

CITY OF WHEATON

NEWSLETTER

March 2023

CITY NOTES

Change Your Clocks, Change Your Batteries

Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 a.m. Sunday, March 12. When you change your clocks, the Wheaton Fire Department also encourages you to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors, if they are the type with replaceable batteries. Replacing the batteries approximately 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.

Pedestrian Safety in Downtown Wheaton

With the warmer months right around the corner, Downtown Wheaton will have even more foot traffic. As a pedestrian, it's important to always use the crosswalks and obey traffic signals. Drivers should also exercise caution by stopping for pedestrians at crosswalks and intersections, staying out of crosswalks when stopped at intersections, and obeying posted speed limits.

ComEd to Perform Tree Trimming Soon

Trees and branches

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Wheaton's Adams Park Awarded Level 1 Arboretum Accreditation

With its winding walking paths, historic central fountain, abundant green space and dozens of benches, Wheaton's Adams Park has been a favorite community spot for generations. The next time you visit, you can appreciate that you're in an arboretum.

Adams Park, the historic 2.5-acre City park located adjacent to the Wheaton Public Library and just north of downtown Wheaton, recently received official Level 1 Arboretum Accreditation by the ArbNet Accreditation Program and The Morton Arboretum. The City's Forestry Division received this designation by achieving specific standards of professional practices



for arboretums and botanic gardens. Qualifications cover areas including the variety of plant species, having an arboretum plan, accessibility, and staffing to care for the park.

The City of Wheaton's Public Works Forestry & Public Grounds Division's 9 full-time staff members –

several of whom are International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborists – perform the care and maintenance of Adams Park, along with caring for more than 20,000 trees throughout Wheaton.

"Earning this status for Adams Park helps the community recognize what a fantastic

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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

CITY NOTES

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that interfere with power lines can create safety hazards and cause power outages. Preventative tree maintenance helps avoid power outages. Starting this month, ComEd will trim trees, branches, and vines that interfere or have the potential to interfere with power lines. In some cases, tree removal may be required. For more information, visit ComEd.com/Trees or call 800-Edison-1 (800-334-7661). You can also [view a map of impacted areas in Wheaton by visiting the City's website](#).

City Boards & Commissions Seeking Applications for Open Positions

Do you want to make an impact in the Wheaton community? Get involved by applying for an open position on one of the boards! The following are accepting applications:

- Band Commission
- Bicyclist and Pedestrian Commission
- Downtown Design Review Board
- Fine & Cultural Arts Commission
- Historic Commission
- Library Board

To apply, [complete the City's online Boards & Commissions Application](#).

Employment Opportunities

The City of Wheaton has the following employment opportunities available:

- Administrative Assistant
- Civil Engineer - Capital Improvements
- Civil Engineer - Summer Internship
- Crossing Guard
- Part-Time Social Worker
- Public Safety Analyst

Summer Laborer

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

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public resource we have," said Forestry Superintendent Jason Ackerlund. "Our goal is to provide a diverse, informational and relaxing natural environment for everyone to enjoy. When you visit the park, you can see and learn about many more types of trees and plants than in your neighborhood."

In conjunction with this plan, the City also created [an online map](#) with information on each of the park's 138 trees, of which there are 53 different species.

"Taking these extra steps to receive accreditation not only helps validate what we know is an outstanding park, but it provides educational opportunities for the community, as well," said City Manager Michael Dzigan. "This process is another example of the City's dedication to the environment and Wheaton's urban forest."

The Morton Arboretum now lists Adams Park as an accredited arboretum in the Morton Register of Arboreta, a

database of the world's arboreta and gardens dedicated to woody plants.

The City of Wheaton has maintained Adams Park since it was donated to the City by Katherine Adams Wells in 1943. As part of a master plan to make the park more accessible, in 2019 the City completed significant renovations to widen paths and replace stairs with accessible ramps to different park features

Adams Park is always free and is open to the public year-round.

City Parkway Tree Pruning Program Underway

The City's Parkway Tree Pruning Program is underway for the 2023 season as City crews and the City's contractor, Winkler's Tree Service, started pruning parkway trees located South of Roosevelt Road, West of Lorraine Road, North of 22nd Street, and East of Blanchard Street. Residents can expect to see City owned and contractor owned bucket trucks and chippers in work areas. Signage will be present to notify residents they are entering an active tree pruning work zone.

The City's Parkway Tree Pruning Program is a program that helps

preserve the natural growth habits of the City's parkway trees, and 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.

For more information or questions, please contact the City of Wheaton's Forestry Division at 630-260-2122.

Participate in the City's Sewer Reimbursement Programs



The City of Wheaton is committed to reducing sewer issues in our community. In addition to the extensive investments made in improving the portion of the sanitary sewer system maintained by the City, we also offer several reimbursement programs to assist residents in making improvements that will address immediate

issues or prevent future issues on their property.

The 3 Sewer Reimbursement Programs include:

- [Residential Sewer Backup Prevention Program](#): Prevents future sewer backups into your home by rerouting basement plumbing to an overhead sewer. The City will reimburse 75% of eligible repair costs, up to a maximum of \$8,000.
- [Sanitary Sewer Service Line Reimbursement Program](#): Replaces your entire sanitary service line to fix breaks in the system. The City will reimburse 65% of eligible repair costs, up to \$13,000.
- [Foundation Footing Tile Disconnection Program](#): Disconnects illegal direct connections to the City's sewer system. The City will reimburse 100% of eligible costs, up to \$5,000.

Community Relations Commission Accepting Nominations for 2023 Good Citizens Awards



The Community Relations Commission is seeking nominations for individuals and groups for the City of Wheaton's 2023 Good Citizens Awards now through Friday, March 31.

The categories for nominees are:

- Student (elementary, middle, high school, or college)
- Adult
- Group

Nominees must be current Wheaton residents who go above and beyond for the benefit of Wheaton and its citizens.

This award helps recognize a resident or

group who make generous and extraordinary contributions to the City.

This may be volunteer service for a school, religious institution, nursing home, civic group, or nonprofit organization.

To nominate someone, fill out an online application at <https://www.wheaton.il.us/goodcitizens> by Friday March 31, or mail your application to Wheaton City Hall, Attn: Andrea Rosedale, 303 W. Wesley St., Wheaton, IL 60187. The Community Relations Commission will review nominations and honor award recipients at the Monday, May 15 City Council meeting.



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Wheaton Community Welcomes Economic Development



Mayor Suess

Wheaton's business community is thriving, and there is much to celebrate, including new businesses establishing themselves in Wheaton; development of both residential and commercial properties; and strong economic growth reflected through sales tax revenues.

Wheaton homeowners and developers continue to invest in properties across the City. The City's Building Department has seen an increase in homeowners investing in interior remodeling fueled by a rise in more individuals working from home. The City is also seeing a significant investment in improving multi-family housing. With 832 commercial permit applications in 2022 alone, this 41% increase from 2021 reflects that several multi-family housing subdivisions are making significant improvements to each individual living unit within their complexes. Wheaton also welcomed a total of 40 new homes in 2021 and 2022. This all illustrates a substantial level of investment into Wheaton that coincides with several

high-profile projects across the City.

Last year, the successful Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District #2 Main Street Redevelopment Project came to its completion. TIF #2, established in 1999, revitalized the Main Street Corridor into a vibrant, thriving mixed-use center. This project added \$40 million in equalized assessed value, an increase of 346.4% from 1999 and produced several successful redevelopment projects and infrastructure improvements including:

- Wheaton Property Partners (120 E. Liberty Drive): a large class A mixed-use building.
- Wheaton 121 Luxury Apartments: a 306-unit luxury residential apartment development.
- Redevelopment Grant Programs: TIF #2 provided financial assistance to more than 130 business owners for new signs, awnings, façade improvements, as well as retail grants for making interior improvements.
- Downtown Streetscape Project: a \$35.7 million multi-year infrastructure project that brought updates and improvements to underground utilities, roadways, lighting, and signage while creating wider, more pedestrian-friendly sidewalks throughout

downtown.

The City Council also recently approved several significant projects in the downtown, demonstrating the success of the Downtown Streetscape Project as a catalyst for business investment. Construction is under way on Liberty Flats, an 18-unit, 4-story apartment development at the southwest corner of Liberty Drive and Wheaton Avenue. The City also approved a 334-unit apartment development to be built on the block bounded by Wheaton Avenue, Liberty Drive, Hale Street, and Willow Avenue, which is an investment of approximately \$100 million. A new owner of the property at the northwest corner of Main and Front Street also plans to renovate the building to house a new retail and restaurant tenant on the ground floor with a new office tenant on the second floor. In the next 6 months, 3 new restaurants will be opening along Front Street in Downtown Wheaton. Between 2021-2022, the City also welcomed 83 new businesses to the community.

There are also plans in store in several other commercial corridors. On Roosevelt Road, the City approved the redevelopment of the vacant PNC Bank at Roosevelt and Naperville Road to become a new urgent care facility and day care center. VASA Fitness, a national fitness

operator new to the area, has signed a lease to occupy the former Ultra Foods space near the Target shopping center. A multi-tenant development is under construction on the site of the former Macaroni Grill restaurant, which will include a drive-through Chipotle; and Nordstrom Rack and J.Crew Factory stores will be joining the Danada Square East Shopping Center.

Another strong economic indicator illustrating financial health in Wheaton is the City's annual sales tax revenues. After the City experienced a 5% decrease in sales tax revenues in 2020, we have experienced a sharp positive turnaround, with a 26.6% increase in 2021 and another 1.1% in 2022. While part of this growth can be attributed to a change in sales tax legislation that now provides sales tax to the City from online purchases, continued increases demonstrate the strength of the local economy.

In Wheaton, you'll see the many signs of a successful business and residential community: new businesses bringing more opportunities to shop, dine and do business locally, surrounded by a thriving residential community.

To all our businesses and residents that call Wheaton home, we appreciate your hard work and support of the City's continued efforts.

Wheaton Police Officers Making Lunchtime Visits with Community School District 200 Elementary Students

Wheaton Police officers visited Wheaton's Community Unit School District 200 elementary schools during lunch as part of the Police Department's community outreach efforts. This program provided opportunities for students to get to know the officers who serve in their community and have positive interactions with them. Thank you to the students and school staff for the welcome and all the great questions! We appreciate the continued partnership with District 200 to create safe school communities.



Reminder on Campaign Signs in Wheaton

As we are in the spring election season, the City reminds residents and businesses of Wheaton's restrictions on where you can and can't place campaign signs.

These requirements are part of the City's Zoning Ordinance to help ensure the safety of drivers and pedestrians by maintaining clear sight lines and discouraging distractions to drivers.

Requirements for

campaign signs:

Size: Campaign signs must be no more than 16 square feet in residential districts or 32 square feet in non-residential districts.

Location: Signs must be on private property. They must not be in the parkway, generally the area between the sidewalk and the street, or on any other public property. Signs can't be attached to a tree or utility pole, regardless of whether it is on public or private property.



You can [read the City's ordinance related to signs](#). Under [Wheaton City Code](#), violations can result in a fine between \$100

and \$500.

To report signs that are not meeting these requirements, you can use the [City's Service Request Form](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Candidate Forums - Wheaton City Council and District 200

Date: Thursday, March 2

Time: See below

Location: Wheaton City Hall, 303 W. Wesley St.

The Wheaton League of Women Voters will host a Candidates Forum in which candidates for Wheaton City Council and Community Unit School District 200 Board will participate. All District 200 and City Council candidates on the April ballot have been invited to attend.

Schedule:

- 6:00 p.m.-District 200 Forum
- 7:15 p.m.-Wheaton City

Council Forum

The City of Wheaton will record these forums, and they will be available after the event on the City's website. More information about the event is available on the [Wheaton League of Women Voters website](#).

We Are Women Art Exhibit

Date: Now-Friday, March 31

Time: See link below
Location: Throughout downtown Wheaton, view 30+ pieces of artwork from local women artists from the DuPage Art League, St Michael's School, Wheaton North

High School, Clare Woods Academy, and Inklude Studio on display at some of Wheaton's women-owned or -managed businesses. Presented by the Wheaton Community Relations Commission, Downtown Wheaton Association, and DuPage Art League. Visit <https://www.wheaton.il.us/womenshistorymonth> for an event map.

Electronic Recycling

Dates: Saturday, March 11

Time: 9 a.m.-noon

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

Bring unwanted electronics to the monthly

electronic recycling collection. This is a drive-through event where volunteers will help unload items from your car. There is a charge for all TVs and monitors at this event. For more information, see the [City's website](#).

Women's History Month

Wheaton's Community Relations Commission has compiled a range of local resources and events related to Women's History Month. Visit the [City's website](#) to learn more about Women's History Month.

LIBRARY EVENTS

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

Seed Starting

Date: Wednesday, March 15

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: Hybrid Wheaton Public Library 225 N Cross St

Give your garden a head start for the spring growing season. Learn about the equipment and methods used for starting seeds indoors from a University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener. *Registration required.*

Concert: STEAM Trio

Date: Sunday, March 19

Time: 2-3:30 p.m.

Location: In-Person Wheaton Public Library 225 N Cross St.

Celebrate St. Patrick's

with STEAM Trio, described as a dynamic blend of traditional Irish and Celtic melodies with modern rhythmic ideas and chord structures. WPL acknowledges support from the Illinois Arts Council Agency. *No registration required.*

Women of Wheaton

Date: Tuesday, March 21

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: In-person Wheaton Public Library 225 N Cross St.

Wheaton historian and journalist Bob Goldsborough will share the history and accomplishments of some of Wheaton's notable women who have made an impact at the local or

national level. Provided in partnership with the Wheaton League of Women Voters and the City of Wheaton Community Relations Commission. *Registration required.*

Living History: Beatrix Potter

Date: Wednesday, March 22

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: Hybrid Wheaton Public Library 225 N Cross St.

Meet this beloved author and illustrator whose skills went far beyond Peter Rabbit. Beatrix Potter overcame barriers to keep women out of business and science and worked to

preserve the landscape and culture of England's Lake District. *Registration required.*

Bombshells: Hollywood's Leading Ladies

Date: Thursday, March 30

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: Hybrid Wheaton Public Library 225 N Cross St.

Remaining iconic to this day, join Film Historian Dr. Annette Bochenek as she discusses the top Hollywood bombshells, their history and legacies. This program will include a multimedia presentation consisting of photos, video clips, and captivating stories. *Registration required.*

Illinois Emergency Management Agency's (IEMA) Severe Weather Preparedness Month



In Illinois, the weather can change from sunny skies to a downpour of rain and thunder. While the variable weather is normal for many, it is important to not become complacent about severe weather threats. The Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) and the National Weather Service (NWS) have teamed up to publish a Severe Weather Preparedness Guide to help Illinoisans be better prepared when severe weather strikes. To stay safe in severe

weather conditions, Illinoisans are encouraged to:

- Update your family communications plan
- Make a severe weather preparedness plan
- Build an emergency preparedness kit
- Identify your safe place to during a storm
- Know the various weather watches/ warnings/advisories

The National Weather Service (NWS) is the official agency for issuing severe weather watches, warnings and advisories to alert the

public when dangerous weather conditions are expected.

The National Weather Service and state and local emergency management officials strongly encourage people to have a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) All Hazards Weather Radio with battery backup. In addition to NOAA weather radios, Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) can provide lifesaving information about impending storms and emergencies.

DuPage County Early Voting Program Began



This spring, registered voters can cast their ballots for local positions including those on the Wheaton City Council and School Board.

While Election Day for the Consolidated General Election is April 4, the Early Voting program allows any eligible DuPage County voter to vote before Election Day. All locations are 100% compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Early Voting at the DuPage County Fairgrounds started Thursday, February 23, 2023.

For more information about early voting locations across DuPage County and additional information, visit [DuPage County's website](#).



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

March 2023

- 4 Coffee with Council, 10 a.m.
- 6 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 13 City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 20 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 27 City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.