



# CITY OF WHEATON

## NEWSLETTER

September 2024

### CITY NOTES

#### City Offices Closed; No Garbage Pickup

Non-emergency City offices will be closed on Monday, Sept. 2 in recognition of Labor Day. LRS will not collect garbage, yard waste or recycling on Monday, Sept. 2. All pickups for the week of Sept. 2 will be one day later than usual.

#### Watering Restrictions End

Lawn watering restrictions will be ending Sept. 15. Until then, residents can water on odd- or even-numbered days corresponding with odd- or even-numbered addresses. Watering is prohibited between noon and 6 p.m.

*(Continued on next page)*

## Mark Your Calendars for the Festival of Cultures on Sept. 15



**T**he 2024 Festival of Cultures, presented by the City of Wheaton Community Relations Commission, will take place on Sunday, Sept. 15 from 1-5 p.m. at Memorial Park, 225 Karlskoga Ave.

Now in its sixth year, the Festival of Cultures celebrates the vibrant cultures that make Wheaton a warm and welcoming community to live, work, and visit. This free, family-friendly event features live entertainment, a passport activity for kids, an interactive art project, cultural booths, and storytelling.

Upon arrival, families can pick up a festival passport to collect stamps

from each of the cultural booths, which highlight the heritage of Wheaton residents through displays and interactive experiences. The Commission invites participants to paint a square on a collaborative paint-by-number mosaic, which will later be displayed at the Wheaton Public Library.

Additionally, the Memorial Park Bandshell will be the site of live entertainment. In between performances, individuals will share stories and songs reflecting their cultures and heritage.

#### Performance schedule:

- 1 p.m., Welcome by Mayor Phil Suess
- 1:15 p.m., Funkadesi
- 2:45 p.m., Institute of Traditional Irish Music (formerly Murphy Roche)
- 3:45 p.m., Costas Colectivo (formerly Salsa del Norte)
- 4:45 p.m., Wheaton College Gospel Choir

The 2024 Festival of Cultures is made possible through the support of sponsors: First Trust, Innovator ETFs, and Amplify ETFs. For more information about this event, visit [www.wheaton.il.us/festivalofcultures](http://www.wheaton.il.us/festivalofcultures).

### 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, X (Twitter) and Instagram by searching for "City of Wheaton." Send feedback to [communications@wheaton.il.us](mailto:communications@wheaton.il.us)

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### Employment Opportunities

The City of Wheaton has the following employment opportunities available:



- Accounting Manager
- Part-time Community Service Officer
- Project Engineer - Traffic

To apply, visit [www.wheaton.il.us/jobs](http://www.wheaton.il.us/jobs).

## Wheaton Police Officer Chris Kelly and Wife Frankie Honored with Life-Saving Award



The Wheaton Police Department is honored to announce that Officer Chris Kelly and his wife, Frankie, received a Life-Saving Award on Aug. 12 from the Village of Fontana, Wis., for their heroic actions that saved the life of a 2-year-old drowning victim on July 7, 2024 at Fontana Beach.

While off-duty and enjoying a holiday weekend with their family at the beach in Fontana, Wis., Chris and Frankie noticed a commotion near the shoreline. A father was carrying his unresponsive daughter, a toddler,

from the water. Without hesitation, Chris and Frankie, a registered nurse, immediately took the toddler and began performing CPR and rescue breathing. Thanks to their quick and skilled intervention, the toddler began showing signs of life before medics arrived.

Chris and Frankie remained with the toddler and her family until Fontana medics took over life-saving efforts. The child was transported to a Milwaukee-area hospital, where she made a full recovery.

## Wheaton Place Garage Floor Coating Work to Begin Sept. 9

City crews will begin floor coating work on the stairwells and lobbies of the Wheaton Place Garage, 232 W. Wesley St., beginning Sept. 9.

From Sept. 9-13, the west stair tower and the elevator lobbies on the second and fourth floors will be closed. During this closure, all patrons will be required to use the stairs on the east side of the garage, and individuals who require the use of the elevator should park on the first and third floors.

From Sept. 16-20, the east stair tower and the elevator lobbies on the first and third floors will be closed. Signage will be posted during this work. During this closure, all patrons will be required to use the stairs on the west side of the garage, and individuals who require the use of the elevator should park on the second and fourth floors.

Thank you for your patience while the City works to make important infrastructure improvements.

# Senior Emergency Preparedness Tips



September is National Preparedness Month and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS) is highlighting the importance of seniors' readiness efforts across Illinois.

Focusing on [senior community preparedness](#), here are tips from IEMA:

- **Assess your needs:** Everyone has unique needs. There are several factors that can affect the steps you need to take to prepare yourself and those you care for. Whether you care for pets, children, or have a medical condition or disability, it is important to know what your

family will need to stay safe.

- **Make a plan:** Once you've assessed your needs, you can plan for what you'd do, where you'd go, and what to bring if a disaster strikes. Your emergency supply kit should include items that meet your individual needs.
- **Engage your support network:** Get to know your neighbors because they, along with your family and friends, can be a support network before, during and after a disaster by providing emotional and practical support.

Your emergency preparedness kit should at least include these preparedness items:

- Water
- Non-perishable food
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Battery-operated radio or weather radio with extra batteries
- Extra battery packs and cables to charge your cell phones
- Copies of important family documents stored in a waterproof bag or container
- Hand sanitizer/disinfecting wipes

For additional resources and information, visit [ready.illinois.gov](http://ready.illinois.gov).

## Senior Assistance Program Accepting Applications

The City of Wheaton is now accepting applications for the Senior Assistance Program, an annual program administered through the City's Commission on Aging that provides monthly financial assistance to qualifying seniors. Applications will be accepted through Sept. 20.

Wheaton residents must meet the following four requirements to qualify and apply for the Wheaton Senior Assistance Program:

- **Age:** Must be at least **65** years or older.
- **Residency:** Must be a **current incorporated** Wheaton resident for at least the last consecutive 3 years.
  - Must reside in the residence for 9+ months of the year.
- **Income:** Annual household income **cannot exceed \$33,100**.

- **In-person/In-Home interview:** Agree to an in-person interview at the residence.

**If you are receiving Section 8 or DuPage Housing Authority assistance, you are NOT eligible to apply for this program.**

If you meet these four qualifications and would like to apply for Wheaton Senior Assistance, please [complete the Wheaton Senior Assistance Application](#) and submit it with the required supporting documents to:

City of Wheaton  
ATTN: Carly Johns  
303 W. Wesley St.  
Wheaton, IL 60187

For more information about this program, please contact the City of Wheaton at 630-260-2019 or email [cjohns@wheaton.il.us](mailto:cjohns@wheaton.il.us).



# MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

## Join Us for the September 11 Remembrance Ceremony



**Mayor Suess**

**A**s we approach a solemn and important day in our nation's history, I encourage everyone to attend Wheaton's annual September 11 Remembrance Ceremony. This year, the ceremony will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 11 at 10 a.m. at Memorial Park, 225 Karlsgoga Ave.

This event is an

opportunity for our community to pay tribute to the individuals our community lost in the attacks and ensuing military conflicts, and it honors fire and police personnel. It serves as a reminder of the strength and resilience of our community and our nation. As we gather at Memorial Park, we will not only

remember the lives lost but also reaffirm our commitment to the values of freedom, service, and unity that define us.

I encourage you to attend this meaningful event, alongside your family, friends, and neighbors. Thank you for continuing to make Wheaton a place of compassion and respect.

## *Petitions for Candidacy Available for 2025 Municipal Election*



**P**etitions for candidacy for the 2025 Wheaton municipal election are now available in the Office of the City Clerk at Wheaton City Hall, 303 W. Wesley St., Wheaton, IL. One four-year position for each of the City's four Districts (North, South, East, and West) is up for election. Candidates shall:

- Be registered voters of the City of Wheaton and must reside within the specific district boundary within the corporate limits of the city at least one year next preceding the election; and
- File Nonpartisan Primary Petitions for Nomination in accordance with 10 ILCS 5/10-3 of the Election Code. The petitions must

be signed by registered City of Wheaton voters residing within the corporate limits of each specific election district\* (North, South, East, and West) together with a Statement of Candidacy, Loyalty Oath (optional), and a receipt indicating the candidate has filed a Statement of Economic Interest with the DuPage County Clerk.

\*A copy of the current Election District map is available online: [Wheaton Election Districts map \(PDF\)](#).

Petitions for nomination are to be filed with the Wheaton City Clerk, City Hall, 303 W. Wesley St., Second Floor, Wheaton, Illinois. The filing period is from Monday, Oct. 21, 2024, through Monday, Oct. 28, 2024, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., excluding weekend days and holidays.

A Consolidated Primary election will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2025 if more than four candidates file for each district position (North, South, East, and West). The Consolidated Election will be held on Tuesday, April 1, 2025. Successful candidates will take office at the latter of either the first regular or special meeting after receipt of the official election results or at the first regular or special meeting in the month following their election. For further information, please contact City Clerk Andrea Rosedale at [arosedale@wheaton.il.us](mailto:arosedale@wheaton.il.us) or 630-260-2012.

# City Water Rate Changes Proposed to Support Necessary Infrastructure Projects



The Wheaton City Council is considering changes to the City's water rates to address aging water infrastructure, significant increases in the amount the City pays to purchase water, and rising expenses to operate the City's water system.

At its Aug. 19 meeting, the Wheaton City Council received a first reading of a proposed ordinance to implement the recommendations of the [Wheaton Water Rate Study](#), which would include the first adjustments to the City's water rates in 9 years, and annual adjustments to the rate that directly reflect how much the City pays to purchase water from the DuPage Water Commission. These changes would begin with water customers' January 2025 utility bill.

## Why These Changes Are Needed:

- **Increased cost for water:** Wheaton receives Lake Michigan water through the DuPage Water Commission (DWC), which purchases water from the City of Chicago. The City of Wheaton has not increased water rates since 2015 and up to this point has absorbed the substantial increases passed along by the City of Chicago (19.3%) and DWC (15.1%). Over time, these increases have significantly reduced the funding available for the City to address critical infrastructure work on Wheaton's aging water system.
- **Aging infrastructure:** Annual investments in the City's infrastructure are essential, as deferring water main replacements and other critical projects increase the risk of watermain breaks, boil orders and service disruptions. Additionally, the City is currently undertaking a \$6.5 million project to replace lead service lines throughout Wheaton, helping ensure a safe water supply for everyone in our community.
- **Rising operating costs:** With higher material prices due to inflation and rising energy costs, the City's costs to operate and maintain its water system continues to increase.

***The proposed ordinance includes annual adjustments to water usage rates and fees over three years to support the water utility system through 2027.***

## Water Study Recommendations

The proposed ordinance includes annual adjustments to water usage rates and fees over three years to support the water utility system through 2027. The impact on a customer's monthly water bill will vary based on their water meter size and consumption levels, however the average water customer is expected to see a monthly increase of approximately \$6.82 in 2025. To see a full breakdown of recommended rates, see [the City's website](#).

Starting in January 2025, customers' water bills will be displayed slightly differently to show the rate that the City of Wheaton is paying the DuPage Water Commission to purchase water. This is not a new charge; instead, the City's current usage rate will be split into two separate usage rates: DWC Usage Rate (amount the City pays for water), and a City Usage Rate (remaining costs to fund operation and infrastructure work).

More information is posted on the City's website, including the [proposed ordinance](#), [Water Rate Study](#) and City staff presentations to the City Council from its [May 13](#) and [July 22](#) City Council Planning Sessions. The City Council will take formal action on the proposed ordinance during its Sept. 3, 2024 meeting, which will take place at 7 p.m. at Wheaton City Hall, 303 W. Wesley St.

# Upcoming Events

## Wheaton French Market

**Dates:** 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.

## Woodland Wonder

**Date:** Saturday, Sept. 7

**Time:** 5:30-10 p.m.

**Location:** Cosley Zoo, 1356 N. Gary Ave.

Attend Woodland Wonder, a whimsical evening at Cosley Zoo. Become enchanted with the zoo's conservation mission and impact

while enjoying cocktails, dinner, live entertainment and more. For more information and tickets, visit [Cosley Zoo's website](#).

## September 11 Remembrance Ceremony

**Date:** Wednesday, Sept. 11

**Time:** 10 a.m.

**Location:** Memorial Park, 225 Karlskoga Ave.



The City of Wheaton encourages the community to come together for Wheaton's annual September 11 Remembrance Ceremony at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 11 at Memorial Park, 225 Karlskoga Ave. This event pays tribute to the individuals our community lost in the September 11 attacks and the ensuing military conflicts, and it honors fire and police personnel.

## Electronic Recycling

**Date:** Saturday, Sept. 14

**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, visit [the City's website](#).

## Festival of Cultures

**Date:** Sunday, Sept. 15

**Time:** 1-5 p.m.

**Location:** Memorial Park, 225 Karlskoga Ave.



Don't miss this year's Festival of Cultures event! This free, family-friendly festival, presented

by the Wheaton Community Relations Commission, includes live entertainment, cultural booths, food trucks, and a passport activity for kids. For more information about this event, visit [the City's website](#).

## The Mix on Main Street Music Festival

**Date:** Sept. 21-22

**Location:** Downtown Wheaton



Let's rock, Main Street! Chris and Nikki from 101.9 The Morning Mix kick off the Downtown Wheaton Association's first-ever Mix on Main Street Music Festival on Sept. 21 at 10 a.m., followed by free live performances all weekend long! Enjoy powerhouse line-ups at the Innovator Main Stage and the Downtown Wheaton Family Stage and visit participating shops and

restaurants as they transform into unique music venues, hosting free live music of all kinds.

For more information, visit [the Downtown Wheaton Association's website](#).

### History Bike Tour

**Date:** Saturday, Sept. 21

**Time:** 2-4:30 p.m.

**Location:** Meet at the Wheaton Public Library West Plaza, 225 N. Cross St.

Join the Bicyclist & Pedestrian Commission on Saturday, Sept. 21 for a history bike tour. The



ride will begin at 2 p.m. starting at the Wheaton Public Library's West

Plaza. Learn about the history of Wheaton parks with Bob Goldsborough, longtime Wheaton resident, amateur historian, and writer for the Chicago Tribune. Bob will lead a leisurely eight-mile bike tour to eight parks and provide historical commentary at each site.

A [signed digital waiver](#) is required to ride. This ride is open to cyclists of all levels and ages and participants under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. All riders must provide their own

bicycle and wear a bike helmet during the ride.

### HOPtober Fest

**Date:** Saturday, Sept. 28

**Time:** 1-5 p.m.

**Location:** Memorial Park, 225 Karlskoga Ave.

All the fun of Wheaton Brew & Seltzer Fest is moving to the fall for new event, HOPtober Fest! The event will feature fall beer, seltzer and cider sampling, live entertainment from 7th heaven and Karla and the Phat Kats, food and fun. For more information and tickets, visit [the Wheaton Park District's website](#).

## LIBRARY EVENTS

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

### Star Wars Day

**Date:** Saturday, Sept. 7

**Time:** 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Location:** In-person



Drop-in to celebrate all things Star Wars with trivia, prizes, DIY crafts, cosplay, and a special space-themed jazz concert at 1 p.m. featuring the ZAZZ quartet! *No registration is required for this event.*

### Mind Games: Stay Curious

**Date:**

Wednesday, Sept. 11

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Location:** In-person & Virtual

Using interactive games, William Pack demonstrates how the brain is hard-wired to believe what defies logic

and facts by seeking out patterns and trying to make meaning out of nothing. Have fun learning how your mind works and proven ways to preserve brain health. *Registration required.*

### Concert: Gypsy Jazz & More

**Date:** Sunday, Sept. 22

**Time:** 2 p.m.

**Location:** In-person

Acclaimed violinist Daniela Bisenius and guitarist Andy Brown present an eclectic blend of high energy Gypsy Jazz, Gypsy Swing, and more. *No registration required.*

### Living History: 6 Wives of Henry VIII

**Date:** Monday, Sept. 23

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Location:** In-person & Virtual

Queen, lover, mother, outcast, victim, survivor — Martina Mathisen of Edu-tainment Living History artfully interweaves tales of power, personality, and politics. Discover compelling truths about these remarkable women from an intriguing time in history. *Registration required.*

# City to Continue Garbage, Recycling and Yard Waste Services with LRS; New Agreement to Begin Oct. 1

Garbage Cart Size:	Year 1 (2024-2025)	Year 2 (2025-2026)	Year 3 (2026-2027)	Year 4 (2027-2028)	Year 5 (2028-2029)
35 gallons	\$3.56	\$3.69	\$3.83	\$3.97	\$4.12
65 gallons	\$5.02	\$5.21	\$5.41	\$5.61	\$5.82
95 gallons	\$5.96	\$6.18	\$6.41	\$6.65	\$6.90
Recycling Cart Size:	Year 1 (2024-2025)	Year 2 (2025-2026)	Year 3 (2026-2027)	Year 4 (2027-2028)	Year 5 (2028-2029)
35 gallons	\$2.33	\$2.42	\$2.51	\$2.60	\$2.70
65 gallons	\$3.21	\$3.33	\$3.45	\$3.58	\$3.71
95 gallons	\$3.79	\$3.93	\$4.08	\$4.23	\$4.39
Stickers	Year 1 (2024-2025)	Year 2 (2025-2026)	Year 3 (2026-2027)	Year 4 (2027-2028)	Year 5 (2028-2029)
Cost per sticker	\$3.49	\$3.62	\$3.76	\$3.90	\$4.05

The Wheaton City Council approved a 5-year agreement with LRS for garbage, recycling and yard waste service for residents that will begin Oct. 1. The new agreement will allow residents to continue paying based on the amount of garbage, recycling or yard waste they generate, and service will continue as it does today, with adjusted rates for each year of the contract.

In the spring, the City solicited Request for Proposals for collection services and evaluated all proposals based on program costs. LRS's proposal provided the lowest cost to residents, and in June 2024 the City Council approved the new 5-year agreement with LRS for garbage, recycling and yard waste service.

Under the new agreement, the price per pickup for the first year will increase between \$0.39 and \$0.65 per pickup for garbage and between \$0.25 and \$0.41 per pickup for recycling service, based on cart sizes, with a 3.7% increase in subsequent

years of the contract. The cost of yard waste/extra garbage stickers will be \$3.49, with a 3.7% increase per year. The average household cost for solid waste and recycling collection in Wheaton beginning in October is anticipated to be \$15.21 per month. See the chart above for costs based on your cart size.

You will continue to use your current garbage and recycling carts, which use RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) chips that LRS trucks scan each time they are emptied and charge you only when you set your carts at the curb. This "pay as you throw" model ensures collection costs are distributed fairly, in proportion to the amount of waste each user generates. This type of program also helps encourage residents to decrease waste and increase recycling, promoting environmental sustainability.



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](http://www.wheaton.il.us) for a complete list of meetings and events.

## CITY CALENDAR

### September 2024

- 2 City offices closed; No garbage pickup
- 3 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 7 Coffee with Council, 10 a.m.
- 9 City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 16 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 23 City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.