

CITY OF WHEATON — NEWSLETTER

January 2024

CITY NOTES

Snow Parking Reminders

Winter has arrived, and 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.

City Social Workers Providing Mental Health Resources

The City's [social workers are here to help](#) meet the mental health needs of everyone in our community. You can reach the City's social workers at 630-260-2545 or 630-260-2860. If you are experiencing a mental health crisis

(Continued on next page)

Light Up Wheaton Winners Announced



Mayor's Choice



Most Creative



People's Choice

You decorated. The people voted. But most importantly, this holiday season was brightened! Thank you to all the amazing entries for the Light Up Wheaton holiday decorating contest for all your hard work!

Here are the official 2023 Light Up Wheaton award recipients:

- Mayor's Choice:
146 Hawkins Circle
- Most Creative:
913 E. Evergreen St.
- People's Choice:
831 N. Summit St.

Thank you to all who participated and helped fill our community with holiday cheer!

**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

Continued from page 1

or need emergency mental health resources, call 988 for the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

Employment Opportunity



The City has the following employment opportunity available:

- Police Services Representative

To apply, visit www.wheaton.il.us/jobs.

Board/Commission Reappointments

The City Council approved the reappointment to the following Commission:
Band Commission

- Dottie Mackie was reappointed for a three-year term

Holiday Light Recycling Available Until Jan. 19



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, 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.

Christmas Tree Pickup Service Now Available



Christmas trees will be recycled the weeks of Jan. 1 and Jan. 8 at no charge on your garbage pickup day for residents served by LRS. During this free two-week collection period, make sure trees are free of all decorations and are not in plastic bags. After the two-week collection period, you will need to attach one garbage/organic sticker to a Christmas tree to have it collected. Please note that all pickups the week of Jan. 1 will be delayed by one day due to the New Year's Day observed holiday.



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Ushering in the New Year



Mayor Sueess

I wish each of our residents a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year! In conjunction with the New Year, I wanted to share with you where the City is headed in 2024.

The City's expenditures continue to be in line with our strategic objectives of financial stability, public safety, maintaining city services, enhancing infrastructure and environmental sustainability. The City's 2024 budget provides for revenues of \$120.3 million and expenditures of \$129.7 million. The excess of expenditures over revenues will be funded through reserves and grants dedicated to specific projects. This compares to revenues of \$129.7 million and expenditures of \$123.8 million in 2023. It is currently projected that the City will have a budget surplus of \$5.9 million in 2023.

The City continues to invest in its

infrastructure, having several projects slated for completion in 2024. These include improving approximately 8 miles of Wheaton roads through the annual Road, Sewer, and Water Rehabilitation Program. The City will replace 1,000 sidewalk squares



and construct 2.3 miles of new sidewalks to improve safety in our neighborhoods. We will continue to tackle flooding issues, including work this year on the Cadillac/Wakeman Flood Prone Project. The City will continue to fund programs to individual residents to address sewer backups, replacing sewer laterals and addressing backyard flooding. Investments will continue to be made in our sanitary and storm water sewers with the relining of sewers, the grouting and cleaning of sewers and the replacement of sewer structures. The City's program of lead service lines replacement will

continue with the goal of replacing all lead service lines by 2028.

The City continues its dedication to public safety through the Police Department's public outreach events and the new 'Connect Wheaton' Program, which consists of an online security camera registry where residents and businesses can register the location of their security cameras to help expedite emergency response and crime investigations. Additionally, the Police Department will work alongside the Engineering Department in conducting School



Safety Studies at Wheaton elementary schools to improve traffic flow and enhance student safety. The Fire Department will also conduct the Citizens Fire Academy Program and fire safety inspections of multi-family occupancies to ensure safety within these residential properties. Our budget also provides for the hiring of two additional firefighters in 2024.

This year, the City's environmental sustainability efforts will continue through initiatives to reduce our carbon footprint by increasing the use of hybrid vehicles, reducing the number of vehicles we operate, and focusing on reducing the size of vehicles. The City will continue replacing light fixtures with energy efficient LED fixtures.

The City maintained a stable budget throughout the year. The 2024 budget provides for no new taxes and maintains the property tax levy at its current level for the fifth straight year. The budget maintains current service levels and allocates \$30.3 million for capital expenditures across the community. The City of Wheaton is one of only 22 communities in Illinois and 447 in the U.S. to receive Standard & Poor's Global Ratings 'AAA' credit rating, the top possible rating.

We are fortunate to call Wheaton home. Thank you for your continued support of our community. It is our residents, their involvement, their interest, and their pride in our City that makes Wheaton the place it is. I look forward again to seeing our residents out enjoying our City.

Upcoming Events

Nights of Lights

Dates: Now through Sunday, Jan. 7

Location: Adams Park, 201 N. Main St.

Nights of Lights will soon end on Sunday, Jan. 7! 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. This event is open to the public at no cost. For more information, visit [the Downtown Wheaton Association's website](#).

Downtown Wheaton Christmas Tree

Date: Now through Sunday, Jan. 7

Time: 4-10 p.m.

Location: Downtown Pavilion

Enjoy the end of 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.

Cocoa & Coffee Crawl

Date: Saturday, Jan. 13

Time: Noon-3 p.m.

Location: Downtown Wheaton

Gather the whole family for a fun-filled winter day sampling a variety of unique hot cocoa and artisan coffees at your favorite Downtown Wheaton shops and restaurants! For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit [the Downtown Wheaton Association's website](#).

Electronic Recycling

Date: Saturday, Jan. 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. Please note that there is a charge for all TVs and monitors at this event. Find out more about items that will be accepted by visiting [the City's website](#).

State of the City

Date: Thursday, Jan. 18

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Location: Arrowhead Golf Club, 26W151 Butterfield Road

Mayor Philip J. Suess will present the annual State of the City Address during the Chamber of Commerce's monthly luncheon. Mayor Suess will outline recent projects and accomplishments in Wheaton and preview what's on the horizon for our community in the new year. To attend the event, please [visit the Wheaton Chamber](#)

[of Commerce's website for tickets](#).

Winter Wine & Cheese Walk

Date: Saturday, Feb. 3

Time: 2-5:30 p.m.

Location: Downtown Wheaton

Don't miss the Downtown Wheaton Association's Winter Wine & Cheese Walk. Enjoy 12 one-ounce wine tastes at participating Downtown businesses – and, new this year, enjoy curated pairings of artisan cheeses. This is the perfect time to shop for all things spring at your favorite stores. At the end of the event, take home your souvenir wine glass. Make it an early Valentine's Day date or gather your squad for a friends' day out! For more information, visit [the Downtown Wheaton Association's website](#).

LIBRARY EVENTS

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

Clear the Clutter

Date: Tuesday, Jan. 9

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: Virtual

Improve your life by getting the most from your stuff. Recognize and eliminate clutter, then maximize what you keep. Colleen Klimczak of Peace of Mind Professional Organizing

will help you save time and money by regaining control of your home. *Registration required.*

Mobile DMV

Date: Wednesday, Jan. 10

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.*

Concert: Quartet 61

Date: Sunday, Jan. 14

Time: 2 p.m.

Location: In-person

This eclectic quartet featuring harp, guitar, violin, and cello creates musical layers of depth and vibrant texture for your listening pleasure! Artists perform passionate arrangements of music inspired from cultures

(continued on next page)

around the world. *No registration required.*

Weaving Demo & DIY

Date: Saturday, Jan. 20

Time: 1:30-4 p.m.

Location: In-person

Learn about the art, craft, and history of weaving from

members of the Illinois Prairie Weavers Guild, celebrating their 75th anniversary.

Watch as different kinds of looms are demonstrated. Try weaving yourself to make a small woven piece! *No registration is*

required for this event.

Hidden History of the First Ladies

Date: Tuesday, Jan. 23

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: Virtual

Discover the often unexamined but pivotal contributions of our

first ladies - from Dolley Madison's vital role in safeguarding America's early history to Eleanor Roosevelt's fight for civil rights to Jackie Kennedy's preservation of the nation's capital. *Registration required.*

Forestry Division's Shared Cost Parkway Tree Planting Program Has Returned



The City of Wheaton's Shared Cost Parkway Tree Planting Program, which allows homeowners to have a new tree planted in the parkway adjacent to their property at a shared cost, is happening now through Thursday,

Feb. 29, or until allocated funds are met. Qualified homeowners can select from up to 12 species of trees at a cost of \$95. The City's Forestry Division will plant the trees in the spring. For more information, visit [the City's website](#).

City Council Passes 2024 Budget with No Increase in Tax Levy for Fifth Consecutive Year



On Monday, Dec. 18, 2023, the Wheaton City Council approved the City's 2024 annual budget, which touts no increase in the property tax levy for the fifth year in a row and no new taxes.

Despite not raising taxes, the 2024 budget will maintain current services and will invest \$30.3 million in capital improvements to ensure high-quality infrastructure in our community. For more information, please visit [the City's website](#).

Extreme Cold: Prevent Pipes from Bursting



As the temperatures continue to fall, it is essential to ensure that your faucets and pipes are in good working condition. Follow these tips to help prevent frozen pipes:

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

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's also a good idea to turn it off. Afterward, you can then open the outdoor faucet valve to ensure there's 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, such as a garage.

January is 'Radon Action Month' in Illinois



The Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) is urging residents to take time in the coming weeks to test their home for radon as part of Radon Action Month. Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. Radon related health risks are preventable with a simple home detection test

Radon comes from the natural breakdown of uranium and radium in the soil. This odorless, colorless, tasteless gas is found in the air that we breathe in buildings, homes, offices and if not properly mitigated can reach drastically high levels causing major health concerns.

CITY CALENDAR

January 2024

- 1** City Offices Closed; No Garbage Pickup
- 6** Coffee with Council, 10 a.m.
- 8** Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 16** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 22** City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.

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

