

CITY OF WHEATON NEWSLETTER

May 2020

CITY NOTES

Meeting Cancellations

City meetings of City boards and commissions remain cancelled until at least May 30. 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 while allowing virtual attendance to residents. The Wheaton City Council will continue to meet to conduct City business.

Bulk Item Collection Remains Suspended

In order to continue providing uninterrupted garbage and recycling
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Governor Pritzker's New Executive Order Begins May 1

Face coverings will be required in certain public settings

Governor Pritzker announced on Friday, April 24 that he would be signing a new Executive Order that would modify and extend the state's stay-at-home order beginning May 1 and lasting through May 30.

Provided are some highlights from the Executive Order that include new modifications for businesses, re-opening of some outdoor spaces and recreational activities, and the inclusion of a new requirement of face-coverings for individuals in public settings.

Modifications for Businesses

Retail stores designated as non-essential businesses may re-open to fulfill telephone and



Beginning May 1, individuals will be required to wear face-coverings when in public places.

online orders through pick-up outside the store and delivery.

All essential businesses and manufacturers will be required to provide face-coverings to all employees who are unable to maintain six-foot social distancing. Greenhouses, garden centers, nurseries, and animal groomers may re-open as essential businesses.

Face-Coverings Required at Indoor Public Places

Beginning May 1, individuals will be required to wear face-coverings when in public places where six-foot social distancing can not be maintained. Face-coverings will be required in indoor spaces such as grocery stores. The new requirement applies to
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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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pickup service, Lakeshore Recycling Systems continues to temporarily suspend 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. Please hold onto these items until a later date rather than placing them at the curb for pickup.

No Garbage Pickup

Due to the Memorial Day holiday, there will be no garbage/recycling/yard waste pickup on Monday, May 25. All pickups for the week of May 25 will be one day later than usual.

Police Department Offering Child Safety Seat Assistance via Facetime

While the Wheaton Police Department is currently unable to provide in-person child safety seat inspections, officers are scheduling Facetime appointments to provide assistance. Please call 630-260-2161 for more information.

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Executive Order

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any person over the age of two who can medically tolerate a face-covering.

State Parks & Outdoor Recreation

State parks will begin a phased re-opening beginning May 1 under the guidance from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). A [list of parks](#)

[to be re-opened](#) can be found on the IDNR website.

Golf will be permitted under guidelines provided by [Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity \(DCEO\)](#).

City Council Approves Executive Orders Related to COVID-19

At its April 20 meeting, the Wheaton City Council's approved several changes to recognize financial hardships and promote the health and safety of our community. The full Executive Orders are available on the City's website at www.wheaton.il.us/COVID-19.

No Soliciting

To reduce the possibility of spreading COVID-19 in our community, the City has temporarily prohibited all in-person soliciting for both commercial and non-commercial purposes. This means that no door-to-door soliciting of any kind is allowed during this temporary local state of emergency.

Late Fees Waived for City Utility Bills; Service Disconnections Suspended

The City is waiving late fees for non-payment of City utility bills issued for March, April and May. In addition, the City is



The Wheaton City Council's approved several changes to promote the health and safety of community.

suspending service disconnections for non-payment of utility bills, both for commercial and residential customers.

Parking Tickets

These changes also include a delay in assessing a penalty for parking tickets issued after March 20 until a later date to be determined by the City.

Changes to Leased Parking Permit Due Date

The City is extending

the due date for second quarter leased parking permits to June 1. The City will waive penalties and cancellations if payment is made by June 1.

Other Changes to Assist Local Businesses

- The City is providing a three-month refund for many types of liquor licenses.
- Fire alarm monitoring service fees for April 1 through June 30 are waived.

CITY NOTES

City Prohibits General Burning of Yard Waste, Garbage, or Other Materials

General open burning of yard waste, garbage, or other materials including leaves is prohibited. Recreational and food-related fires conducted within commercial and approved containers such as grills and manufactured portable fireplaces are allowed with only seasoned firewood to be

burned in fireplaces or permit approved fire pits. Residents must attain a special permit from the Fire Department for small ground bonfires. View [information about 'Open Burning'](#) on the City's website.

Library Closure

The Wheaton Public Library (WPL) remains closed until further notice. Anyone living within the boundaries of School District 200 can obtain a temporary

Wheaton Library Card to access eContent and online resources. Those living within the district boundaries can sign up for a card at wheatonlibrary.org/getcard. In addition, WPL staff has been working to develop a Virtual Library which will contain free online resources, virtual tours, online performances, and WPL databases and eContent, which can be accessed wheatonlibrary.org/getcard.

City Appoints New Commission Members

The Wheaton City Council has appointed Elle Withall to a 3-year term on the Downtown Wheaton Design Review Board, reappointed Michael Rybinski to 3-year term on the Housing Commission, and reappointed Mark Taylor and Robert Wolgemuth to 3-year terms on the Liquor Control Commission.

Community Continues to Support One Another

Wheaton Shows Strength of Community During Pandemic

As the world pushes forward amid the COVID-19 viral pandemic, the City of Wheaton continues to show what it means to be a community during the most difficult of times.

Here are some positive highlights to encourage us all to continue to do our part as we push forward together as a community.

Mayor and Council Members Encourage Community to Stay Home, Save Lives

Mayor Phil Suess and City Council members showed what they, and some of their furry friends, were doing during the 'Stay-at-



Home' Executive Order in their efforts to keep the community safe. The Wheaton City Council continues to encourage the community to help stop the spread of COVID-19 by staying home, in accordance with Stay at Home Executive Order.

Wheaton College to Provide Housing for

Local First Responders to Self-Isolate

Wheaton College announced its community support with an agreement that would provide free housing to local first responders during the growing surge of COVID-19. The College signed an agreement with the City of Wheaton to provide 58 vacated apartments to police officers, firefighters and paramedics in order to allow them to be able to safely isolate from their families during the pandemic.

Wheaton Residents Show Their Support

From large displays to cuddly bears with

signs, Wheaton residents have shown their support through creative displays throughout the community. Residents are encouraged to continue to share their



displays of support as the City of Wheaton will continue to share hopeful messages on its social media platforms.

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Support

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Wheaton Fire & Police Present \$10,000 Donation to Lurie Children's Hospital

On Tuesday, April 14, members of the Wheaton Police and Fire Departments made a special delivery to Chase Ewoldt, a patient of Lurie Children's Hospital. Department personnel visited Chase at his home to safely hand off a check for \$10,000 payable to Lurie Children's Hospital utilizing a pike pole while practicing safe social



distancing and wearing facial coverings. Funds were raised through the Franklin Middle School Dodgeball Tournament, and the donation will be hand-delivered during an upcoming visit to Lurie Children's Hospital.

City Operations Continue with Limited Facility Access

The City of Wheaton continues to limit access to City facilities from the public to ensure essential City services proceed as usual while protecting the health of City employees and residents. The health, safety and well-being

of the community is at the highest of priorities, and City staff is taking protective measures to minimize risks to visitors, facilities and employees. For more [details about current city services](#) please visit the City website.



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Resurfacing of President Street and Manchester Road Underway



Crews began working on resurfacing portions of President Street and Manchester Road. The City anticipates these improvements will be completed by the end of July, barring unforeseen circumstances. The project limits include: President Street from Harrison Avenue to Geneva Road, and

Manchester Road from County Farm Road to Gables Boulevard.

Both projects will consist of spot curb replacements and sidewalk replacement at intersections for ADA compliance, followed by pavement resurfacing. During construction, electronic message boards will be in place to notify drivers of detours and road work.

U.S. Census: Help Wheaton Reach 100%

The U.S. Census response rate for the State of Illinois is currently at 55.7%, with the City of Wheaton's current Census response rate being at 72.6% as of April 25. Let's continue to make Wheaton count and keep pushing for 100%!

You can [complete the U.S. Census online](#), or all households should have received at least one letter from the U.S. Census bureau providing ways to complete the census by mail, or by phone. In addition, the City's website has [information on the U.S. Census](#).

City Council Begins Hosting Virtual Meetings

Public Can Submit Comments Virtually

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Governor Pritzker's Executive Order, the Wheaton City Council began live streaming City Council meetings on April 20 while allowing virtual participation. Agendas for future meetings will

be posted on the City's website by noon on the prior Friday, and meetings will be recorded and posted on the City's website the Tuesday after the meeting(s). Learn [how to virtually attend the meetings and/or submit public comments](#) on the City's website.

Be Prepared 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.

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>.

Tips to Stay Safe

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

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.

- **Memorial Day Parade** (Cancelled)
- **Native Plant Sale** (Cancelled)
- **French Market Season** (Delayed Start)

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



Message from Police on Stay-At-Home Order

The Wheaton Police Department continues to encourage residents to follow the Governor's Stay-at-Home Executive Order. See this short [message from the](#)

[Wheaton Police Department](#) on what is/ is not permissible and how you can help stop the spread of COVID-19, which is especially important as the weather continues to warm up.

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.

Continue Supporting Wheaton Local Businesses

The City of Wheaton encourages the community to continue supporting local businesses, including restaurants, retail establishments, service providers and others. For ideas on how you can support local businesses in these challenging times, the [Downtown](#)



DOWNTOWN WHEATON
ASSOCIATION
Discover your favorite place.

[Wheaton Association](#) and [Wheaton Chamber of Commerce](#) are resources for information and updates.

DuPage County's Meals On Wheels Continues to Serve Meals to Seniors at Home

The DuPage County Community Services Senior Services and DuPage Senior Citizens Council's Meals on Wheels program is still active and serving seniors in DuPage County. The program includes meals delivered to residences along with a well-being check upon delivery. For [details about the Meals on](#)



[Wheels program](#), visit the DuPage Senior Citizen's Council website or call 630-620-0804 and/or 630-407-6500 to schedule service.

DuPage County Provides Map of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

The DuPage County Health Department launched a map on its website showing the number of lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19. This tool also includes a breakdown of confirmed cases by municipality including the City of Wheaton.

Please note that

information on how many individuals in Wheaton have tested positive for COVID-19 is collected and maintained by the DuPage County Health Department. Visit the [DuPage County Health Department's COVID-19 webpage](#) for more details and information.



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
- Senior & Caregiver Resources