

CITY OF WHEATON NEWSLETTER

January 2022

CITY NOTES

Rental Assistance Available to DuPage Residents Impacted by COVID-19

Eligible DuPage households behind on their rent due to COVID-19 may receive up to 18 months of emergency rental payments, including up to 15 months of missed payments and up to 3 months of future payments. Rent owed for up to \$25,000 from June 2020 through April 2022 may be paid. Applications will be accepted through Sunday, Jan. 9.

Visit the Illinois Housing Department Authority website for [more information](#).

DuPage County Accepting Applications for Heating Assistance Program

DuPage County is accepting applications for the annual Low Income

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City Thanks Wheaton Community for Helping Light Up Wheaton



The entry at 1021 E. Illinois Street won the 2021 People's Choice Award.

The City of Wheaton and the Wheaton Park District thank the community for helping make the second year of the Light Up Wheaton community initiative a success. Once again, members of the community took

part to make sure every corner of our city shone brightly with different creative displays.

In addition to the community initiative, this year's decorating contest entries made it another fun year for people to take the Light Up

Wheaton tour around the City. Each of this year's contest entries provided a fun experience for visitors and community members, and some were awarded for their creativity and effort.

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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

Light Up Wheaton

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This year's award recipients for the Light Up Wheaton decorating contest are:

- **People's Choice**

Award: 1021 E. Illinois Street

- **Mayor's Choice**

Award: 8 Venetian Way Circle

- **Most Creative**

Display: 327 E. Illinois Street

- **Best Interactive**

Display: 1573 Orth Drive

- **Best Organization**

Display: 711 E. Harrison Avenue

The City thanks all of this year's decorating contest participants and looks forward to next year's event.

The Light Up Wheaton

Tour Map will be live on the City's website through the month of January so everyone can continue to enjoy the different displays throughout the community. Visit the City's website to [view the Light Up Wheaton Tour Map](#).

Be Prepared for Winter Storms



Winter storms create a higher risk of car accidents, hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning, and heart attacks from overexertion.

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.
- If you are using a

generator, only use it outside.

- Listen for emergency information and alerts.
- Look for signs of hypothermia and frostbite.
- Check on neighbors.

For more tips, visit www.ready.gov.

New Parking Kiosk Installed at Metra Station; West Front Street Spaces Added

The City has extended its parking payment system to include the 12-hour metered parking spaces on West Front Street and installed a new kiosk on the south side of the downtown Metra station. These changes make the payment process more convenient for users of the daily commuter fee parking spaces west of the train station.

As part of the City's transition from using parking meters to more convenient parking payment methods, the



City has deactivated the 12-hour commuter parking space meters located on West Front Street between Manchester Bridge and Gary Avenue. People using these spaces can now pay either using the Passport Parking app,

www.passportparking.com, or by using cash or credit at one of the City's parking kiosks.

Please note that the 2-hour metered parking spaces for customers of businesses in the area will remain unchanged. These parking areas are

marked with signage and should not be used for commuter parking.

Whether you pay using the kiosk or the app for the commuter spaces, you will need to know your license plate number as well as your Parking Zone number for the kiosk or on your mobile phone (if using the Passport Parking app). Parking Zone numbers are indicated on signs throughout the City's parking areas. The commuter parking spaces along West Front Street are in Zone 62508.

CITY NOTES

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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 households. For more information, call 630-407-6500 or visit www.dupageco.org/liheap/.

Christmas Tree Recycling

The City's garbage/

recycling hauler's free pickup for live Christmas trees for recycling on your collection day will be during the weeks of Jan. 3 and Jan. 10 at no charge, with no sticker needed.

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 Christmas tree in order to have it collected.

Employment Opportunities

The City currently seeks applicants

for the following job opportunities:

- Crossing Guard
- Customer Service Representative
- Entry Level Police Officer
- Facilities Maintenance Technician
- Lateral Police Officer
- Media Assistant
- Utility Locator

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:

- Shannon Whitmer, appointment to a three-year term on the Liquor Control Commission
- Michael Nicolosi, appointment to a three-year term on the Environmental Improvement Commission
- Aryan Khan, appointment to a three-year term on the Housing Commission
- Brian Bobigian, appointment to a three-year term on the Bicycle Advisory Commission
- Andrea Koziarz, appointment to a three-year term on the Sister City Commission

Planning & Zoning Board to Consider Text Amendments to Zoning Ordinance

On Tuesday, Jan. 11, the Wheaton Planning and Zoning Board will consider two proposed text amendments to the Wheaton Zoning Ordinance proposed by City of Wheaton property owners.

The first proposed text amendment is a change to the City of Wheaton's

Zoning Ordinance, Article 24.7.2b - Recreational Vehicle Parking Restrictions to amend the existing language to state that, "On corner lots, the vehicle shall be setback at least 20 feet from the side yard abutting a street property line."

[Additional information about this amendment](#) is on the City's website.

The second proposed

text amendment is a change to the City of the Wheaton's Zoning Ordinance, Article 3.4D.1 - Residential Exterior Lighting, to add language that, "The source of light for decorative coach-style lights shall not exceed 200 lumens."

[Additional information about this amendment](#) is on the City's website.

The Wheaton Planning

and Zoning Board reviews and makes recommendations to the City Council regarding zoning changes, variations and subdivisions of land. The Board regularly meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at Wheaton City Hall, 303 W. Wesley St.



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Best wishes for a happy, healthy and safe new year. In 2021, the City continued to improve our City services and make the investments necessary to maintain Wheaton as a prominent residential community.

- The City welcomed a number of new businesses across the City including: Extract Juicery at 114 Main Street, Pedego Electric Bike Store at 128 W. Liberty Drive, Ditka's Grill at 225 W. Front St., Amante Marketplace at 102 N. Hale St., Five Below at 110 Danada Square West, Moment on Main at 122 N. Main St., and Wheaton House at 133 W. Front St. In addition, we enjoyed the return of the tents on Hale Street and the return of various summer events and concerts.

- The City Council approved significant redevelopment projects including: Macaroni Grill Restaurant at 21

Blanchard Circle to a multi-tenant retail and daycare center, the PDQ Restaurant to a Panera Bread at 167 Danada Square, and the RentalMax at 908 Roosevelt Road to a Culver's Restaurant. The City also recently approved a planned unit development for a new daycare facility and medical office at 250 E. Roosevelt Road.

- The City continues to invest in its infrastructure by replacing portions of Cole Avenue, Hawthorne Boulevard, Indiana Street and Sunnyside Drive; resurfacing an additional 6.1 miles of road, replacing over 1,400 feet of storm sewer pipe and 4,200 feet of water mains, replacing 950 squares of failed sidewalk, and planting 271 new trees.

- The Downtown Streetscape Project came one step closer to completion. This past year, construction crews planted new trees; installed new sidewalks, brick paver walkways, paved streets, and built retaining walls; and made numerous updates to the City's sewer and water systems. In Spring of 2022 we will see the conclusion of this 4-year project with the installation of a new multi-purpose canopy structure for the

French Market, and other amenities south of the tracks between Main and Cross Street.

- The City maintained a stable budget through the pandemic and recently passed its 2022 Annual Operating Budget, reflecting \$157.6 million in revenues and \$146.1 million in expenditures. The new budget has no new taxes, and does not reflect any increases in water, sewer, or parking rates. The new budget maintains the City's current service levels, personnel expenses, and operating accounts while continuing to invest in our infrastructure. This is the third year in a row where the City has not increased its tax levy.

- The City finalized its strategic objectives for the next 5 years, placing emphasis on the following: Financial Stability; Enhanced Infrastructure; Responsive and Efficient Services; Community Safety; and Environmental Sustainability.

- The City moved toward fully funding its Police and Fire Pension plans through a \$45.7 million Pension Obligation Bond sale. This transaction is estimated to reduce the City's projected pension costs after paying

principal and interests on the bonds by roughly \$1 million a year over the next 18 years.

- The City moved forward with addressing flooding issues throughout the community. The City Council approved two Capital Improvement Projects in flood prone areas for 2022, and City staff began the application process to attain federal grant money to address an additional flood prone area. This is a significant first step in mitigating flooding in our community.

- The City continued its dedication to public safety with the City Council approving the purchase of body-worn cameras for the Wheaton Police Department and introduced a local adjudication system to address minor code infractions.

I look forward to highlighting these past achievements and the City's future goals in more depth during my annual State of the City Address on Thursday, Jan. 20. More information about the event can be found on Page 7.

We are fortunate to live in Wheaton and we have a good story to tell. I look forward to the City of Wheaton's next chapter in 2022.

City Parkway Tree Pruning Program Underway for 2021-2022 Season



The City's Parkway Tree Pruning Program is underway for the 2021-2022 season as City crews and the City's contractor, Winkler's Tree Service, have started pruning parkway trees in Zone 6 of the Parkway Tree Pruning Program Zone Map. Zone 6 is primarily located south of Roosevelt Road and east of Naperville Road and Blanchard Street and consists of 3,141 parkway trees, with trees ranging from 2-inch diameter to 66-inch diameter.

Residents will be notified periodically about pruning in their area and can expect to see City-owned and contractor-owned bucket trucks and chippers in work areas. Signage will notify residents they are entering an active tree pruning work zone.

For more information or questions, please contact the City of Wheaton Forestry

Division at 630-260-2122.

Parkway Tree Pruning Program

The City's Parkway Tree Pruning Program is a program that helps preserve the natural growth habits of the City's parkway trees, and it is also beneficial for the following reasons:

- Helps to maintain a tree's shape and appearance
- Eliminates dead or broken branches and limbs that can fall off at any time
- Reduces tree limbs and branches that occasionally grow too close to utility lines
- Thins the crown of a tree to improve airflow, which is beneficial
- Reduces branches that are crossing or rubbing together
- Allows sunlight to penetrate the crown of the tree to promote new growth and strengthen existing limbs
- Eliminates weak forks in tree stems and

reduces the weight on support limbs

- Reduces the possibility of future damage to the tree by high winds and storms
- Maintains adequate visibility and vertical clearance for vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

The City's Forestry Division and City contractors prune 1 of 7 zones annually over a 7-year cycle as part of the program. Pruning zones can be found on the Parkway Tree Pruning Program Zone Map. The current 7-year cycle is as follows:

- Zone 1: Fall 2023 to Fall 2024
- Zone 2: Fall 2024 to Fall 2025
- Zone 3: Fall 2025 to Fall 2026
- Zone 4: Fall 2026 to Fall 2027
- Zone 5: Fall 2027 to Fall 2028
- Zone 6: Fall 2021 to Fall 2022
- Zone 7: Fall 2022 to Fall 2023

Holiday Light Recycling Available

Recycling program runs through Friday, Jan. 21

Wheaton's holiday light recycling program

runs 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, 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.

Apply for City's Shared Cost Parkway Tree Planting Program

It may be a few months away from spring, but now is the time to begin planning for new growth in 2022. Applications are being accepted now through Tuesday, March 1, 2022 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 1¾" to 2" in trunk diameter with heights varying based on the type of tree ordered.

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

Police Spread Holiday Cheer with Annual Shop With A Cop Program



On Saturday, Dec. 11, members of the Wheaton Police Department helped spread holiday cheer to some Wheaton families in need with the annual Shop With A Cop program. Officers continued with the pandemic-adapted program and shopped using a Christmas Wishlist provided by the families. The gifts

were then delivered by a caravan of squad cars. The officers volunteered their time, and the funds were supplied by the Metropolitan Alliance of Police #699.

The Wheaton Police Department would like to extend a thank you to the Wheaton Target for their generous assistance year after year, and wishes everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

City Passes Annual Budget and Tax Levy

At the Wheaton City Council's Dec. 20 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 \$157.6 million, with \$146.1 million in expenditures.

At the Dec. 20 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 2020 to 2021, however the City projects that most homeowners will not see an increase in the City's portion of their property tax bill.

City of Wheaton staff have been preparing this budget for several months, and the City Council held two budget workshop sessions, on Nov. 8 and Nov. 13, 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. 13. You can [watch the videos of these workshops and public hearing](#) on the City's website.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Electronic Recycling Monthly Drop-Off

Saturday, Jan. 8

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](#).

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.



Winter Wine Walk

Saturday, Jan. 15

Downtown Wheaton

Join the Downtown Wheaton Association for the Winter Wine Walk on Saturday, Jan. 15 from 3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in Downtown Wheaton.

Tickets for the event can be purchased on the Downtown Wheaton Association's website and include a souvenir wine glass and multiple tastings. Event takes place rain, snow or shine. Masks and social distancing required.

Visit the Downtown Wheaton Association's website for [more information](#).

State of the City Address

Thursday, Jan. 20
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mayor Suess will present the annual State of the City Address during the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce's luncheon. This presentation will also be shared on the City's website and social media

channels after the event.

Visit the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce's website for [more information](#).

Wheaton Public Library Events

Visit the Wheaton Public Library's website at wheatonlibrary.org/calendar for more information.

Living History: Golden Age of Hollywood
Tuesday, Jan. 11 at 7 p.m.

Take Control of Your Paper
Tuesday, Jan. 18 at 7 p.m.

DIY: Watercolor Succulents
Monday, Jan. 24 to
Sunday, Jan. 30

Norman Rockwell
Tuesday, Jan. 25 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

January 2022

- 8 Coffee with Council, 10 a.m.
- 10 City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 18 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 24 City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.

