

CITY OF WHEATON

NEWSLETTER

May 2023

CITY NOTES

2023 Citizens Police Academy Now Accepting Applications

The Wheaton Citizens Police Academy is a 10-week program that offers a chance for community members to learn the inner workings of police operations, practices, and objectives. The 2023 Citizens Police Academy will take place each Tuesday, Aug. 29 through Nov. 1 (last class is a Wednesday due to the Halloween holiday), 6:30-9:30 p.m. Applications are due by July 10. For more information, [visit the City's website](#).

Lawn Watering Restrictions Begin

Restrictions on watering lawns run from May 15 through Sept. 15. Buildings

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Community Invited to Downtown Streetscape Celebration May 20



The front loaders, backhoes and bobcats are gone, and it's time to celebrate. To mark the completion of its multi-year downtown infrastructure improvement project, the City of Wheaton invites the community to attend the Downtown Streetscape Project Celebration on Saturday, May 20. This free family-friendly event will take place near the new pavilion at Main Street and

Liberty Drive with music, activities, and more, in partnership with the Downtown Wheaton Association. The event will also celebrate the grand opening of Bensidoun's French Market in its new pavilion location.

Please note: The date of this event has changed from what was originally shared in the April City newsletter.

- Schedule of events:
- Starting at 9 a.m.: DJ
 - 9 a.m.-noon: Stilt walker & juggler

- 10 a.m.-1 p.m.: Face painting
- 10:30 a.m.: Remarks, ribbon-cutting and French Market Grand Opening

After years of planning and construction, 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

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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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and homes with an odd-numbered street address may water lawns and gardens only on days of the month having odd numbers.

Buildings and homes with an even-numbered street address may water lawns and gardens only on days of the month having even numbers. No watering is allowed between the hours of noon and 6 p.m.

Contact the Water Division at 630-260-2090 for more information or for a 10-day variance for planting grass seed/laying sod.

City Offices Closed; Garbage Schedule Change

In observance of Memorial Day, non-emergency City offices will be closed on Monday, May 29. Garbage, recycling, and yard waste pickup will be delayed by one day.

Employment Opportunities

The City of Wheaton has the following employment opportunities available:

- Civil Engineer
- Capital Improvements
- Crossing Guard

- Maintenance Worker (Public Works, Streets Division)
- Mechanic
- Summer Laborer

To find out more or apply for a position with the City of Wheaton, visit www.wheaton.il.us/jobs.

Hydrant Flushing Starts Soon



The City's Water Division is scheduled to begin its Hydrant Flushing Program the week of May 8 and will continue for several weeks. The purpose is to flush out particles that accumulate in water lines.

During or immediately following the flushing, water discoloration may occur. It is best not to draw large amounts of water if you experience discoloration. Residents with questions can contact the Water Division at 630-260-2090.

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in the City's history.

This project included replacing underground and above-ground infrastructure; creating wider sidewalks for pedestrians and outdoor dining; incorporating numerous sustainable elements; a new Martin Plaza; a new pavilion on the south side of the railroad tracks; multiple gathering areas; planting new trees; and much more.

During the ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the end of the project and the opening

of the new pavilion, City officials will recognize the many partners involved in this project, help celebrate the official grand opening of the new French Market location, and celebrate the positive results of this project.

Parking options for this event include the Willow Avenue garage, the Wheaton Place garage, on-street parking throughout the downtown, and the City Hall parking lot at Wesley Street and Wheaton Avenue.

Hale Street Tents Return to Downtown



The Downtown Wheaton Association is returning the Hale Street Tents from May 5 through Oct. 8. Get ready for another spectacular summer of outdoor dining, live music, and fun! This months-long event has become a community favorite, attracting thousands of diners each year. With live music throughout the summer, the Hale Street Tents are a downtown Wheaton destination not to be missed. You will also find numerous

opportunities for outdoor dining and live entertainment in other downtown locations and in Wheaton's other shopping districts during warmer months, too, as many Wheaton restaurants and businesses offer outdoor dining and entertainment.

Be sure to check out all that's happening and support your local business community in Wheaton!

For more information, visit the [Downtown Wheaton Association's website](http://DowntownWheatonAssociation'swebsite).

Take Brief Survey on Biking and Walking in Wheaton



With the coming of spring, the Wheaton Bicyclist and Pedestrian Commission is running a short 5-minute survey from now until May 15 seeking residents' opinions about biking and walking here in Wheaton. The Commission hopes to hear from a wide variety of walkers and riders. Survey submitters will be entered in a raffle for the chance to win one of four bike helmets equipped with LED. The survey is available at: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfWPSfHGEL-iqEK-ssYOkjy9Y0LVwQXNWYuBLbjLVn7gbufTQ/viewform>.

In addition, as more people are out biking, the Wheaton Bicyclist and Pedestrian Commission would like the community to know that there are now over 225 bike racks throughout Wheaton. A large concentration is in the downtown central business district, near the Wheaton Public Library, and near the Wheaton and College Avenue train stations. Also, there is a new bike shelter and repair

station on the Prairie Path Main Stem near the corner of Liberty and Main, which is part of the City's recently completed Downtown Streetscape Project.

The Bicyclist and Pedestrian Commission was created to encourage walking and biking in Wheaton. They also provide opportunities to teach kids bike etiquette and safety each year at different events. The commission's mission is to represent walkers, runners, and bikers in the planning of safer streets, paths and sidewalks. In addition, the commission organizes various group walks and bike rides throughout the area.

The commission meets monthly, with its next meeting happening May 17 at 7 p.m. Members of the public can always join the meeting in person at City Hall upstairs in the Gamon Room or via Zoom. The commission is looking for more members. Those who might be interested are encouraged to attend a future meeting.

Springtime Reminder to 'Walk Your Wheels' in Downtown Wheaton



With warmer weather comes more pedestrian and bicycle traffic, especially in downtown Wheaton. To help keep everyone safe, the City of Wheaton does not allow you to ride bicycles, skateboards, scooters, in-line skates or roller skates on the sidewalks within the heart of the downtown or through the Hale Street Tents.

While you can still ride on the streets, if you choose to go on the sidewalk, you must "walk your wheels" within the boundaries of the following streets: Wesley Street to the north; Cross Street to the east; Willow Street to the south; and West Street to the west. For more information, [visit the City's website](#).

Wheaton Joining Other Communities in Urging State Lawmakers to Return Taxes to Communities



The City of Wheaton is joining forces with other cities, villages, and counties across the state to urge state lawmakers to Invest In Communities by returning a greater portion of your taxes back to our community.

What does that mean? When the State income tax was established more than 50 years ago, it was agreed that a portion of it should be returned to each community based on population. In the State budget, this funding is known as the Local Government Distributive Fund, or LGDF.

LGDF is an important revenue source for every local government in the state, not only because it is stable and reliable year after year, but because each community can use it wherever it is most

needed to stabilize and improve the community. In Wheaton, LGDF makes up nearly 7% of our annual operating budget, or approximately \$8 million of the City's \$120 million budget.

But here's the problem: in 2011, the State decreased the portion of income taxes that is returned to our community from LGDF. Rather than 10% of income taxes, Illinois lawmakers have allocated just over 6% to local governments in recent years.

Across the state, municipalities and counties have lost out on more than \$8 billion that could be used in lieu of property taxes or other revenues to replace lead service lines, train police officers, buy equipment for first responders, pay down public safety pension obligations,

"LGDF is an important revenue source for every local government in the state, not only because it is stable and reliable year after year but because each community can use it wherever it is most needed."

improve or repair infrastructure projects, and more. In Wheaton, restoring the portion of income taxes returned to the City to 10% would provide an additional \$2.9 million for these projects.

With the State's financial condition the healthiest it has been in decades, Illinois municipalities are asking the General Assembly to prioritize funding for infrastructure, public safety, and community services in all Illinois communities by restoring LGDF.

In Wheaton, additional funding could

be used for capital projects to reduce flooding and improve Wheaton roads, without needing to raise our local taxes.

As Illinois lawmakers prepare this year's State Budget, the City of Wheaton is urging the General Assembly to Invest In Communities and restore the Local Government Distributive Fund to 10%. Visit [InvestInCommunities.org](https://www.investincommunities.org) to learn more and make your voice heard by contacting your state legislators and posting on social media using #InvestInCommunities.



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Celebrating Spring and Summer Seasons



Mayor Sueess

One of the most exciting parts of this season is seeing our community begin to bustle with activity. It is wonderful to see the return of many beloved traditions and new activities that everyone, both Wheaton residents and visitors, can enjoy.

We're only one month into spring and have already seen the return of community favorites such as the Wheaton

French Market, now in its new location at the pavilion on Liberty and Main, and the annual Native Plant Sale, which encouraged the community to choose eco-friendly plants for their landscapes throughout the city. Wheaton will also soon see the return of the Hale Street tents, Wheaton Municipal band concerts, Wheaton Park District entertainment series, Cream of Wheaton, and the Vintage Rides car shows, which will have a new location this year on Liberty Drive.

Apart from these familiar activities, we'll also experience other great new happenings. 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. Many works of art and events inspired by the famous artist are soon in store for the City in the coming months. Additionally, to mark the completion of the multi-year downtown infrastructure improvement project, the City will host the Downtown Streetscape Project Celebration on Saturday, May 20. This \$35 million investment in the City's infrastructure and amenities is among the largest projects in the City's history, and the May 20 event will celebrate the positive results of this project, the opening of the new pavilion, and celebrate the official grand opening of the new French Market location.

We are grateful to have community partnerships with the Downtown Wheaton

Association, Wheaton Chamber of Commerce, Wheaton Park District, and many others as we all work together to create these excellent experiences, both familiar and brand new, for our residents, visitors, and neighbors.

These are just a fraction of the events, programs, and activities throughout Wheaton this spring and summer. To view a full scope of Wheaton happenings, and to get involved, you can visit the following sites:

- [Downtown Wheaton Association](#)
- [Wheaton Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Wheaton Park District](#)
- [Wheaton Public Library](#)
- [City of Wheaton](#)

We hope you take part in the many exciting things happening soon in our community.

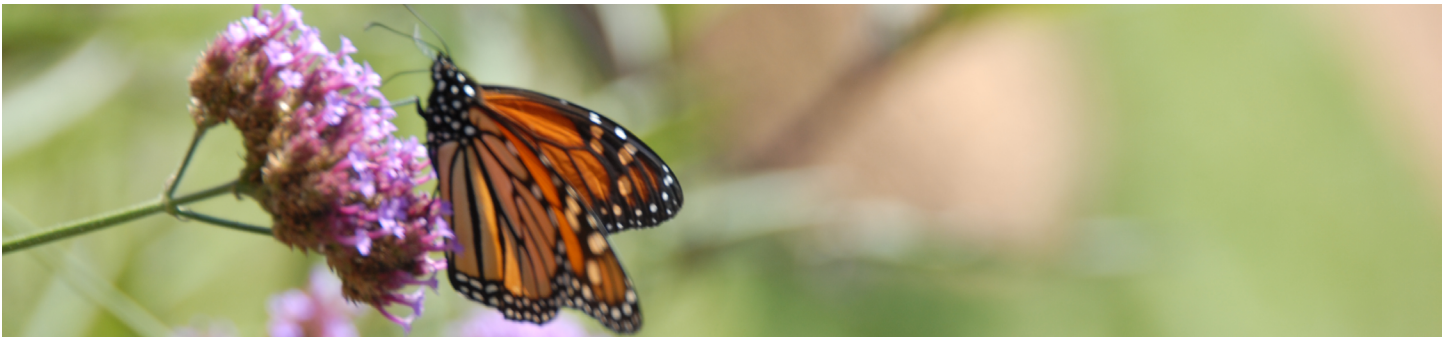
Celebrate National Public Works Week May 21-27

The week of May 21 marks the American Public Works Association's National Public Works Week, which educates the public on the importance of public works to their lives through work in planning, building, managing, and operating at the heart of their local communities to improve everyday quality of life.

The City of Wheaton's Public Works Department provides high-quality infrastructure, from clean

drinking water to safe streets, sanitary sewers, storm sewers, parkway trees, and much more. The City's five divisions include the Forestry Division, Municipal Garage, Sewer Division, Street Division, and Water Division.

Thank you to the City of Wheaton Public Works employees for providing a variety of services that ensure Wheaton remains a clean, safe, and enjoyable place to live.



Spring Has Sprung: Know City Requirements for Lawn Care

The much-anticipated spring weather has arrived, and so has the lawn and gardening season. To assist in maintaining the health, beauty, and safety of the community, the City of Wheaton has

adopted ordinances that address tall grass and weeds.

As a reminder, grass and weeds exceeding 8 inches in height are a violation of City code. When left uncut and overgrown, grass and weeds can attract

unwanted pests such as mice and insects and provide cover for wild animals that cause nuisances within neighborhoods. Additionally, tall, dried out grass and weeds during the later summer months are a potential

fire hazard. If you notice such overgrowth in the area, you can report the situation using the [City's Online Service Request Form](#) or call the Building & Code Enforcement Department at 630-260-2050 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Spring into Safety: Preparedness Before, During, and After a Tornado

According to the National Weather Service (NWS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), nearly 80% of Illinois' tornadoes occur during the months of April through June, often in the late afternoon and early evening. In a typical year, Illinois averages 50 tornadoes.

Understanding the difference between a tornado watch and tornado warning is a great first step to prepare for tornadoes in Illinois. A tornado watch, issued by the NOAA Storm Prediction Center, can cover parts of a state or several states. The community is encouraged to watch

and prepare for severe weather by looking for updates through the NOAA Weather Radio, following the National Weather Service online or via social media, local television weather reports, and weather apps. A tornado warning, issued by your local NOAA National Weather Service Forecast Office, means a tornado has been reported or indicated by radar and there is a serious threat to life and property. This indicates that you should act immediately and find safe shelter.

Taking safety precautions before, during, and after a tornado is critical to ensuring your safety.

The NOAA recommends taking the following safety measures:

Before a tornado

- Ensure every family member knows the tornado safety location in your home
- Keep an emergency kit in your home at all times
- Identify where to go if you are away from home (such as at work or school)
- Make a family communications plan

During a tornado

- Find a safe location in a substantial building, away from windows, and on the lowest level of

a sturdy building, preferably in a basement

- If there is no basement, get to the lowest floor in a small, interior room such as a closet, hallway, or bathroom without windows
- If you are in a vehicle, buckle up and try to drive to the closest sturdy shelter and never stay under a bridge

After a tornado:

- Avoid damaged areas
- Beware of downed power lines, broken gas lines, and dangerous debris
- Follow instructions from local officials

Upcoming Events

Wheaton French Market

Date: Each Saturday through November

Time: 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Location: Downtown pavilion near Liberty and Main Street



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.

Taco & Margarita Festival

Dates: Saturday, May 6

Time: 2 p.m.-5 p.m.

Location: Downtown Wheaton

The Downtown Wheaton Association is hosting the Taco & Margarita Festival on Saturday, May 6.

It's a classic summer combination: fresh margaritas, delicious tacos, and live music! Enjoy two 8 oz. margaritas of your choice at your favorite Downtown Wheaton retailers and service providers, and two specialty tacos from participating Downtown Wheaton restaurants. Check-in will begin at 1 p.m. at the "W" Tent on Front Street. An ID must be presented upon check-in, and all age-verified guests will receive two margarita tickets, two taco tickets, a souvenir margarita cup, and a taco tray. For more information, visit



the [Downtown Wheaton Association's website](#).

Home History Research

Date: Monday, May 8 / Saturday, May 13

Time: 6 p.m.-9 p.m. / 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

Location: Wheaton Public Library

As part of

Preservation Week in Wheaton, the Historic Commission encourages residents to learn how to research the history of your home with one-on-one instruction. Monday, May 8 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday, May 13 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Wheaton Public Library, 225 N. Cross St.

The event is free and open to the public. Reservations for appointments are being taken by calling 630-868-7520 or emailing askref@wheatonlibrary.org.

Electronic Recycling

Date: Saturday, May 13

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](#).

Downtown Streetscape Project Celebration

Date: Saturday, May 20

Time: 9 a.m.-noon

Location: New Pavilion at Main Street and Liberty Drive

To mark the



completion of its multi-year downtown infrastructure improvement project, the City of Wheaton invites the community to attend the Downtown Streetscape Project Celebration on Saturday, May 20. This free family-friendly event will feature music, activities, and more, in partnership with the Downtown Wheaton Association. The event will also celebrate the grand opening of Bensidoun's French Market in its new pavilion location. *Please note: The date of this event has changed from what was originally shared in the April City newsletter.*

Wheaton Welcomes Warhol

Date: Monday, May 22

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Location: Wheaton Public Library

This summer, Wheaton will come alive with

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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.
To kick off the City's

pop art season, four Warhol-inspired renderings will be revealed at the

Wheaton Public Library of prominent individuals within Wheaton's history.

LIBRARY EVENTS

Register for these events at wheatonlibrary.org/calendar

Geek Fest

Date: Saturday, May 6

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

Location: In-person



Come celebrate your favorite fandoms, with comics, trivia, cartooning classes, a glow stick dance party, tabletop gaming, a costume contest and more! *No registration required.*

Wheaton's First Mastodon: The Jayne Discovery

Date: Tuesday, May 9

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: In-person

Join local history experts Brian and Joyce Ostberg of BeHistoric to learn about the

Mastodon discovered in Wheaton in 1869 and its fascinating tie to the Great Chicago Fire. Discovered 100 years before Perry, it uncovers little known facts about Wheaton. In partnership with the City of Wheaton Historic Commission. *Registration required.*

Friends Annual Meeting & Concert

Date: Thursday, May 11

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: In-person

Make some new friends at the Friends of

Wheaton Public Library Annual Meeting! After a brief business meeting, stick around as Sherri Farley performs on the hammered dulcimer. *Registration required.*

Seed & Seedling Share with Sustain DuPage

Date: Saturday, May 13

Time: 1-3 p.m.

Location: In-person

Drop-in to share some seedlings and seeds and/or take some seeds for your summer garden! *No registration required.*



Mayor and At-Large Wheaton City Council Members to Begin Terms

As a result of the April 4 Consolidated Election, Philip Suess was elected for a second term as Mayor of Wheaton. Bradley Clousing will join incumbent Councilwoman Erica

Bray-Parker on the Wheaton City Council as At-Large City Council members on May 1, 2023.

City Thanks Outgoing Councilwoman

Fitch: At the April 17 City Council meeting,

Councilwoman Suzanne Fitch received a proclamation honoring her many years of service to the community. This includes eight years as an At-Large representative on the Wheaton City Council

and five years on the Planning & Zoning Board. Councilwoman Fitch did not seek a third term on the City Council. Thank you to Councilwoman Fitch for her years of dedication and service to the community.

Celebrating Wheaton's History: Preservation Week May 12-22



It's May, and that means it's time to recognize Wheaton's history as well as learn more about the City. The City of Wheaton's Historic Commission is offering several events and opportunities for the community to do so.

Residents will notice blue signs going up in front of the over 200 historic homes and buildings beginning May 12. Scan the QR code on the sign with your phone's camera to be directed to the new interactive [Wheaton Historic Register Map](#).

The map provides images of the sites plus information such as the date built, prominent citizens of the past who lived in the home, and the architectural style.

For those who want to learn more about the history of their Wheaton home, two sessions of Home History Research one-on-one will be offered at the Wheaton Public Library featuring Gretchen Murphy, Adult Services Librarian, Genealogy & Local History Specialist. The sessions are scheduled for Monday, May 8 from 6-9 p.m. or Saturday, May 13 from 1-4 p.m. Drop-ins are welcome, but [reservations](#) are recommended.

Also scheduled is the lecture "Wheaton's First Mastodon: The Jayne Discovery" on Tuesday May 9 from 7 to 8 p.m. Join local history experts Brian

Historic Wheaton Property



Learn More

City of Wheaton Historic Commission

and Joyce Ostberg of BeHistoric to learn about the Mastodon discovered in Wheaton in 1869 and its fascinating tie to the Great Chicago Fire.

Discovered almost 100 years before the Perry Mastodon, the Jayne discovery captivated regional attention and newspapers for several weeks, its compelling story illuminating little-known facts regarding early Wheaton. The Historic Commission is partnering with the Wheaton Public Library for the event, which will be held in the lower-level conference room of the library. [Reservations](#) are highly recommended.



CITY CALENDAR

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

May 2023

- 1** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 6** Coffee with Council, 10 a.m. City City
- 8** Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 15** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 22** City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 29** City Offices Closed; No trash pickup