

CITY OF WHEATON NEWSLETTER

January 2023

CITY NOTES

Holiday Garbage Collection & City Office Holiday Closures

City offices will be closed on Monday, Jan. 2, 2023, in observance of the News Year's Day holiday, and there will be no trash pickup on that day. All trash pickups will be delayed by one day for the week of Jan. 2-6.

Holiday Light Recycling Now Open

Wheaton's holiday light recycling program is back now through Friday, Jan. 20. Bring strands of incandescent or LED lights in any condition to the Public Works Storage Facility at 820 W. Liberty Drive between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. weekdays. 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.

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Light Up Wheaton Winners Announced

You decorated. The people voted. But most importantly, this holiday season was brightened! Thank you to all the amazing entries for the Light Up Wheaton Holiday Decorating Contest for all your hard work! Here are the 2022 award recipients:

- **People's Choice:** Entry #5 – 905 N. Washington St.
- **Mayor's Choice:** Entry #8 - 1445 N Blanchard Ct.
- **Most Creative:** Entry #16 – 8 Venetian Way Circle



People's Choice: Entry #5



Mayor's Choice: Entry #8



Most Creative: Entry #10



Honorable Mention: Entry #10



Honorable Mention: Entry #18

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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Christmas Tree Pickup Service Now Available

Christmas trees will be recycled the weeks of Jan. 2 and Jan. 9 at no charge on your garbage pickup day. During this free two-week collection period, make sure trees are free of all decorations and are not in plastic bags. After the two-week collection period, you will need to attach 1 garbage/organic sticker to a Christmas tree to have it collected.

Please note that all pickups the week of Jan. 2 will be delayed by one day due to the New Year's Day observed holiday.

Employment Opportunities

The City has the following employment opportunities:

- Building Inspector
- City Attorney
- Civil Engineer
- Capital Improvements
- Crossing Guard
- Facilities Maintenance Technician
- Firefighter
- Lateral Police Officer
- Maintenance Worker, Water Division (Public Works)

Wheaton Police Department Hosts Shop with a Cop Program

On Saturday, Dec. 10 the Wheaton Police Department hosted one of our favorite events of the year: Shop with a Cop! Sponsored by Wheaton Police Union MAP #699 with donations from Citizen's Police Academy Alumni and SCARCE, officers

brought kids to Target in a parade of squad cars to shop for gifts for themselves and their families. We were so happy to bring the kids back into the shopping experience with us and help make the holidays a little brighter for local families.



Yard Flooding Improvement Reimbursement Program Applications Due Feb. 1, 2023



Applications for the Yard Flooding Improvement Reimbursement Program are due Feb. 1, 2023. If you frequently experience flooding or standing water in your yard, this shared-cost program will fund up to 50% of the cost, up to \$5,000, for you

to have a contractor install a private storm sewer in your yard that connects to the City's storm sewer system. To submit an application, [visit the City's website](#). Pre-approval from the City is required, and this program does not apply to work that has already been completed.

Shared Cost Parkway Tree Planting Program Expands

The City of Wheaton's Shared Cost Parkway Tree Planting Program, which allows homeowners to have a new tree planted in the parkway adjacent to their property at a shared cost, has expanded to offer an increased number of trees. This program is open from January 1, 2023 - March 1, 2023, or until allocated funds are met. Qualified homeowners can select from up to 12 species of trees at a cost of \$95. The City's Forestry Division will plant the trees in the spring or fall (depending on the species or availability). Applications are now available.

City of Wheaton Names Robert Brill New Fire Chief

The City of Wheaton is pleased to welcome Robert Brill as the next Fire Chief to lead the Wheaton Fire Department. He will be sworn in at the Jan. 17, 2023 City Council meeting.

Chief Brill's professional experience includes more than 20 years in firefighting service with the Wilmette Fire Department, most recently as Deputy Fire Chief. Prior to becoming a firefighter, Brill served as a police officer with the Palatine Police Department.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Western Illinois University, an Executive Fire Officer designation from the National Fire Academy and



Chief Fire Officer designation from the Center for Public Safety Excellence.

"Many people choose to live in Wheaton because this is a safe community that provides excellent services to our residents and businesses," said City Manager Michael Dzugan. "Our Fire Department is an important part of that, and Chief Brill's extensive experience will make him a great fit to lead this outstanding department. We are pleased to welcome him to Wheaton."

"The City of Wheaton is a very desirable community to work and live in, so being asked to join their leadership team was an opportunity I am excited to accept," Brill said. "As Fire Chief, I look forward to leading this group of dedicated professionals as we continue our mission of delivering the high-quality service expected by our residents and visitors."

The City of Wheaton completed a comprehensive recruiting process to select a new fire chief upon the July 1 retirement of former Chief Bill Schultz, who had served with the Wheaton Fire Department since 2003.

Sergeant Smith Completes Northwestern University's Center for Public Safety Staff & Command



academically challenging 10-week program provided instruction and training specifically focused for the law enforcement community as part of The Center for Public Safety.

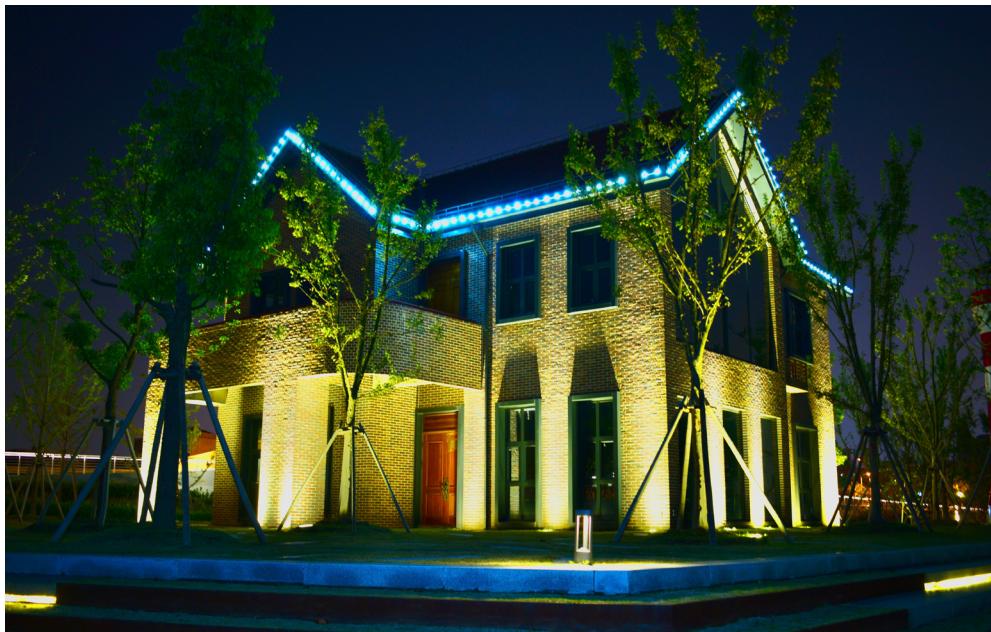
The Wheaton Police Department anticipates a variety of benefits from Sgt. Smith's attendance in the program, including the advanced instruction she received in the areas of strategic planning, management, leadership and organizational behavior. Continued education and development through this program are an example of the

Wheaton Police Department's commitment to ensuring Wheaton's police force is well developed, highly trained and ready to serve in any situation.

As part of this program, participants choose an organization to support, which serves as a legacy gift of their participation. SPSC Class 531 selected both Partners for Progress Therapeutic Equestrian Center in Wauconda and Cal's Angels, which raises money for pediatric cancer research, grants wishes and raises awareness. Class 531 collectively raised more than \$18,000 for the organizations.

The Wheaton Police Department is pleased to announce the recent graduation of Sgt. Angela Smith from Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command, where she was named Class President. The

The City of Wheaton Adopts Residential Lighting Ordinance



To help establish outdoor lighting standards in Wheaton's neighborhoods, the City Council recently adopted a residential lighting ordinance. The goal of this ordinance is to help ensure that outdoor lights are not a nuisance to neighboring properties by establishing some minimal restrictions.

Key aspects of this ordinance include:

- Landscape lights and floodlights can't be directed off your property.
- Light from your property's light fixtures (such as coach light fixtures attached to your home near your front door or garage, catenary lights and post lights) must have minimal spread beyond your property line onto adjoining private property. The established limit is that the lighting levels cannot exceed beyond .1 foot candle level onto adjoining private property.
- Security lights that use a motion sensor must not be able to be activated by activity outside of your property line, and they can stay activated for a maximum of 5 minutes. For example, they can't be activated by someone walking on the sidewalk (which is in the public right-of-way) or passing cars.

The ordinance also adopts a requirement for new residential construction to use International Dark Sky Association and/or Dark Sky-compliant outdoor lighting fixtures. These are fixtures that minimize glare and do not pollute the night sky. These types of fixtures are widely available as an option at commercial stores.

Some actions you can take if you find that your existing lights are not in compliance with the new ordinance include switching to a lower-wattage light bulb, changing the direction that landscaping/flood lights point, and adjusting the range or sensitivity of motion-activated lights.

This ordinance is not intended to cause property owners to buy new fixtures or make significant changes; it's simply intended to ensure that property owners are being a good neighbor by keeping light on their own property. We appreciate your cooperation to help be a considerate neighbor.

To see the full ordinance, visit the City's website. Residents with questions can contact the City at 630-260-2008, or report concerns using the [Service Request Form](#).

January is 'Radon Action Month' in Illinois

Protect Your Family from Radon



The Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) is urging residents to take time in the coming weeks to test their home for radon as part of Radon Action Month.

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. Radon related health risks are preventable with a simple home detection test.

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

Facts about the dangers of radon:

- It's estimated more than 1,100 people in Illinois develop radon-related lung cancer each year.
- Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after cigarette smoking.
- People can be exposed to radon primarily from breathing radon in air that comes through cracks and gaps in buildings and homes.

New Hours for The Wheaton Police Department Lobby



The Wheaton Police Department began new lobby hours on Sunday, Dec. 25, 2022. Police Services Representatives are available to assist in-person or by telephone (630-260-2161) at the Wheaton Police Department from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday

and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday. The lobby is closed on Sundays.

This change will not affect emergency services; emergency police services are available at all times by calling 9-1-1. Officers will continue to be staffed 24 hours a day.

In addition, there are many services that can be requested or completed online any time. Through the City's website, you can:

- [File a police report](#) for incidents that do not require an immediate response
- [Submit a compliment or](#)

[complaint](#) regarding police service

- [Submit a request for overnight parking](#)
- [Report damage to City property](#)
- [Report an illegally parked vehicle](#)
- [Submit a traffic concern](#)
- [Request a vacation house watch](#)
- [View crime and arrest reports](#)
- [Submit a Freedom of Information Act request](#)

Anyone who wants to make an in-person police report or needs assistance at the Police Department outside of the lobby hours can do so by using the call box at the entrance, and an officer will be dispatched to assist.

Wheaton City Council Passes Budget with No Increase in Tax Levy for Fourth Consecutive Year

On Monday, Dec. 19, 2022, the Wheaton City Council approved the City's 2023 annual budget, which touts no increase in the property tax levy for the fourth year in a row. Additionally, the budget includes no new taxes, and no increase in water, sewer or parking rates.

Despite not raising taxes or revenues, the 2023 budget will maintain current services and will invest more than 22% of the budget – or \$26.9 million – in capital improvements to ensure high-quality infrastructure in our community.

The City continues to be well-positioned to withstand economic downturns because of its strong economy, financial policies and budget performance and flexibility. In fact, the City of Wheaton is one of only 19 communities in Illinois and 426 in the U.S. to receive Standard & Poor's Global Ratings 'AAA' credit rating, the top possible rating.

"Even in uncertain economic times, Wheaton residents and businesses can rest assured that their

City is in elite company when it comes to financial position," said City Manager Michael Dzigan. "The City is continually planning, evaluating and adjusting to make fiscally smart choices both in the long term and immediate term for our community."

Only 12.4% of a property owner's tax bill goes to the City of Wheaton, from which the City provides services including fire and police protection; emergency medical services; infrastructure repairs and improvements; snow removal; library services; and numerous other general government services. Approximately 68.3% of property taxes are distributed to School District 200; 10.2% to Wheaton Park District; 2.9% to College of DuPage District 502; and 2.2% to DuPage County. Several other township and county entities receive the remaining portion. In addition to property taxes, the City's other major revenue sources include income tax, sales tax, charges for services and utility taxes.

You can [view the full City budget on the City's website](#).



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Looking Ahead to 2023

Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and safe new year. Given the start of the new year, I wanted to share with you some of the key tasks the City is looking to accomplish in 2023. Anticipated expenditures in 2023 are projected to be \$121.0M in comparison to \$145.6M in 2022. Of this total, approximately \$26.9M will be allocated to capital expenditures. This year, we will set in motion even more initiatives to move the City forward for many years to come by continuing to make key investments in our infrastructure, our services, and our people. These investments include:

- The City continues to invest in its infrastructure, having several projects slated for completion in 2023. These include improving a target of 3.72 miles of Wheaton roads through the annual Road, Sewer, and Water Rehabilitation Program including the rebuilding of 0.41 miles of road. The New Sidewalk Program



Mayor Suess

will add 7.5 miles of new sidewalks to improve safety in our neighborhoods and make our community more accessible to all. We will continue to tackle flooding issues, including work this year with the Cadillac/ Wakeman Flood Prone Project. We will improve the City's storm sewers by improving 1/2 mile of storm sewers through the Storm Sewer Rehabilitation Lining Program. The Library will see improvements to the West Plaza through a substantial renovation project, through which the City is receiving \$750,000 in federal grant funding. We will also continue replacing water mains where necessary and implement the Lead Service Line

Replacement Program. We will continue to work with residents to reduce sanitary backups in homes.

- The City continues its dedication to public safety through the Police Department's public outreach events, evaluating the implementation of an automated license plate reader program, and increasing our social services programs. The Fire Department will also conduct the Citizens Fire Academy Program and fire safety inspections of multi-family occupancies to ensure safety within these residential properties. The Fire Department anticipates taking delivery of a new pumper truck.
- This year, the City's efforts on environmental stability will remain strong through continuing initiatives to improve the energy efficiency of all City facilities, reducing vehicle

emissions, replacing 72 High Pressure Sodium streetlight fixtures with energy efficient LED fixtures and sponsoring ongoing recycling events. In addition, the City is expanding its cost sharing program to provide for new parkway trees.

• The City maintained a stable budget throughout the 2022 year and recently passed its 2023 Annual Operating Budget, which touts no increase in the property tax levy for the fourth year in a row. Additionally, the budget includes no new taxes, and no increase in water, sewer or parking rates. The City continues to maintain a strong financial position with reserves exceeding target amounts.

We are fortunate to live in Wheaton and to have the resources to maintain Wheaton as a desirable residential community. I look forward to our community having a prosperous and enjoyable 2023.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wheaton Nights of Lights

Date: Through Jan. 9
Location: Adams Park

The winter season is here and so, too, is Wheaton's Nights of Lights! Adams Park is lit with thousands of bulbs for another year of a festive celebration. This year, the light display has new features including an animated ice skater, and a custom poinsettia archway marking the entrance to Adams Park at Main and Wesley streets. Adams Park is lit from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. through Jan. 9.

Electronic Recycling Monthly Drop-off

Date: Saturday, Jan. 14

Time: 9 a.m.-Noon
Location: Wheaton Public Works Storage Yard, 820 W. Liberty Drive

Drop off unwanted electronics, scrap metal, cooking oil and fluorescent tube bulbs for recycling. Please note there is a charge for TVs and monitors. See the [City's website for details](#).

Cocoa Crawl

Date: Saturday, Jan. 14
Time: Noon-3 p.m.
Location: Participating downtown locations

Join the Downtown Wheaton Association for the Cocoa Crawl, where you can stroll around town tasting a variety

of uniquely prepared hot cocoas from Downtown Wheaton businesses. The event will also include a live ice carving performance in the south pavilion at Liberty and Main. For ticket information, see the [Downtown Wheaton Association's website](#).

a sneak peek at the hottest spring trends. In addition to tastings, your souvenir wine glass is yours to keep. Make it an early Valentine's Day date or gather the girls for a Galentine's Day celebration!

Winter Wine Walk 2023

Date: Saturday, Feb. 4
Time: 2 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
Location: Downtown Wheaton

Stroll throughout Downtown Wheaton and enjoy 12 one-ounce wine tastes at participating businesses! Shop your favorite stores and get

Event check-in and materials pick-up begins at 1:00 p.m. All attendees must bring their driver's license or state ID to be age verified at check-in. For ticket information, see the [Downtown Wheaton Association's website](#).

LIBRARY EVENTS

Visit the Wheaton Public Library website for details and for registration at [wheatonlibrary.org/](#)

MLK's Chicago Freedom Movement

Date: Thursday, Jan. 12

Time: 7 p.m.

In-person

Prepare to honor Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with photographer Bernard Kleina, whose rare and historic color photography exhibit, The Chicago Freedom Movement, is on display during January in the library's Arts & Culture Center. In partnership with the City of Wheaton Community Relations

Commission and Wheaton League of Women Voters. Registration required.

Concert: Donna Herula Trio

Date: Sunday, Jan. 15

Time: 2 p.m.

In-person

Singer, songwriter, and Chicago Blues Hall of Fame inductee Donna Herula is joined by Tony Wittrock (guitar, mandolin, banjo) and Marc Edelstein (upright bass) for an afternoon of blues and roots

music. No registration required.

Organizing Closets and Kitchens

Date: Wednesday, Jan. 18

Time: 7 p.m.

Hybrid

Keeping order in these clutter hotspots can be overwhelming. Jennifer Barnes of JB Organizing will identify major roadblocks, provide key principles, and give specific strategies to organize and maintain your closets and kitchen.

Registration required.

Mobile DMV

Date: Monday, Jan. 30

Time: 10a.m.-2 p.m.

In-person

The Secretary of State's Mobile Express Unit will offer limited services, including Driver's License/State ID Card renewal, replacement, and correction, Vehicle Sticker Sales, and more. Visit [wheatonlibrary.org/](#) calendar for more info. No registration required.

Historic Site Plaque Installed in Downtown Wheaton



Next time you're in downtown Wheaton, check out the new historic site marker at the northwest corner of Liberty and Main Street commemorating the former Chicago, Elgin and Aurora train station that previously stood at the site. The marker stands on one of the original balusters from the 1912 train station. This electric rail line was in service until 1957, and now the Illinois Prairie Path follows the track of this once busy rail line. Thank you to the City's Historic Commission for leading this project and to Michael Bowen for preserving and donating the baluster. For more information, visit <https://www.wheaton.il.us/292/Historic-Commission>.

Wheaton Public Library Project to Receive \$750,000 Federal Grant

The City of Wheaton recently received notice that Congressman Sean Casten (IL-06) has secured \$750,000 in federal funding to rehabilitate and expand the Wheaton Public Library's West Plaza entrance. These improvements will allow for more outdoor community events that provide opportunities for Wheaton residents to engage with the library's services. The City submitted this project through Representative Casten's office earlier this year for Community Project Funding consideration. This funding passed the Senate and House recently as part of the federal budget and will soon be signed into law by President Biden.

"After an extremely competitive project submission process and many months spent advocating tirelessly for our community, I am proud to deliver \$750,000 in Community Project Funding for the Wheaton Public Library," said Rep. Casten. "I am

proud to have fought for funding that will make our community healthier, safer, stronger, and even more resilient. This is democracy in action."

"This funding is crucial to our long-term vision for the Library," said Betsy Adamowski, Executive Library Director at Wheaton Library. "With it, we can make much needed repairs to our west entrance and also convert it into a large public gathering space that overlooks the beautiful, historic Adams Park here in downtown Wheaton. We'll be able to bring youth programs outside, host new events like outdoor movies or concerts, and provide a more welcoming destination for any visitors stopping by to read a book. The Wheaton Public Library exists to connect the community to both knowledge and experiences. This project allows us to expand on that tradition in new ways, and we are very grateful for the opportunity to carry it out."



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 at City Hall. Visit www.wheaton.il.us for a complete list of meetings and events.

CITY CALENDAR

January 2023

- 2 City Offices Closed, no trash pickup
- 7 Coffee with Council, 10 a.m.
- 9 City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 17 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 23 City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.