

# CITY OF WHEATON

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## NEWSLETTER

November 2023

### CITY NOTES

#### Thanksgiving Garbage Collection & City Office Holiday Closures

There will be no garbage collection on Thursday, Nov. 23. Pickup will be delayed by one day for residents whose regular collection day is Thursday or Friday. Additionally, City offices will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 23 and Friday, Nov. 24 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

#### City to Host Budget Workshop Sessions

The City Council will discuss the proposed 2024 Year Municipal Budget during two Budget Workshop Sessions, which are scheduled for Monday, Nov. 13 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 18 at 9 a.m. Both meetings will take place in the Council

*(Continued on next page)*

### City of Wheaton Leaf Collection Reminders



As the autumn leaves begin to fall, the City of Wheaton reminds you of the ways you can properly dispose of leaves.

- Place leaves in containers 35 gallons in size or smaller, or in biodegradable bags
- Containers or bags must weigh less than 50 pounds when filled.
- Each container or bag requires an LRS yard waste/organics/excess garbage sticker, available at City Hall and at many local grocery and hardware stores
- When you're cleaning up leaves, please be careful not to blow or rake them into the streets. Doing so can prevent storm sewers from functioning properly and can lead to flooding. If your house is located near a storm sewer catch basin, please help

keep it clear by sweeping away leaves and debris from the sewer grate.

- Burning leaves is not allowed.
- LRS collects yard waste, food scraps and organic materials on your garbage day through the second full week of December.

An environmentally friendly alternative to bagging leaves is to mulch them into your lawn and/or garden beds. Using a lawnmower with a mulching function can break down leaves into small pieces, allowing them to be either collected and spread into garden beds or finely shredded into lawns to break down.

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

### 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)

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Chambers of City Hall, 303 W. Wesley St. These meetings are open to the public and will be recorded. The draft budget will be available on the City's website before the first workshop session.

### Board/ Commission Appointments

The City Council approved the appointments to the following City Boards and Commissions:  
*Fine and Cultural Arts Commission*

- Mike Bock was reappointed for a three-year term
- Vittoria Clay was appointed for a three-year term
- Dee Hicks was reappointed for a three-year term

### Employment Opportunities

The City of Wheaton has the following employment opportunity available:

- Maintenance Worker (Public Works, Streets Division)

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

# How to Deter Coyotes and Protect Your Pets



**C**oyotes 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 reinstate 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).

## Bring Pumpkins to be Composted



**T**he City of Wheaton's Environmental Improvement Commission will once again host a "Pumpkin Smash" drop-off for pumpkins right after Halloween. This collection will allow you to drop off pumpkins (*please remove*

*decorations first*) to be composted, rather than going to the landfill. The Pumpkin Smash event will take place on Saturday, Nov. 4 from 9 a.m. to noon in the commuter parking lot at Liberty and Carlton.



# MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

## Ushering in the Holiday Season



**Mayor Sueß**

The holiday season is kicking off this month in the City of Wheaton with the return of many community-favorite events and activities. The official Adams Park Lighting Ceremony will take place at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 24. On the same evening, our community will welcome the Downtown Wheaton Association's Christmas Parade at 6 p.m. and Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at 7 p.m. Additional details about these events can be found on page 4.

The City thanks the Downtown Wheaton Association for their hard work in creating this eventful night.

This evening is only the beginning to many of the City's great holiday events that will be happening throughout the holiday season which include:



- **Nights of Lights:** The Adams Park Lighting Ceremony is the initial start to Nights of Lights in Adams Park which offers a special light display throughout the park for visitors to enjoy. Visit Adams Park for

a seasonal stroll from dusk to 11 p.m. each night from Friday, Nov. 24 through Sunday, January 7. **Festival of Lights & Christmas Tree Sale:** The Wheaton Park District's Cosley Zoo will offer a special holiday lighting display with thousands of twinkling lights to convert the zoo into a winter wonderland for all ages to enjoy. Visitors can also purchase trees, wreaths, and other holiday gifts at this event that is open regularly from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. each day from Friday, Nov. 24 through Saturday, Dec. 30.

- **Light Up Wheaton:** It's the third year of this special initiative that invites the entire community to help Light Up Wheaton with their own seasonal light displays. Drive around the community

throughout the season to see all the wonderful displays. The City will also release a Light Up Wheaton tour map that will provide a map of contest entries for this year's decorating contest.



As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, we give thanks to our residents, partners, businesses, and the community at large for making Wheaton a great place to live.

## Wheaton Police Department Personnel Promotions



Three members of the Wheaton Police Department were promoted to new



positions. Please help in congratulating Sergeant Mario Fearon Jr., Lieutenant Patricia



Potter, and Deputy Chief Brian Gabryel. Thank you for serving the City of Wheaton.

# Upcoming Events

## Wheaton French Market

**Date:** Saturdays, Nov. 4-25

**Time:** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (note shorter hours for November French Market dates)

**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.

## Pumpkin Smash

**Date:** Saturday, Nov. 4

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

**Location:** City's Commuter Parking Lot at Liberty and Carlton  
The City of Wheaton's Environmental Improvement

Commission will once again host a "Pumpkin Smash" drop-off for pumpkins right after Halloween. This collection will allow you to drop off pumpkins (please remove decorations first) to be composted, rather than going to the landfill.

## Electronic Recycling

**Date:** Saturday, Nov. 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](#).

## Festival of Lights & Christmas Tree Sale

**Date:** Friday, Nov. 24-Saturday, Dec. 30

**Time:** 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Lights turn on at 3 p.m.

**Location:** Cosley Zoo, 1356 N Gary Ave.

On Friday, Nov. 24, the Wheaton Park District and Cosley Zoo begin the Festival of Lights & Christmas Tree Sale. Cosley Zoo is transformed into a winter wonderland with thousands of twinkling lights, an amazing selection of Christmas trees, wreaths

and greenery, hot chocolate, and a unique assortment of holiday gifts in the Wild Side Gift Shop. Admission is free during the festival. For more information, visit [the Cosley Zoo website](#).

## Nights of Lights Park Lighting Ceremony

**Date:** Friday, Nov. 24

**Time:** 4:30 p.m.

**Location:** Adams Park

Nights of Lights returns to Adams Park for its fourth year! Join the Downtown Wheaton Association and City of Wheaton for the park lighting on Friday, Nov. 24 at 4:30 p.m. and enjoy this display through the holiday season. Featuring over 55,000 bulbs lighting the trees and an animated light display at the fountain, a walk through Adams Park will "wow" the whole family. Nights of Lights continues through Jan. 7, 2024. This event is open to the public at no cost. For more information, visit [the Downtown Wheaton Association's website](#).

## Wheaton Christmas Parade

**Date:** Friday, Nov. 24

**Time:** 6 p.m.

**Location:** Downtown Wheaton

The tradition continues; join the Downtown Wheaton Association for the

annual Wheaton Christmas Parade for a magical evening of lights, music, and community Downtown Wheaton. The parade will travel from Wheaton Avenue at Wesley Street south to Front Street, turning east (left) on Front Street, and finishing at Cross Street. For more information, visit [the Downtown Wheaton Association's website](#).

Immediately following the parade, head over to the new south pavilion for the Downtown Wheaton Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony!

## Downtown Wheaton Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

**Date:** Friday, Nov. 24

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Location:** Downtown Wheaton

Join the City of Wheaton and Downtown Wheaton Association for the second annual Downtown Wheaton Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, immediately following the Wheaton Christmas Parade. Then, enjoy the tree daily from 4-10 p.m. through Jan. 7. For more information, visit [the Downtown Wheaton Association's website](#).

## LIBRARY EVENTS

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

### The Reintroduction of Native Americans into Illinois

**Date:** Thursday, Nov. 2

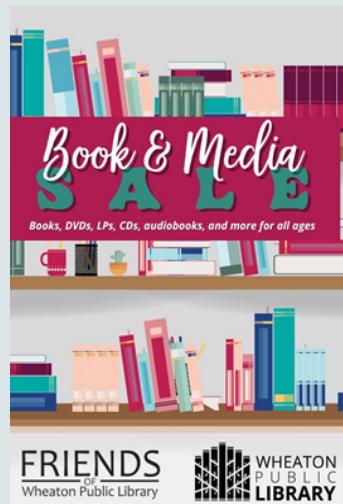
**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Location:** In-person & Virtual

Chief White

Winnebago will discuss the culture and history of the HoChunk nation, including how his family was relocated into Starved Rock. Co-sponsored by the City of Wheaton Community Relations Commission and the Wheaton League of Women Voters. *Registration is required to attend this event.*

### Friends Holiday Book & Art Sale



#### Dates & Times:

- Thursday, Nov. 9, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.
- Friday, Nov. 10, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Saturday, Nov. 11, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Sunday, Nov. 12, 1-5 p.m.

**Location:** In-person

Start your holiday shopping early at the Friends Holiday Book & Art Sale! Find like-new books, autographed copies, collectibles, Christmas items, art prints, unique gifts and more.

### Become a Dementia Friend

**Date:** Thursday, Nov. 9

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Location:** In-person

Learn how to support neighbors, friends or family who are living with dementia. Susan Frick of the Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center will discuss the national movement, Dementia Friends, providing information

that will alert and equip you to better care for your community. This training is for ages 6-106! *Registration required.*

### Concert: Mark Dvorak & The American Folk Song

**Date:** Sunday, Nov. 12

**Time:** 2 p.m.

**Location:** In-person

Join folk musician Mark Dvorak to hear familiar folk songs, oral history, standards from the Great American songbook, and the music of Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, and Lead Belly. *No registration required.*

## Holiday Light Recycling Returns to Wheaton in 2023



Wheaton's holiday light recycling program is back Monday, Nov. 13 through Friday, Jan. 19. Bring strands of incandescent or LED lights in any condition to the Public Works Storage Facility at 820 W. Liberty Drive between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. weekdays. Look for signs directing you to the holiday light recycling area just inside the gate. This program is for light strings only. Please do not drop off lawn ornaments or other decorations, and

do not put lights in a bag or box. Elgin Recycling, <https://www.elginrecycling.com/>, will collect the lights, which will then be stripped and recycled for their copper and plastic parts. No materials will be shipped overseas. In addition to residents, the City also welcomes businesses, schools, and other organizations wanting to dispose of holiday lights to participate in the program. There is no limit as to how many lights you can drop off for recycling.

# Prepare for the Cold: Practice Winter Weather Safety



Illinois is prone to severe winter weather. On average, Illinois experiences five severe winter storms each year. From November 2020 through April 2021 there were eight snow or ice storms that impacted Illinois. There has not been a winter in Illinois without at least one winter storm in the past century, according to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA). As the cold further settles in this season, residents are reminded to prepare for winter weather during IEMA's Winter Weather Safety Month.

## Winterize your home

- Winterize your home to extend your fuel supply.
- Insulate walls and attics.
- Caulk and weatherize doors and windows.
- Install storm windows or cover windows with plastic.
- Prevent frozen water pipes by insulating those most susceptible to freezing: typically, those near outer walls, in crawl spaces or in attics.

## Prepare your vehicle for winter weather

- Winterize your vehicle or have your vehicle serviced by a reputable dealer, garage, or mechanic.
- Check your wipers, tires, lights, and fluid levels regularly. Make sure the brakes and transmission are working properly. Lubricate door and trunk locks to prevent them from

freezing.

- Prepare a Winter Storm Survival Kit and carry it in your vehicle. A kit is important even for short trips. If you have an accident or vehicle breakdown, you may be waiting several hours for assistance to arrive.

## Drive safely and be cautious on the road

- Buckle your seat belt!
- Keep your windows clear of snow and ice. Do not start driving until your windshield is defrosted.
- Drive slower and increase your following distance. Your speed should be adjusted for the conditions and match the flow of traffic.
- Roadway conditions may vary depending on the sun, shade, or roadway surface. Watch for slick spots especially under bridges, on overpasses and in shaded areas.
- If the pavement is snow or ice covered, start slowly and brake gently. Begin braking early when you come to an intersection.
- If you start to slide, ease off the gas pedal or brakes. Steer into the direction of the skid until you feel you have regained traction, and then straighten your vehicle.

Whether you're at work, commuting, or at home, being ready for these frigid storms can help protect you and your loved ones.



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.

## CITY CALENDAR

### November 2023

4	Coffee with Council, 10 a.m.
6	City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
13	City Budget Workshop Session, 7 p.m.
18	City Budget Workshop Session, 9 a.m.
20	City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
23	City Offices Closed, No trash pickup
24	City Offices Closed
27	City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.