

# CITY OF WHEATON

## NEWSLETTER

May 2021

### CITY NOTES

#### City Offices Closed/No Garbage Pickup

City offices will be closed Monday, May 31 due to the Memorial Day holiday. There will be no garbage/recycling/yard waste pickup on this day. All pickups for the week of May 31 will be one day later than usual.



#### Hale Street Tents to Return

Hale Street will be closed to vehicle traffic between Front Street and Wesley Street now through Tuesday, Sept. 7. The Downtown Wheaton Association will once again provide large outdoor dining tents for shared use by downtown restaurants as a way to

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## New Council Members to be Sworn In May 3

*Outgoing Councilman John Rutledge and Councilman Chris Zaruba thanked for their service to the community*

**A**t the May 3 City Council Meeting, the City of Wheaton will welcome its newly elected officials who were selected by voters during the April 6 municipal election. Wheaton voters selected the following district representatives for the Wheaton City Council:

#### North District

- Scott A. Brown

#### South District

- Scott D. Weller

#### East District

• Michael Francis Barbier

#### West District

- Lynn A. Robbins

Councilman John Rutledge, who served as Wheaton's South District representative since 2011, and Chris



Councilman John Rutledge and Councilman Chris Zaruba did not seek re-election in the April 6 municipal election.

Zaruba, who served as Wheaton's North District representative since 2019, did not seek re-election. The Council thanked them for their service and dedication during the April 19 City

Council meeting.

The Wheaton City Council consists of 4 district representatives, 2 at-large representatives and the mayor. Only the 4 district seats were up for election.

### 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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seat additional patrons safely.

Sidewalks will remain open for pedestrian access to all businesses. [Visit the Downtown Wheaton Association's website](#) and follow them on social media for more information about participating restaurants, live entertainment and more.

The City encourages residents and visitors to continue to follow safe social distancing practices and follow all state requirements regarding face coverings in public places.

## Event Parking Available at City Hall Parking Lot During Evenings & Weekends

The City of Wheaton reminds residents and visitors that the City Hall parking lot is open for event parking at Memorial Park during the evening and weekends, and the library parking lot when the library is closed.

## 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.

## Hydrant Flushing Begins in May

The City's Water Division will begin its 2021 Hydrant Flushing Program the week of May 3 and will continue for several weeks. The purpose of this program is to flush out particles that accumulate in water lines. During or immediately following the hydrant flushing, water discoloration may occur. It is best not to draw large amounts of water if you experience discoloration. Residents with questions may call the Water Division at 630-260-2090.

## ComEd Tree Trimming Scheduled for Areas of Wheaton

ComEd will be tree trimming in the Wheaton area during the next few months. Affected residents have received or will be receiving postcards from ComEd to notify them prior to any scheduled preventative tree maintenance

activities. This work is necessary to remove tree branches and vines that interfere with power lines that can create safety hazards and cause power outages.

In some cases, tree removal may be required, and the remaining tree stumps are treated with an approved herbicide to prevent future regrowth. All work is performed by qualified arborists, and herbicide is applied by state-licensed applicators.

To view [maps of the affected areas](#) please visit the City's website.

If you have questions regarding the tree trimming process, or for more information about vegetation maintenance along power lines, please visit <http://www.ComEd.com/Trees>, or call 800-Edison-1 (800-334-7661).

## Business News

- Pedego Electric Bikes Wheaton, electric bike experts offering sales, rentals, accessories, and service, opened in April at 128 W. Liberty Drive in downtown Wheaton.

## Commission News

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

- Krista Selvey, reappointed to a three-year term on the

Community Relations Commission

- Robert Young, reappointed to a three-year term on the Environmental Improvement Commission
- Donald Sender, reappointed to a three-year term on the Liquor Control Commission
- Nicole Aranas, reappointed to a five-year term on the Planning & Zoning Board
- Dan Wanzung, reappointed to a five-year term on the Planning & Zoning Board
- Lori Bilske, appointed to a three-year term on the Sister City Commission

## Employment Opportunities

The City currently seeks applicants for the following employment opportunities:

- Lateral Police Officer
- Part-time
- Emergency Management Specialist
- Part-time Plan Examiner
- Seasonal Summer Laborer – Public Works Division
- Crossing Guard

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





## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

It has been more than a year since this pandemic upended our lives. Thankfully, we have reached the point where there is a path for us to take toward protecting one another and returning to more normal times: through vaccinating our community.

As of April 12, all DuPage County residents age 16 and older are eligible to register for a Covid-19 vaccine, which is welcome news for many people who have not yet been eligible for the vaccine.

There are several ways you can get registered for the vaccine. First, you can register through the DuPage County Health Department either online at [dupagehealth.org](http://dupagehealth.org) or by calling 630-682-7400. If you know someone who may need assistance registering because they do not have internet access or need language assistance, please encourage them to call the DuPage County Health Department,



which has call takers available to help with registration.

You can also contact your doctor and local pharmacies to register for a vaccine. The demand for vaccines still exceeds the supply in our area, so the DuPage County Health Department encourages you to take the first opportunity you have to be vaccinated.

I'd also encourage the Wheaton community to continue doing your part to limit the spread of Covid-19 by doing the simple but important things that will help protect us all: wash your hands, wear a mask when in public places like restaurants and stores, and watch your distance from those outside your household.

We are all in this together, and we can look forward to even brighter days ahead.



# Downtown Streetscape Update



Crews for the Downtown Streetscape Project were busy during the month of April and were able to make significant progress. Highlights from this month's streetscape work include:

- Installment of new sidewalks on the west side of Wheaton Avenue from Front to Wesley
- Installment of pipe for detention basin in Lot 4 (between Main Street and Hale Street)
- Start of demolition in Lot 3 (between Main Street and Cross Street)
- Installment of various new storm structures on Liberty Drive
- Replacement of storm sewers and sidewalk squares on Hale Street between Front and Wesley Street

In addition to the

construction work that has been completed, the City was also awarded a state grant for the site improvements on Liberty Drive in the amount of \$175,000.

The City appreciates your patience as we work to complete this project, and we will do everything we can to keep traffic flowing and minimize inconvenience to residents and businesses. The City will continue to keep the community informed of construction updates, temporary lane closures, and/or detours through Facebook, Twitter, the City's website, email updates and City of Wheaton Channel 10.

Visit the City's website to learn more about the project at [www.wheaton.il.us/downtownstreetscape](http://www.wheaton.il.us/downtownstreetscape).

# Join the Police Department at your Neighborhood Roll Call

Starting in June, the Wheaton Police Department will be moving their roll calls out into the neighborhoods. Prior to the start of each tour of duty, Wheaton Police Officers report for a roll call that consists of an overview of the calls for service that occurred during the last 24 hours. Emerging crime trends within Wheaton and neighboring communities are discussed. Intelligence is disseminated to officers along with problem locations and extra watches. This is the time for officers to share what has been going on within their beats.

The public is



encouraged to attend the Neighborhood Roll Calls and meet with the officers who are assigned to their area of town. Officers will be on hand to discuss local issues and concerns about your neighborhood as well as providing tips to keep you and your family safe. Residents will be able to

initiate online requests for city services, register for SMART911, and make officers aware of issues directly related to their neighborhood. The Neighborhood Roll Calls will be occurring on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. between June and August. Please watch the City of Wheaton's

website and social media platforms to see when a Neighborhood Roll Call will be coming to your area!

## June Dates and Locations

- June 8 at 6:30 p.m.  
- Briar Knoll Park, 532 Tennyson Drive (on south side of park)
- June 15 at 6:30 p.m.  
- Hoffman Park, 411 N. Prospect Ave.
- June 29 at 6:30 p.m. -  
Lawson Field, 517 Forest Ave.

For more information, please contact Sergeant Angela Smith at [asmith@wheaton.il.us](mailto:asmith@wheaton.il.us) or 630-260-2076.

## Sidewalk Replacement Work Underway

To target sidewalk squares that need replacing, a contractor for the City of Wheaton has started sidewalk removal and replacement work in various locations throughout Wheaton. Globe Construction is the contractor for this year's sidewalk replacement work.

The City's focus for the program this year is the area from Roosevelt Road (Route 38) north to Illinois Street, and from President Street to the City's eastern limits. Other spots in need of immediate repair have also been identified for spot repairs. [See a map of the areas in this year's program.](#)

Residents whose properties have sidewalk squares that cross their driveway that are scheduled for replacement will receive a direct notice from the contractor with instructions on any action they need to take (such as a possible need to move vehicles prior to

work starting).

The City's Streets Division uses specific criteria to decide which sidewalk squares need replacing, related to the severity of cracking, spacing, or settled/raised squares. For more information about these criteria, please [see the Sidewalk Maintenance Policy \(PDF\)](#).



## Lawn Watering Restrictions Begin



**L**awn watering restrictions start May 15. Annual lawn watering restrictions go into effect from May 15 to September 15. Residents with odd-numbered street addresses can water their lawns on odd-numbered days and those with even-numbered addresses are limited to even-numbered days. Sprinkling is prohibited between noon and 6 p.m. every day. If you will be placing sod or planting grass seed, contact the Water Division at 630-260-2090 for a 10-day new sod/seed variance.

# Help Prevent Mosquito-Transmitted Diseases

**E**ach year, the Wheaton Mosquito Abatement District (a separate government entity from the City of Wheaton) monitors the area for mosquito transmitted diseases with the Illinois Department of Health, DuPage County Health Department, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, and Clarke Environmental Mosquito Management, Inc. (Clarke).

Under the authority of the Illinois Mosquito Abatement District, field technicians perform mosquito control activities on public and private properties for the control of mosquitoes and protection of public health. This includes adult mosquito population surveillance, larval site monitoring, biological control, and strategic use of EPA labeled and registered pesticide products, if necessary.

### West Nile Virus

West Nile virus is spread through the bite of infected mosquitoes. Symptoms are initially similar to the flu, with muscle weakness and disorientation. Though the majority of those infected will have mild symptoms or no symptoms at all, in some



individuals, WNV can cause inflammation of the brain (encephalitis) and in severe cases, paralysis, coma or death. The disease is most serious – even fatal – in those with compromised immune systems and the elderly.

### Zika Virus

Zika virus (ZIKV) is a mosquito-borne disease that is transmitted primarily by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito and sexual transmission. *Aedes aegypti* is a tropical mosquito that does not occur in northern Illinois. While ZIKV symptoms are generally mild in adults (fever, rash, joint pain and conjunctivitis), pregnant women who contract ZIKV can pass the virus to their unborn children, increasing the risks of serious birth defects like microcephaly.

### Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)

Eastern Equine

Encephalitis (EEE) is a mosquito-borne disease primarily vectored by *Culiseta melanura*, which lives in freshwater hardwood swamps, generally on the Atlantic coast and around the Great Lakes. The disease is one of the most dangerous mosquito-borne diseases; one in three patients diagnosed will die from EEE. Past historical hotspot states for outbreaks have been Massachusetts, Michigan, Indiana, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. While Illinois does not have a recent history of EEE cases, the proximity of the cases in both Indiana and Michigan and historic cases in Wisconsin call for continued vigilance.

For the latest information, consult the Illinois Department of Health website at [www.idph.illinois.gov](http://www.idph.illinois.gov), or the DuPage County Health Department website at [www.dupagehealth.org](http://www.dupagehealth.org).

# Be Prepared for Severe Weather Throughout the Year

**P**reparing 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.

## 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.

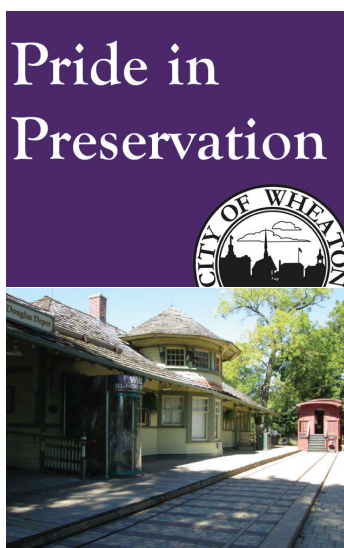
- Check the weather forecast before leaving for extended outdoor periods and postpone plans if severe weather is

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>.

# Celebrate Wheaton's History with Preservation Month This May



**A**s part of Preservation Month 2021, from Saturday, May 15 to Sunday, May 23 the Historic Commission will place "Pride in Preservation" purple lawn signs throughout Wheaton at designated Wheaton Historic Landmarks and locations listed on the Wheaton Register of Historic

Places. Many of these sites include a plaque with the estimated date of construction or a permanent interpretive sign with more additional information. For an online tour of Wheaton's Landmarks, go to "Wheaton Register of Historic Places Program" <https://wheaton.il.us/293/Wheaton-Register-of-Historic-Places-Program> and

select "View Wheaton Register of Historic Places."

In conjunction with Preservation Month, Cantigny Park will waive its parking fee for Wheaton residents during the week of May 15-23. To receive free admission, Wheaton residents must show proof of residency upon entry.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Visit the Wheaton French Market on Saturdays

Visit the Wheaton French Market Saturdays through Nov. 27 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the new temporary 2021 location of Reber Street and Liberty Drive near Courthouse Square and the City's Water Department facility. Visit the City's website for more information or to [review the health and safety guidelines](#).

### Downtown Hiring Expo

Monday, May 3  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Hale Street between Front Street and Wesley Street  
Meet with local downtown Wheaton businesses that are currently hiring under the new Hale Street tent.

### Electronic Recycling Monthly Drop-Off

Saturday, May 8  
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
820 W. Liberty Drive  
Please [see safety protocols](#) on the City's website.



The Community Relations Committee will be promoting various events throughout February to celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

### Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

The City's Community Relations Commission will be promoting numerous events and activities throughout the City in May in celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Check the City's website at [www.wheaton.il.us/aapimonth](http://www.wheaton.il.us/aapimonth) for

more information about upcoming events.

### Preservation Month – Cantigny Park Free Admission

May 15-23  
During this year's Pride in Preservation event from May 15 through May 23 Cantigny Park will waive its parking fee to Wheaton residents. To receive free admission, Wheaton

residents must show proof of residency upon entry.



### Wheaton Public Library Virtual Events

Register for Wheaton Public Library virtual events at [wheatonlibrary.org/calendar](http://wheatonlibrary.org/calendar).

*Talking About Race: Community Conversations*  
Thursday, May 6  
7 p.m.

*The 10 Most Important Artists in Chicago Music History*  
Tuesday, May 11  
7 p.m.

*Stereotypes that Harm the Asian American Community*  
Tuesday, May 18  
7 p.m.

*Not Quite: Asian Americans and the "Other" in the Era of the Pandemic*  
Thursday, May 27  
7 p.m.

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

### May 2021

- 3 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 10 City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 17 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 24 City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 31 City Offices Closed/No Garbage Pickup