

CITY OF WHEATON

NEWSLETTER

February 2021

CITY NOTES

City Offices Closed Feb. 15

Non-emergency City of Wheaton offices will be closed on Monday, Feb. 15 in observance of Presidents' Day. Garbage pickup will not be affected.

Wheaton Place Garage Elevator Replacement

The City has begun construction on the elevator at the Wheaton Place Parking Garage (232 W. Wesley Street). Construction is anticipated to run 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

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Mayor Suess Presents Accomplishments During State of the City Address

Mayor Phil Suess presented the State of the City Address on Jan. 21, reflecting on the accomplishments of the past year while sharing plans for the new year.

A [video highlighting these projects, achievements](#) and more is now available on the City's website, City of Wheaton Channel 10, and the City's Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Mayor Suess addressed the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on the City but also highlighted the way in which the community came together. Throughout the pandemic, the City and partners supported local businesses by connecting them with federal and state



Mayor Suess addressed the Covid-19 pandemic's effect and how the community came together during the State of the City Address.

assistance programs and grants, waiving certain City fees, repurposing the Wheaton Place Parking Garage for curbside pickup service, installing dining tents

on Hale Street, and introducing the Nights of Lights in Adams Park event.

The City's more visible achievements

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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

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on-street parking spaces.

Commission News

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

- Laura Peccarelli, appointed to a three-year term on the Community Relations Commission

Business News

- Extract Juicery, makers of made to order organic cold-pressed juices, opened in January at 114 N. Main St. in Downtown Wheaton.

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 for more information and for an application.

Employment Opportunities

The City currently seeks applicants for the following employment opportunities:

- Lateral Police Officer
- Civil Engineer - Summer Internship
- Seasonal Summer Laborer – Public Works Division

To find out more about these employment opportunities with the City and how to apply, visit <https://www.wheaton.il.us/jobs>.

COVID-19 Testing Site in Wheaton Closed

The DuPage County Health Department has closed the COVID-19 community-based drive-thru testing site located at the DuPage County Complex in Wheaton to provide additional support to DCHD's COVID-19 mass vaccination efforts.

The COVID-19 drive-thru testing site at the Odeum Expo Center in Villa Park will remain open with the capacity to provide up to 1,000 tests per day.

[View the press release](#) from the DuPage County Health Department for more details.

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.

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 can be found on the City of Wheaton's [COVID-19 Information and Resources webpage](#).

State of the City

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in 2020 included the completion of Phase 3 of the Downtown Streetscape Project. This project greatly improved the infrastructure on Main Street from Illinois Street to Seminary, creating wider sidewalks, replacing underground

infrastructure, adding new trees and wayfinding signs, resurfacing the roadway, and replacing streetlights with energy-efficient LED models. During the state's early Covid-19 mitigations, when many businesses were closed, traffic in the downtown area was significantly reduced, which allowed the City to begin working on portions of the final phase of the project

ahead of schedule, completing improvements on Karlskoga Avenue and three downtown alleys.

Other highlights included the reopening of Adams Park with a tree dedication honoring former mayor Michael Gresk and the adoption of an annual budget that approved \$24.4 million in capital projects. In terms of the City's finances, the City maintained a strong financial position

through a combination of reducing and postponing expenditures along with a reimbursement of \$2.7 million in CARES Act funding.

The City looks forward to 2021 and more hopeful days when everyone can gather together – not on Zoom – as a more resilient community. Visit the City's website to [see additional highlights from 2020 and a preview of 2021](#).

Wheaton Meets Metrics for State to Decrease Covid-19 Restrictions

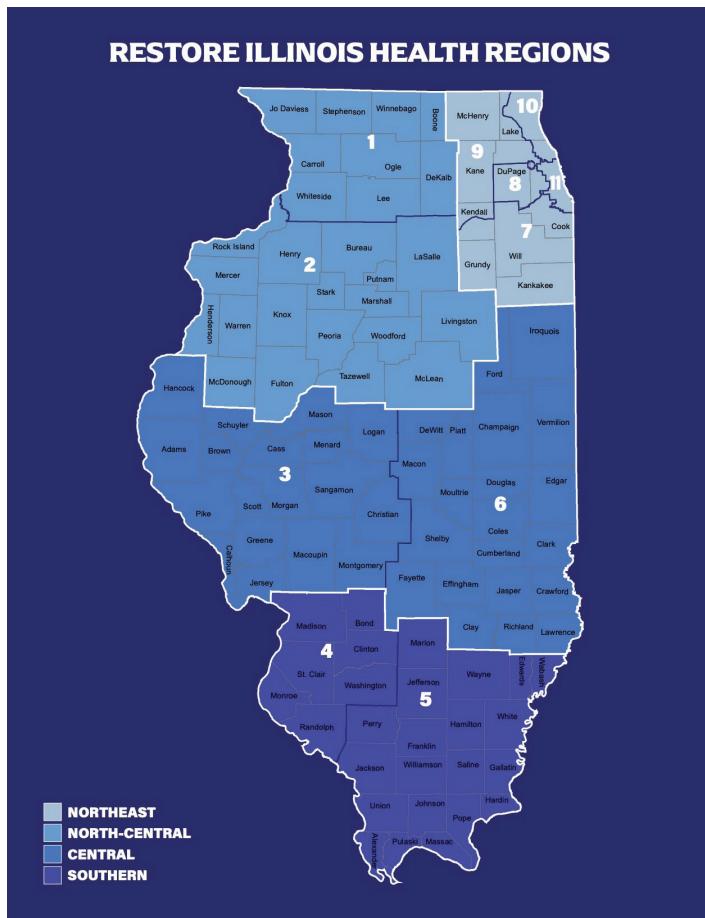
The State of Illinois announced that Region 8, which includes Wheaton, had met the metrics necessary to move to Tier 1 Covid-19 Mitigations on Jan. 26. These changes lowered some restrictions on indoor dining, organized group recreational activities and meetings/social events.

Specifically, the Tier 1 Mitigations have the following restrictions:

Restaurants and Bars

- Indoor service limited to the lesser of 25 guests or 25% capacity per room
 - Establishments offering indoor service must serve food
 - All bar and restaurant patrons should be seated at tables
 - No ordering, seating, or congregating at bar (bar stools should be removed)
 - Tables should be 6 feet apart
 - No standing or congregating indoors or outdoors while waiting for a table or exiting

Organized Group Recreational Activities



(fitness centers, sports,
etc.)

- Sports should follow the mitigation measures set forth in the All Sports Policy, which outlines appropriate levels of practice and competition based on individual sport risk
 - Face coverings must be worn at all times in fitness centers, including while engaged in individual exercise regardless of person or machine

spacing

- Recreation, fitness centers and outdoor activities (not included in the above exposure settings) follow Phase 4 guidance

Meetings and Social Events (including weddings, funerals, potlucks, etc.)

- Limit to lesser of 25 guests or 25% of overall room capacity both indoors and outdoors
 - Applicable to

professional, cultural and social group gatherings.

- Not applicable to students participating in-person classroom learning, or sports.
 - This does not reduce the overall facility capacity dictated by general Phase 4 business guidance such as office, personal care, retail, etc.

IDPH will continue to closely monitor test positivity, ICU bed availability, and the number of people in the hospital with COVID-19. Should data show regions trending in the wrong direction, based on the established mitigation metrics, regions could once again find themselves in a higher tier with increased measures.

The City of Wheaton encourages all residents to continue to take steps necessary to protect one another from the spread of Covid-19, including wearing a mask when around others outside your household, keeping your distance of 6 feet or more from others, and frequently washing your hands.

Illinois Begins Phase 1b of Covid-19 Vaccinations

The state of Illinois is following guidelines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control regarding initial distribution of Covid-19 vaccines. Because the demand for the vaccine exceeds the supply available, the recommendation is to first vaccinate those with the highest risk of exposure, morbidity and mortality.

The first vaccines distributed in Illinois, starting in December, were for Phase 1A, consisting of health care personnel and residents of long-

term care facilities. On Jan. 25, Illinois began inviting individuals in its Phase 1B: people age 65 and older, plus non-healthcare frontline essential workers who are unable to work from home and/or they must work closely to others without being able to socially distance. This includes first responders and many who work in education, food and agriculture, manufacturing, corrections workers and inmates, USPS workers, public transit workers, grocery store workers, and staff at shelters and day cares.

DuPage County

Health Department is the local source for information regarding vaccinations, and the City encourages all residents to [register for updates](#) through their weekly update signup form. This signup also allows the DuPage County Health Department to let you know when you are eligible for the vaccine. In the signup process, the form asks for your contact information plus other information to help them identify the vaccination phase in which you qualify. Please note that you will not receive an immediate response; you will be

notified when you are eligible for receiving a vaccine. Vaccines are being provided through local medical providers, including doctors' offices, and many other sites are being added, such as local pharmacies.

The Health Department estimates it may take approximately 12 weeks to vaccinate the nearly 270,000 individuals in DuPage County who meet Phase 1B criteria. Continue to follow the DuPage County Health Department for information, as they are regularly adding information to the [Covid-19 section](#) of their website.

Apply for Parkway Tree Planting Program



Applications for the City's Shared Cost Parkway Tree Planting Program are being accepted now through Monday, March 15, 2021 for the City's Shared Cost Parkway Tree Planting Program. This program is offered on a first-come, first-serve basis until the allotted funds for this year's program are spent.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ice Art Walk & Sidewalk Sales

Saturday, Feb. 6

12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Downtown Wheaton

Stroll through Downtown Wheaton to view custom-carved ice sculptures. Participating stores will also be offering winter sidewalk sales.

Please note that the Cocoa Crawl that will also be happening at this time is sold out, but you can still see the ice sculptures and enjoy sidewalk sales.

For more information, see the Downtown Wheaton Association's website at www.downtownwheaton.com.

Nights of Lights Event

Runs through Feb. 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



The Community Relations Committee will be promoting various events throughout February to celebrate Black History Month.

Feb. 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](#).

Electronic Recycling Monthly Drop-Off

Saturday, Feb. 13
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
820 W. Liberty Drive

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

Black History Month

The City's Community Relations Commission will be promoting numerous events and activities throughout the City in

February in celebration of Black History Month. Check the City's website at www.wheaton.il.us/blackhistorymonth for more information about upcoming events.

Wheaton Public Library Virtual Events

Register for Wheaton Public Library virtual events at wheatonlibrary.org/calendar.

Talking About Race: Community Conversations

Thursday, Feb. 4 at 7 p.m.

Local Author Glennette Tilley Turner

Monday, Feb. 8 at 7 p.m.

Instant Pot 101

Thursday, Feb. 11 at 7 p.m.

African American Art of the Twentieth Century

Tuesday, Feb. 16 at 7 p.m.

The Long Shadow Q&A

Wednesday, Feb. 24 at 7 p.m.

Recycle Clothing and Textiles at Wheaton's Monthly Electronic Recycling Drop-offs

The City reminds residents that they can donate unwanted clothing and textiles for reuse and recycling at the City's monthly electronic recycling drop-off events. The monthly events take place from 9 a.m. to noon on the second Saturday of each month at the

Public Works Storage Yard, 820 W. Liberty Drive.

Accepted items include clothing, sheets, bedding, towels and other household textiles in any condition. No heavily soiled items can be accepted. Reusable items will be resold, with proceeds benefiting

RewearAble's mission to provide employment for people with developmental disabilities. Items not able to be reused will be turned into cleaning/painting rags or reused in insulation, packing material and carpeting.

The monthly recycling events also

accept many different types of electronics, liquid vegetable oils, fluorescent tube lights and scrap metal. Please note that a fee applies for recycling TVs and monitors.

For full program information, please see the City's website at www.wheaton.il.us/electronics.

City Hiring for Summer Positions

It's never too early to start thinking about summer. The City of Wheaton is currently hiring a civil engineer for a summer internship and summer laborers to work out of the Public Works Department.

The civil engineer Intern will gain hands-on experience working for a municipality while assisting with multiple maintenance and capital improvement projects. Summer laborer positions will work both independently and in groups and assist various

divisions: Facilities, Forestry/Parks and Grounds, Streets, Signs, Water and Sewer, with multiple projects that directly impact the City and our residents.

These are excellent opportunities for those who enjoy staying busy and want to learn new skills and gain experience. Come see what it takes to keep the City going from a behind-the scenes perspective.

For more information and to fill out an application, please see the City's website at www.wheaton.il.us/jobs.

Free Credit Reports Offered Through April

The City of Wheaton, like many communities nationwide, has received reports from residents of numerous instances of identity theft in 2020.

With the rapid increase of identity thefts and COVID scams, the three major credit companies

(Experian, Transunion, and Equifax) are now offering free weekly credit reports through April for people to monitor their credit.

Visit <https://www.annualcreditreport.com/index.action> for more details.

IEMA Shares Earthquake Preparedness Information

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency shared the following tips to be prepared for an earthquake, no matter where you live.

Illinois is at risk from two major seismic zones, the Wabash Valley Seismic Zone and the New Madrid Seismic Zone (NMSZ). The Wabash Valley Zone is located between southeastern Illinois and southwestern Indiana. The NMSZ is located in the Central Mississippi Valley and includes portions of the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

Whether you are in your home, a classroom or another building, it is important to know how to protect yourself during an earthquake.

If you are indoors, follow these steps: Drop: Drop down to the floor.

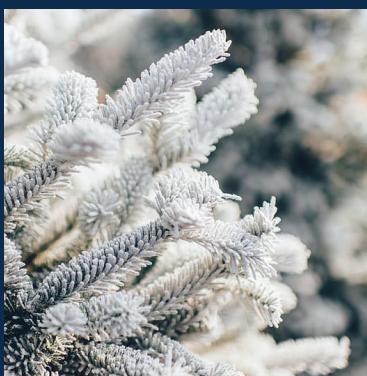
Cover: Take cover under a sturdy desk, table or other furniture. If that is not possible, seek cover against an interior wall and protect your head and neck with your arms.

Avoid danger spots near windows, hanging objects, mirrors or tall furniture.

Hold: If you take cover under a sturdy piece of furniture, hold on to it and be prepared to move with it. Hold the position until the ground stops shaking and it is safe to move.

If you are outside when the shaking starts, get into an open area away from trees, buildings, walls and power lines. If driving, stop safely as soon as possible. Do not stop under overpasses or bridges. Turn off the engine and turn on the radio.

Stay inside your vehicle below window level until the shaking stops. Do not get out of your vehicle if downed power lines have fallen across it.



CITY CALENDAR

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 for a complete list of meetings and events

February 2021

- 1** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 8** City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 15** City Offices Closed
- 16** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 22** City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.