



# CITY OF WHEATON

## NEWSLETTER

September 2023

### CITY NOTES

#### City Offices Closed

Non-emergency City offices will be closed on Monday, Sept. 4 in recognition of Labor Day.

#### Garbage Holiday Schedule

LRS will not collect garbage, yard waste or recycling on Monday, Sept. 4 due to the Labor Day holiday. All pickups for the week of Sept. 4 will be one day later than usual.

#### Watering Restrictions End

Lawn watering restrictions will be ending Sept. 15. Until then, residents can water on odd- or even-numbered days corresponding with odd- or even-numbered

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## Mark Your Calendars for the Festival of Cultures on Sept. 17



The Community Relations Commission encourages the community to attend the Festival of Cultures, an afternoon of live performances, culture and more from 1-5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 17 at Memorial Park, 225 Karlskoga Ave. Enjoy a variety of music and dance performances from the Memorial Park Bandshell including Salsa del

Norte, Midwest Soaring, Murphy Roche Irish Music Club, Funkadesi, and the Wheaton College Gospel Choir. Come see one or more of these entertaining groups at the 2023 Festival of Cultures. You won't want to miss this exciting celebration! For more information, visit [the City's website](https://www.cityofwheaton.il.us).

**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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addresses. Watering is prohibited between noon and 6 p.m.

### Employment Opportunities



The City of Wheaton has the following employment opportunity available:

- Police Services Representative

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

## Wheaton Police Chief Bill Murphy to Retire Sept. 25



**P**olice Chief Bill Murphy will retire on Sept. 25, 2023, concluding his 33-year career with the Wheaton Police Department.

Chief Murphy began serving the community as a patrol officer with the Wheaton Police Department in 1990. He ascended to become a field training officer, then detective, officer-in-charge, sergeant, lieutenant, and deputy chief before becoming

Wheaton's 12th police chief in 2018.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as a police officer in Wheaton and as chief for the past 5 years," Chief Murphy said. "The work we do is not easy, but it is incredibly rewarding. The comradery is special and synergistic when you have good people working toward the common goal of community safety."

Under his leadership, Chief Murphy guided the department through significant changes and unprecedented times. The department leveraged technology to increase transparency and improve operations, including implementing body worn cameras for all sworn officers and installing Automated License Plate Readers to reduce crime and locate missing individuals.

Chief Murphy led the department through the COVID-19 pandemic and civil unrest in 2020. He worked to build trust between the community and the Wheaton Police Department through transparent communication about the department's operations and by creating numerous community engagement programs. Chief Murphy was also integral in the process to add two City social workers, who work cooperatively with law enforcement to meet the community's needs.

During the Sept. 18 City Council meeting, the City will honor Chief Murphy for his years of service. The community is welcome to attend the meeting, which will begin at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 303 W. Wesley St.

## Dinos Downtown Wheaton Exhibit Coming Soon



**T**he Downtown Wheaton Association's Dinos Downtown Wheaton exhibit is coming Sept. 25 to Oct. 8! This free outdoor exhibit will feature 10 life-sized animatronic dinosaurs throughout downtown. Choose from different dinosaur-related activities suited for the whole family, including a tour from real-life paleontologist Paleo Joe, who will lead a walking tour of the exhibit. You also won't want to miss the dinosaur improv shows at Westside Improv, which will run Sept. 30 to Oct. 8. These improvised, interactive dinosaur-themed comedy shows are fit for the whole family! To learn more, visit [the Downtown Wheaton Association's website](http://theDowntownWheatonAssociation.com).

# City of Wheaton Names New Chief of Police



**D**eputy Police Chief Princeton J. Youker will be appointed as Wheaton's 13th police chief, following the retirement of Chief Bill Murphy.

Deputy Chief Youker will be appointed as Acting Chief of Police

upon Chief Murphy's retirement on Sept. 25, and he will be officially sworn in as Chief of Police by Mayor Suess during the Oct. 2 City Council Meeting. The community is invited to attend a reception to meet the new chief from 6-6:45 p.m. Monday, Oct. 2 in the Gamon Room of City Hall, 303 W. Wesley St. The swearing in ceremony will follow at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Having served with the Wheaton Police Department since 2001, Deputy Chief Youker began as a patrol officer in 2001, subsequently

serving as a detective, sergeant, lieutenant, public information officer and deputy chief.

"I was raised in Wheaton for the first 20 years of my life, and I have been serving as a police officer in Wheaton for the last 22 years," Deputy Chief Youker said. "I am humbled by the opportunity to continue to serve my hometown as the next Chief of Police. I will work diligently to ensure the police department continues to serve the community with respect, compassion, and integrity."

A key member

of the Wheaton Police Department's leadership team, Deputy Chief Youker's experience working within every division of the department provides excellent insight into departmental operations.

Deputy Chief Youker holds a Bachelor of Arts, Sociology degree with a minor in Information Systems and Statistical Analysis from Pennsylvania State University and a Master of Science in Management and Organizational Behavior from Benedictine University.

## *Proposed Stormwater Utility Fee Changes*

**T**he City of Wheaton is proposing to change how it charges stormwater utility fees starting in 2024. Instead of charging based on how much water a household or business uses plus a flat fee, stormwater utility fees would be charged based on how much impervious area is on their property. Impervious area is property where water won't naturally drain into the soil. This includes things such as houses, structures,



driveways, walkways, parking lots, patios, and

swimming pools.

Stormwater utility fees

pay for the maintenance and operation of the City's storm sewer system. Because impervious area directly relates to the amount of stormwater runoff a property generates when it rains, this new way of calculating fees would more accurately reflect the service demands that a property places on the storm sewer system. To find out more about the proposed stormwater utility fee change, visit the City's website at [www.wheaton.il.us/stormwaterutility](http://www.wheaton.il.us/stormwaterutility).





## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

### Join Us for the September 11 Remembrance Ceremony



**Mayor Sueß**

I encourage everyone in the community to attend the annual September 11 Remembrance Ceremony, where we will come together to remember and honor those we lost and those who put their lives at risk to protect us.

This year's remembrance ceremony will be at 10 a.m. Monday, Sept. 11 in Memorial Park, 225 N. Karlskoga Ave., with the park's beautiful

Veterans Memorial as a backdrop.

Joining me in participating in this year's ceremony will be Wheaton's Fire and Police Departments and musicians from Wheaton College, Wheaton Municipal Band and bagpiper Mike O'Donnell. Josh Moody, Senior Pastor at College Church, and David Iglesias, Director of Wheaton College Center for Faith, Politics & Economics and Captain, JAG Corps, U.S. Navy (ret.), will share opening and closing prayers.

We thank our partners at the Wheaton Park District for providing the setting for this event and participants from the Wheaton Municipal Band.

Let us never forget the reason we mark this solemn occasion: the community members we lost on September 11, 2001 and in the military conflicts that followed:

**Susan M. Sauer**

Died September 11, 2001 at the World Trade Center

**Mark Evan Schurmeier**

Died September 11, 2001 at the World Trade Center

**Todd M. Beamer**

Died September 11, 2001 on United Airlines Flight 93

**United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal Nicholas Larson**

Died November 9, 2004 in Operation Iraqi

Freedom

**United States Army Captain Kevin C. Landeck**

Died February 2, 2007 in Operation Iraqi Freedom

**United States Army Staff Sergeant Robert J. Miller\***

Died January 25, 2008 in Operation Enduring Freedom

*\*Medal of Honor Recipient*

**United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal Kevin E. Oratowski**

Died August 18, 2010 in Operation Enduring Freedom

**United States Army Specialist Samuel T. Watts**

Died May 19, 2012 in Operation Enduring Freedom

## Senior Assistance Program Accepting Applications

The City of Wheaton is now accepting applications for the Senior Assistance Program, an annual program administered through the City's Commission on Aging that provides monthly financial assistance to qualifying seniors. Applications will be accepted through Sept. 22.

Wheaton residents must meet the following four requirements to qualify and apply for the Wheaton Senior Assistance Program:

- **Age:** Must be at least **65** years or older.
- **Residency:** Must be a **current incorporated** Wheaton resident for at least the last consecutive **3 years**.
  - Must reside in the residence for 9+ months of the year.
- **Income:** Annual household income **cannot**

**exceed \$32,050.**

- **In-person/In-Home interview:** Agree to an in-person interview at the residence.

**If you are receiving Section 8 or DuPage Housing Authority assistance, you are NOT eligible to apply for this program.**

If you meet these 4 qualifications and would like to apply for Wheaton Senior Assistance, please [complete the Wheaton Senior Assistance Application](#) and submit it with the required supporting documents to:

City of Wheaton  
ATTN: Carly Johns  
303 W. Wesley St.  
Wheaton, IL 60187

For more information, please call 630-260-2019 or email [cjohns@wheaton.il.us](mailto:cjohns@wheaton.il.us).



# Tips to Avoid Falling Victim to Scams



**T**he Wheaton Police Department has received multiple reports from residents who have fallen victim to cryptocurrency scams. Cryptocurrency is uninsured by the federal government and is difficult to track. During the commission of cryptocurrency scams, victim's funds will often be transferred outside the country. It is extremely challenging for both the victims and the police to recuperate any of the lost funds, which means these cases can be financially devastating.

## **Pop-up Message Scams**

Please be aware of computer pop-up message scams. During these scams, victims will receive a pop-up message on their computer notifying them of a fraudulent problem. Victims are often asked to give remote access to their computer or are instructed to call a phone number to rectify a fabricated problem.

*Pop-up messages may appear as the following:*

- An error message indicating a security alert.
- A message indicating the user's "anti-virus protection is expiring soon."
- A message indicating that the user is under investigation by a federal agency.

*Prevention tips:*

- Never allow an unknown person to have remote access to your computer
- Refrain from calling phone numbers that are provided to you by unknown people. Instead, do your own research to locate a valid phone number for the company you are trying to

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*According to the Federal Trade Commission, since the start of 2021 more than 46,000 people have reported losing over \$1 billion in crypto to scams - that's about one out of every four dollars reported lost, more than any other payment method.*

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contact. Vet its legitimacy and the credibility of the people you are speaking to before providing any personal information.

- Be aware of anyone that asks you to pay them with cryptocurrency or gift cards.

## **Phone Call Scams**

Please be aware of scam phone calls that involve a criminal pretending to represent a trusted institution, company, or government agency to trick people into giving them money or revealing personal information.

*Common scam phone calls include:*

- Federal Agency Impersonation Scam Calls: A scammer claims to be a representative from a federal agency such as the U.S. Treasury Department or the IRS and tells the victim they owe money to the government. The scammers operate by placing calls to unsuspecting citizens, threatening them with arrest and frozen assets if money is not paid immediately.
- Arrest Warrant Scam Calls: A scammer pretends to be a law enforcement official and tells the victim there is a warrant for their arrest. The

caller then demands the victim pay the bond by way of cryptocurrency, bank wire transfers, cash app payments or gift cards, or risk going to jail.

- Bank Scam Calls: A scammer claims to be a bank employee and tells the victim that their account has been compromised.
- Cryptocurrency Company Scam Calls: A scammer claims to be an employee of a cryptocurrency company stating the victim's account has been compromised.

*During scam phone calls, the scammer will often:*

- Express urgency.
- Instruct the victim to withdraw or transfer money from their bank account(s) into cryptocurrency accounts.
- Instruct the victim to not tell their family and friends about the withdrawal or transfer. Provide the victim with specific information to tell their bank about why the withdrawals or transfers are occurring (such as home repairs, purchasing a new car, or giving a personal loan to a friend).

*Prevention tips:*

- Be wary of answering calls from unknown numbers.
- Never give out personal information such as account numbers, Social Security numbers, mother's maiden names, or passwords in response to unexpected calls.
- If something doesn't make sense or if the caller tries to coerce you to act urgently, slow down. Contact a trusted source or do your own research before acting on their instructions.
- Local and federal law enforcement agencies will

never demand money over the phone to pay for arrest warrants or back taxes.

### **Romance Scams**

Please be aware of romance scams which occur when a criminal adopts a fake online identity to gain a victim's affection and trust. These scams can occur through a dating website, dating app, direct email communication or any other social media platform.

*During romance scams, the scammer will often:*

- Quickly profess their love for you to gain your trust faster and quickly make long term plans for a future life together.
- Make promises to meet you in person, but always cancel due to a variety of last-minute excuses.
- Claim they need financial assistance for medical emergencies or travel funds to visit you.
- Request funds through hard-to-trace means such as cryptocurrency or gift cards.
- Request your bank account information to deposit money (in order to carry out theft and fraud schemes).

*Prevention tips:*

- Be careful what you post online. Scammers can use details shared on social media and dating sites to better understand and target you.
- Be aware of people who agree to meet in person but continually provide last-minute excuses that prevent face to face meet ups and video calls.
- Beware if the individual requests financial information or funds from you.
- Never send money to anyone you have only communicated with online or by phone.

## *September is National Preparedness Month: Preparing for Older Adults*

National Preparedness Month is observed every September to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies. [The Ready Campaign's 2023 National Preparedness Month](#) campaign focuses on preparing older adults for disaster. When it comes to extreme weather events and emergencies, older adults face greater risk factors, especially if they live alone.

Important tips for older adults to prepare for a disaster include:

- Keep a NOAA Weather Radio tuned to your local emergency station and monitor TV and radio

for warnings about severe weather in your area

- Download the FEMA app and get weather alerts from the National Weather Service.
- Prepare an emergency kit to include medicines, medical supplies, batteries, and chargers.
- Create a support network of family, friends, and others who can assist you during an emergency
- If you undergo routine treatments administered by a clinic or hospital, find out their emergency plans and work with them to identify back-up service providers.

Additional tips and resources can be found on the [ready.gov website](#).



# Upcoming Events

## Wheaton French Market

**Dates:** 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.

## Smashed: Wheaton Train Wrecks

**Date:** Wednesday, Sept. 6

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Location:** Wheaton Public Library, 225 N. Cross St.

Trains have been rolling through downtown Wheaton for 173 years.

Local historian Bob Goldsborough provides a colorful look at rail mishaps in Wheaton and surrounding areas, from the biggest and most tragic disasters to less-known pileups. Provided in partnership with the City of Wheaton Historic Commission. Registration required.

## Summer Entertainment Concert Series

**Date:** Sept. 8, 9

**Time:** 6 p.m., 7 p.m.

**Location:** Memorial Park Bandshell, 225 Karlskoga Ave.



The Wheaton Park District presents Summer Entertainment Series concerts on select summer evenings. On Friday, Sept. 8, The Chicago Experience & Billy Elton will perform from 6-9:30 p.m., and on Saturday, Sept. 9, The DuPage Symphony Orchestra will perform from 7-8:30 p.m. For

tickets and information on each concert, visit [the Wheaton Park District's website](#).

## Electronic Recycling

**Date:** Saturday, Sept. 9

**Time:** 9 a.m.-Noon

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

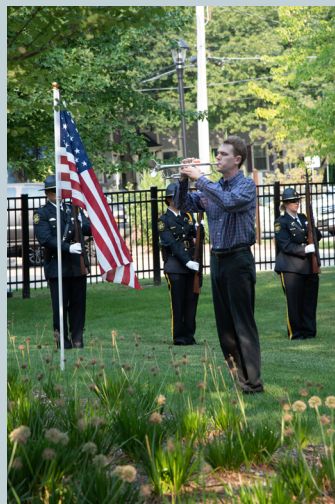
Bring unwanted electronics to the monthly electronic recycling collection. This is a drive-through event where volunteers will help unload items from your car. Please note that there is a charge for all TVs and monitors at this event.

## September 11 Remembrance Ceremony

**Date:** Monday, Sept. 11

**Time:** 10 a.m.

**Location:** Memorial Park, 225 Karlskoga Ave.



The City of Wheaton encourages the community to come together for Wheaton's annual September

11 Remembrance Ceremony at 10 a.m. Monday, Sept. 11 at Memorial Park, 225 Karlskoga Ave. This event pays tribute to the individuals our community lost in the September 11 attacks and the ensuing military conflicts, and it honors fire and police personnel.

## Famous Women of Wheaton History Bike Tour

**Date:** Saturday, Sept. 16

**Time:** 2-4 p.m.

**Location:** Wheaton Public Library West Plaza, 225 N. Cross St.



Ride and learn about the great women in Wheaton history with Bob Goldsborough, longtime Wheaton resident, amateur historian, and current writer for the Chicago Tribune. Bob will lead a leisurely bicycle tour to the former homes of these women and provide historical

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commentary at each site. This event is sponsored by the Wheaton Bicyclist and Pedestrian Commission. This ride will meet at the Wheaton Library West Plaza. For more information and participation requirements, please visit [the City's website](#).

### **Festival of Cultures**

**Date:** Sunday, Sept. 17

**Time:** 1-5 p.m.

**Location:** Memorial Park, 225 Karlskoga Ave.

Don't miss the Festival of Cultures on Sunday, Sept. 17 from 1-5 p.m. at Memorial Park. The free, family-friendly festival presented by the Wheaton Community Relations Commission, includes live entertainment, cultural booths, food



trucks, and a passport activity for kids.

Enjoy a variety of music and dance performances from the Memorial Park Bandshell. For more information about this event, visit [the City's website](#).

### **Dinos Downtown Wheaton**

**Date:** Sept. 25 through Oct. 8

**Time:** All Day

**Location:** Various



Locations  
Dinosaurs invade Downtown Wheaton starting Monday, Sept. 25! Enjoy dinosaur-themed specials, activities, and more from your favorite shops and restaurants! Mark your calendar now

to visit the exhibit, and check [the Downtown Wheaton Association's website](#) for a map of dinosaur locations and special offers happening throughout downtown Wheaton!

### **Light the Torch 5K**

**Date:** Saturday, Sept. 30

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Location:** Central Athletic Complex, 500 S. Naperville Road  
Race through luminary lanes at the

Wheaton Park District's 10th Annual Light the Torch 5K Night Run! This chip-timed 5K run/walk is a unique race through downtown Wheaton after sunset. For more information and to register, please visit [the Wheaton Park District's website](#).

## **LIBRARY EVENTS**

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

### **ALICE Training**

**Date:** Tuesday, Sept. 5

**Time:** 10 a.m.

**Location:** In-person  
The Wheaton Police Department presents ALICE Training (Alert-Lockdown-Inform-Counter-Evacuate). ALICE helps teach individuals and groups how to proactively handle the threat in a violent encounter or active shooter event. *Registration is required*

*for this event.*

### **Mobile DMV**

**Date:** Friday, Sept. 15

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

**Location:** 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 now, REAL ID applications.

*Registration required.*

### **Traditional Jazz from the New Orleans & Chicago Era**

**Date:** Thursday, Sept. 21

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Location:** In-person  
Jazz musician and educator Dr. John Cooper will discuss and perform the various instruments common to the genre of traditional jazz of Chicago and New Orleans. In partnership

with Illinois Humanities. *Registration required.*

### **Concert: ZAZZ Jazz Combo**

**Date:** Sunday, Sept. 24

**Time:** 2 p.m.

**Location:** In-person  
This local five-piece jazz combo features a unique sound which combines jazz standards, less often heard jazz tunes, and original compositions. *No registration required.*



# How to Deter Coyotes and Protect Your Pets



Coyotes are highly adaptable animals that can thrive in almost any setting, including residential areas. They are generally afraid of people but can become accustomed to them if they find an easy food source like pet food or if they are intentionally fed. As a reminder, the City of Wheaton has adopted this [Coyote Policy](#) for how the City addresses situations regarding coyotes.

Recently, the City has received an increased number of coyote sighting reports. If you have pets, here are some precautions you can take:

- Watch small pets when they're outdoors. Fences do not guarantee your pet's safety, so

you should always attend to small pets outdoors.

- Do not leave pet food outside or feed wild animals. Doing so attracts coyotes and other creatures that provide major portions of a coyote's natural diet.
- Use a short leash when walking your pet, and never let a coyote get between you and your pet.

If you encounter a coyote, help reestablish fear of humans by acting aggressively, yelling, stomping and clapping. Anyone can call 9-1-1 if they observe any wild animal behaving in a threatening manner. Police officers will respond. For more information, visit [www.wheaton.il.us/coyotes](http://www.wheaton.il.us/coyotes).

## Changes to Wheaton's Garbage Rates Start Oct. 1



In 2021, the City approved a 3-year contract extension with LRS (formerly Lakeshore Recycling Services) to provide garbage, recycling and yard waste removal services for Wheaton residents. The contract included price adjustments for the second and third years of the contract. Prices will increase 2% per pickup, which equates to a total of between \$0.04 and \$0.10 per pickup depending upon the type of service and cart size. You can read more on the City's garbage, recycling and yard waste service, including what is/isn't recyclable on [the City'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](http://www.wheaton.il.us) for a complete list of meetings and events.

### September 2023

- 4 City offices closed; No garbage pickup
- 5 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 9 Coffee with Council, 10 a.m.
- 11 Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 18 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 25 City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.