

# CITY OF WHEATON NEWSLETTER

December 2021

## CITY NOTES

### City Offices Closed

Non-emergency City of Wheaton offices will be closed on Friday, Dec. 24 and Friday, Dec. 31.

### Yard Waste Pickup Ends Week of Dec. 13

The final week for yard waste and leaf pickup will be the week of Dec. 13. Your final pickup for 2021 will be on your pickup day of that week.

### Heating Assistance

DuPage County is accepting applications for the annual Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. To qualify for assistance with heating bills, households must meet income requirements (at or below 200% of the federal poverty level). This program is administered by DuPage County Community Services. Benefits are paid directly to the utilities on behalf of eligible

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## Wheaton Christmas Parade and Nights of Lights Return in 2021

After a year void of many of the usual events due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the City of Wheaton is seeing the return of many traditional events throughout the City including the return of the Wheaton Christmas Parade.

On Friday, Nov. 26, the City officially welcomed the holiday season with the Wheaton Park District and Downtown Wheaton Association's annual holiday parade. The chilly temperatures couldn't stop the community from bringing out their holiday cheer during the festive-filled evening that had a special guest



appearance by Santa Claus.

Following the parade, the community was invited to Adams Park for a special lighting ceremony to kick off the Nights of Lights event in the park. Accompanied by beautiful music from the Chicago Carolers, the City held the first lighting of the park that

will continue to illuminate the downtown area through Sunday, Jan. 9.

The City is excited to see the return of these annual festivities, and would like to thank the Wheaton Park District and the Downtown Wheaton Association for their efforts in bringing back these special events to our community.

## 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)

## CITY NOTES

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households. For more information, call 630-407-6500 or visit [www.dupageco.org/liheap/](http://www.dupageco.org/liheap/).

### Employment Opportunities

The City currently seeks applicants for the following job opportunities:

- Part-time Administrative Assistant
- Crossing Guard
- Customer Service Representative
- Entry Level Police Officer
- Facilities Maintenance Technician
- Lateral Police Officer
- Media Assistant

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

### Commission News

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

- Rachel Bautista, reappointed to a

three-year term on the Community Relations Commission

- Alyse Kondrat, reappointed to a three-year term on the Bicycle Advisory Commission

- Steph McGrath, reappointed to a three-year term on the Downtown Wheaton Design Review Board

# Register for Light Up Wheaton Decorating Contest by Dec. 10

As you put up your seasonal displays to help light up Wheaton, remember there is still time to [register for the Light Up Wheaton decorating contest](#). Residences, businesses, churches, and other organizations are welcome to enter this free contest hosted by the City of Wheaton and the Wheaton Park District by Friday, Dec. 10.

Entering the contest adds your location to the Light Up Wheaton tour map so people can drive by to see your unique displays and also puts your display in



the running for several awards, including the People's Choice Award and the Mayor's Choice Award.

Visit the Wheaton Park District website if you'd like [more information about the contest](#) or if you'd like to [register for](#)

[the decorating contest](#).

The deadline to register is Friday, Dec. 10, and contest details and prize information can be found on the City of Wheaton or Wheaton Park District websites.

Voting for the People's Choice Award will take place on both the City of Wheaton and the Wheaton Park District's Facebook pages, so be sure you are following @CityofWheaton and @wheatonparkdistrict on Facebook.

Join in the fun this holiday season as we continue this new holiday tradition together!





# MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



The holiday season has returned to the City of Wheaton along with many of our holiday events and activities.

To kick off the season, the City recently welcomed the return of Wheaton's annual Christmas Parade along with the official Adams Park Lighting Ceremony on Friday, Nov. 26. The City thanks the Wheaton Park District and the Downtown Wheaton Association for all their hard work in putting together this eventful evening.

The Parade was only the beginning to many of the City's great

festive events that will be happening throughout the holiday season. These events include:

• **Nights of Lights:** The Adams Park Lighting Ceremony was the initial start to Nights of Lights in Adams Park, which offers a special light display throughout the park for visitors to enjoy. Visit Adams Park for a seasonal stroll from dusk to 11 p.m. each night through Sunday, Jan. 9.

• **Festival of Lights & Tree Sale:** The Wheaton Park District's Cosley Zoo created a special holiday lighting display with thousands of twinkling lights to convert the zoo into a winter wonderland for all ages to enjoy. Visitors can also purchase trees, wreaths, and other holiday gifts at this event that is open regularly from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. each day through Thursday, Dec. 30.

(Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve hours are 9 a.m. to noon; closed Christmas Day)

• **Reindeer on Parade & Christmas Window Walk:** The Downtown Wheaton Association has transformed the downtown area into a holiday themed destination that includes decorated reindeer and festively painted windows at participating businesses. Visit the downtown for a day or evening full of shopping and dining while enjoying these seasonal displays through Sunday, Jan. 9.

• **Light Up Wheaton:** It's the second year of this special initiative that invites the entire community to help Light Up Wheaton with their own seasonal light displays. Drive around the community throughout the season

to see all the wonderful displays. The City will also release a Light Up Wheaton tour map on Friday, Dec. 10 that will provide a map of contest entries for this year's decorating contest.

Visit Page 7 or visit the City's website for more details about these events and other events happening in the City of Wheaton over the next month.

This is a wonderful time of the year for people to come together and enjoy the many different things our community offers, be it shopping, dining or simply enjoying the interactions with friends and neighbors. I encourage everyone to take some time to enjoy the holiday season. I wish everyone best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year.

## Nights of Lights Event Runs through January 9 in Adams Park



The "Nights of Lights" seasonal lighting event taking place in Adams Park in downtown Wheaton will run through Sunday, Jan. 9. This event presented by the

Downtown Wheaton Association and the City of Wheaton illuminates Adams Park with festive lights from dusk to 11 p.m. each day throughout the event. The event is open

daily with no timed entry and is free to the public to enjoy.

For [more information](#), visit the Downtown Wheaton Association's website.

# Wheaton Citizen's Police Academy Concludes for 2021

*Police Department Planning for Additional Opportunities for 2022*



**M**embers of the community joined the Wheaton Police Department this fall for the second Citizen's Police Academy. For 10 weeks, participants learned about crash investigations, interviews, interrogations, traffic stops, weapons and tasers, critical incident debriefs and more. Participants also had the opportunity to tour DuCOMM Dispatching Center.

"We were excited to

bring this program back because it shows our residents all the different aspects of our jobs as well as helps us build relationships with those we serve," said Crystal Miroballi, Community Engagement Officer.

This group was originally picked to participate in 2020, but due to the pandemic, the class was put on hold.

The Police Department plans to have additional opportunities in 2022 for another Citizen's Police Academy.

# Christmas Tree Recycling Offered Curbside



**T**he City's garbage/recycling hauler will pick up live Christmas trees for recycling on your collection day during the weeks of Jan. 3, 2022, and Jan. 10, 2022, at no charge, with no sticker needed.

During this free 2-week

collection period, 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 Christmas tree in order to have it collected.

# Roosevelt Road Pedestrian Underpass Open



**T**he pedestrian tunnel under Roosevelt Road at Wheaton Avenue is now open! Crews lined the existing tunnel ceiling and walls with metal plates, replaced the lighting and handrails, and poured new concrete flooring and stairs. The City had previously closed the tunnel due to deteriorating materials in the decades-old passageway under Roosevelt Road.



# Holiday Safety Tips from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency



**W**ith the holiday season in full swing, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency is offering tips to help people stay safe now and into the new year. From decorating the tree to traveling to grandma's house with a sleigh full of new toys, be sure to take simple steps to keep your family safe.

## Holiday Decorating

Whether decorating for Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa or New Year's Eve, candles and strings of colored lights create a festive atmosphere, but it's important to be careful when using them. Candles should never be left unattended, and you should place them far away from flammable materials. Candles should also be placed on stable furniture in

fire-safe holders that will catch dripping wax. Holiday lights and electrical decorations should bear the name of an independent testing lab to prove they were safety tested.

## Winter Heating

Be sure that your fireplace is ready for the winter heating season. Chimneys, fireplaces and wood and coal stoves should be regularly inspected and cleaned when necessary. Additionally, furnaces should be checked every year by professionals to ensure mechanical parts are functioning properly and that nothing is blocking the flue. Malfunctioning furnaces increase both the fire and carbon monoxide risks.

Under Illinois law, homes should be equipped with working

smoke and carbon monoxide detectors within 15 feet of each sleeping area. The detectors should be tested monthly to ensure they're functioning and the batteries are still good. Never use a gas or charcoal grill inside your home or attached garage because of the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning.

## Holiday Travel

If traveling by car, remember to pack an emergency supply kit with essentials for all your passengers. Fill out an emergency communications plan and let your emergency contact know your plan. Also, before you hit the road, check local road conditions and avoid traveling during winter storms.

## Holiday Light Recycling Available

*Recycling program runs through Friday, Jan. 21*

**W**heaton's holiday light recycling program is back. Now through Jan. 21, 2022, 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. 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.

In addition to residents, the City also welcomes businesses, schools and other organizations wanting to dispose of holiday lights to participate in the program. There is no limit as to how many lights you can drop off for recycling.

# Holiday Crime Prevention Tips

*Wheaton Police Department Provides Tips for Online & In-Person Shopping*

## Holiday Shopping In-Person

If you are planning on holiday shopping in-person this season, please remember that there are still those who wish to ruin your holiday spirit by stealing from you. The Wheaton Police Department recommends you minimize your chances of being victimized by:

- Never leaving your purse or wallet unattended in a shopping cart, even when you're only a few feet away browsing. Thieves can be swift and only need a brief moment while you're distracted.
- Never leaving your gifts or purchases visible in your car. It is safer to lock the items in the trunk. Otherwise place the items in the footwell area and cover with something to hide them.
- Keeping an eye on



your credit card. Store employees rarely need to leave the register or point of sale with your credit card. Even when a waiter or waitress takes your credit card the register is typically in public view. It only takes seconds to copy the credit card information or use a card reader to quickly swipe the card's magnetic strip.

## Online Shopping and Deliveries

Online shoppers should take precautions to avoid theft by "Porch Pirates" with their online purchase deliveries. The Wheaton Police Department recommends residents keep their deliveries safe by:

- Tracking your packages and having neighbors or relatives

move your delivered packages indoors as soon as possible when not at home.

- Leaving special delivery instructions to have packages placed out of sight of potential thieves.
- Having a video doorbell to deter potential thieves.

If you experience a theft or suspect a theft has occurred, then you should:

- Confirm with the carrier that a package was delivered.
- Check video surveillance (doorbell or other) and confirm a package was delivered and stolen. Video evidence is always helpful, especially when it has the suspect, a vehicle, or a license plate to provide investigative leads.
- Call 9-1-1 to make a theft report.

# Help the Wheaton Fire Department Keep the Wreath Red this Year

This holiday season, the Wheaton Fire Department will decorate Wheaton's three fire stations with wreaths that have a special significance. The wreaths are part of the Keep the Wreath Red fire safety

campaign, a statewide program that reminds you to practice fire safety during the holiday season.

The wreaths feature red lights, and for each Wheaton fire caused by holiday decorations, the Fire Department will

replace one red bulb with a white bulb. Help the Wheaton Fire Department Keep the Wreath Red by unplugging holiday lights before leaving home or sleeping, being careful with

candles, using flame-retardant decorations, ensuring lights are in good condition and Underwriters Laboratories (UL) listed, and keeping trees watered.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Lions Club & Wheaton Park District Reindeer Run

Dec. 4 (or virtually through Dec. 18)

8:30 a.m.

Downtown Wheaton

This winter 5K is sure to put you in the holiday spirit! Come out in your best Santa hats or assortment of jingle bells and enjoy the race (registration ended Nov. 30) or cheer on festive race participants. A virtual race is also available through Saturday, Dec. 18 with registration ending Saturday, Dec. 4.

Visit the Wheaton Park District website for [more information](#).

### Nights of Lights

Through Sunday, Jan. 9

Dusk through 11 p.m.

Adams Park

Wesley Street

and Main Street

The Nights of Lights is presented by the Downtown Wheaton Association and City of Wheaton for the community to enjoy each night through the holiday season. It is free to attend, and tickets are not required; simply enjoy a magical stroll through the park after dark each night from dusk until 11 p.m.

### Festival of Lights & Christmas Tree Sale

Through Thursday, Dec. 30

Visit Cosley Zoo as it's transformed into a winter wonderland with thousands of twinkling lights, an amazing selection of Christmas trees, wreaths and greenery, hot chocolate, and a unique assortment of holiday gifts in the Wild

Side Gift Shop.

Visit the Wheaton Park District's website for [more information](#).

### Christmas Window Walk & Reindeer on Parade

Through Thursday, Dec. 30

Downtown Wheaton  
Celebrate the holidays with a stroll through downtown Wheaton to enjoy all the festive painted windows and decorated reindeer.

### Electronic Recycling Monthly Drop-Off

Saturday, Dec. 11

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

820 W. Liberty Drive

Bring unwanted electronics, cooking oil, clothing, and scrap metal for recycling at the City's monthly drop-off collection. Please note that there is a charge to

recycle TVs and monitors.

Visit the City's website for [more information](#).

### Wheaton Public Library Events

Visit the Wheaton Public Library's website at [wheatonlibrary.org/calendar](#) for more information.

### Baking Cinnamon Star Bread

Monday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m.

### COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Clinic

Tuesday, Dec. 7 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

### ACES: Get Connected!

Tuesday, Dec. 7 at 10:30 a.m.

### Winter Folktales from Around the World

Tuesday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m.

### ACES: Curb Utility Costs

Wednesday, Dec. 15 at 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](#) for a complete list of meetings and events

### December 2021

- 4** Coffee with Council, 10 a.m.
- 6** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 13** Budget Public Hearing & Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 20** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 24** City Offices Closed
- 31** City Offices Closed