

# CITY OF WHEATON

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## NEWSLETTER

January 2021

### CITY NOTES

#### Holiday Pickup Schedule

Due to the New Year's holiday, Lakeshore Recycling Systems will not collect garbage or recycling on Friday, Jan. 1, 2021. The pickup for Friday routes will take place on Saturday, Jan. 2.

#### City Offices Closed Dec. 31 and Jan. 1

Non-emergency City of Wheaton offices will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 31 and Friday, Jan. 1. They will reopen on Jan. 4.

#### Wheaton Place Garage Elevator Replacement

The City will be replacing the elevator at the Wheaton Place Parking Garage (232 W. Wesley Street) beginning Monday, Jan. 18, with construction

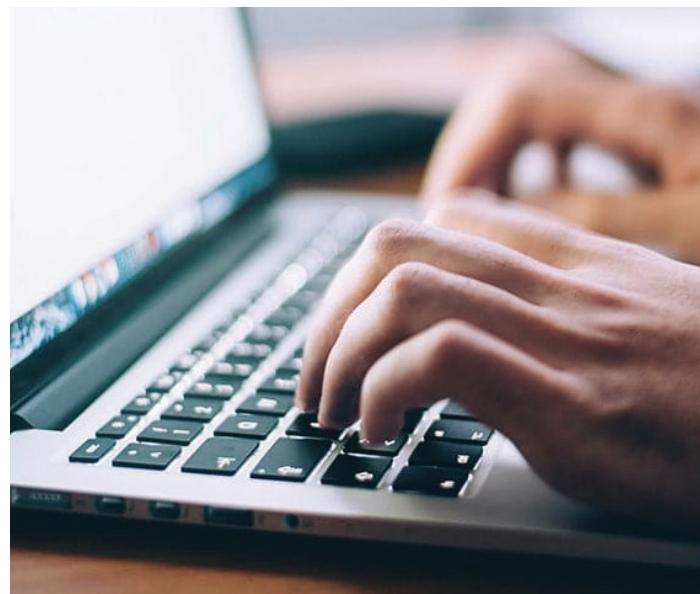
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## City Seeking Resident Feedback for Strategic Plan through Community Survey

The City of Wheaton is in the final stages of developing a Strategic Plan to serve as a roadmap to guide the City Council's decision-making over the next 5 years. As part of the process, the City is seeking final community input through a survey on the draft Strategic Plan's five strategic priorities. The five Strategic Priorities in the plan are:

- Financial Stability
- Enhanced Infrastructure
- Responsive and Efficient Services
- Community Safety
- Environmental Sustainability

Residents are invited to [share feedback using the survey on the City's website](#) through Jan. 11.



The City is seeking final community input through a survey on the draft Strategic Plan's five strategic priorities.

The City Council will use your feedback to help make its final changes to the plan, which will guide our community in the coming years. The entire [Strategic Plan document](#) is also available for review.

The City appreciates

your assistance in this process in helping shape Wheaton's future.

#### About the Strategic Plan Process

Wheaton City leaders have adopted a strategic plan every four to five

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### CONTACT THE CITY

**Police/Fire Emergency:** 9-1-1  
**General Information:** 630-260-2000  
**Wheaton City Hall:** 303 W. Wesley Street  
8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday

**Follow Us** on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram by searching for "City of Wheaton." Send feedback to [communications@wheaton.il.us](mailto:communications@wheaton.il.us)

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running approximately eight weeks. The City asks residents to please consider this project when making plans to visit the downtown area. Alternate parking is available at the Willow Avenue Garage just south of the train tracks, or by using on-street parking spaces.

## Vacancies on City Commissions

The City of Wheaton is looking for volunteer residents to serve on local boards and commissions. Vacancies are currently available on several commissions. Visit [www.wheaton.il.us/commissions](http://www.wheaton.il.us/commissions) for more information and for an application.

## Employment Opportunities

The City currently seeks applicants for the following job opportunities:

- Lateral Police Officer

To find out more about these employment opportunities and how to apply, visit

<https://www.wheaton.il.us/jobs>.

## Commission News

The City Council approved the following appointments/reappointments to City boards and commissions:

- Dottie Mackie, reappointment to a three-year term on the Band Commission

## Strategic Plan Survey

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years for the past 20 years to guide priority-setting and resource

allocation. In January 2020, City leaders sought to recalibrate the current strategic plan and set initiatives to guide planning for the next five years. The strategic planning process

included interviews with the Mayor, members of City Council, and the City's leadership team; a community and employee survey; two community engagement sessions; review of local

and regional data; and a review of financial trends. The process resulted in the current draft Strategic Plan. Once the final plan is adopted, it will be posted on the City's website.

# City Council Passes Annual Budget and Property Tax

**A**t the Wheaton City Council's Dec. 21 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 \$107.6 million, with \$112.2 million in expenditures.

At the Dec. 21 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 2019 to 2020.

City of Wheaton staff have been preparing this budget for several months, and the City Council held two budget workshop sessions, on

Nov. 9 and Nov. 14, 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. 14. You can [watch the videos of these workshops and public hearing](#) on the City's website.

# COVID-19 Vaccine Information & Updates

The DuPage County Health Department continues to update their website with information about the COVID-19 pandemic that includes details about [testing](#), [vaccination](#), [DuPage County metrics](#), [latest updates](#), and [frequently asked questions](#). The DuPage County Health Department is the local source for information regarding planning and administering the COVID-19 vaccine in DuPage County.

Wheaton residents can find additional information regarding changes to City services during COVID-19, weekly COVID-19 case counts in Wheaton, local executive orders, resources for businesses and more on the City's [COVID-19 Information and Resources webpage](#).

The City encourages residents to remember the 3 W's when out in public: wear your mask, wash your hands, and watch your distance from others. Let's all continue to do our part to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community in 2021.

# Holiday Light Recycling Available

Wheaton's holiday light recycling program runs through Jan. 22, 2021. 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 and 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.

# Christmas Tree Recycling Offered

The City's garbage/recycling hauler's pick up for live Christmas trees for recycling at no charge, with no sticker needed, is the weeks of Dec. 28, 2020 and of Jan. 4, 2021 on your collection day.

Please note that because there is no pickup on Friday, Jan. 1, 2021, (due to the New Year's Day holiday), pickups for Jan. 1 will be one day later than usual.

Please place your tree at the curb, and make

sure trees are free of all decorations and are not in plastic bags. After the collection period, you will need to attach 1 garbage/organic sticker to a live tree in order to have it collected.

# Police Adapt Shop with a Cop Program for 2020

On Saturday, Dec. 12, 2020, members of the Wheaton Police Department helped spread holiday cheer with some of our community's families in need.

The current pandemic forced some changes to this year's Shop with a Cop event, and unfortunately, officers



couldn't go shopping with the children. Instead, each family supplied a Christmas list to the officers, which was used to buy gifts at Target.

The officers volunteered their time, and the funds were supplied by the Metropolitan Alliance of Police 699.

Officers delivered wrapped Christmas gifts to the families, all while maintaining COVID safety protocols.

The Wheaton Police Department would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Electronic Recycling Monthly Drop-Off

Saturday, Jan. 9

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

820 W. Liberty Drive

Please see [safety protocols](#) on the City's website.

### Nights of Lights Event

Runs through Jan. 10

Dusk to 10 p.m. each day

near Main Street and

Wesley Street

The "Nights of Lights" seasonal lighting event taking place in Adams Park in downtown Wheaton will run through Jan. 10. This new event presented by the Downtown Wheaton Association and the City of Wheaton illuminates Adams Park with festive

lights. It is open daily with no timed entry and is free to the public to enjoy. Due to COVID-19, attendees are encouraged to wear a mask while following social distancing guidelines of maintaining a minimum of six-feet apart from others. For more information, [visit the Downtown Wheaton Association's website](#).

### State of the City

#### Address

Thursday, Jan. 21

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mayor Suess will present the annual State of the City Address virtually via Zoom during the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce's monthly luncheon. The

presentation will also be shared on the City's website and social media channels after the event.

### Wheaton Public Library Virtual Events

Register for Wheaton

Public Library virtual

events at [wheatonlibrary.org/calendar](#).

*Talking About Race: Becoming Antiracist*  
Thursday, Jan. 7 at 7 p.m.

*Organizing & Parenting Solutions to Pandemic Problems*

Tuesday, Jan. 12 at 7 p.m.

*Living History: Queen Elizabeth II*  
Thursday, Jan. 14 at 7 p.m.

*Cozy Comfort Cuisine*

Tuesday, Jan. 19 at 7 p.m.

*Beatlemania!*

Thursday, Jan. 28 at 7 p.m.

### Wheaton Public Library - Versiti Blood Drive

Wednesday, Jan. 27 from 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Versiti Blood Center of Illinois will be holding a blood drive in the library's parking lot from 12 p.m. – 6 p.m. Appointments will be honored first, but walk-ins are welcome. Photo ID is required. All successful blood donations will be tested for COVID-19 antibodies.

Safe social distancing measures will be in place and face masks will be required.

Visit [wheatonlibrary.org/calendar](#) for more information.

## Reserve a New Tree through the Shared Cost Parkway Tree Planting Program



**S**tart the new year off by reserving a new tree in your parkway! It may be a few months away from spring, but now is the time to begin planning for new growth in 2021. Applications are being accepted now through Monday, Mar. 15, 2021 for the City's Shared Cost Parkway Tree Planting Program.

The Shared Cost Parkway Tree Planting Program allows homeowners to have a tree planted in the parkway adjacent to their property at a shared cost. Residents can choose from a variety of native and non-native trees varying in height and size at a cost of \$95 per tree as part of the program. All new trees

will be approximately 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 2" in trunk diameter with heights varying based on the type of tree ordered. This program is not for the replacement of parkway ash trees; the City is handling those through a separate program.

For more [details about this program](#) or to [fill out a program application](#) visit the City's website.



## Be Prepared for Winter Storms

Winter 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

Radon 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.

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.](http://www.ready.gov)



City Council Meetings and Planning Sessions are held in the Council Chambers at Wheaton City Hall, 303 W. Wesley St. Visit [www.wheaton.il.us](http://www.wheaton.il.us) for a complete list of meetings and events

## CITY CALENDAR

### January 2021

- 1 City Offices Closed/No Garbage Pick-up
- 4 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 11 City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 19 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 25 City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.