



CITY OF WHEATON NEWSLETTER

April 2020

CITY NOTES

Meeting Cancellations

The City will be cancelling meetings of City boards and commissions until at least May 18. The exception will be those boards/commissions that have pending business that cannot be postponed. In such cases, the number of people in attendance will be limited per state mandates, and social distancing procedures will be followed. The Wheaton City Council will continue to meet to conduct City business as needed.

Bulk Item Collection Suspended

In order to continue providing uninterrupted garbage and recycling pickup service, Lakeshore Recycling Services will be temporarily suspending

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Message from Mayor Suess on Emergency Declaration

I want to share with you, on behalf of my colleagues on the Wheaton City Council, the steps your City government is taking to protect the safety and well-being of our community, and what we ask of you in return.

On March 23, the Wheaton City Council approved a local state of emergency declaration in relation to the COVID-19 crisis. This action follows similar steps taken by county, state and federal government officials.

Declaring a local state of emergency is a tool that cities can use in extraordinary times to make goods and services more readily available. It also allows the City to quickly activate the City's emergency operating plans. Finally, it ensures that Wheaton will be eligible for further



Mayor Suess and the Wheaton City Council approved a local state of emergency declaration.

assistance from DuPage County, the State of Illinois, and the federal government.

Your elected officials and City staff are

committed to doing everything possible to protect the safety and well-being of our community, while

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CONTACT THE CITY

Police/
After-
2161
General

Fire: 911
Hours Water/Sewer Emergency: 630-260-
Information: 630-260-2000

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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its bulk item and white goods collection until further notice. Bulk items include things too large to fit into your garbage cart, such as mattresses and toilets; white goods include appliances such as refrigerators or air conditioners.

This change is necessary to continue to provide staffing for regular garbage and recycling service. Please hold onto these items until a later date rather than placing them at the curb for pickup. Thank you for your understanding.

Normal Yard Waste Pickup Will Resume April 6

Lakeshore Recycling Services intends to resume normal yard waste pickup the week of April 6. Please place items in yard waste bags or clearly marked containers no greater than 33 gallons in size. Each bag/container requires one sticker in order to be picked up.

Please note: As the COVID-19 crisis continues, please look for updates on the City's website to ensure the availability of this service.

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Message

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continuing to provide essential City services. For example:

- Our police, fire and emergency medical services personnel will continue to respond to emergencies and keep our community safe.
- Our Public Works crews will continue to maintain our City's infrastructure and will respond to issues should they arise, such as water main breaks or street repairs.
- Our City Hall staff is continuing to provide as many services as possible without the need for you to physically visit City Hall.

To this end, we are suspending water service shutoffs, eliminating late fees for payments and working to be flexible in our service delivery options.

We will continue to keep you updated through the City's Facebook & Twitter accounts, website, email notifications, and Channel 10. These are just a few of the ways



#StayHomeSaveLives CITY OF WHEATON

The City of Wheaton encourages residents to stay home whenever possible.

we are working to serve you and ensure your safety, and I thank our City workers and staff for their efforts during these challenging circumstances. As this situation continues to change, we may need to continue to change our practices, and I encourage you to look to the City's ways of keeping you informed for future updates.

What I ask of you to do your part to reduce the spread of COVID-19 is:

- Stay home whenever possible.

- Practice social distancing of at least 6 feet if you must go out.
- Consider how you can help neighbors who aren't able to get out.
- Wash your hands frequently, with soap, for at least 20 seconds.

These simple actions can save lives.

We are all in this together, and we will get through these difficult times through the strength of our community. I appreciate your help to keep us all safer. Stay safe and be well.

COVID-19 Information and Resources Available on City's Website

The City of Wheaton has been working to keep the community updated about changes to City services, resources

and more through the City's Facebook and Twitter accounts, email updates, City of Wheaton Channel 10 and the City's website.

To see all of the latest updates along with helpful resources in one place, please visit the City's website at www.wheaton.il.us/COVID-19.

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Information on Illinois Restaurants & Carry-out

An Executive Order by the Illinois Governor currently requires the closure of on-premise dining at restaurants. However, carry-out, drive-up, and drive-through options are allowed. The Downtown Wheaton

Association is compiling information from downtown businesses on their specific options for carry-out, delivery, etc. See the Downtown Wheaton Association's Facebook group for more information.

Library Closure

To ensure the safety of the community and prevent the spread of COVID-19, the Wheaton Public Library is currently closed. The outside book returns are blocked;

please do not return any materials to the library. This includes Interlibrary Loan and LINKin materials.

Due dates on all materials have been extended to June 1, 2020. No overdue fines will be charged while the library is closed. Interlibrary Loan service is suspended. Holds will remain on the hold shelf for you until we are able to check out materials again. Please take advantage of our

online resources that can be accessed from home. Wheaton Library cards have been renewed at least through 3/31/2021 to make eBooks, online learning resources and online databases more accessible.

Furthermore, all library programs, meetings, and events have been cancelled until June 1. Library staff is working on providing the highest quality service and programming to patrons remotely at this time.



City facilities will have limited access for public to ensure safety of residents and staff.

City Continues Operations with Limited Access to Facilities

Services will continue while protecting health of employees and residents

The City of Wheaton continues to keep City facilities open with limited access from the public to ensure we can provide essential City services while protecting the health of our employees and residents.

The City rolled out changes to allow City

staff to continue serving the public, without the need for the community to physically visit our City facilities. The health, safety and well-being of our community is our highest priority, and we are taking the following measures to minimize risks to visitors, to our facilities and employees.

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Facilities

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Access to City Facilities

City facilities have restricted access to the public except by appointment. There are signs posted at the entrances of City facilities instructing visitors of how they can conduct City business online, using the City's drive-through mailbox, or by phone. In addition, the City's Police and Fire stations have a call box/buzzer outside their facilities to request assistance.

Please know that our staff will still be working to provide you with City services, but we encourage you to take advantage of other means of conducting business whenever possible.

Bill Payments, Water Shutoffs, and Parking Permits

The following payments can be made online through the City's website: utility billing, leased parking, parking tickets, business licenses, wireless fire alarm monitoring, and general bills.

The Finance Department can accommodate other transactions, such as real estate transfer tax or garbage/bulk/e-waste stickers by mail. Call 630-260-2000 so we can further assist you.

The City will be discontinuing water shutoffs until further notice.

Late fees for parking tickets and water payments will be eliminated until further notice.

To pay your water bill, you can submit payments online, or use the drive-through mailbox just west of City Hall (the entrance



is from Wesley Street).

For other business, we encourage you to either visit the City's website at wheaton.il.us or call 630-260-2000 so we can further assist you.

Alternate Ways to Access Police Services

Anyone needing emergency services, including a traffic crash or to request a police/fire/EMS response should continue to call 9-1-1.

Individuals solely in need of a non-emergency police report can call 630-260-2161 and select option "6" to request to speak with an officer, or request a call back by sending an email to police@wheaton.il.us.

Changes in Fire/EMS Response You Will Be Seeing



Wheaton firefighters and paramedics will be responding to calls for assistance wearing protective equipment.

To ensure the safety of our community and our first responders, Wheaton's firefighters and paramedics may look a little different than usual when responding to a call for assistance.

For fire and emergency medical calls, this means you'll see Wheaton firefighters and paramedics wearing masks, and for any medical calls where a resident may have a fever or other flu-like symptoms, our paramedics will respond

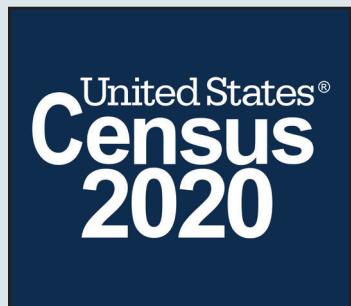
with additional protective equipment. Your safety is our top priority, and we are taking these measures to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

Finally, if you call 9-1-1 for an emergency, the dispatcher will instruct you on how you can help us as we respond to your emergency. The procedures we have in place ensure we can maintain safe social distancing, and we appreciate your assistance in following the dispatcher's instructions.

Please Use This Time to Complete the 2020 Census

All residents should have received their invitation to complete the 2020 Census in the mail by now. The City encourages you to use this time to complete your questionnaire either online at my2020census.gov or by calling 844-330-2020.

It is very important that ALL Wheaton residents are counted.



Why is it important?

Census data determines how federal, state and local funds are distributed. These funds pay for things like education, infrastructure improvements, and public health programs.

Census numbers also reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state receives.

Boundaries of congressional and state legislature districts are made based on population shifts reported in the Census.

YOU can help shape Wheaton's future by simply being counted.

What do I need to do?

By April 1, 2020, every home will receive an invitation by mail from the U.S. Census Bureau to participate in the 2020 Census. You have three options for responding:

- Online
- By phone
- By mail.

The count is mandated by the Constitution and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, a nonpartisan government agency. The 2020 Census counts the population in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories (Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands). Each home will receive an invitation to respond to a short questionnaire—online, by phone, or by mail.

When responding to the census, your answers are kept anonymous and only used to produce statistics.

The U.S. Census Bureau is bound by law to protect answers and keep them strictly confidential. The law ensures that your private information is never published and that your answers cannot be used against you by any government agency or court.

Temporary Detour on Main Street

With many businesses closed under the Governor's Stay at Home Executive Order and reduced daytime traffic, the City has brought in a second construction crew for the Downtown Streetscape Project to expedite work and reduce the amount of overall disruption to businesses. As a result, a traffic detour began Thursday, March 26, for the block of Main Street between Front Street and Wesley Street, and

it is expected to be closed for approximately two weeks during daytime hours.

Bringing in a second crew will enable workers to finish underground utility and infrastructure work more quickly and move the project forward more rapidly. Crews will reopen this block to vehicle traffic each evening.

Thank you for your patience as crews work to make important infrastructure improvements.



Traffic detour began Thursday, March 26, for the block of Main Street between Front Street.

Message from Wheaton Police on Governor's Stay at Home Order

The Wheaton Police Department encourages you to follow the Governor's Stay-at-Home Executive Order.

While it's OK to go for a walk or a bike ride, we'd like to remind you that you should not be out gathering in large groups, using sports fields, outdoor equipment or school or Park District playgrounds. Please keep

your children from using playground equipment for their safety.

We need your help to stop the spread of COVID-19, and staying home can save lives.

We know these are challenging times for everyone. Please share this important message with your family and friends to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

City Announces New Director of Engineering

The City of Wheaton announced that Joe Tebrugge has been selected as its new Director of Engineering, following the retirement of longtime former director Paul Redman.

Tebrugge holds a master's degree in civil engineering from Marquette University and has 22 years of experience in civil engineering, including work in both the private and public sectors. He began working for the City of Wheaton in 2008 in a newly created position of Stormwater Engineer. The City promoted Tebrugge to Senior Project Engineer – Stormwater and

Development in 2015.

"Joe has led us through an extensive and comprehensive analysis of our stormwater management system, and he has been instrumental in numerous engineering projects," said City Manager Michael Dzigan. "We look forward to having him take on this role and continue sharing his knowledge and expertise for the benefit of the community."

Under Tebrugge's leadership, the Engineering Department will continue its efforts to address stormwater management, ensure safe roadways, sidewalks and other infrastructure.

Events Postponed/Cancelled due to COVID-19

A number of events have been postponed or cancelled due to the COVID-19 crisis. The following events will not take place as originally scheduled but may be postponed or rescheduled for a later date.

Recycling Extravaganza
(originally April 4)

Start of the French Market Season
(originally April 11 start)

Arbor Day Celebration
(originally April 24)

Native Plant Sale
(originally April 25)

The City anticipates additional events will be postponed and/or cancelled. Updates will be posted at wheaton.il.us/COVID-19.



The Arbor Day Celebration and other events have been postponed and/or cancelled due to COVID-19 crisis.

Local Resources for Assistance & Giving

Food Insecurity Crisis Fund for District 200 Families:

The Student Excellence Foundation for District 200 has established a Food Insecurity Crisis Fund to assist District 200 families in need during this time. Visit their [website](#) if you'd like to more information.

County Coordinating Donations of Personal Protective Equipment:

If you have items such as N-95 masks, gowns, gloves, etc. that may assist with the COVID-19 response, DuPage County is coordinating collection of donated items. Please see DuPage County's [website](#) for how to help.



Prepare for Severe Weather Throughout the Year

Preparing for floods, tornadoes and severe thunderstorms before they strike will help you stay safe throughout the year.

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency provides these fast facts about tornadoes to help you be prepared for possible severe weather:

- Illinois ranks fourth in the United States for the most tornadoes per square mile.
- The majority of Illinois tornadoes have occurred between April 1 and June 30 and between the hours

of 3 p.m. and 10 p.m. However, tornadoes have occurred every month of the year at all hours of the day.

- Nearly 20 percent of all tornadoes in Illinois occur after dark.
- On average, 53 tornadoes occur each year in Illinois.
- There were 48 tornadoes reported in Illinois during 2019, which resulted in 1 injury and nearly \$2 million in property damage.

Tips to Stay Safe

- It is critical that someone at home, work or wherever people gather monitors weather

conditions, regardless of the time of day. Many deadly tornadoes occur at night.

- Monitor watches and warnings in your areas using a weather alert radio, cell phone app, local TV, local radio or the Internet.
- Do not rely solely on outdoor warning sirens, especially if you are asleep. If it is safe to do so, contact family members and friends when you become aware of a tornado that may threaten them.

- Check the weather forecast before leaving for extended outdoor periods and

postpone plans if severe weather is imminent.

- Determine the best location in your home and workplace to seek shelter when threatened by a tornado. A basement or cellar will usually afford the best protection. If an underground shelter is not available, identify an interior room or hallway on the lowest level. The best areas are closets, small interior hallways and bathrooms without windows.

For information about being prepared for all types of severe weather, visit <https://www2.illinois.gov/iema>



COVID-19: INFORMATION & RESOURCES

The City of Wheaton will continue to provide COVID-19 updates, information on services, and resources that are specific to impacts on our community. Please visit the City's website at www.wheaton.il.us/COVID-19

Available Resources

- Community Updates
- City & Community Service Updates
- Community Resources
- Business Resources