

CITY OF WHEATON — NEWSLETTER

CITY NOTES

Yard Waste, Leaves, Food Scraps & Organics Collection Begins April 1



Yard waste, food scraps, and organic materials are collected at the curb beginning April 1 through Dec. 13. Please keep in mind the following:

- You can use containers no larger than 35 gallons in size or biodegradable paper bags.
- Each container or

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Recycling Extravaganza to Take Place on April 13



The City's Environmental Improvement Commission invites the community to its annual Recycling Extravaganza with SCARCE on Saturday, April 13 from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the DuPage Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Road. You can bring many types of items for safe disposal or recycling at this drive-through event.

Items you can drop off include:

- **Batteries** (Collected by Interstate Battery):
 - Car and other large batteries.
 - No household batteries.
- **Bike-related items:** (Collected by Working Bikes):
 - Bikes, helmets, repair tools, and tire pumps.
- **Documents for shredding** (Funded in part by DuPage

County):

- Acceptable items include medical records, sensitive documents, and tax records.
- No batteries (greeting cards, etc.), plastic file tabs, plastic page protectors, or vinyl checkbook covers. Limit of four bags per car.
- **Electronics and Other Items** (Collected by eWorks)
 - Electronics (\$25-\$35 fee for monitors and televisions).
 - Scrap Metal (This includes items such as chicken wire, lawn furniture, metal hangers, and unusable pots and pans).
 - Textiles (Please bag blankets, clothing, coats, shoes, and towels).

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**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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biodegradable bag must weigh no more than 50 pounds.

- Each container or biodegradable bag must have [1 yard waste/organics/garbage sticker](#) attached in order to be collected.

For more information, please visit [the City'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 has the following employment opportunities available:

- Police Services Representative
- Summer Laborer

To apply, visit the City's website at www.wheaton.il.us/jobs.

Board/Commission Appointments

The City Council approved the appointments and reappointments to the following Commissions: *Bicyclist and Pedestrian Commission*:

- Michael Subtelny was appointed for a three-year term

Board of Fire and Police Commissioners:

- Kevin Illia was reappointed for a three-year term

Environmental Improvement Commission:

- Jim Boak was appointed for a three-year term

Liquor and Tobacco Control Commissions:

- Eric Laird was appointed for a three-year term

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- **Eyewear and Hearing Aids** (Collected by Wheaton Lions Club)
 - Eyeglasses, hearing aids, and sunglasses.
- **Household-related items** (Miscellaneous, Collected by SCARCE):
 - Books
 - Bread tags
 - Brita-brand filters and pitchers
 - Holiday lights
 - Inkjet cartridges (small, no toners)
 - Keys (for cars and homes)
 - Mercury barometers, thermometers, and thermostats
 - Musical instruments
 - Records
 - X-rays
 - No light bulbs or Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs)
- **Medical Waste** (Collected by DuPage County Sherri):
 - EpiPens, lancets, medications, sharps, and syringes.
- **Medical Equipment** (Collected by Melba's Place):
 - Crutches, walkers, and wheelchairs.
- **Paints** (Collected by Earth Paint):
 - Latex paint (\$1.49 per quart, \$3.99 per gallon, or \$14.99 per bucket).
 - Oil-based paint and stain (\$5.99 per quart, \$9.99 per gallon, or \$24.99 per bucket).
- **Propane tanks** (Collected by AmeriGas)
- **Soccer-related items** (Collected by Soccer Gear for Zambia):
 - Cleats, first aid kits, girls' leggings, jerseys and uniforms, nets, referee gear, shin guards, soccer balls, and socks.

This event is offered in partnership with the City of Wheaton, Wheaton Environmental Improvement Commission, SCARCE, DuPage County, DuPage County Sheriff's Office, eWorks, Wheaton Lions Club, Working Bikes, Soccer Gear for Zambia, Melba's Place, AmeriGas, Interstate Battery, and Earth Paint. Questions can be directed to SCARCE at 630-545-9710.

Wheaton French Market to Begin its Season this Month



The Wheaton French Market returns every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. beginning April 13 through Nov. 30. This year's market will once again be held under the City's downtown pavilion, just south of the railroad tracks near Main Street and Liberty Drive. Please note that Liberty Drive will be closed between Main Street and Cross Street (including Municipal Lot 3) every Saturday until approximately 3 p.m. during the French Market season.

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.

Spring Has Sprung: Know City Requirements for Lawn Care



The much-anticipated spring weather has arrived, and so has the lawn and gardening season. To assist in maintaining the health, beauty, and safety of the community, the City of Wheaton has adopted ordinances that address tall grass and weeds. As a reminder, grass and weeds exceeding 8 inches in height are a violation of City code. When left uncut and overgrown, grass and weeds can attract unwanted pests such as mice and insects and provide cover for wild animals that cause nuisances within neighborhoods. Additionally, tall, dried out grass and weeds during the later summer months are a potential fire hazard.

If you notice such overgrowth in the area, you can report the situation using [the City's Online Service Request Form](#) or call the Building & Code Enforcement Department at 630-260-2050 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Ushering in the Spring Season



Mayor Suess

With warmer weather, our community partners and businesses are beginning to kickstart their springtime activities. Whether you are a long-time resident or first-time visitor, our community has a wide range of activities for all to enjoy.

April is packed with the return of many community-favorite events. Wheaton will see the return of the popular French Market starting on April 13. Hosted at the City's downtown pavilion, the French Market offers specialty foods, crafts, fresh produce, baked goods, and so much more. Last

spring was the first time the community could enjoy the French Market in the newly built pavilion as the finishing touch of the Downtown Streetscape Project, and the new setup was tremendously well-received. With a beautiful seating area and more space for vendors and shoppers, we expect this will continue to be a popular spot each Saturday of the French Market's season.

The Environmental Improvement Commission (EIC) has several events throughout this month that are always popular with the community. Residents can take part in the EIC's Recycling Extravaganza held on April 13 at the DuPage Fairgrounds, another way in which the City is promoting environmental sustainability.

Additionally, the annual Native Plant Sale will be held on April 27, 8:30-11 a.m., at the City's Public Works

Storage Yard. This event encourages the community to choose eco-friendly plants for their landscapes. Please see page 6 for more details on the event. We also encourage the community to volunteer for the annual 2024 Prairie Path Cleanup on April 27, which is an opportunity to enjoy the spring weather and help keep the Prairie Path clean and scenic. More information on the event is detailed on page 7.

The Downtown Wheaton Association will also provide many opportunities for our community to enjoy the warmer weather through events like Character Trail on April 13 and Touch-A-Truck on April 27, where families can get an up-close look at our City's municipal vehicles, trucks, and emergency vehicles. Soon after, on Friday, May 3, the City will see the return of the Hale Street Tents. Get ready for another spectacular season

of outdoor dining, live music, and fun throughout downtown Wheaton. This months-long event has become a community favorite, attracting thousands of diners each year. Wheaton will also see the return of Wheaton Municipal band concerts starting on June 3 at Memorial Park, another great opportunity to enjoy live music right here in our City.

Many more spring and summer events are on the horizon. We encourage you to get involved and find out about more offerings provided by the [Downtown Wheaton Association](#), [Wheaton Chamber of Commerce](#), [Wheaton Park District](#), [Wheaton Public Library](#), and [City of Wheaton](#).

We hope you have a safe and fun start to spring and take advantage of everything the City has to offer. Get ready for another season full of exciting, family-friendly happenings and events throughout Wheaton.

Wheaton Police Polar Plunge Raises Over \$13,000 for Special Olympics



It was a cold day, but Wheaton's Team Frosted Donuts took the Polar Plunge. Participants from the Wheaton Police Department, Wheaton Fire Department, and Community Unit School District 200 teamed up to raise over \$13,000 for Special Olympics Illinois. Thank you to everyone in the community for supporting the team!

City of Wheaton Parking Fee Changes Now in Effect



Several changes are now in effect for the City's leased and daily fee parking that will impact commuters, downtown employees, and garage permit holders.

The City has not adjusted parking rates in more than 15 years for most types of parking, and these changes are needed to fund the upkeep of City-maintained parking lots, public garages, and street parking.

In summary, the City has introduced 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. Below is a summary of the changes.



Changes for Commuters (Near Front Street Train Station):

- Front Street:
 - Daily fee spaces along Front Street are now a Premium Daily Fee Parking zone; the fee for these spaces has increased from \$1.50 to \$3. The eight 2-hour meters have been removed and are now Premium Daily Fee spaces.
- Commuter Parking Lot 9:
 - Daily fees in the northern part have increased from \$1.50 to \$2.
 - Quarterly permit fees have increased from \$60 to \$110.

- Carlton Avenue:
 - Daily fees have increased from \$1.50 to \$2.
- Liberty Drive:
 - Daily fees for the spaces west of Carlton Avenue have increased from \$1.50 to \$2.
 - Parking spaces east of Carlton Avenue are now Premium Daily Fee parking spaces; their fees have increased from \$1.50 to \$3 per day. The twenty-seven 12-hour meters have been removed and are now replaced by Premium Daily Fee parking spaces; the thirteen 4-hour parking meters have remained the same.

Changes for Commuters (Near College Avenue Train Station):

- Commuter Parking Lot 10:
 - This parking lot is now a Premium Daily Fee Parking zone; the fee for these spaces has increased from \$1.50 to \$3.
- Crescent Street:
 - Daily fees have increased from \$1.50 to \$2.
- Lot 7 (SE corner of Williston & Crescent):
 - This lot has changed from a quarterly leased lot to a daily fee lot. Spaces are now \$2 per day.
- Commuter Parking Lots 6 and 8:
 - Quarterly permits for residents have increased from \$60 to \$110; for non-residents, \$75 to \$130.

Changes for Employee & Residential Permits:

- Wheaton Place Garage:
 - Employee permits have increased from \$75 to \$120 per quarter.
 - Residential permits have increased from \$150 to \$170 per quarter.
- Willow Avenue Garage:
 - Employee permits have increased from \$75 to \$120 per quarter.
 - Residential permits have increased from \$150 to \$170 per quarter.
- Employee Parking Lots #3 and #5:
 - Quarterly permits have increased from \$60 to \$100.

Upcoming Events

Wheaton French Market

Date: Each Saturday through November (Beginning Saturday, April 13)

Time: 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

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.

Recycling Extravaganza

Date: Saturday, April 13

Time: 8:30 a.m.-Noon

Location: DuPage Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Road

The City's Environmental Improvement

Commission invites the community to its annual Recycling Extravaganza with SCARCE. You can bring many types of items for safe disposal or recycling at this drive-through event.

Character Trail

Date: Saturday, April 13

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

Location: Downtown Wheaton

The Downtown Wheaton Association presents Character Trail. 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](#).

Native Plant Sale

Date: Saturday, April 27

Time: 8:30-11 a.m.

Location: Public Works

Storage Yard, 820 W. Liberty Drive

Wheaton's Environmental Improvement Commission encourages the community to save the date for its annual Native Plant Sale in cooperation with the Wheaton Park District. The sale will feature flowers, bushes, grasses, shrubs, and more that are native to Illinois, making them a hardy and environmentally friendly choice.

The City's Public Works Department will also provide free mulch for attendees. Those interested in receiving free mulch must bring their own container and shovel.

Prairie Path Cleanup

Date: Saturday, April 27

Time: 9 a.m.-Noon

Location: Prairie Path

The Wheaton Environmental Improvement Commission encourages the community to take

part in the annual Prairie Path Cleanup. This is an all-ages event, and all volunteer groups, families, businesses, student groups, and others are welcome. Participants will meet at Lincoln Avenue & Prairie Path, 2 blocks west of Gary Avenue, on April 27. [Register by April 12.](#)

Touch-A-Truck

Date: Saturday, April 27

Time: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Location: Downtown Wheaton

Liberty Drive will be closed between Wheaton Avenue and Hale Street to make way for trucks, municipal vehicles, emergency vehicles, and more! Join the Downtown Wheaton Association for this free, family-friendly event. Get up close, climb, honk, and touch these cool vehicles from right behind the wheel! For more information, please visit [the Downtown Wheaton Association's website](#).

LIBRARY EVENTS

Register for these events at wheatonlibrary.org/calendar

Local Author Fest

Date: Saturday, April 6

Time: 1-4 p.m.

Location: In-person

Join us for a day celebrating our local authors! Visit over 30 local authors at their tables as they sell

books on the main floor and listen to open mic readings near the cafe. *No registration required.*

Exploring the Winfield Mounds

Date: Wednesday, April 10

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: In-Person & Virtual

Brian and Joyce Ostberg of BeHistoric examine the history and archeology of this local site, from earliest contact

with First Nations people to the present. They chronicle the multiple archeological investigations of the mound and habitation site, revealing the presence and culture of indigenous peoples
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more than 1000 years ago. *Registration required.*

Barbie: America's Most Famous Doll

Date: Tuesday, April 16

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: In-person & Virtual

Join historian Leslie Goddard for this illustrated lecture, delving into the 60-year history of Barbie and her passionately creative and intensely competitive inventor, Ruth Handler. Learn

how this analyzed, collected, criticized and beloved doll has impacted American culture. *Registration required.*

Concert: Hugo's Elvis Tribute Artist

Date: Sunday, April 21

Time: 2 p.m.

Location: In-person

This talented young man pays tribute to everyone's favorite entertainer for the enjoyment of lifelong Elvis admirers and to introduce the music legend to a brand-new generation of fans! *No*

registration is required.

Gardening: Mix and Match

Date: Tuesday, April 23

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: In-person & Virtual

Combining perennials and annuals can provide continuous color from early spring until late fall. Horticulturist Sharon Yiesla will teach how to mix and match these two groups of flowers to keep gardens lively throughout the growing season. *Registration required.*

April is Hazardous Materials Safety Month

Chemicals are used almost every day and are found in common items such as cleaning supplies, medicines, fuel, and more. Chemicals you use in your home can be dangerous to your health and the environment. Follow these safety tips from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) on how to properly handle household chemicals:

- Follow the instructions on the label for use and storage.
- Don't mix products. This can cause deadly gases or a fire.
- Store products in their original containers.
- Store anything that can catch on fire away from your home.
- Store hazardous materials out of the reach of children and pets.

For more information and fire-safety resources, visit [USFA's website](#).

Prairie Path Cleanup Volunteer Registration Open

The Wheaton Environmental Improvement Commission encourages the community to take part in the annual Prairie Path Cleanup on Saturday, April 27, 9 a.m.-noon. This is an all-ages event, and all volunteer groups, families, businesses, student groups, and others are welcome.

This is a great volunteer opportunity and will help keep the miles of Illinois Prairie Path that run through Wheaton clean for all to enjoy. To volunteer and take part in the event, participants must complete [the Wheaton Prairie Path Volunteer Registration Form](#) by

April 12.

Important information for participants:

- Participants will meet at Stevens Park (Lincoln Avenue & Prairie Path, 2 blocks west of Gary Avenue).
- Check-in is from 8:15-10:15 a.m.
- Please wear gloves, long pants, and sturdy shoes for safety purposes.
- Plastic bags for trash and recycling will be provided.

For questions or more information, please contact Seema Wadia at 630-209-5855 or wheatoncleanup@gmail.com.

CITY CALENDAR

April 2024

- 1** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 6** Coffee with Council, 10 a.m.
- 8** City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 15** 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. Coffee with Council takes place in the Gamon Room. Visit www.wheaton.il.us for a complete list of meetings and events.

