

CITY OF WHEATON

NEWSLETTER

March 2022

CITY NOTES

Change Your Clocks, Change Your Batteries

Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 a.m. Sunday, March 13. When you change your clocks, the Wheaton Fire Department also encourages you to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. Replacing the batteries about every 6 months helps ensure they operate correctly, and using Daylight Saving Time is an easy way to remember when you last replaced the batteries.

Employment Opportunities

The City of Wheaton seeks applicants to join our team in the following positions:

- Mechanic (Public Works)
- Public Relations

(Continued on next page)

Wheaton Police Department to Begin Using Body Worn Cameras

Officers to implement new technology in April

In April, the Wheaton Police Department will begin equipping all sworn police officers with body worn cameras. Introducing this technology into our Police Department's operations involved substantial research, planning and investment. Once in place, this is another tool our Police Department will use to promote transparency and accountability in our service to the community.

We understand the Wheaton community may have some questions regarding this change. Leading up to implementation of body worn cameras, we are providing background information on the decision to adopt this technology, and we are releasing a series of weekly Q & A videos to give you a



greater awareness of body camera functions, benefits, limitations, and police guidelines/laws for use, storage, and the public privacy of those captured on camera. [Please see this first short video](#) with the Wheaton Police

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Learn More:

Watch the first in a series of videos with the Police Department at wheaton.il.us/video



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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Coordinator (Communications)

- Lateral Police Officer (Police Department)
- Property Maintenance Inspector, Part-Time (Building & Code Department)
- Seasonal Summer Laborers (Public Works)
- Civil Engineer Summer Internship (Engineering)

To find out more and apply, visit www.wheaton.il.us/jobs.

Yard Waste Pickup Resumes April 4

Yard waste, food scraps and organic materials are collected at the curb from the first full week of April through the second full week of December. Please do not place yard waste at the curb before the week of April 4, as LRS can't accept these materials before the pickup season begins. Use containers no larger than 35 gallons in size or biodegradable paper bags. Each container/bag must weigh no more than 50 pounds and must have one Lakeshore Recycling Systems sticker attached to be collected. For more about yard waste, visit the City's website.

Update

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Department introducing this initiative.

Why Police Departments Use Body Worn Cameras

An increasing number of law enforcement agencies are embracing body worn cameras. Extensive studies and research affirm that the technology provides law enforcement with a tool to promote transparency to the public, increased civilian compliance, quicker resolutions to citizen complaints, increased officer professionalism, and assist with criminal prosecutions.

Wheaton's Planning & Testing

In the fall of 2020, the City decided to secure funding to purchase and deploy body worn cameras for officers. The Police Department's plan included time to research and evaluate various body worn camera vendors against the police department's needs. We researched the implementation, costs and benefits through staff research, field testing, and relevant case law review.

After identifying the industry's top body worn camera companies, the Police Department conducted trial periods throughout 2021, where selected officers were equipped with a body worn camera. The project team assessed critical facets of each system's impact on the police department's infrastructure, including records, FOIA requests/

redactions, evidence/case management, officer and supervisor use, software, and hardware. This provided us with essential first-hand experience with each company's products.

Additionally, we learned valuable lessons from other police departments that already deployed body worn cameras. Command staff met with personnel from other agencies to see body worn cameras in use. Based upon the trials and department research, AXON proved to have the highest level of efficiency and functionality while possessing exclusive critical features that will optimize our department's efficiency.

In October 2021, the Wheaton Police Department presented our research findings to the City Council during a public planning session. The Council voted unanimously to implement and fund Axon body worn cameras. We are currently on pace for full deployment into police services in April 2022.

Moving Forward

The City of Wheaton and the Wheaton Police

Department did not make this decision lightly. We began researching the benefits of body-worn cameras well before our state legislatures made it mandatory. Body-worn cameras will not be mandatory in Wheaton until Jan. 1, 2024, but we are not waiting. When we concluded our research, it was apparent body-worn cameras would be beneficial for the police department and the community. We didn't hesitate to move forward with the purchase and implementation because it was the right thing to do.

To be clear, body-worn cameras do not make a police department professional. Hiring moral and ethical people, providing them with continuous training, and having a principled culture based on respect and compassion are the true hallmarks of a professional police department.

The Wheaton Police Department appreciates your support and will continue to work tirelessly to be worthy of that support.



Body worn cameras will be issued to each sworn police officer.

Roosevelt Road Corridor Community Input Sessions Happening on March 23 and 24

Submit Comments through Online Survey Before Meetings

Now that COVID-19 rates have improved in the community and in-person activities can more safely resume, the City has scheduled two community input sessions regarding the updated draft Roosevelt Road Corridor Plan.

Each session at City Hall, 303 W. Wesley St., will consist of an open house at 6 p.m., and a presentation at 7 p.m., followed by an opportunity for questions and input. The meetings will focus on different sectors of Roosevelt Road:

- **March 23: Sectors 1 & 2:** Roosevelt Road from Carlton Avenue to Chase Street

- **March 24: Sectors 3 & 4:** Roosevelt Road from



There will be two public input sessions; one for Sectors 1 & 2 (Roosevelt from Carlton to Chase), and the second for Sectors 3 & 4 (Roosevelt from Chase to Wheaton's eastern boundary).

Chase Street to Wheaton's eastern boundary

Participants may also participate in these sessions via Zoom starting at 7 p.m. The link to the Zoom login will be shared at www.wheaton.il.us/rooseveltroad before the meetings.

Representatives from the City and Camiros Ltd. will be present to gather feedback and answer questions. An important part of this process is community feedback. Ahead of these sessions, the City encourages anyone interested in this project to

review the updated draft plan and submit feedback through an online form on the City's website. This input will help guide the presentations and discussion on March 23 and 24. Please submit your online comments no later than Friday, March 18.

Fire Department Safety Reminders

The Wheaton Fire Department encourages you to always keep clothes dryers clean and free of lint accumulations. Lint traps need to be cleaned before each use. The areas surrounding the clothes dryer should be cleaned of lint on a regular basis, and the dryer vent discharge and tubing requires a deep cleaning with inspection at least annually.

All vent piping must be tight-fitting, and the



duct vent needs to be constructed of a material listed by a testing agency, such as Underwriters Laboratories. The optimal material for dryer vent piping is rigid metallic. Additionally, all areas

surrounding natural gas appliances always must be clear of storage.

As a final reminder, state law requires you to have a working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors on each level of your home.

Summer Positions Are Available

The City is looking for individuals interested in working for our Public Works Department this summer. Soak up some sun, learn new skills and work with a great team of coworkers. Positions are 40 hours a week, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Applicants must be at least 18 years old at the time of hire. Apply at www.wheaton.il.us/jobs.



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Numerous Capital Projects Happening This Year in Wheaton

Warmer temperatures mean the City will soon be busy with improvements in all parts of Wheaton. The City continues to tackle numerous capital projects necessary to make our community a desirable place to live, work and visit. We budget and plan for these projects on a long-range basis to maintain and improve our City's infrastructure, as these are critical investments in our community. This year alone, the City has appropriated more than \$14 million toward capital improvements. The following are highlights of just a few projects you will see happening this year.

Among the most notable projects will be the completion of the Downtown Streetscape Project, a four-year infrastructure project that has helped put downtown Wheaton on the map. New restaurants, shops, and housing projects speak to the success of this project, and the City is thrilled to see our downtown bustling with activity. The pavilion structure that will host the French Market is among the final pieces of this project, and we anticipate its completion this spring.

Another improvement coming soon will be the addition of new sidewalks where none currently



Mayor Suess

exist. This is part of a City Council initiative to make Wheaton safer and more pedestrian friendly by having a sidewalk on at least one side of every street. We will make impactful strides in this program, with work slated for 17 areas this spring and 15 in the fall. In a separate capital project, the City will continue addressing sidewalk squares that need replacement. This year's focus is on the area north of Roosevelt Road, east of Main Street and south of the railroad tracks.

As we do every year, the City will take on multiple miles of road improvements through our annual Road Program. These streets are identified by performing a pavement condition rating analysis. This scoring system helps determine which roads are up for resurfacing, rehabilitation or complete replacement in accordance with the City's policies. This year our annual program will



The pavilion structure where Wheaton's French Market will take place is beginning to take shape on Liberty Drive.

improve approximately 8 miles of Wheaton streets, and our Public Works Department will improve another 4 miles of streets. In conjunction with the road program, the City will also replace more than 4,000 feet of aging water mains. Once we are closer to the start of this work, you will be able to follow the progress of these improvements at wheaton.il.us/roads.

Crews will continue to improve the City's sanitary sewer system with projects to rehabilitate and replace portions of sewer main. Other work will use a chemical grouting process to line service laterals in two targeted areas to help reduce basement backups and overflows.

We are taking important steps forward as we begin work on the first of many flooding improvement projects to reduce overland flooding. The first project

that is part of the City's Flood Prone Capital Projects is near Dorset Park. City staff met with affected residents and engineering work is being completed.

To reduce the amount of energy the City uses, this year the Public Works Department will continue its long-term project of replacing high pressure sodium streetlight fixtures with LED fixtures. The City has replaced nearly 500 fixtures, with more than 750 remaining.

These projects are part of a long list of capital improvements happening this year as we continue to invest in our community. Through prudent planning, your City Council and City staff will continue working toward our goal of maintaining Wheaton as a desirable residential community with quality infrastructure and services that meet community needs.

Police Department Taking Polar Plunge

Team Frosted Donuts is hungry for more. Following a successful Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Illinois in 2021, the Wheaton Police Department's Team Frosted Donuts will Be Bold, Get Cold by participating in the 2022 Polar Plunge.

Last year, the team raised more than \$27,000 for Special Olympics Illinois athletes with the support of the Wheaton community. The team is aiming its sights on crushing its 2021 fundraising efforts, and the Wheaton community is invited to help.

"We were blown away by our community's support of last year's Polar Plunge," said Wheaton Police Department Community Engagement Officer Crystal Miroballi. "This is one meaningful way that the Wheaton Police



Last year's participants raised \$27,000 for Special Olympics Illinois, and the team is hoping to top its total from last year.

Department can help give back to the community we serve, so we're setting our goal even higher to provide the opportunity for as many local athletes as possible to participate in Special Olympics programs."

This event is part of the Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Illinois,

which supports athletic programs for individuals with intellectual disabilities. More than 23,100 traditional Special Olympics athletes and 13,000 Young Athletes participate in Special Olympics Illinois programs.

Like last year, Special Olympics Illinois is encouraging teams to

organize their own events. The Wheaton Police Department team will be gathering and plunging into a large, icy water-filled pool. If you'd like to learn more about the team or lend your support, you can [visit the team site and click on "Roster" for each member's story and page](#).

Indoor Masking Requirement Lifted in City Facilities

As of Feb. 28, the City of Wheaton is lifting its indoor masking requirement for visitors and staff within City facilities to match updated State of Illinois guidance. Visitors and staff are no longer required to wear masks inside City facilities, which include City Hall, the Police Department, Fire Stations, Wheaton Public Library and Public Works buildings.

The City of Wheaton has consistently based its COVID-19 mitigation policies on the guidance

of the Illinois Department of Public Health and the State of Illinois. Based on continued decreases in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, the State of Illinois is ending its indoor masking requirement for public buildings in Illinois on Feb. 28.

Please note that under State of Illinois requirements, masks are still required where federally mandated – including on public transportation (such as



Metra trains and Pace buses) – and in health care facilities, long-term care facilities, congregate settings and daycare facilities. In addition, private businesses can choose to implement their own masking requirements.

The City of Wheaton

encourages all citizens to protect the health of our community by implementing the recommendations of the Illinois Department of Public Health, such as staying home if you are sick, continued testing when recommended, and being vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19 when eligible.

We appreciate our community's continued respect for one another as we all continue to navigate these challenging times.

Find Green Building Resources for Your Projects



As construction season begins, the City of Wheaton Building Department has compiled resources for residents to consider making their projects more environmentally sustainable.

A new section on the City's website now lists building industry resources that can help provide

information on things such as energy efficiency and different certifications for eco-friendly building practices. You can learn about LEED-certified building standards, Energy Star ratings and how you can incorporate efficiency into your projects and much more by visiting this new section at www.wheaton.il.us/greenbuilding.

UPCOMING EVENTS



We Are Women Art Exhibit

Dates: March 1-31

Location: Participating downtown locations

In honor of Women's History Month, the DuPage Art League, Downtown Wheaton Association, and Wheaton Community Relations Commission partnered together to display artwork from some of the DuPage Art League's female artists and other local artists at some of Wheaton's women-owned or -managed businesses. Visit the City's website for a map of participating locations at wheaton.il.us/womenshistorymonth.

Electronic Recycling

Date: Saturday, March 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. For more information, see www.wheaton.il.us/electronics.

WHEATON PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS:

Visit wheatonlibrary.org/calendar for updates on programs and registration.

An Evening with Madeline Miller

Date: Thursday, March 3

Time: 7 p.m.

Join Madeline Miller, one of the leaders in Greek retellings, New York Times bestselling author, Orange Prize for Fiction winner, to discuss her works, Song of Achilles and Circe. Presented in partnership with 30 Illinois libraries.

Women Breaking the Bias

Date: Tuesday, March 8

Time: 7 p.m.

Celebrate International Women's Day with a dynamic panel of local leaders who will discuss how they overcame stereotypes and realized achievements to #BreaktheBias. Co-sponsored by DuPage Habitat for Humanity, and the Wheaton League of Women Voters.

Author Visit: The Everlasting People

Date: Wednesday, March 9

Time: 7 p.m.

Hear Matthew Milliner, Associate Professor of Art History at Wheaton College, discuss his new book, The Everlasting People. Dr. Milliner researched Christian writer G.K. Chesterton's life and work to understand Indigenous art, mythology, and the history of First Nations

peoples.

Casting a Historic Vote: Suffrage for Women in Illinois

Date: Tuesday, March 15

Time: 7 p.m.

Jeanne Schultz Angel discusses the diverse group of women activists in Illinois prior to 1920 seeking enfranchisement, including attorney Ellen Martin, the first woman to vote in Illinois, and Ida B. Wells. Co-sponsored by the Wheaton League of Women Voters and Wheaton Community Relations Commission.

Living History: Eleanor Roosevelt

Date: Thursday, March 24

Time: 7 p.m.

Join actress and scholar Leslie Goddard as she portrays one of America's most fascinating and influential public figures.

Document Shredding & More at April 2 Event

Drop off items for recycling or disposal

Mark your calendar for a popular event hosted by Wheaton's Environmental Improvement Commission. On Saturday, April 2, from 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., this drive-through event will take place in the Commuter Parking Lot at Carlton and Liberty.

Items you can bring for disposal include:

- Document shredding (no plastic file tabs, no vinyl checkbook covers, no plastic page protectors, no batteries) – funding assistance provided by DuPage County
- Syringes, epi pens, medications, sharps, lancets – by DuPage County Sheriff
- Eye glasses, sun glasses, hearing aids – collected by Wheaton Lions Club
- Books, records, musical instruments, small inkjet cartridges, Brita band filters and pitchers, keys from cars and homes, xrays, bread tags, – collected by SCARCE
- Mercury thermometers/thermostats/barometers –

collected by SCARCE

- Walkers, wheelchairs, crutches – collected for Melba's Place project of Milton Township
- Propane tanks – collected by AmeriGas
- Car and other large batteries – collected by Interstate Battery
- Bikes, helmets and tire pumps – for Working Bikes

Fee-Based Collections:

- Latex paint – collected by E-Paint
- Aerosol cans – collected by Flat Can
- Household batteries \$2 per pound, credit card only – collected by SCARCE, recycled by HazChem

Regular electronics, textiles, scrap metal, fluorescent bulbs and cooking oil **will not** be collected at this event but will be collected the following weekend at Wheaton's regular monthly event.

For more information, visit the City's website.

Make a Plan during Severe Weather Preparedness Week

During the week of Feb. 28-March 4, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency recognizes Severe Weather Preparedness Week, and one action recommended for all Illinois families is making a severe weather preparedness plan.

Family emergency planning can be the key to surviving an emergency. It is important to talk to your family to prepare them for various emergencies. Ensure the whole family is a part of the planning so it addresses everyone's needs.

Recognize that in extreme situations, emergency resources may be limited. Be prepared to care for your family for at least three days. In the event of a public health emergency, the CDC recommends families keep a two-week supply of groceries on hand.

Designate locations to meet. Designate locations to meet in case it is impossible to return home or if you have to

evacuate. Make sure your family knows the address and phone number of both locations. Choose two - one near your home and one outside the neighborhood.

Designate an out-of-area contact person. Family members should call this person to report their locations if they cannot reach each other.

Create an Emergency Supply Kit and a Go Bag. Make sure all household members know where these supplies are.

Locate your gas main and other utilities. Make sure the entire household knows where they are and how to operate them.

Make copies of all important documents. Keep them off-site in a secure location. Include: passports, birth certificates, Social Security cards, wills, deeds, driver's licenses, financial documents, insurance information, and prescriptions. Catalog and photograph valuables, and keep these with your second set of documents.



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.

CITY CALENDAR

March 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 Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 28 City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.