

# CITY OF WHEATON NEWSLETTER

December 2023

## CITY NOTES

### Holiday Garbage Collection Schedule & City Office Closures

There will be no garbage collection on Monday, Dec. 25 or Monday, Jan. 1. Pickup will be delayed by one day. Additionally, non-emergency City offices will be closed on Monday, Dec. 25 and Monday, Jan. 1.

### City of Wheaton Announces Newest Assistant Fire Chief

Please help in congratulating Wheaton's newest Assistant Fire Chief, Timothy Sellers. He has served with the Wheaton Fire Department since 2000, most recently as a Lieutenant, before being sworn into this new role during a recent City Council meeting.

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## Light Up Wheaton Decorating Contest Returns



**B**righten the winter season during the Light Up Wheaton holiday decorating contest presented by the City of Wheaton and Wheaton Park District. All are encouraged to decorate their homes, businesses, non-profits, churches or other places of worship, and other organizations. This free competition is open to all themes and holidays. Show the community your most creative, out-of-the-box, and festive seasonal decorations and take part in Wheaton's newest tradition.

[Register your home or business now through Dec. 8.](#) Registered participants must submit a photo of their submission by Dec. 8 at noon

to [lcali@wheatonparks.org](mailto:lcali@wheatonparks.org). Judging will be from Dec. 9-17. Judges will be observing houses from 6-9 p.m. daily. The award categories include Most Creative, People's Choice Award, and Mayor's Choice Award. All winners will receive a commemorative prize and \$100 in local gift cards.

Photos will be shared on the City of Wheaton and Wheaton Park District Facebook pages for public voting and all homes participating will be listed on the website for families looking to drive by and see the entries in person. Award winners will be announced via social media and email on Dec. 20.

**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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Congratulations, Assistant Fire Chief Sellers!

### Stormwater Utility Fee Lookup Map

The City is proposing to restructure the existing stormwater utility based on each property's impervious surface area (any area on the property that prevents stormwater from draining into the soil), rather than water consumption. Check out [the Stormwater Utility Fee Lookup Map](#), a new interactive tool where you can search for your address to see the impervious area calculation for your property and estimated fee.

You can learn more about the proposed fee restructuring at [wheaton.il.us/stormwaterutility](http://wheaton.il.us/stormwaterutility).

### Additional Customer Parking Available at the Wheaton Place Garage

The Wheaton Place Garage (232 W. Wesley Street) will have open customer parking on all levels during the 2023 holiday season.

### Snow Parking Reminders

Winter has arrived, and more snow is around the corner. As a reminder, after 2 inches of accumulated snowfall, parking is prohibited on

any street or highway for a period of 24 hours or until the streets have been cleared of snow. Parking is also prohibited in the Central Business District between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. or until the streets have been cleared.

### Employment Opportunities

The City of Wheaton has the following employment opportunity available:

Maintenance Worker (Public Works)

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

### Board/Commission Appointments

The City Council approved the appointments and reappointments to the following Boards and Commissions:

#### *Commission on Aging*

- Abdul Shakoor was appointed for a three-year term

#### *Bicyclist & Pedestrian Commission*

- Robert Van Valzah was reappointed for a three-year term

#### *Historic Commission*

- Michael Hill was appointed for a three-year term
- Syed Hussain was appointed for a three-year term

#### *Planning & Zoning Board*

- Robert Gudmundson was reappointed for a three-year term
- Mark Plunkett was reappointed for a three-year term

## Holiday Light Recycling Available



Wheaton's holiday light recycling program is available now 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, [www.elginrecycling.com](http://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.

## Creekside Drive Bridge Replacement Complete

Based upon its age, the Creekside Drive bridge over Spring Brook Creek was reaching the end of its useful life. To continue enhancing the community's infrastructure, the Wheaton City Council authorized the project earlier this year and the bridge is now complete. The project involved relocating utilities; removing the old structure; installing new bridge supports, beams and decking; and restoring disrupted landscaping.



# City Announces Inaugural Sustainability Award Winners



*Jim & Cathy Truesdale*



*Bill Nieman & Rita Nathanson*



*Yusuf Hussain*



*Tonya & Andrew Parravano,  
Andrew's Garden*



*The Prairie School of DuPage*

At the Nov. 20, 2023 City Council meeting, four adults, a high school student, one business and a school received Wheaton's first-ever Sustainability Awards from the City's Environmental Improvement Commission. The commission encouraged the community to nominate outstanding individuals, businesses/organizations, and students whose actions influence others to adopt sustainable practices. The recipients of these awards demonstrate a commitment to improving our local environment in a wide variety of ways.

**Jim & Cathy Truesdale's** dedication to recycling is next-level. The Truesdales are extremely conscientious of reducing their carbon footprint, using minimal electricity for heating and cooling, installing solar panels, driving a used electric hybrid vehicle, and even recapturing laundry water to fill toilet tanks. Jim consistently volunteers at the City's monthly recycling events and was instrumental in starting the Northern Illinois Food Bank in the early 1980s, sustaining hungry people.

**Bill Nieman & Rita Nathanson** are models of sustainable living in many ways, including riding their bikes anywhere they can, driving fully electric cars and using an electric lawn mower. In their yard, they use a rain barrel, compost, grow many of their own vegetables and have native plants throughout their landscape. Both serve on the Wheaton Bicyclist & Pedestrian Commission and volunteer for the DuPage County Forest Preserve.

**Yusuf Hussain**, a Glenbard West High School student, has a passion for conservation and sustainability, demonstrated through hard work transforming several areas in Wheaton. For his Eagle Scout project at Carriers of Light School and in his own yard, he removed invasive buckthorn and planted native species. Yusuf also set up rain barrels and chose native fruit trees to promote farm-to-fork lifestyles. In addition, he has taken many environmental courses at Glenbard West and plans to study this field in college.

**Andrew's Garden** earned a Sustainability Award for their concerted effort to use sustainable floristry practices, plus educating the Wheaton community and the floral community. They use locally grown flowers during Midwest growing seasons; eliminated the use of toxic floral foam; do not use dyes, bleach, or paint on flowers in their arrangements; send floral waste to be composted; and choose compostable wraps and paper products. They attend the Sustainable Flowers Project and share this knowledge with others in the floral business.

**The Prairie School of DuPage**, a kindergarten through 8th grade school, practices sustainability with its students on a daily basis. The school holds a mission to heighten students' environmental awareness and promote stewardship through developing ecological values out of first-hand experience. Students participate in waste-free lunches, composting, and gardening.

# Stay Safe During the Holiday Season and New Year



**D**uring the holiday season, when families gather, parties are scheduled and travel spikes, safety should always be a priority. Take a look below at these safety tips from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) to ensure your family remains safe and injury-free now and into the new year:

## **Holiday Decorating**

Candles and string lights are common holiday decorations and help usher in the

holiday season but it's important to be careful when using them. Never leave burning candles unattended, never burn a candle near anything flammable, and keep candles out of the reach of children and pets. Holiday lights and electrical decorations should bear the name of an independent testing lab, like Underwriters Laboratories (UL), to prove they were safety tested.

## **Winter Heating**

Chimneys and fireplaces should be

regularly inspected and cleaned. Additionally, furnaces should be checked every year by professionals to ensure mechanical parts are working properly. Malfunctioning furnaces increase both fire and carbon monoxide risks. Remember, if it is determined that the furnace needs to be replaced, a permit must be obtained from the City of Wheaton's Building Department.

## **Holiday Travel**

Whether traveling by car, train or plane,

always use smart travel tips. If traveling by car, make sure to always have an emergency supply kit in the vehicle. Before hitting the road, check weather conditions and avoid traveling during severe winter storms. If taking a flight for the holidays, consider packing a small emergency kit that may include a flashlight and spare USB power bank. Additionally, make sure to inform somebody of your travel plans.

Stay safe and warm this holiday season!

## Keeping Warm During Winter; Heating Ordinance & Permit Reminder

**T**he colder months have arrived. The City of Wheaton has established heating ordinance requirements to ensure that all residents remain warm and comfortable.

From Sept. 15 through June 1, any individuals that rent or lease within the City are required to provide a minimum indoor temperature of 68 degrees Fahrenheit for their tenants.

Cooking appliances

and portable unvented fuel-burning space heaters cannot be used to provide required heating.

However, there is a provision for extremely cold weather conditions. When the outdoor temperature is below the "winter outdoor design temperature" for the locality, which is -4 degrees Fahrenheit, maintaining the minimum indoor temperature of 68

degrees Fahrenheit is not required as long as the heating system is operating at its full design capacity.

Now is a good time for homeowners and landlords to have their heating systems checked by a qualified professional to confirm that the unit is working properly. If it is determined that the furnace needs to be replaced, a permit must be obtained from the

Building Department. Once installed, a final inspection must be performed by the Building Department to verify proper installation.

Reports of heating concerns may be directed to the City of Wheaton at 630-260-2054 or submitted using [the City's Service Request Form](#). Please see additional information by visiting [the City's website](#).





# MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

## Reflecting on 2023



**Mayor Suess**

**A**s the year comes to a close, it is rewarding to reflect on 2023 to see all the City of Wheaton and its residents have accomplished and celebrate the many successes within our community. The City continues to be financially strong, delivering services and investing in our infrastructure. Many events and activities contributed to the vibrancy and spirit of our City in 2023.

Throughout the year, the City celebrated notable events such as the dedication of the Downtown Pavilion, the 100th year anniversary

of the Wheaton Public Library, and the return of the French Market, Hale Street Tents, and Wheaton Municipal Band for its 94th season.

We welcomed guests from our Sister City, Karlskoga Sweden, the hometown of Alfred Nobel, and celebrated the 50th anniversary of our Sister City relationship. The City enjoyed the return of various summer activities and festivals, including the Wheaton Welcomes Warhol festivities, Nights of Lights in Adams Park, Field of Honor, and Dinos Downtown Wheaton exhibit. These happenings, and various other community activities, were made possible by our community partners in the Wheaton Park District, Downtown Wheaton Association, and Wheaton Chamber of Commerce. We also celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the Wheaton Lions Club, honoring their years of service to the community. Through the hard work of our Forestry Department, Adams Park was designated a Level 1 Arboretum by Arbnet.

Wheaton benefited from strong economic

activity throughout the year with new businesses and restaurants opening, new construction, and renovations of existing property throughout the City. With the return of Ann Taylor and the opening of Meredith Jaye, the revitalization of Town Square is accelerating. The opening of the J. Crew Factory Outlet store and the anticipated February opening of Nordstrom Rack at Danada East add to the excitement of shopping and doing business in the City. The opening of Liberty Flats, a new apartment building in the downtown, will further contribute to the continued growth of our downtown.

The City continued to focus on community outreach to engage and interact with our residents. The Wheaton Police Department continued its Neighborhood Roll Call program during the summer. In conjunction with Community School District 200, the Wheaton Police reestablished its DARE program and hosted numerous lunches and other interactions with local schools. Through our Boards and

Commissions and the Wheaton Public Library, the City continued to provide ongoing activities and events to engage community members of all ages.

During the year, we welcomed Brad Clousing to the City Council replacing Suzanne Fitch, we welcomed Dawn Didier as the new City Attorney replacing Jim Knippen who retired, we welcomed Robert Brill as our new Fire Chief, and promoted Princeton J. Youker to Police Chief following the retirement of Bill Murphy.

I want to thank our City Manager and all city employees for their hard work and dedication to running the City of Wheaton and recognize the contributions of our various Boards and Commissions for their energy and initiative in contributing to the vibrancy of our community. I want to acknowledge the contribution of all our residents who in their own way contribute to making Wheaton a place we are all proud to live and work.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season. Enjoy your families, friends, and the holidays.

# Upcoming Events

## **Wheaton Park District & Lions Club Reindeer Run**

**Date:** Saturday, Dec. 2

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

**Location:** Downtown Wheaton

The Wheaton Park District's 12th Annual Lions Club Reindeer Run 5K is sure to put you in the holiday spirit. Come out in your best Santa hats or assortment of jingle bells and Run Run Rudolph to the finish line! All runners receive a long sleeve t-shirt and antlers. For more information and to register, visit [the Wheaton Park District's website](#).

## **Santa and Mrs. Claus at the "W" Tent**

### **Dates & Times:**

- Saturday, Dec. 2, 2-4 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 9, 2-4 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 16, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 23, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Location:** "W" Tent, located on Front Street just west of Main Street

The Downtown Wheaton Association invites the community to visit Santa and Mrs. Claus at the "W" Tent. This is the perfect time to take a picture with Santa and even check if you made the nice list this year.

## **Electronic Recycling**

**Date:** Saturday, Dec. 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.

## **Letters to Santa**

**Date:** Now through Saturday, Dec. 23

**Location:** Drop your letter in the mailbox at the "W" Tent, located on Front Street just west of Main Street

It's time to let Santa know what you want for Christmas this year! Write your own letter from scratch or download a template from the link below – be sure to include an email address where Santa can send you a video reply. Drop your letter in Santa's mailbox at the "W" Tent on Front Street by Dec. 23 to ensure he gets it in time for Christmas! For more information, visit [the Downtown Wheaton Association's website](#).

## **25 Days of Christmas**

**Date:** Now through Monday, Dec. 25

**Location:** Downtown Wheaton

Head Downtown Wheaton to shop, dine,

and experience all the shops and restaurants have to offer this holiday season. Each day in December features a different exclusive offer, so check out the DWA's online calendar to make your plans now! For more information, visit [the Downtown Wheaton Association's website](#).

## **Festival of Lights & Christmas Tree Sale**

**Date:** Now through Saturday, Dec. 30

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

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

The Wheaton Park District and Cosley Zoo are once again hosting the Festival of Lights & Christmas Tree Sale. Cosley Zoo is now 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](#).

## **Downtown Wheaton Christmas Tree**

**Date:** Now through Sunday, Jan. 7

**Time:** 4-10 p.m.

**Location:** Downtown Pavilion

Enjoy the holiday season by visiting the beautifully decorated Christmas tree located at the pavilion downtown. The tree will be lit 4-10 p.m. daily until Sunday, Jan. 7.

## **Nights of Lights**

**Date:** Now through Sunday, Jan. 7

**Location:** Adams Park, 201 N. Main St.



Nights of Lights has returned to Adams Park for its fourth year! Enjoy this display throughout 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](#).

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## LIBRARY EVENTS

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

### Author Visit: Esau McCaulley

**Date:** Thursday, Dec. 7

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Location:** In-person & Virtual

Esau McCaulley, associate professor at Wheaton College and award-winning author, discusses his newest book, *How Far to the Promised Land*.

Copies of his book will be available for purchase by The Bookstore of Glen Ellyn. *Registration required.*

### Concert: Christmas at the White House

**Date:** Sunday, Dec. 10

**Time:** 2 p.m.

**Location:** In-person

Christmas at the White House is indeed magical as so many First Ladies and Presidents through the years have attested. Join Jenny Riddle and Elizabeth Doyle as they enchant audiences with classic carols and surprising tales of White House celebrations through the years. *No registration is required for this event.*

### Happy Christmas: Celebrating British Style

**Date:** Wednesday, Dec. 13

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Location:** Virtual  
Join former UK

resident and lifelong Anglophile Claire Evans to learn about the traditions and cultural quirks essential to a proper British holiday. Discover what special food and drink appears at their holiday tables, including authentic recipes. *Registration is required for this event.*

### Gingerbread House Contest

**Date:** Saturday, Dec. 16

**Time:** 1-3 p.m.

**Location:** In-person

Join us in the Arts & Culture Center on the main floor for our Gingerbread House Contest! Bring your creation between 11



a.m. - 12:30 p.m. or stop by and vote for your favorite house between 1-3 p.m. Enjoy a showing of *Elf* at 1 p.m.! *No registration required.*

## New 'Connect Wheaton' Program Enlists Community to Help Solve Crimes



As the City continually seeks to promote and enhance public safety in our community, the Wheaton Police Department is enlisting the public's help with a new safety initiative, Connect Wheaton. This program consists of an online security camera registry at [www.connectwheaton.org](http://www.connectwheaton.org) where residents and businesses can register the location of their security cameras with the Wheaton Police

Department to help expedite emergency response and crime investigations.

Being able to determine where there are security cameras – including video doorbells, home security systems and commercial surveillance cameras – significantly enhances the Wheaton Police Department's response efforts. With this information, Wheaton Police Department detectives can quickly determine if video evidence might be available at a particular location and whom to contact to request it.

Residents and businesses can register their cameras with the Wheaton Police Department through the self-service portal at [www.connectwheaton.org](http://www.connectwheaton.org). Your information will be kept confidential and only accessed in the event of a criminal investigation or emergency incident. Camera registration does not give live video access to the Wheaton Police Department, and officers can only access camera location information when an incident occurs.

For more information, please visit [the City's website](http://theCity'swebsite).



# Kicking Off the 2023 Holiday Season in Wheaton

**T**hank you to the Downtown Wheaton Association, parade participants, residents, and the community for making the evening of the Adams Park Lighting Ceremony, Christmas Parade, and Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony another one to remember. Happy holidays!



## Practice Holiday Decorating Safety: Help the Wheaton Fire Department Keep the Wreath Red this Year

**T**his holiday season, the Wheaton Fire Department will decorate Wheaton's three fire stations with wreaths that have a special significance. The wreaths are part of the Keep the Wreath Red fire safety campaign, a statewide program that reminds you to practice fire safety during the holiday season. The wreaths feature red lights, and for each Wheaton fire caused by holiday decorations, the



Fire Department will replace one red bulb with a white bulb.

Help the Wheaton Fire Department Keep the Wreath Red by unplugging holiday lights before leaving home or sleeping, being careful with candles, using flame-retardant decorations, ensuring lights are in good condition and Underwriters Laboratories (UL) listed, and keeping trees watered.



# Cold Weather Home Maintenance Tips



**A**s the temperatures continue to fall, and autumn turns into winter, it is important that your plumbing is ready for the winter season. It is essential to ensure that your faucets, pipes, and gutters are in good working condition. Here are some useful plumbing tips from the City's Water Division to help prepare your home for the cold weather:

## **Cover or Insulate Exposed Pipes**

In addition to sealing any gaps between the walls and pipes that are going inside of your house, also make sure to insulate pipes in unheated areas, like crawl spaces and your garage. When left exposed to the cold, unheated lines are prone to freezing.

## **In-ground irrigation systems**

To freeze-proof an in-ground irrigation system, follow the manufacturer's procedures for draining and protecting it from winter damage.

## **Clean Your Gutters**

Precipitation falls more quickly in winter than at any other time in the year. Because of the rainfall

and strong winds, you want to ensure your gutters and downspouts are clear of twigs, leaves, and other debris. Clean gutters will ensure proper draining and prevent rainwater from landing near your home's foundation.

## **Insulate and Cover Outdoor Faucets**

The direct contact between your faucet and the winter weather can risk piping exposure to extremely low temperatures. Freezing temperatures can lead to broken faucets and damaged pipes, causing floods and other plumbing issues. If your house is equipped with an interior shut-off valve directly connected to your exterior's faucets and plumbing, it is also a good idea to turn it off. Afterward, you can then open the outdoor faucet valve to ensure there is no remaining water inside the line that can freeze and cause trouble during the colder months. You can also insulate and cover outdoor-facing faucets to protect them from freezing temperatures.

## **Drain and Store Your Garden Hoses**

It is important that you properly drain any remaining water and stow away your garden hose if you want to prolong its lifespan. Water left inside your garden hose can freeze and significantly expand, causing the hose to break. Disconnect your hoses, drain the remaining water, and find a safe, dry place to keep them stored until spring.

## **Check Your Sump Pump**

A sump pump is one of the most important components of plumbing because it pumps rainwater away from your home to prevent water damage and flooding. Now is a great time to check for sump pump damage and make the necessary repairs.



## 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.

### December 2023

- 2** Coffee with Council, 10 a.m.
- 4** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 11** City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 18** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 25** City Offices Closed, No trash pickup