significantly wider sidewalks, shorter crosswalks, reconfigured parking and traffic

engineering, energy-efficient lighting, benches, decorative

*(Continued on next page)*

## 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](mailto:communications@wheaton.il.us)



## CITY NOTES

### Continued from page 1

Recycling Systems will not collect garbage or recycling on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020. All pickups will be one day later than usual for Thursday and Friday routes during the week of Dec. 30.

### City Offices Closed Jan. 1

Non-emergency City of Wheaton offices will be closed on Wednesday, Jan. 1. They will reopen on Jan. 2.

### Job Opportunities

The City of Wheaton is currently seeking applicants for the following employment opportunities with the City of Wheaton:

- Code Compliance Officer
- Seasonal Crossing Guard

For more information or to find out how to apply, visit [www.wheaton.il.us/jobs](http://www.wheaton.il.us/jobs).

Also, the City is seeking applicants for the firefighter testing process. See page 3 for more information.

### Commission News

The City Council approved the reappointment of Steph McGrath to a three-year term on the Historic Commission and the reappointment of Tracy Jones to a three-year term on the Wheaton Downtown Design Review Board.



## Downtown

### Continued from page 1

planters and permeable pavers – even more extensive work lies beneath the surface.

“Crews were digging up to 14 feet underground to replace water main and sewer structures that are 90 years old or more,” said Assistant City Manager John Duguay. “While the above-ground amenities are exciting to see, much of this project centers around our need to make important infrastructure improvements for the downtown.”

This phase of improvements included Hale Street from Willow Avenue to Union Avenue; Wesley Street from Cross to Wheaton Avenue; and Cross Street from Front Street to Wesley Street.

Phase 3 work in



2020 will focus on Main Street from Illinois Street to Seminary Avenue, adding wider sidewalks, improving infrastructure and providing similar amenities to those added in Phase 1 and Phase 2.

“As this project is coming together, we’ve already had a number of new businesses coming into Wheaton

because they want to be a part of our downtown,” said Mayor Suess.

“As a resident and as someone who has been part of this project from the beginning, it is exciting to see this project reach another important milestone.”

For more information about this project, visit [www.wheaton.il.us/downtownstreetscape](http://www.wheaton.il.us/downtownstreetscape).

# State Law Makes Adult Recreational-Use Cannabis Legal in Illinois Jan. 1

**A** new state law makes it legal, subject to important limitations, for adults age 21 and older to purchase cannabis for recreational use in Illinois starting on Jan. 1, 2020. There are some important things you need to know as this change in state law becomes effective.

Please note that the information below applies to adult recreational-use cannabis, and there are some differences for medical cannabis under the state's Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program Act.

**Buying or selling cannabis in Wheaton continues to be prohibited.** Before the law became effective, the City of Wheaton, like all Illinois municipalities,

had the opportunity to decide whether the sale of cannabis would be allowed within the municipality's limits. The Wheaton City Council voted on Oct. 7, 2019, to prohibit business establishments that sell cannabis from locating in Wheaton, so it will continue to be illegal to purchase or sell cannabis in Wheaton.

**Under the new state law, municipalities may not prohibit the use or possession of cannabis or cannabis-infused products for adults age 21 and older.** However, the state law does restrict where adults can use cannabis and the amount an individual can possess at one time.

*(Continued on next page)*



## Where *Consumption* is Prohibited:

Adults age 21 and older may not *consume* cannabis:

- On a school bus or on preschool/primary/secondary school grounds (unless otherwise permitted for a qualifying patient or caregiver pursuant to the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program Act)
- In any correctional facility
- In any motor vehicle
- In a private residence that is used at any time to provide licensed child care or other similar social service care on the premises.
- In any public place
- In any place knowingly in close physical proximity to anyone under the age of 21 years old
- In any public place where a person could reasonably be expected to be observed by others
- In any location where smoking is prohibited by the Smoke-Free Illinois Act, including hospitals, restaurants, retail stores, offices, commercial establishments, etc.

In addition, universities, colleges, and other post-secondary educational institutions may restrict or prohibit cannabis use on their property.

A "public place" is defined as any place where a person could be reasonably expected to be observed by others. This includes all parts of buildings owned in whole or in part, or leased, by the State or local government. Private residences are not included, unless they are used to provide licensed child care, foster care or other similar social service care on the premises.

## Where *Possession* is Prohibited:

Adults age 21 and older may not *possess* cannabis in these locations:

- On a school bus or on preschool/primary/secondary school grounds (unless otherwise permitted for a qualifying patient or caregiver pursuant to the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program Act)
- In any correctional facility
- In a vehicle that is open to the public. It must be reasonably secured and sealed in a tamper-evident container that is reasonably inaccessible while the vehicle is moving.
- In a private residence that is used at any time to provide licensed child care or other similar social service care on the premises.



# Cannabis

Continued from page 3

## Possession Limits

The possession limits for Illinois residents are:

- 30 grams, or about 1 ounce of cannabis sativa plant material (marijuana)
- 5 grams of cannabis concentrate

• No more than 500 milligrams of Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in a cannabis-infused product such as gummies, candy, other consumable products and lotions, etc.

Non-Illinois residents can purchase half these amounts.

## Driving Under the Influence:

Driving under the influence of cannabis is still illegal. Wheaton Police will continue to enforce impaired driving offenses.

## Purchasing Locations:

Adults age 21 and older may legally purchase cannabis/cannabis-infused products only from dispensing organizations licensed by the State of Illinois. The organization

must be licensed for the purpose of selling these products in accordance with the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act. Individuals purchasing cannabis/cannabis products must provide valid identification showing they are at least 21 years old.

## Transporting Cannabis:

If you are transporting cannabis, it must be reasonably secured and sealed in a tamper-evident container that is reasonably inaccessible while the vehicle is moving.

## Growing Prohibited:

Growing recreational-use cannabis in Wheaton is prohibited. Only those organizations or businesses licensed by the State of Illinois pursuant to the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program Act may grow or cultivate cannabis and cannabis products in the areas within the City which are zoned for such cultivation.

For more information, please visit [www.wheaton.il.us/cannabislaws](http://www.wheaton.il.us/cannabislaws).



## City Passes Annual Budget and Tax Levy

At the Wheaton City Council's Dec. 16 meeting, the Council adopted the annual budget for the City of Wheaton and the annual property tax levy. The final budget for all funds projects for the City to generate revenues of \$102.7 million, with \$101.4 million in expenditures.

At the Dec. 16 meeting, the Council also passed the annual property tax levy. The City Council voted to adopt a flat tax levy, which reflects no increase from the previous year's tax levy. The financial impact of the levy for a property owner depends on the change in the assessed value of their property from 2018

to 2019. In general, the City expects the average property owner could see a slight decrease in the City's portion of their property tax bill.

City of Wheaton staff have been preparing this budget for several months, and the City Council held two budget workshop sessions, on Nov. 11 and Nov. 16, to review the proposed budget. The proposed budget has been available for public review since early November, and the Council invited the public to attend the workshop sessions and a public hearing on Dec. 9. [You can watch the videos of these workshops and public hearing on the City's website.](#)



Wheaton Police will continue to enforce impaired driving offenses. Driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol will not be tolerated.



# Wheaton Police Officers Spread Holiday Cheer through Shop with a Cop Program

It's not every day that Wheaton Police Officers give a full police escort – complete with a parade of vehicles and flashing lights – down Roosevelt Road. But for 11 local children, this was no ordinary day.

On Dec. 7, Wheaton Police officers sponsored 11 community children in its first-ever Shop with a Cop event. Milton Township helped identify families in need in our community, and thanks to the support of the Wheaton Kiwanis Club, Wheaton Target and Chick-Fil-A, the children were treated to a memorable day.

A parade of squad cars brought the children to Target, and each received a gift card to select gifts for their families and themselves. Wheaton Police Officers helped the young shoppers find and select gifts from their wish lists. Officers then escorted the children back to the police department to wrap the gifts, visit with



Santa, decorate cookies, get their faces painted and enjoy a Chick-Fil-A lunch before officers escorted them home.

"The Wheaton Police Department was thrilled to be able to connect with families in our community in this way," said Wheaton Police Training & Community Relations Officer Patti Potter. "Being able to give back to others is a key part of the holidays, and our officers loved being able to help make the holidays a little brighter for younger residents that might not otherwise be



able to give or receive gifts this year."

The Wheaton Police Department extends its gratitude to the Wheaton Kiwanis Club, Target and Chick-Fil-A for their generous support of this program and the

community. Thanks to its success, the Police Department looks forward to bringing this program back next year. This program was organized and sponsored by Wheaton Police Union MAP #699.



## City Seeks Applicants for Firefighter Testing Process

Are you interested in joining the Wheaton Fire Department? The City of Wheaton is accepting applicants now through Jan. 10 for the firefighter

testing process. To find out about the requirements, the testing process and how to apply, please visit the City's website at [www.wheaton.il.us/jobs](http://www.wheaton.il.us/jobs).

# Holiday Light Recycling Available through Jan. 13



*Drop off strings of lights to keep them out of landfills*

Wheaton's holiday light recycling program is back. Now through Jan. 13, 2020, bring strands of incandescent or LED lights in any condition to the Public Works Storage Facility at 820 W. Liberty Drive between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays. Look for signs directing you to the holiday light recycling

area just inside the gate.

This program is for light strings only. Please do not drop off lawn ornaments or other decorations, and do not put lights in a bag or box. Elgin Recycling, [www.elginrecycling.com](http://www.elginrecycling.com), will collect the lights, which will then be stripped and recycled for their copper and plastic parts. No

materials will be shipped overseas.

In addition to residents, the City also welcomes businesses, schools and other organizations wanting to dispose of holiday lights to participate in the program. There is no limit as to how many lights you can drop off for recycling.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Electronic Recycling

**Date:** Saturday, Jan. 11

**Time:** 9 a.m.-noon

**Location:** Public Works Storage Yard, 820 W Liberty Drive

Bring unwanted electronics for recycling to the City's monthly drop-off collection. Please note that there is a charge to recycle TVs and monitors. For program specifics, please visit [www.wheaton.il.us/electronics](http://www.wheaton.il.us/electronics).

### Film Screening: The Girl Who Wore Freedom

**Date:** Sunday, Jan. 12

**Time:** 1:30 p.m.

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

This documentary tells the unconventional love story between the people of Normandy, France, and the American veterans who liberated them. Afterwards, there will be

a Q&A discussion with the film's Producer and Director, Christian Taylor. Registration required.

### State of the City Address

**Date:** Thursday, Jan. 16

**Time:** 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Location:** Le Jardin at Cantigny Park & Golf, 1S151 S. Winfield Road, Wheaton

Mayor Suess will present the annual State of the City Address during the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce's luncheon at Le Jardin. This presentation will also be shared on the City's website and social media channels after the event.

### Sunday Concert: Chicago Cossacks

**Date:** Sunday, Jan. 19

**Time:** 2 p.m.

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

Enjoy the music of Russia and Ukraine, as well as songs in Italian, French,

Ukrainian, Hebrew, Yiddish, Spanish, and more. The Chicago Cossacks will play traditional Russian instruments such as domra (mandolin), balalaika, and bayan (button accordion). No registration required.

### Clear the Clutter

**Date:** Thursday, Jan. 23

**Time:** 7 p.m.

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

Improve your life by recognizing and eliminating clutter, then maximize your stuff. Save time and money, and regain control of your home! Presented by Certified Professional Organizer Colleen Klimczak. Registration required.

### Winter Wine Walk

**Date:** Saturday, Jan. 25

**Time:** 3-6:30 p.m.

**Location:** Downtown Wheaton

The Downtown Wheaton Association invites you to take part in the 3rd

annual Winter Wine Walk and celebrate a festive afternoon and evening in Downtown Wheaton. Your wine tasting begins at 111 E. Front St., where you check in and pick up your wine glass, tasting ticket and walking map to all the tasting locations. Your tour will take you through many of the shops and restaurants where you can taste a variety of wines. For more information, visit [www.downtownwheaton.com](http://www.downtownwheaton.com).

### Super Foods to the Rescue

**Date:** Thursday, Jan. 30

**Time:** 7 p.m.

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

What are the healthiest foods to eat? Are some foods better than others? Join Laura Barr of the U of I Extension as she discusses "functional foods", healthy diets and their associated nutritional benefits. Registration required.





## Be Prepared for Winter Storms

**W**inter storms create a higher risk of car accidents, hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning, and heart attacks from overexertion. Use these tips from FEMA to be prepared for extreme cold, freezing rain, ice and high winds.

If you are under a winter storm warning, find shelter right away. Also, follow these tips:

- Stay off roads.

- Stay indoors and dress warmly.
  - Prepare for power outages.
  - Use generators outside only.
  - Listen for emergency information and alerts.
  - Look for signs of hypothermia and frostbite.
  - Check on neighbors.
- For more tips, visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) and search for “winter storm.”

# Illinois Spreads Safety Message about Radon

*IL Emergency Management Agency shares information on radioactive gas*

**R**adon is the second leading cause of

lung cancer in the United States and the leading cause among nonsmokers. It is found in homes throughout Illinois. Performing a radon test is the only way to know if radon levels in your home are high. The Illinois Emergency Management Agency encourages residents to learn about radon during Radon Awareness Month in January.

### What is Radon?

- Radon is an invisible, odorless, tasteless radioactive gas.
- Radon comes from the natural breakdown of uranium and enters homes, schools and other buildings from the soil.
- Elevated indoor levels are found in every state in the US, and in every

county in Illinois.

### Reducing Radon Levels in a Home

Mitigation is the act of repairing or altering a building or building design for the purpose of reducing the concentration of radon in the indoor atmosphere. A professional licensed by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency's Radon Program can mitigate your radon levels.

The most common type of mitigation systems is Active Soil Depressurization. These systems reduce radon by collecting radon prior to entry into the building and discharging it to a safe location.

To learn more about radon, please visit the Illinois Emergency Management Agency's website at <https://www2.illinois.gov/iema/NRS/Radon/Pages/default.aspx>.



## 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](http://www.wheaton.il.us) for a complete list of meetings and events.

### January 2020

- 1 City Offices Closed
- 4 Coffee with Council, 10 a.m.
- 6 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 13 City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 21 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 27 City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.