

CITY OF WHEATON NEWSLETTER

May 2024

CITY NOTES

City Offices Closed on Monday, May 27

Non-emergency City offices will be closed on Monday, May 27, in observance of Memorial Day. Garbage, recycling, and yard waste pickup will be delayed by one day for all routes the week of May 27.

Leash Law Reminder

For the safety of our community and the safety of pets, [the City of Wheaton requires dogs to be on a leash in public areas](#), which includes while walking on sidewalks and in parks. In addition, please note that while in Wheaton Park District parks, all dogs must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet and may not run loose in the parks. Thank you for your cooperation.

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Numerous Capital Projects Happening This Year



With the warmer temperatures, the City is busier than ever with improvements throughout Wheaton. The City continues to tackle numerous capital projects necessary to maintain and improve our City's infrastructure, as these are important investments in our community.

- **Cadillac & Wakeman Flood Improvements:** As part of the City's continued commitment to enhancing our community's infrastructure, the City began the Cadillac & Wakeman Flood Improvement Project in March of this year to help alleviate flooding. This project aims to decrease overland flooding into homes and other structures in an area identified as the Cadillac

& Wakeman Upland Depressional Area. For this particular area, the City will be making storm sewer improvements and increasing the capacity of the area's storm sewers.

- **Road Construction and Maintenance Projects:** The City will take on 5.4 miles of road improvements through our annual Road Program, and the Public Works Department will improve another 3.8 miles. 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.

Reconstruction work will occur near

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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

ComEd Offers Financial Assistance Programs

ComEd offers many types of programs to help customers who need financial assistance, with a range of bill-assistance and energy-efficiency options to help manage the cost of bills. To help find the best recommendations, customers can take advantage of ComEd's online tool, [Smart Assistance Manager \(SAM\)](#). For more information, please visit [ComEd's website](#).

Board/Commission Appointments

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

Band Commission:

- John Dalby was reappointed for a three-year term

Bicyclist and Pedestrian Commission:

- Michelle Dunlap was reappointed for a three-year term
- Laurel Salvador was reappointed for a three-year term

Environmental Improvement Commission:

- Robert Young was reappointed for a three-year term



Shady Lane and Wesley Street; concrete pavement resurfacing will occur near Kay Road, Maple Lane, Prospect Street, and Stoddard Avenue; and rehabilitation/resurfacing work will occur near Elm Street, Gables Boulevard, Prairie Avenue, Seminary Avenue, Warrenville Road, and Wesley Street. Additionally, rehabilitation/resurfacing work will occur near the Heritage Lake, Orchard Cove, and Briarcliffe Knolls subdivisions.

The City's Public Works Department and the City's contractor, R.W. Dunteman Company, will perform this year's road work. Residents directly affected will receive further information from the City and/or the contractor with additional instructions, such as where to park if driveway access is temporarily limited. For additional information, please visit [the City's website](#).

- **Gary Avenue Improvements:** Work is underway for improvements to Gary Avenue from Jewell Road to Harrison Avenue. This project will include reconstructing the road, installing a traffic signal at Prairie Avenue, widening the roadway at the intersection

with Prairie to allow for left turn lanes, installing storm sewers, and more. You can read more about this project on [the City's website](#).

- **Sidewalk Improvements:** Through the Sidewalk Replacement Program, the City proactively inspects locations every year and replaces sidewalk sections as needed. The number of sidewalks replaced is based on available funding from the City's Annual Budget. The City will provide a map on the City's website of the areas where work will take place this year once this year's program is finalized.



Additionally, the City continues 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. In 2024, there are 22 areas where the City will be adding sidewalks. View the full list of new sidewalk construction areas for this year by visiting [the City's website](#). The City will provide further information throughout the process to residents who will be affected by this work.

Wheaton Police & Fire Departments Now Hiring



Fire Department

The Wheaton Fire Department is dedicated to safely providing the highest level of fire, rescue, emergency medical services, fire prevention services and public education to those who are called to serve. This exceptional department is seeking individuals who want to serve our community with pride and excellence, delivered by trained professionals. Applications are due May 22. Find out more by visiting [the City's website](#).



Police Department

The Wheaton Police Department is seeking individuals who want to make a difference in our community by becoming a Wheaton police officer. With a competitive salary, various specialty assignments, and benefits that encourage work/life balance and career advancement, every day is a chance to make an impact and directly affect the residents of Wheaton. Applications are due May 15. Find out more by visiting [the City's website](#).

Hale Street Tents Return to Downtown



The Downtown Wheaton Association is bringing back the Hale Street Tents from May 3 through Oct. 6. The Hale Street Tents offer the opportunity for visitors to dine outside of restaurants along Hale Street. This months-long event has become a community favorite, attracting thousands of diners each year. With live music throughout the summer, the Hale Street Tents are a downtown Wheaton destination not to be missed. The dining area will close traffic on Hale Street between Front and Wesley Streets.

Remember, you will also find numerous locations for outdoor dining and live entertainment throughout the downtown and in Wheaton's other shopping districts during warmer months. Be sure to check out all that's happening and support your local business community throughout Wheaton.



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Celebrating Wheaton's History



Mayor Sueess

Wheaton is a vibrant community that stays connected to the past while moving towards an even brighter future. From top-ranked schools and a picturesque downtown to historic neighborhoods and a prosperous business community, Wheaton, since its incorporation in 1859, remains an excellent place to live, work, shop, and visit.

This time of year, communities across the nation celebrate their history by observing Preservation Month in May. Here in Wheaton, the City's Historic Commission is offering several events and

opportunities for you to learn more about our community's past.

Residents will notice blue signs going up in front of the over 160 historic homes and buildings beginning May 3. You can scan the QR code on the sign to be directed to the interactive [Wheaton Historic Register Map](#).



The map provides images of the sites plus information such as the date built, prominent citizens of the past who lived in the home, and the architectural style.

For those who want to learn more about the history of their Wheaton home, two sessions of Home History Research

one-on-ones will be offered at the Wheaton Public Library with the library's Genealogy & Local History Specialist. The sessions are scheduled for Thursday, May 9, 6-9 p.m. and Monday, May 13, 6-9 p.m. [Reservations are recommended.](#)

The lecture "Railroads of Wheaton" is scheduled on Thursday, May 16 at 7 p.m. at the Wheaton Public Library. Local historians Brian and Joyce Ostberg, who are the creators of the YouTube channel BeHistoric, will present a historical survey of railroads that shaped the foundations and footprint of Wheaton. [Registration is strongly encouraged.](#)

In addition to these opportunities, Wheaton's business community continues to thrive and honors our history with new businesses marking milestones and longtime businesses serving as cornerstones of our community. We're fortunate to have businesses who've

been a part of our community's story for more than 100 years, including: The Little Popcorn Store, since 1921 (111 ¼ Front St.); Carlson Glass and Mirror, Inc., since 1915 (312 W. Front St.); Stones Jewelry, since 1911 (107 W. Front St.); Holstein's Garage, since 1906 (309 W. Front St.); and Wheaton Nurseries, since 1895 (626 E. Roosevelt Road).



I encourage you to learn more about our City, visit our local businesses, and celebrate everything that makes our community uniquely Wheaton.

Springtime Reminder to 'Walk Your Wheels' in Downtown Wheaton

With warmer weather comes more pedestrian and bicycle traffic, especially in downtown Wheaton. To help keep everyone safe, the City of Wheaton does not allow you to ride bicycles, skateboards, scooters, in-line skates or roller skates on the sidewalks within the heart of the downtown or through the Hale Street

Tents. While you can still ride on the streets, if you choose to go on the sidewalk, you must "walk your wheels" within the boundaries of the following streets: Wesley Street to the north; Cross Street to the east; Willow Street to the south; and West Street to the west. For more information, visit [the City's website](#).

Upcoming Events

Wheaton French Market

Date: Each Saturday through November

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.

Preservation Week Signs

Date: Begins Friday, May 3

Location: Historic sites throughout Wheaton

The City of Wheaton's Historic Commission will be placing blue signs in front of historic homes and buildings beginning Friday, May 3 in honor of Preservation Week,

which is May 4-18. Snap a picture of the QR code on each sign to be directed to the new interactive [Wheaton Historic Register Map](#) to learn more about the property.

Go Fly a Kite

Date: Saturday, May 4

Time: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Location: Graf Park, 1855 Manchester Road

Join the Wheaton Park District for this fun family friendly event for beginner kite flyers and experts, young and old. The event is free to attend. For more information, visit [the Wheaton Park District's website](#).

Electronic Recycling

Date: Saturday, May 11

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. For more information and a list of accepted items, please visit [the City's website](#).

Bloody Mary Fest

Date: Saturday, May 18

Time: 10 a.m.-Noon

Location: Downtown Wheaton

Join the Downtown Wheaton Association as your favorite shops and restaurants show off their best Bloody Marys. Ticketholders receive tastings of four variations of Bloody Mary cocktails from your favorite shops and restaurants throughout downtown Wheaton. For more information and tickets, visit [the Downtown Wheaton Association's website](#).

Memorial Day Parade

Date: Monday, May 27

Time: 10 a.m.

Location: Begins at Memorial Park, 225 Karlskoga Ave.

The 2024 Memorial Day Parade, hosted by American Legion Post 76, will take place on May 27, beginning at 10 a.m. The parade will begin at Memorial Park, proceeding west on Wesley Street, turning south on West Street, and ending at the Wheaton Cemetery.

Cream of Wheaton

Date: Thursday, May 30-Sunday, June 2

Location: Memorial Park, 225 Karlskoga Ave. & Downtown Wheaton

Kick off summer with the Wheaton Park District and Wheaton Chamber of Commerce at the Cream of Wheaton.

This event is for all ages and includes live entertainment, a carnival, a beer garden, food vendors, an Arts & Craft Fair, a Business Expo, and kids' activities. For more information and the full event schedule, visit [the Wheaton Park District's website](#).

LIBRARY EVENTS

Register for these events at wheatonlibrary.org/calendar

Mussel Up: Aquatic Species Recovery

Date: Tuesday, May 7

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: In-person

Discover how the Forest Preserve

District of DuPage County is working to clean waterways and improve water quality with native mussels, including some endangered

species. Blackwell's rare Urban Stream Research Center propagates and improves the mussels' habitat. *Registration is required to attend this event.*

Home History Research Help

Dates & Times:

Thursday, May 9, 6-9 p.m. and Monday, May 13, 6-9 p.m.

Location: In-Person

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Interested in learning more about your historic property? Ever wonder how old your house is? Who lived there in the past? Whether your interest is a home's construction date, past owners, or its architecture, reserve a 30-minute time slot to get one-on-one help discovering available resources, where to find them, and what each resource may reveal. The City of Wheaton's Historic Commission encourages residents

to take part in these one-on-one sessions in honor of Preservation Month. *Drop-ins are welcome, but reservations are recommended.*

Friends Annual Meeting & Concert

Date: Thursday, May 9

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: In-person

Join your friends, and make some new ones, at the annual Friends of Wheaton Public Library Meeting. After a brief business meeting, singer Rick Pickren will perform pop hits of the 60s. All are welcome.

Registration required.

Railroads of Wheaton

Date: Thursday, May 16

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: In-person

Local historians Brian & Joyce Ostberg, creators of the YouTube channel BeHistoric, provide a historical survey of railroads that shaped the foundations and footprint of Wheaton, including the Chicago and Northwestern, the Chicago, Aurora, & Elgin, and even the Chicago Great Western. In partnership with the

City of Wheaton Historic Commission to help honor Preservation Month. *Registration required.*

Seedling Share With Sustain DuPage

Date: Saturday, May 18

Time: 1-3 p.m.

on: In-person

Dreaming of summer and fresh produce from your garden? Get a head start on your garden and join Sustain DuPage at our free Seedling Share. *No registration required.*

Bicyclist & Pedestrian Commission Celebrates National Bike Month & Safety Reminders



Wheaton's Bicyclist & Pedestrian Commission encourages the community to enjoy more biking and walking in celebration of National Bike Month in May. Whether for fun, fitness or with family, this month is a great opportunity to enjoy biking and pedestrian-friendly activities.

To kick-off the month, several Wheaton-area schools will be joining the estimated 1,300 schools nationwide to celebrate National Bike & Roll to School Day on Wednesday, May 8. The event encourages students to bike, walk, or scooter to school and raises awareness for safer routes for bicycling and walking. Each participating school is

organizing its own event independently. Residents are encouraged to check with the local school administration for more details.

"National Bike & Roll to School Day is fun and a great way to get kids out on their bikes or scooters. Our hope is that this event can be a great kick-off for parents and kids biking to school not just on May 8, but through the rest of the school year," said Michelle Dunlap, co-chair of the Wheaton Bicyclist & Pedestrian Commission. "This event helps build connections between families, schools, and the Wheaton community. We encourage drivers to be good neighbors and slow down when driving in and around school zones."

Other nationwide events include National Ride a Bike Day on May 5; Bike to Work Week from May 13-19; and Bike to Work Day on May 17.

With the warmer weather and these exciting events, there will be more pedestrian and cycling activity. The Bicyclist & Pedestrian Commission would like to remind residents to be respectful of all cyclists, walkers, and drivers. Drivers are encouraged to stay alert for cyclists and pedestrians and leave plenty of space for passing. Cyclists are encouraged to obey the rules of the road.

National Bike Safety Month



While bicycle safety is important year-round, the National Bicycle Safety Month in May brings heightened awareness to the issue. From the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), here are ways you can help keep cyclists safe:

For Drivers:

- Obey the speed limit, reduce speed for road conditions, and drive defensively to avoid a crash with a cyclist.
- When driving, never drive distracted or impaired.
- In parking lots, at stop signs, when backing up, or when parking, search your surroundings for other vehicles,

including bicycles.

For Bicyclists:

- When biking, always wear a helmet.
- To make it easier for drivers to see you, have reflectors and lights on your bike, and wear reflective/bright clothing.
- Ride one per seat, with both hands on the handlebars, unless signaling a turn.
- Drive with the flow, in the same direction as traffic.
- Obey street signs, signals, and road markings.

For more information about bicycle safety, visit [NHTSA.gov/BicycleSafety](https://www.nhtsa.gov/BicycleSafety).

Lawn Watering Restrictions Begin May 15

Lawn watering restrictions are effective May 15 through Sept. 15 in the City of Wheaton. These restrictions are in place to help minimize evaporation during the hottest time of the day.

- Buildings and homes with an odd-numbered street address may water lawns and gardens only on days of the month ending in odd numbers.
- Buildings and homes with an even-numbered street address may water lawns and gardens only on days of the month ending in even numbers.
- No watering is allowed between the hours of noon and 6 p.m.

Contact the Water Division at 630-260-2090 for more information or for a 10-day variance for planting grass seed/laying sod.

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.

May 2024

- 4** Coffee with Council, 10 a.m.
- 6** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 13** City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 20** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 27** City Offices Closed; No Garbage Pickup
- 28** City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.