

# CITY OF WHEATON NEWSLETTER

April 2023

## CITY NOTES

### Yard Waste Pickup Resumes April 3

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.

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 LRS sticker attached to be collected.

You can include many types of organic materials with your yard waste, including:

- Plants: Floral trimmings, tree trimmings, leaves, grass, brush, weeds
- Foods: fruits, vegetables, meat, poultry, seafood, shellfish, bones, rice, beans, pasta, bread,

*(Continued on next page)*

## Wheaton to Begin Multi-Year Lead Service Line Replacement Program

Starting next month, the City of Wheaton will begin a multi-year infrastructure project to replace all water service lines made from lead, helping to ensure the best possible drinking water for everyone in our community. Not only will the City be replacing any City-maintained water services that contain lead, but the City will extend this program to assist residents who have lead service lines on private property at no cost to these property owners.

It is not uncommon for homes – especially those built before the 1950s – to have lead water service lines, and this should not be a cause for concern. All water in Wheaton undergoes corrosion-control treatment to prevent lead from



leaching into our drinking water, and the City tests our water to ensure it meets or exceeds all EPA requirements. However, the best practice is to replace all services that contain lead with new copper services, and the state of Illinois is now requiring communities to create a plan to replace lead service lines. The City's proactive plan will replace service lines ahead of the state's requirements. Of the more than 16,500 water service lines, less than 7% are made from lead.

The City's Water Division has begun sending notifications to property owners whose service lines the City has identified as containing lead. The notification informs property owners which year of the program service line replacement to their home is scheduled to take place. This information, along with much more about this program, is also available through the City's website at [www.wheaton.il.us/LeadReplacement](http://www.wheaton.il.us/LeadReplacement).

## 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](mailto:communications@wheaton.il.us)

## CITY NOTES

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baked goods, grains, cheese, eggshells  
• Other Compostable Items: napkins, paper towels, paper plates, paper milk cartons, tea bags, coffee grounds/filters

For more information, [visit the City's website](#).

### City to Improve 8 Miles of Wheaton Roads

The City plans to improve approximately 8 miles of roads in 2023, with work kicking off this spring. This includes approximately 3.7 miles of roads being resurfaced or reconstructed by crews contracted by the City with R.W. Duntelman Company, and more than 6 miles of roads being improved by the City's Public Works Department. A list of road segments included in this year's plan and updates on their status will be available soon at [wheaton.il.us/roads](http://wheaton.il.us/roads).

### City Offices Closed April 7

Non-emergency City of Wheaton offices will be closed on Friday, April 7. Garbage, recycling, and yard waste pickup will not be affected.

### Employment Opportunities

The City of Wheaton has the following employment opportunities available:

- Administrative Assistant
- Civil Engineer - Capital Improvements
- Civil Engineer - Summer Internship
- Crossing Guard
- Maintenance Worker (Public Works, Streets Division)
- Part-Time Social Worker
- Summer Laborer

To find out more, visit [www.wheaton.il.us/jobs](http://www.wheaton.il.us/jobs).

### Consolidated Municipal Election April 4

As a reminder, the 2023 Consolidated Election takes place April 4. Included in this election are two At-Large positions on the Wheaton City Council, and the position of Mayor. Voters will also vote for positions on their local school board. For more information regarding voting, candidates, results, and more visit [DuPage County's website](http://DuPage County's website).



## Wheaton French Market to Begin its Season this Month

**T**he Wheaton French Market returns every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 8 through Oct. 28, with shorter hours to finish out the season Nov. 4-25.

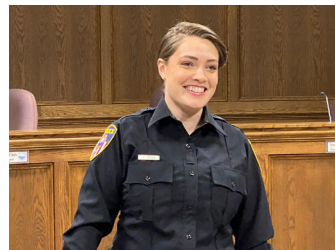
This year's market will be the first time it is held under the City's new downtown pavilion, just south of the railroad tracks near Main Street and Liberty

Drive. This popular outdoor market run by Bensidoun USA is styled after the quaint outdoor markets of France, offering fresh produce, flowers, handcrafted goods, specialty foods, jewelry, crafts, baked goods and much more. Vendors often change throughout the season, so visitors will find different items each week.

## City of Wheaton Welcomes New Police Officers and Firefighter

**A**t recent City Council meetings, we officially welcomed Jeremiah McCue to the Wheaton Fire Department and

Amy Green, Patrick Goddard Ziga, and Christopher Dempsey as Officers with the Wheaton Police Department.



Officer Amy Green



Firefighter Jeremiah McCue



Officer Christopher Dempsey



Officer Patrick Goddard Ziga



# Completion of Downtown Streetscape Project



After years of planning and construction throughout much of downtown Wheaton, the community can now enjoy the results of the City's Downtown Streetscape Project. This \$35 million investment in the City's infrastructure and amenities is among the largest projects in the City's history, and this spring the City is celebrating.

The City began soliciting community feedback on this project more than 10 years ago, with surveys and open houses in 2013 helping guide the direction of this project. Project design firm Design Workshop and engineering consultant Primera Engineering worked closely with City staff throughout this multi-phase project to minimize the number of street closures and enable

businesses to stay open throughout the process. This included creating temporary boardwalk entrances to businesses, staggered timing of lane closures, and careful coordination with the assistance of the Downtown



Wheaton Association to maintain access to local businesses.

Partway through this project, the Covid-19 pandemic hit, forcing nearly all downtown businesses to temporarily close and drastically alter their operations. City and contracted

crews revised the project schedule to move up some of the most disruptive work during this time, taking the opportunity to close Main Street for underground infrastructure replacements while

traffic was nearly nonexistent.

While the project did face some supply chain delays later in the project, it is a substantial feat that the City was able to continue this ambitious project through a global pandemic.

The results of

this project include significant underground and above-ground improvements. Underground work included replacing water main and sanitary sewers throughout much of the downtown area, some of which were more than a century old. Above ground, wider sidewalks for pedestrians and outdoor dining are flanked by an "amenity zone" near the curb with permeable pavers to create better drainage and provide water for new trees. Native plants throughout the downtown, numerous bike racks, benches and garbage/recycling receptacles provide other upgrades for residents and visitors to enjoy.

Gathering areas such as the new Martin Plaza, and gathering areas near the new pavilion on the south side of the railroad



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tracks create places for people to come enjoy all the downtown has to offer. These spaces also provide opportunities

for more community programming, and a new place where the French Market will be located.

As the weather continues to improve,

the community can come check out the newly completed downtown, which is already having the desired effect of making Wheaton a destination

where people want to visit and businesses want to be. Read more about the Downtown Streetscape Celebration on this page, and we hope to see you there.



## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

# Celebrating Downtown Streetscape



**Mayor Sues**

This spring brings a bustle of activity and exciting milestones for Wheaton to celebrate. The Downtown Streetscape Project, a multi-year infrastructure project that broke ground in 2017, brought numerous major updates and improvements in downtown Wheaton through enhanced

underground utilities, roadways, lighting, and signage while creating wider, more pedestrian-friendly sidewalks with additional gathering and seating space.

To celebrate the project, the community is invited to the Downtown Streetscape Celebration, which will take place at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 20 near the new pavilion at Liberty and Main Street, right next to the Wheaton French Market. Enjoy live musical entertainment, remarks about the importance of this project, a ribbon cutting, and more as we gather to celebrate this exciting achievement. This is an exciting time not only for downtown

but for the community as a whole.

Enhanced infrastructure and financial stability are two of the City's Strategic Goals, and through projects like the Downtown Streetscape, we are continually working to ensure that Wheaton continues to thrive and grow. We are already starting to see progress spurred by the City's investment in the downtown: an 18-unit, 4-story apartment development is being constructed at the southwest corner of Liberty and Wheaton Avenue, and the City approved a 334-unit apartment building on the block bounded by Wheaton Avenue,

Liberty Drive, Hale Street and Willow Avenue that will invest approximately \$100 million in our community. Several new restaurants are renovating formerly vacant spaces, and the City anticipates new retail opportunities opening, as well.

We are fortunate to live in Wheaton, where City staff, the business community, City elected officials and community members are all committed to its success. I look forward to the City's continued successes throughout 2023 and hope to see you as we celebrate this milestone in making Downtown Wheaton a destination.





## April 29 Prairie Path Cleanup Volunteer Registration Open

The Wheaton Environmental Improvement Commission encourages the community to take part in the annual Prairie Path Cleanup on Saturday, April 29, 9 a.m.-noon. This is an all-ages event, and all volunteer groups, families, businesses, student groups, and others are welcome. Participants will meet at Lincoln Avenue & Prairie Path, 2 blocks west of Gary Avenue, on April 29. Plastic bags for trash and recycling will be provided. Please bring work gloves. This is a great volunteer opportunity and will help keep the miles of Illinois Prairie Path that run through Wheaton clean for all to enjoy. To volunteer, participants must register online by visiting <https://ipp.org/cleanup/>. For questions or more information, please contact Seema Wadia at 630-209-5855 or wheatoncleanup@gmail.com.

## Wheaton Police Stuff the Squad Event Supports Neighbors in Need

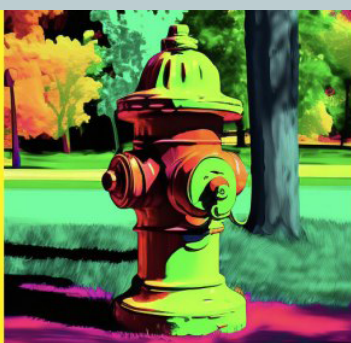
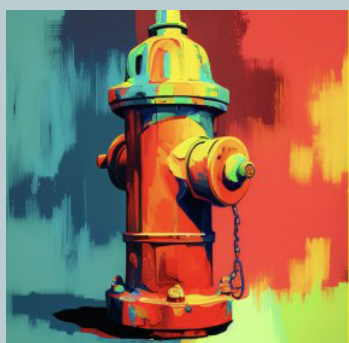
The Wheaton Police Department encourages the community to help neighbors in need through the Stuff the Squad event. From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, April 5, you can visit the Wheaton Police Department at 900 W. Liberty Drive and drop off items to help stuff a squad car full of food donations and other items needed by the Milton Township Food Pantry for distribution to anyone in need. For those unable to attend the event, there will be a donation box in the Wheaton Police Department lobby through the end of the week. This program began in 2021 as a way for the Wheaton

Police Department to help take care of our community, inviting those who are able to join in this effort. The types of items most needed include:

- Food: canned salmon, canned chicken, Spam, Hamburger Helper, cereal, and snacks
- Household items and toiletries: shampoo, conditioner, disposable razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, bar soap, toilet paper, facial tissues, size 6 diapers, and baby wipes

The Milton Township Food Pantry provides food and household items for individuals and families in need.

## Commission Seeks Pop Art Fire Hydrant Project Sponsors



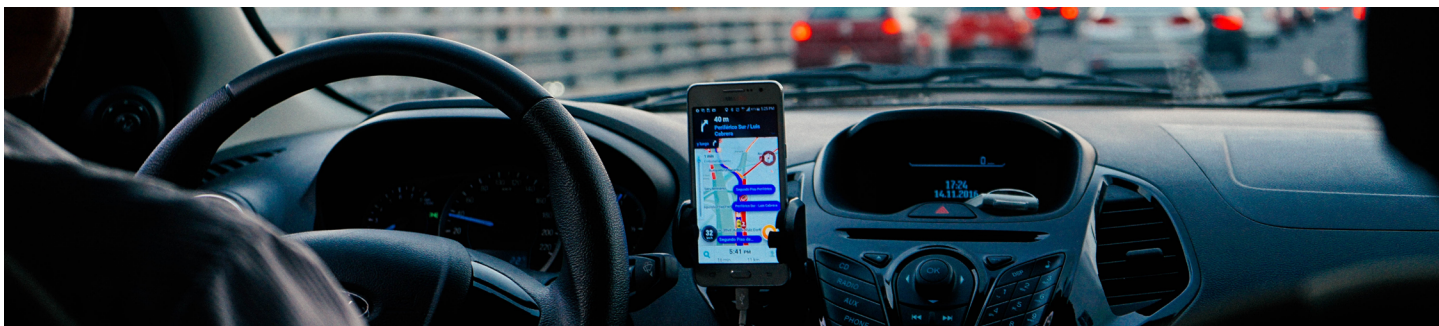
This summer, Wheaton will come alive with color and pop art in conjunction with the Andy Warhol Portfolios: A Life in Pop exhibit at the McAninch

Arts Center at College of DuPage. Even Wheaton's downtown fire hydrants will get a Warhol-inspired pop art treatment, as the Wheaton Fine & Cultural

Arts Commission invites local artists to present their take on Warhol's influential style. In support of this project, the Fine & Cultural Arts Commission is offering a limited opportunity for groups and businesses interested in sponsoring a fire hydrant for this project. The commission is also seeking local artists interested in participating.

This project will highlight local artists and businesses coming

together to celebrate all things Wheaton Warhol. [See the hydrant sponsorship flyer](#), and to reserve a spot, contact Laurie Swanson at [laurie@inspiHERtech.com](mailto:laurie@inspiHERtech.com) by April 15. The commission seeks 20 artists interested in being commissioned for this opportunity. [See the call to artists flyer](#) for more information, and contact Laurie Swanson at [laurie@inspiHERtech.com](mailto:laurie@inspiHERtech.com) by April 15.



## *Wheaton Police Department Reminds You to Avoid Distracted Driving*

**D**uring the month of April, Wheaton Police Officers will be conducting an enforcement campaign targeting distracted drivers. This includes drivers who pick up their cell phone to read or send a text message while sitting at a red light or stop sign.

On January 1, 2010, Illinois created a law prohibiting drivers from using their electronic communication devices to create or read text messages while driving.

This was followed

by a complete ban on cellphone use without a hands-free device in 2014. On July 1, 2021, Illinois made using your cell phone a moving violation punishable by a fine of \$164 and a mark on your driving record. These fines are higher and contain possible jail time for drivers who are found to be using their cellphones at the time of a traffic crash involving death or great bodily harm to another person. As a reminder:

- Illinois law requires

drivers to pull over and stop on the shoulder of the roadway to use their cell phone.

- Cell phone use is prohibited in school and construction zones and upon approaching emergency vehicles.
- No driver under the age of 19 is allowed to drive and use an electronic communication device even in a hands-free setting unless it is an emergency situation.

- Sending or reading a text message can take your eyes off the road for 5 seconds. If you were driving a vehicle at 55 mph, you would cover the length of a football field without looking at the road.
- Other forms of distracted driving include, eating and drinking, letting your pet ride in your lap, fiddling with your navigation system or radio, or even doing your hair and make-up.

## **Practice Chemical Safety During Hazardous Materials Safety Month**

**A**pril is Hazardous Materials Safety Month, and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) wants you to learn about the potential hazards in your community.

IEMA offers citizens the ability to track chemical spills and incidents and maintains an inventory-type database to monitor businesses and organizations

that have chemicals onsite. Chemical manufacturers and importers are required to evaluate the hazards of the chemicals they produce or import and prepare labels and safety data sheets to help prevent problems and quickly reduce danger in an emergency.

IEMA coordinates shared efforts with the Illinois Fire Service Institute (ISFI) to provide guidance and

hazardous materials training to businesses and organizations, with updates every four years or less.

In the home there are several ways to manage household hazardous waste (HHW).

Here are some tips to help safely manage HHW:

- Follow any instructions for use and storage provided on product labels carefully

to prevent any accidents at home.

- Be sure to read product labels for disposal directions.
- Never store hazardous products in food containers.
- When leftovers remain, never mix HHW with other products.
- Remember, empty containers of HHW can pose hazards due residual chemicals.



# Upcoming Events

## Recycling Extravaganza

**Date:** Saturday, April 1

**Time:** 8:30 a.m.-noon

**Location:** DuPage Event Center & Fairgrounds

The City's Environmental Improvement Commission invites the community to its annual Recycling Extravaganza with SCARCE.

Note this year's new location for this popular event. You can bring many types of items for safe disposal or recycling at this drive-through event. For more information, [visit the City's website](#).

## Electronic Recycling

**Dates:** Saturday, April 8

**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](#).

## Native Plant Sale

**Date:** Saturday, April 29

**Time:** 8:30-11 a.m.

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

Wheaton has an opportunity to "grow native" with the return of the Native Plant Sale. This event is provided through the partnership of the City's Environmental

Improvement

Commission, City of Wheaton and Wheaton Park District to encourage the community to choose eco-friendly plants for their landscapes.

For more information, [visit the City's website](#).

## Touch-A-Truck

**Date:** Saturday, April 29

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

**Location:** Downtown Wheaton

Liberty Drive will be closed between Wheaton Avenue and Main Street, to make way for trucks, construction vehicles, emergency vehicles, and more!

Join the Downtown Wheaton Association for this free, family-friendly

event. Get up close, climb, honk, and touch these cool vehicles from right behind the wheel! For more details, [visit Downtown Wheaton Association's website](#).

## Downtown Streetscape Project Celebration

**Date:** Saturday, May 20

**Time:** 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Location:** Gathering area near the new downtown pavilion, Liberty Drive & Main Street

Join the City of Wheaton to celebrate the completion of Downtown Streetscape Project. Enjoy live musical entertainment, remarks about the importance of this project, a ribbon cutting, and more.

## LIBRARY EVENTS

Register for these events at [wheatonlibrary.org/calendar](http://wheatonlibrary.org/calendar)

## Local Author Fest Feat. Elizabeth Berg

**Date:** Saturday, April 1

**Time:** 1-4 p.m.

**Location:** Hybrid

Celebrate your local authors!

Visit local author tables throughout the library from 1-4 p.m. and stop by the café area on the main floor for open mic readings from our authors.

Storytimes will also be available with some of our children's authors in our Storyhouse Marsh.

*No registration required.*

## Self-Defense Workshop

**Date:** Wednesday, April 12

**Time:** 7-8:30 p.m.

**Location:** In-person

Join Lindsey Daehnke, Founder and Lead Instructor at Strictly Self Defense, as she teaches simple self-defense techniques and strategies.

She will also discuss topics that encourage attendees to make good

decisions, to speak up when something does not seem right, and to use physical techniques only if there is a real threat. *Registration required.*

## Severe Weather & Storm Chasing

**Date:** Thursday, April 20

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Location:** Hybrid

Join veteran storm chaser Nick Bartholomew from Illinois Storm Chasers as he shares stories from

past chases that include close calls, exhilarating moments, and the ugly side of severe weather. He also explains the "why" behind severe weather and tornadoes and what our local climatology favors. *Registration required.*

## Mobile DMV & Blood Pressure Screening

**Date:** Thursday, April 27

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

**Location:** In-person  
The Secretary of State's Mobile Express Unit will

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offer limited services, including Driver's License/State ID Card renewal, replacement, and correction, Vehicle Sticker Sales, and more. Northwestern Medicine will also be doing blood pressure screenings from 10 a.m.-noon.

Visit [wheatonlibrary.org/calendar](http://wheatonlibrary.org/calendar) for more information about this event. *No registration required.*

**Concert: Jazz Occurrence Feat. Morgan Pirtle & Aaron Day**  
**Date:** Thursday, April 30  
**Time:** 2-3 p.m.

**Location:** In-person  
Join us for a sonic arts and visual arts collaboration celebrating Herbie Hancock's International Jazz Day as artist Lewis Achenbach paints while vocalist Morgan Pirtle and guitarist Aaron Day perform. *No registration is required for this event.*

## Wheaton Firefighters' Hazardous Materials Response Exercise

Wheaton firefighters recently completed a hazardous materials response exercise at the West Chicago Fire Protection District along with other members of the West Suburban Fire Rescue Alliance. The firefighters practiced responding to a hazardous materials scenario, which involves first identifying the type of hazard released and its chemical properties. Based on this information, firefighters determine which level of protective gear is required, then practice donning the gear, entering the hazardous area, containing the hazard, and decontamination upon exiting the hazard.

## Wheaton Police Department Polar Plunge Raises Over \$15,000 for Special Olympics Illinois



It was a cold day, but Wheaton's Team Frosted Donuts took the Polar Plunge! Participants from the Wheaton Police Department, Wheaton Fire Department, and Community Unit School District 200

teamed up to raise over \$15,000 for Special Olympics Illinois. This organization provides sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities,

giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other athletes, and the community.

## CITY CALENDAR

### April 2023

- 1 Coffee with Council, 10 a.m.
- 3 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 7 City Offices Closed
- 10 City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 17 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 24 City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.

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](http://www.wheaton.il.us) for a complete list of meetings and events.

