

CITY OF WHEATON NEWSLETTER

February 2022

CITY NOTES

City Offices Closed

Non-emergency City offices will be closed on Monday, Feb. 21, in observance of Presidents' Day. Garbage/recycling pickup will not be affected.

State of the City Address Postponed

The State of the City Address, which was originally scheduled to take place on Thursday, Jan. 20, was postponed due to a rise of case rates of COVID-19 in our area. Once a new date has been set, the City of Wheaton will share this information in the monthly newsletter and share it on the City's social media pages.

Commission News

The Wheaton City Council:

- Appointed Susan Brinkman to a three-year term on the Band Commission,

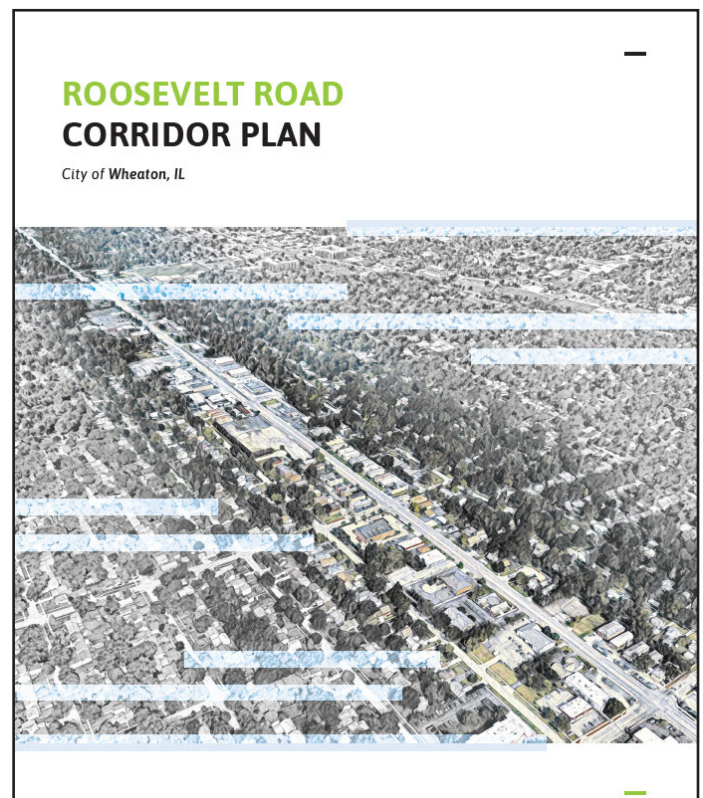
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Updated Draft of Roosevelt Road Corridor Plan Available

Submit your feedback through City's website

Using input from the community, City Council and City staff, an updated draft plan guiding future development of the Roosevelt Road Corridor is [now ready for the community to review](#).

Developing a framework for redevelopment on Roosevelt Road from Carlton Avenue to the City's eastern limit has been a longtime goal of the City. So far, the City – with the assistance of Camiros Ltd. and Valerie Kretchmer & Associates – has completed an in-depth study of the market conditions, current usage and zoning of this area, and the consulting team presented an initial draft plan with recommended actions guiding future development. The City



then directed Camiros to create a revised plan incorporating feedback to the initial draft, with a goal of creating a community-supported framework for Roosevelt Road that creates opportunities for

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Learn More:

Read the plan, watch a video and share your feedback at wheaton.il.us/RooseveltRoad

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

CITY NOTES

Continued from page 1

- Appointed James Vroman to a three-year term on the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners, and

- Reappointed Sarah Antas to a three-year term on the Fine & Cultural Arts Commission.

Interested in serving on a board or commission? You can find out which groups have vacancies and [fill out an application on the City's website](#).

How May We Help You?

Finding the right person to help you shouldn't be hard. Need to request overnight parking or report a streetlight outage? Where do I go to find a permit? Our website can point you in the right direction. Check out this easy chart listing some of the most common reasons people contact the City of Wheaton, whom to call/email/visit; and which department or agency will be helping you. Visit www.wheaton.il.us/assistance.

COVID-19 Tests Available by Mail

A new program allows each residential U.S. household to order one set of 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests shipped by the USPS. Registration is now open at <https://www.covidtests.gov>, and shipping began in late

January. This is a federal government program for which all households are eligible.

Employment Opportunities

The City seeks applicants for the following job opportunities:

- Crossing Guard
- Lateral Police Officer
- Part-time Emergency Management Specialist

To find out more about these positions, visit www.wheaton.il.us/jobs.

Save the Date for Native Plant Sale

The Environmental Improvement Commission will hold its annual Native Plant Sale on Saturday, April 23, from 8:30 a.m.-11 a.m. at the Public Works Department, 821 W. Liberty Drive.

This sale with the Wheaton Park District will feature flowers, bushes, grasses, shrubs, and more that are native to Illinois, making them a hardy and environmentally friendly choice.

New Businesses

Now open: Mila Grace Boutique, 217 S. Main St., is a trendy alternative fashion boutique for teens and women, regardless of shape or size. The boutique features predominantly dresses for all occasions and seasons, all year round.



The Roosevelt Road Corridor Plan focuses on the portion of Roosevelt Road from Carlton Avenue to the city's eastern limit.

Update

Continued from page 1

new commercial and residential development while protecting nearby neighborhoods.

To present this complex plan in an understandable way, the City developed a video to help guide you through the updated plan, highlighting key sections along the way. We encourage you to review the Roosevelt Road Corridor Plan Updated Draft, and then share your feedback with the City through an online survey. Your input will be shared with the City Council and City staff. The

plan, video and a link to the survey are all available at www.wheaton.il.us/RooseveltRoad.

In addition, the City will be hosting feedback meetings in early 2022. Due to current COVID-19 rates in our area, these dates have not yet been finalized. Once the dates are available, we will be posting them here, and we will share them through the City's Facebook and Twitter pages, on the City Calendar, and through Email Updates. We look forward to receiving your input, which is important in helping shape a future final plan.

Check Out Black History Month Events & Information

Each February, people across the United States take part in recognizing Black History Month with events and education to further the public's understanding of black history. Wheaton's Community Relations Commission encourages the community to learn about Black History Month and explore some of the many local events



offered for the community throughout the month.

Visit www.wheaton.il.us/blackhistorymonth to find local events and more information.

Apply for Shared Cost Parkway Tree Program

Applications due by March 1

It may be a while before spring temperatures arrive, but now is the time to begin planning for new growth in 2022. Applications for the City's Shared Cost Parkway Tree Program will be accepted through March 1.

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



The City offers a choice of 11 types of trees in this year's Shared Cost Parkway Tree Program.

2" in trunk diameter with heights varying based on the type of tree ordered.

City crews will plant in either the spring or fall. For more details about

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

City to Review 2021 Memorial Park Activities

As part of the City's and the Park District's shared goal of ensuring that the newly renovated Memorial Park Bandshell provides an entertainment and performing arts venue for the community to enjoy while respecting the surrounding area, the City will host a meeting to review the past year's activities, and the community is invited to attend. The discussion will be part of the Wheaton City Council's Planning Session at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 28 at Wheaton City Hall, 303 W. Wesley St. Remote participation is

Submit Your Feedback Online

available through Zoom for those who would like to attend virtually.

This public meeting is part of the City's special use permit for the Wheaton Park District to build a new bandshell at Memorial Park. The permit included a requirement that the City hold a meeting after one year of operations to review whether any fine-tuning needs to be made to the special use permit.

Over the past year, both the City and the Park District gathered data

during events on things such as parking availability, noise level measurements, number of attendees and other information to gauge the effect of events on the surrounding area. You can find summary data on the City's website at www.wheaton.il.us/memorialpark. On this webpage you will also find a link to a survey where community members can [share feedback regarding the past year's events](#). This feedback will be shared with the City Council, staff and Wheaton Park District.

Learn About Radon Testing

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) is urging residents to take time to test their home for radon in recognition of Radon Action Month. Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. but is preventable with a simple home detection test.

Radon comes from the natural breakdown of uranium and radium in the soil. This odorless, colorless gas is found in the air that we breathe in buildings, homes, offices and if not properly mitigated can reach drastically high levels.



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Help Our Community Restore Local Funding

I wanted to share with you this month a statewide issue that affects Wheaton and all other cities and towns in Illinois, which is the Local Government Distributive Fund, or LGDF. The LGDF is the part of your income tax that you pay to the State of Illinois that is then distributed to each municipality in the state, including Wheaton. The amount that each municipality receives is calculated based on the community's population.

Receiving LGDF disbursements is an important funding source for the City to provide core services. Annually, the City receives roughly \$6.0 million a year from the LGDF. Wheaton uses this revenue for providing services such as fire and police protection, road maintenance, funding pensions, and much more.

Since 2011, the State has reduced the LGDF share to municipalities from the originally established percentage of 10 percent of the state income tax proceeds to 6.06 percent currently. This state reallocation of revenue at the expense of our local residents has reduced revenues and in some cases the services provided by every municipality in the



Mayor Suess

state. This has happened during a period where the state continues to force down upon municipalities unfunded mandates ranging from public safety to pensions.

Wheaton is joining communities across the state to ask legislators in Springfield to restore the LGDF distribution to municipalities to 10 percent of income tax proceeds so that we can continue providing the same level of services without having to rely more heavily on other funding sources, such as property taxes. Currently of every dollar DuPage County residents send to Springfield, we receive back roughly 42 cents. At a time now when the state is receiving record revenues, the forced subsidy of state services by municipalities must end. Steps must be taken to restore the original 10 percent allocation of income

tax revenues. Municipal services impact every resident in the state.

You can help amplify this message by contacting your State Senator and State Representative. Tell them you support restoring LGDF funding to municipalities and ask them to encourage their colleagues to do the same. Urge them to be a voice of support for local communities in Springfield. You can find the contact information for our Wheaton representatives below. Please help us restore the full funding of the LGDF.

Contact Information:

State Senators:

Laura Ellman
21st District
info@senatorlauraellman.com

Suzy Glowiak Hilton
24th District
suzy@suzyforsenate.com

State Representatives:

Amy Grant
42nd District
grant@ilhousegop.org

Terra Costa Howard
48th District
RepTCH48@gmail.com

Program Can Assist with Water Fees

Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program Now Available

DuPage County Community Services is accepting applications for the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) to assist income-eligible households with their water and wastewater fees.

The program begins Feb. 1 and runs through Aug. 31, 2023, or until funds are depleted. Applications will be taken on a first-come, first-serve basis by appointment only. Income-eligible homeowners and renters may receive one-time assistance to help with water and wastewater bills, reconnection of water service, and water bill arrearages.

To receive a benefit from the LIHWAP program, households must have a past-due bill of at least \$250 and make no more than the following monthly gross income levels: \$2,147 for a single individual household, \$2,903 for a household of two, \$3,660 for three-member households, and \$4,417 for a household of four. For information, visit <https://www.dupageco.org/lihwap> or call 630-407-6500.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ice-A-Palooza

Date: Saturday, Feb. 5

Time: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Location: Central Athletic Complex, 500 S. Naperville Road

Break your winter blues and experience Ice-A-Palooza with the Wheaton Park District! This is a free outdoor event features ice skating, entertainment, concessions, games and character visits. [Visit the Wheaton Park District's website](#) for more information.

Cocoa Crawl & Ice Art Walk

Date: Saturday, Feb. 5

Time: 12-3 p.m.

Location: Downtown Wheaton

The Downtown Wheaton Association encourages the community to participate in the annual Ice Art Walk & Cocoa Crawl, where participants can visit downtown businesses for cocoa samplings and enjoy the Ice Art Walk. Visit [downtownwheaton.com](#) for more information. Tickets required for the Cocoa Crawl.



Electronic Recycling Drop-off

Date: Saturday, Feb. 12

Time: 9 a.m.-noon

Location: Public Works Storage Yard, 820 W. Liberty Drive

Bring unwanted electronics to the monthly electronic recycling collection. Please note that there is a charge for all TVs and monitors at this event.

WHEATON PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS:

Winter Reading Challenge

Date: Now through Saturday, Feb. 26

Earn points for the

chance to win prizes during the library's all ages reading challenge! Additional information about this event can be found at [wheatonlibrary.org/WRC](#)

Emancipation to Inauguration

Date: Monday, Feb. 7

Time: 7 p.m.

Virtual

Join local historian Clarence Goodman for this retrospective of Chicago's Black Experience. Hear the stories of African-American history in Chicago from the 1790s through the present.

Funny & Romantic Weddings in Movies

Date: Tuesday, Feb. 15

Time: 7 p.m.

Virtual

From spectacular dresses to sidesplitting in-law encounters, you'll enjoy the most romantic, breathtaking and funny wedding scenes ever filmed with Steven Frenzel of Marquee Film Talks.

Art Demo: Design & Composition

Date: Monday, Feb. 21

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Virtual

The key component to every piece of art is design. Watercolorist Spencer Meager will take you inside his composition process. Provided in partnership with the DuPage Art League.

ACES: Veterans Health Care & Benefits

Date: Wednesday, Feb. 23

Time: 7 p.m.

Virtual

The ACES: Aging & Caregiving Engagement & Support series provides a consolidated source of vital information for seniors and caregivers. This month, experts explain programs available to Veterans.



CITY CALENDAR

City Council Meetings and Planning Sessions are held in the Council Chambers at Wheaton City Hall, 303 W. Wesley St. Coffee with Council takes place in the Gamon Room. Visit [www.wheaton.il.us](#) for a complete list of meetings and events.

February 2022

- 5** Coffee with Council, 10 a.m.
- 7** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 14** City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 21** City Offices Closed
- 22** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 28** City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.