

CITY OF WHEATON — NEWSLETTER

February 2024

CITY NOTES

City Offices Closed on Monday, Feb. 19



Non-emergency City offices will be closed on Monday, Feb. 19, in observance of Presidents' Day. Garbage and recycling pickup will not be affected.

Mayor Suess Delivers the State of the City Address

Mayor Philip J. Suess presented the annual State of the City Address during the Chamber of

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City Council to Vote on Proposed Parking Fee Changes



The City is proposing changes to its existing parking fees to fund the upkeep of City-maintained parking lots, public garages and street parking.

The City of Wheaton maintains two public parking garages, numerous parking lots, two train stations, many on-street spaces, and parking payment kiosks. These facilities and associated parking enforcement are funded through leased parking permits, daily parking fees and metered parking. The City has not adjusted most of these rates in more than 15 years. In addition, since 2019, parking revenues have declined, most notably with the decrease in commuters from 2020 to the present. Expenses, however, continue to increase.

The City is proposing changes

that include the introduction of premium daily fee parking zones for spaces closest to both train stations, an increase of \$0.50 per day for many daily fee parking spaces, and adjustments to leased parking permit fees. These proposed fees impact employee leased spaces and commuter spaces. Customer parking in the downtown and in the garages will remain free. The City Council initially reviewed a comprehensive parking study prepared by staff at the Sept. 25, 2023, Planning Session.

For more information, please visit [the City's website](#). You can also [view the Jan. 8, 2024, Planning Session video](#) to hear more. The second reading will be during the Feb. 5 City Council Meeting. This meeting includes an opportunity for public comment.

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

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Commerce's monthly luncheon on Thursday, Jan. 18. Mayor Suess outlined recent projects and accomplishments in Wheaton and previewed what's on the horizon for our community in the new year. The State of the City video, which also recaps the exciting events and achievements from 2023, is now available on [the City's website](#).

Apply to the Forestry Division's Shared Cost Parkway Tree Planting Program



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, continues 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. For more information, visit [the City's website](#).

Metra's 2024 Fare Changes Now in Effect



Effective Feb. 1, Metra is making a variety of changes to its fare structure, prices, and purchase channels. For more information on the new fares, please [visit Metra's website](#).

Employment Opportunities

The City of Wheaton has the following employment opportunities available:

- Maintenance Worker (Public Works, Streets Division)
- Police Services Representative

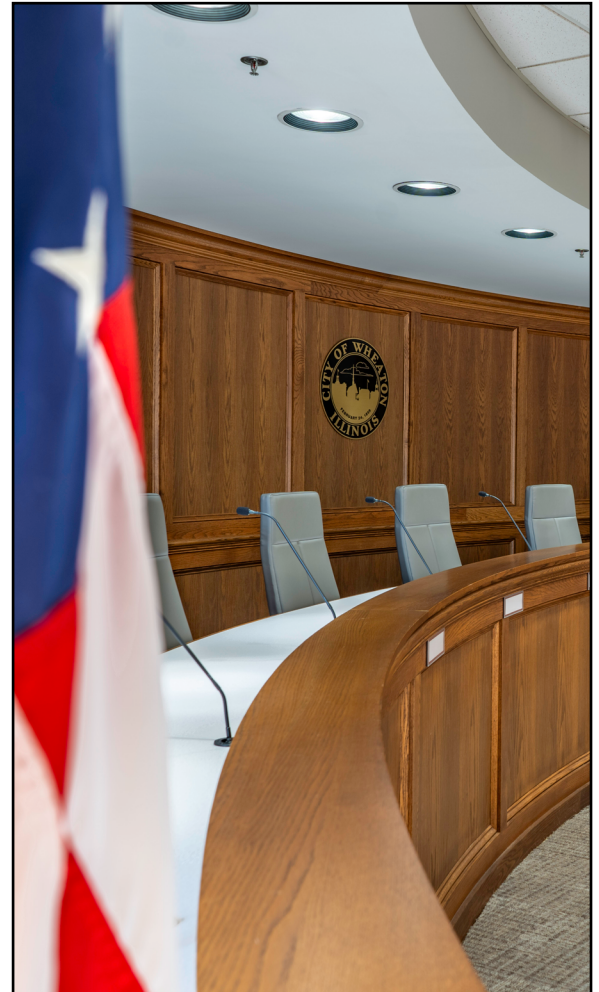
To apply, visit www.wheaton.il.us/jobs.

Board/Commission Appointments

The City Council approved the reappointment to the following Commission: *Community Relations Commission*:

- Laura Peccarelli was reappointed for a three-year term

Openings Available for City Boards & Commissions



Do you want to make an impact in the Wheaton community? Get involved by applying for an open position on one of the Boards or Commissions! Openings are available for the following:

- Band Commission
- Bicyclist & Pedestrian Commission
- Commission on Aging
- Downtown Design Review Board
- Environmental Improvement Commission
- Fine & Cultural Arts Commission
- Historic Commission
- Local Liquor Control Commission & Tobacco Control Commission

Interested? Apply using [the City's online Boards & Commissions Application Form](#). You can also find out more about the Boards & Commissions by visiting [the City's website](#).

City of Wheaton Severe Winter Weather Reminders



With the extremely cold weather over the past few weeks, please keep in mind the following important reminders:

- After 2" of accumulated snow, there is no parking allowed on City streets. This is to allow City crews to safely clear streets to the curb. Violators will be ticketed and may be towed at the owner's expense, as it is important for snowplows to be able to make roads safe and passable for emergency vehicles and others on the roads.
- Blowing or shoveling snow into the street is prohibited. This hinders the efforts of snow removal crews and creates a hazard for other drivers. Do not push snow onto opposite parkways.
- If power outages occur, please contact ComEd at 800-Edison1 (800-334-7661)
- In extreme temperatures, the Wheaton Public Library, 225 N. Cross St., serves as a warming site during its open hours.
- The Public Works Department uses a prioritized system to clear roads, starting with main thoroughfares, high volume areas and potentially dangerous areas; then they clear secondary & residential streets; cul-de-sacs and dead-ends are last plowed, as pickup trucks are used rather than large snowplows.
- Follow [the National Weather Service](https://www.weather.gov/nwr) for weather updates.

Check Out Black History Month Events and Information



Each February, people across the United States take part in recognizing Black History Month with events and education to further the public's understanding of Black history. Wheaton's Community Relations Commission encourages the community to learn about Black History Month and explore some of the many local events offered for the community throughout the month. Visit wheaton.il.us/BlackHistoryMonth to find local events and more information.



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Spotlight on Wheaton's Boards & Commissions



Mayor Sues

As a Wheaton community member, I am proud to recognize the public service efforts of our residents. Over 100 residents volunteer their time and talents to serve as members of Wheaton's 15 boards and commissions. Their participation and involvement not only enriches our community but also makes Wheaton an even better place to live and work.

Whether it's overseeing new developments, hosting community-wide cultural events, or providing band concerts in Memorial Park, the efforts of the boards and commissions leave a major impact on our community. The following is just a small preview of the activities that our various boards and commissions have in store for the new year.

Wheaton's Bicyclist & Pedestrian Commission will continue its mission to encourage and foster safe bicycling and pedestrian opportunities in our community. This group will host community-favorite events including National Bike to School Day and several group walks and rides.



The Commission on Aging will continue providing services to seniors in our community. Their efforts will include providing advocacy services, evaluating the needs of the aging population, and continuing the Senior Assistance Program, which gives monthly financial assistance to qualifying seniors.

Wheaton's Community Relations Commission will bring the community together through several events and happenings. This year,

we will see the return of the Wheaton Gives Back program which collects winter clothing



donations for neighbors in need and the Festival of Cultures, an annual event celebrating the vibrant cultures that make Wheaton a strong and diverse community.

The Environmental Improvement Commission will host numerous events supporting sustainability, including the Native Plant Sale, Recycling Extravaganza, Pumpkin Smash, Prairie



Path Cleanup, and monthly Electronic

Recycling Drop-offs.

Wheaton's Historic Commission will continue to expand its Wheaton Register of Historic Places program, and will host history lectures and events throughout the year. With their new motto "History Lives In Wheaton," this group is certainly keeping our City's history alive.

The service contributions of all our residents are truly appreciated. If you're interested in joining a board or commission, there are several openings available, including positions on the Band Commission, Bicyclist & Pedestrian Commission, Commission on Aging, Downtown Design Review Board, Environmental Improvement Commission, Fine & Cultural Arts Commission, Historic Commission, and the Local Liquor Control Commission & Tobacco Control Commission. Learn more and complete an application by visiting the City's website at <https://www.wheaton.il.us/Boards>.

We once again thank all our board and commission members who continue their efforts in making such a positive impact on the Wheaton community.

Upcoming Events

Ice-A-Palooza

Date: Saturday, Feb. 3

Time: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Location: Central Athletic Complex Ice Rinks, 500 S. Naperville Road

Join the Wheaton Park District for Ice-A-Palooza! Enjoy skating, entertainment, character visits, and more at this free outdoor event, which includes a Wheaton Police Department vs. Wheaton Fire Department hockey game. For more information, visit [the Wheaton Park District's website](#).

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](#).

Galentine's Day Sip & Shop

Date: Thursday, Feb. 8

Time: 5-8 p.m.

Location: Downtown Wheaton

Grab your besties and get together for this fabulous shopping experience throughout downtown. Featuring complimentary sips and snacks throughout, spend some quality time with friends and find everything you need for spring. For more information, visit

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

Electronic Recycling

Date: Saturday, Feb. 10

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. Visit [the City's website](#) for more information.

LIBRARY EVENTS

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

Artists of the Harlem Renaissance

Date: Wednesday, Feb. 7

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: Virtual

Between the world wars, African American artists answered a call to action, producing painting, sculpture, and photography in diverse styles. Join art historian Jeff Mishur of Art Excursions for a discussion of the artists associated with this extraordinary movement. *Registration required.*

Concert: Blues 101

Date: Sunday, Feb. 11

Time: 2 p.m.

Location: In-person

Join musician and storyteller Fruteland Jackson as he discusses the origins of blues music from its early beginnings through songs and stories. This program is co-sponsored by the City of Wheaton Community Relations Commission. *No registration required.*

Cooking: Heart Healthy

Date: Wednesday, Feb. 21

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Virtual

Kristyn Slick of Mealtime Memories will

focus on heart-healthy recipes and cooking techniques. Watch or cook along with Kristyn as she grills and bakes meals low in saturated fats, cholesterol, and sodium, yet full of flavor. *Registration required.*

Seed Share with Sustain DuPage

Date: Saturday, Feb. 24

Time: 1-3 p.m.

Location: In-person

Get a head start on your spring planning and join Sustain DuPage in bringing heirloom and open pollinated seeds to share with your community. All are welcome to take seeds.

No registration required.

Shipwrecked in Milwaukee

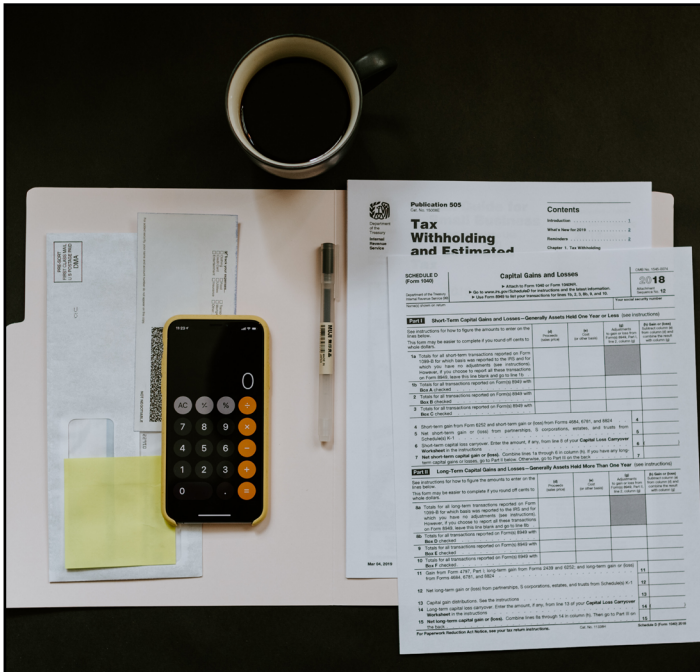
Date: Wednesday, Feb. 28

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: Virtual

Join award-winning shipwreck photographer Cal Kothrade for a detailed look at the Prins Willem V. Learn about the freighter's fascinating history, one man's extreme efforts to salvage the vessel, and why this wreck remains a divers' favorite. *Registration required.*

Be Cautious of Scams this Tax Season



Many taxpayers have fallen victim to tax scams. Scammers use the regular mail, telephone, and email in search of money and personal information. Remember, the IRS doesn't initiate contact with taxpayers by email, text messages, or social media channels to request personal or financial information.

According to the IRS, here are a few common scams to be aware of this year:

- **New scam mailing related to unclaimed refunds:** The IRS warns taxpayers to be on the lookout for a new scam mailing that tries to mislead people into believing they are owed a refund. The new scheme involves a mailing coming in a cardboard envelope from a delivery service. The enclosed letter includes

the IRS masthead with contact information and a phone number that do not belong to the IRS and wording that the notice is "in relation to your unclaimed refund."

- **IRS impersonation telephone scams:** A sophisticated phone scam targeting taxpayers has been occurring throughout the country. Scammers make calls posing as IRS agents, using fake names and false IRS identification badge numbers in hopes of stealing taxpayer money or personal information. They may know a lot about their targets, and they usually alter the caller ID to make it look like the IRS is calling. Victims are told they owe money to the IRS, and it must be paid promptly through a gift card or wire transfer. Victims may be threatened with arrest, deportation or suspension of a business or driver's license. In many cases, the caller becomes hostile and insulting. If the phone isn't answered, the scammers often leave an "urgent" callback request.
- **Surge in Email, Phishing, and Malware Schemes:** Phishing is a scam where fraudsters send email messages to trick unsuspecting victims into revealing personal and financial information that can be used to steal the victims' identity. These phishing schemes may seek information related to refunds, filing status, confirming personal information, ordering transcripts, and verifying PIN information.

To report instances of IRS-related phishing attempts and fraud, contact the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 800-366-4484.



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.

February 2024

- 3** Coffee with Council, 10 a.m.
- 5** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 12** City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 19** City Offices Closed
- 20** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 26** City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.