

CITY OF WHEATON NEWSLETTER

March 2024

CITY NOTES

City Offices Closed on Friday, March 29



Non-emergency City offices will be closed on Friday, March 29. Garbage and recycling pickup will not be affected.

Daylight Saving Time Begins

Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 a.m. Sunday, March 10. When you change your clocks, the Wheaton Fire Department also encourages you to check

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Community Relations Commission Accepting Nominations for 2024 Good Citizens Awards



The Community Relations Commission is seeking nominations for individuals for the City of Wheaton's 2024 Good Citizens Awards now through Sunday, March 31. The categories for this year's nominations are youth and adult.

Nominees must be current Wheaton residents who go above and beyond for the benefit of Wheaton and its citizens and may not be paid for the service for which they are nominated. This may be volunteer service for a school, religious institution, nursing home, civic group, nonprofit organization, or other act of volunteerism which benefits the community. To nominate someone, fill out an online

application at www.wheaton.il.us/goodcitizens by Sunday, March 31, or mail your application to Wheaton City Hall, Attn: Andrea Rosedale, 303 W. Wesley St., Wheaton, IL 60187.

The Community Relations Commission will review nominations and honor award recipients at the Monday, May 20 City Council meeting.

The Community Relations Commission is the catalyst to connect all people and make them feel united with the Wheaton community through events, key partnerships, and opportunities to give back. Please visit the City's website at www.wheaton.il.us/crc for more information about the Good Citizens Awards and the Community Relations Commission.

**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

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your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. If they have replaceable batteries, you should replace batteries about every 6 months to help ensure they operate correctly, and using Daylight Saving Time is an easy way to remember when you last replaced the batteries.

General Primary Election Day



The General Primary Election for the selection of federal, state and DuPage County offices takes place on Tuesday, March 19. Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. To find your polling place and check your voter registration status, [visit DuPage County's website](#).

Now Hiring Summer Laborers

The City of Wheaton is hiring Summer Laborers to work at our Public Works Department. Positions are 40 hours per week, Monday through

Friday. As a Summer Laborer, you will learn new skills working in various departments such as Facilities, Forestry/ Parks and Grounds, Streets, Signs, Water, and Sewer. This is an excellent opportunity for those who enjoy staying busy and working outdoors. Find out more and apply today by visiting [the City's website](#).

Employment Opportunities

The City of Wheaton has the following employment opportunities available:

- Part-time Customer Service Representative
- Police Services Representative
- Summer Laborer

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

Board/Commission Appointments

The City Council approved these reappointments and appointments to the following Commissions: *Community Relations Commission*:

- Kathy Bushong was appointed for a three-year term
- Shauna Thorson was appointed for a three-year term

Commission on Aging:

- Asma Hashmi was appointed for a three-year term

Environmental Improvement Commission

- Cathy Coleman was reappointed for a three-year term.

Residents Encouraged to Take the City of Wheaton's Cross Connection Control Survey



The City of Wheaton provides safe, clean water that exceeds all Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards. The Illinois EPA requires that all water systems conduct a biennial survey of the water system to determine where cross connections may exist.

A cross-connection is a connection between a drinking water pipe and a polluted source. A common example is if you were spraying weed killer on the lawn and the water pressure dropped. The chemical could be sucked back into the water pipes through the hose. Lawn irrigation systems and hot water boilers are examples of cross-connections that require backflow preventors.

The information obtained in the survey is used to ensure safe drinking water for all users. Please visit www.wheaton.il.us/CCSurvey to complete the survey. Should you have any questions regarding this program, please contact the City of Wheaton Water Division at 630-260-2090.

March is Women's History Month

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Women's History Month is a dedicated month to reflect on and celebrate the contributions of women to history, culture, and society. Wheaton's Community Relations Commission encourages the community to learn more about Women's History Month and to join in the celebration through participation in some of the local events offered for the community throughout March.

Women of Wheaton

Women have played an important role in helping to make Wheaton what it is today. Starting in 2021, the Community Relations Commission compiled a range of profiles of women (past and present) so the community can get to know some of the incredible women in our town. The 2024 Women of Wheaton list will be available soon!

We Are Women Art Exhibit

From March 1-31 in downtown Wheaton, the Community

Relations Commission, DuPage Art League, and Downtown Wheaton Association present the We Are Women Art Exhibit. Artwork is now displayed from DuPage Art League's talented women artists and other local artists at some of Wheaton's women-owned or -managed businesses.

Living History: Clara Barton

On Thursday, March 21 at 7 p.m. at the Wheaton Public Library, join actress Megan Wells as she portrays Clara Barton, Civil War nurse and founder of the American Red Cross, in honor of Women's History Month. In partnership with the City of Wheaton Community Relations Commission and the Wheaton League of Women Voters. [Registration required.](#)

For more information about the Community Relations Commission and its efforts during Women's History Month, please visit www.wheaton.il.us/womenshistorymonth.

Reminder on Campaign Signs

As we are in the spring election season, the City reminds residents and businesses of Wheaton's restrictions on where you can and can't place campaign signs. These requirements are part of the City's Zoning Ordinance to help ensure the safety of drivers and pedestrians by maintaining clear sight lines and discouraging distractions to drivers.

Requirements for campaign signs:

- Size: Campaign signs must be no more than 16 square feet in residential districts or 32 square feet in non-residential districts.
- Location: Signs must be on private property. They must not be in the parkway (generally the area between the sidewalk and the street) or on any other public property. Signs can't be attached to a tree or utility pole, regardless of whether it is on public or private property.

You can read [the City's ordinance](#) related to signs. To report signs that are not meeting these requirements, use [the City's Service Request Form](#).

Wheaton Police Department Taking Polar Plunge



The Wheaton Police Department's Team Frosted Donuts is back for the 2024 Polar Plunge. Last year, the team raised over \$14,700 for Special Olympics Illinois athletes with the support of the Wheaton community. This event is part of the Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Illinois, which supports more than 21,000 athletes with intellectual disabilities and 9,000 Young Athletes across the state. If you'd like to learn more about the team or lend your support, you can [visit the team's website](#).



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Upcoming Capital Improvement Projects in 2024



Mayor Sueess

Warmer weather means the City will soon be busy with improvements across Wheaton. The City continues to manage numerous capital projects, investing in infrastructure to maintain a high quality of life for our residents. This year the City has budgeted \$30.3 million toward capital improvements. The following are highlights of just a few projects you will see happening this year.

As we do every year, the City will take on multiple miles of road improvements through our annual Road Improvement Program. These streets are identified by performing a pavement condition rating analysis. This scoring system helps determine which roads

are up for resurfacing, rehabilitation, or complete replacement in accordance with the City's policies. In 2024, the City will invest \$2.14 million to improve 5.6 miles of road. In addition, Gary Avenue between Harrison Avenue and Jewell Road will undergo reconstruction for a total of \$1.8 million. An additional \$1.3 million has been earmarked for other road-related projects.



The City's Water Division continues to move forward with the Lead Service Line (LSL) Replacement Program, a multi-year capital program to replace parts of the City's water distribution system that are made from lead with new copper services. Through the program, City crews

will be replacing 30 service lines on private property, 30 service lines on both private and City property, and 60 service lines on City property. This is a part of an ongoing 4-year program to remove all lead service lines from the City.



Crews will continue to improve the City's sanitary sewer system with projects to rehabilitate sanitary service lines. Notably, crews will replace the sanitary sewer lines on Kingston Street and College Avenue, which will be coordinated with the replacement of the water main along the same area. Other notable projects include High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) lining replacements, manhole rehabilitations, and flow metering. These projects serve to increase the efficiency of

the system and reduce rainwater infiltration.

We are taking steps forward as we continue to focus on flooding improvement projects to reduce overland flooding with construction slated to start near Wakeman Avenue and Cadillac Drive. The City also continues work on the New Sidewalk Program, a multi-year program to add sidewalks on at least one side of every street to increase safety for pedestrians and improve the walkability of our community. For 2024, the City Council increased funding to \$1.7 million to accelerate the program. Residents can view a list of the 2024 sidewalk areas by visiting [the City's website](#). The City will continue its ongoing program of replacing broken existing sidewalks as well.

These projects are part of a long list of capital improvements happening this year reflecting the ongoing investment in our community. The City Council and City staff will continue working toward our goal of maintaining Wheaton as a desirable residential community with quality infrastructure and services that meet the community's service level expectations.

Upcoming Events

We Are Women Art Exhibit

Date: March 1-31

Location: Downtown Wheaton

In partnership with the DuPage Art League and the City of Wheaton Community Relations Commission, the Downtown Wheaton Association will display artwork from some of the DuPage Art League's talented women artists and other local artists at some of Wheaton's fabulous women-owned or -managed businesses. For more information, visit [the Downtown Wheaton Association's website](#).

Easter Deals & Dining

Date: March 1-31

Location: Downtown

Wheaton

The Downtown Wheaton Association presents Easter Deals & Dining. Don't worry, be hoppy in downtown! Your favorite eateries and retailers are jumping for joy, too, so shop and dine your heart out this March. For more information, visit [the Downtown Wheaton Association's website](#).

Electronic Recycling

Date: Saturday, March 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. Visit [the City's website](#) for more information.

Character Trail

Date: Saturday, March 9

Location: Downtown Wheaton

The Downtown Wheaton Association presents Character Trail. On March 9, while you shop in downtown Wheaton, you can visit a variety of costumed characters in various stores. Snap a photo, collect autographs, and make memories, all in your favorite place. For more information, and a map of the participating

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

Spring into Dining

Date: March 21-30

Location: Downtown Wheaton

Downtown Wheaton's first-ever spring restaurant week, Spring into Dining, is March 21-30, 2024. As the community gears up for warmer weather, this lunch-focused restaurant week combines everything you love: good food, great deals, and more sunshine! For more information, visit [the Downtown Wheaton Association's website](#).

LIBRARY EVENTS

Register for these events at wheatonlibrary.org/calendar

Women and Art of the Gilded Age

Date: Tuesday, March 5

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: Virtual

1870 to 1930 was a revolutionary period in art history. Learn how rising star avant-garde artists like Mary Cassatt were supported by Gertrude Stein and other female collectors whose collections supported internationally acclaimed museums. *Registration is required.*

Concert: Trillium

Date: Sunday, March 10

Time: 2 p.m.

Location: In-person

This acoustic quartet returns to perform Celtic music featuring banjo, fiddle, mandolin, and the hammered dulcimer! *No registration is required for this event.*

Solar Eclipse 101

Date: Wednesday, March 13

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: In-person & Virtual

The impressive Great North American Eclipse is coming up on April 8! Join Michelle Nichols from the Adler Planetarium to learn what eclipses are, where to see them, when to look, and how to view solar eclipses safely. Suitable for ages 10 to 100! *Registration is required for this event.*

Living History: Clara Barton

Date: Thursday, March 21

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: In-person & Virtual

Join actress Megan Wells as she portrays Clara Barton, Civil War nurse and founder of the American Red Cross, in honor of Women's History Month. In partnership with the City of Wheaton Community Relations Commission and the Wheaton League of Women Voters. *Registration is required for this event.*

March is Severe Weather Preparedness Month



Illinois averages 53 tornadoes per year and ranks fourth in the United States for the most tornadoes per square mile. To prepare for these types of incidents, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) is providing helpful information during March, which is Severe Weather Preparedness Month.

Severe weather preparedness includes gathering information and supplies to prepare for a loss of electricity or if you must, evacuate from your neighborhood. That's why IEMA offers a [Family Communications Plan](#) to help people map locations to meet and track important contact information. Now is a good time to plan ahead, especially with the severe weather here in Illinois.

IEMA recommends the following:

- Keep all important records and documents in a secure waterproof container
- Make an inventory of possessions using lists and photos/videos
- Insure your property and possessions
- Know how to shut off electricity, gas, and water
- Compile an emergency kit and "go bag" to help your family for at least three days during extended power outages or evacuations
- In case power is out, make sure flashlights with fresh batteries are ready
- Generators should only be run outside, never indoors or in enclosed spaces

For more information and helpful tips, [visit IEMA'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 for a complete list of meetings and events.

March 2024

- 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 Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 29** City Offices Closed