

CITY OF WHEATON

NEWSLETTER

October 2024

CITY NOTES

Fire Department Annual Report Now Available

Check out [the annual report](#) for the Wheaton Fire Department to learn more about their accomplishments and services performed in 2023.

DuPage County Accepting Applications for Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program

DuPage County will begin accepting applications for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) beginning Oct. 1. LIHEAP offers one-time help to income-eligible homeowners and renters. This can help pay energy bills or restore shut off energy services.

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City Manager Michael Dzugan Retiring after 33 Years of Service



City Manager Michael Dzugan announced that he will be retiring from the position of City Manager, following 33 years of service to the Wheaton community, and over 42 years serving local government. Before being appointed City Manager in 2016, Dzugan served as the City's Assistant City Manager for 25 years. He served as Assistant City Manager in Crystal Lake prior to joining the City of Wheaton.

The City has begun soliciting applicants for the next Wheaton City Manager. The successful candidate will be selected by the Wheaton City Council, with input from City staff. Dzugan will step down from his current position upon the hiring of the next City Manager and will assist the City with the transition process. His anticipated retirement from the

City will be mid-year 2025.

Under his tenure, Dzugan led the City through unprecedented times, finding ways to deliver uninterrupted City services through the Covid-19 pandemic while prioritizing community safety and supporting the local business community.

The City of Wheaton is among 19 communities in Illinois to receive Standard & Poor's top "AAA" financial rating, reflecting the City's strong economy, financial policies and budgetary performance.

Among the landmark projects during Dzugan's leadership, the City completed a \$35 million revitalization of the downtown through the Downtown Streetscape Project. As a result of this investment in the downtown, Wheaton has welcomed an influx of new restaurants, retail stores, businesses and new housing projects.

The City of Wheaton thanks City Manager Dzugan for 33 years of outstanding service to the community, leading with integrity and dedication to ensure Wheaton is a safe and vibrant community that provides high-quality services to its residents. For more information, please visit [the City's website](#).

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

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LIHEAP customers of Nicor Gas will also get a monthly discount on their natural gas bills through the new Low-Income Discount Rates. Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis through Aug. 15, 2025, or until the funding runs out. For more information, visit www.dupagecounty.gov/liheap or www.liheapillinois.com.

Board/Commission Reappointment

The City Council approved the reappointment to the following Commission: *Commission on Aging*:

- Russ Stock was reappointed for a three-year term

Employment Opportunities

The City of Wheaton has the following employment opportunities available:

- Accounting Manager
- Administrative Assistant
- City Manager

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

Support Neighbors in Need through Wheaton Gives Back Program



The Wheaton Community Relations Commission is once again providing opportunities for residents to make a difference in the community through its third annual [Wheaton Gives Back](#) program, which includes a winter gear drive throughout October and a volunteer opportunity to unload food for residents in need on Oct. 25.

Winter Gear Drive

In partnership with the People's Resource Center, Downtown Wheaton Association, Wheaton Park District, and other locations, the Commission is collecting new and gently used winter coats, hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens for the People's Resource Center throughout the month of October. In 2023, the winter gear drive collected more than 2,000 pieces of winter coats and accessories.

Collection box locations include ([see a map of locations](#)):

Downtown Wheaton:

- Egg Harbor Café
- Images Med Spa
- London Skye
- M&Co. Salon
- Miroballi Shoes

- Model Act Studios
- Murphy Financial Group
- NEXT Yoga
- The Protein Spot
- Tasting deVine
- Wheaton City Hall
- Wheaton Public Library

Wheaton Park District Facilities:

- Central Athletic Complex
- Wheaton Community Center

Unload Food Truck

The Commission is seeking volunteers to unload food collected as part of the People's Resource Center's annual Stuff-A-Truck event, which will take place on Friday, Oct. 25 at 201 S. Naperville Road. Two shifts will be available: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 1-4 p.m. Please note that heavy lifting and standing are required. Volunteers must be at least 13 years old. The deadline to sign up is Oct. 11. For more information or to sign up as a volunteer, please email volunteers@peoplesrc.org.

The Wheaton Community Relations Commission strives to promote increased participation in all aspects of community life and foster a sense of shared community among all residents.

City of Wheaton Leaf Collection Reminders

This fall, the City of Wheaton reminds you of the ways you can properly dispose of leaves.

Place leaves in containers 35 gallons in size or smaller, or in biodegradable bags. Containers or bags must weigh less than 50 pounds when filled. Each container or bag requires an LRS yard waste/organics/excess garbage sticker, available at City Hall and at many local grocery and hardware stores for \$3.49 each.

When you're cleaning up leaves, please be careful not to blow or rake them into the streets. Doing so can prevent storm sewers from functioning properly and can lead to flooding. If your house

is located near a storm sewer catch basin, please help keep it clear by sweeping away leaves and debris from the sewer grate. Also, please note that burning leaves is not allowed. LRS collects yard waste, food scraps and organic materials on your garbage day through the second full week of December. An environmentally friendly alternative to bagging leaves is to mulch them into your lawn and/or garden beds. Using a lawnmower with a mulching function can break down leaves into small pieces, allowing them to be either collected and spread into garden beds or finely shredded into lawns to break down.

Halloween Safety Tips and Trick-or-Treating Hours



As children throughout our community start getting their costumes ready for Halloween, the City reminds you that the trick-or-treating hours in Wheaton will be 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 31. Drivers should use extra caution on Halloween to ensure the safety of trick-or-treaters.

To promote safety and protect children, the Wheaton Police Department offers the following tips:

- Trick-or-treat on one side of the street at a time. Refrain from crossing the street in the middle of the block or between parked cars.
- Trick-or-treat while it is light outside. If you must be out after dark, wear light-colored clothing, put reflective tape on your costume and treat bag, and carry a flashlight.
- Dress children in non-flammable costumes that fit properly. Avoid wearing facial masks, which obstruct vision. Use face paint and makeup instead.
- Trick-or-treat with friends and stay in a group.
- An adult or responsible teen should accompany younger children at all times.
- Advise children not to enter any residence or

vehicle for the promise of anything.

- Plan your trick-or-treat routes ahead of time, staying in your immediate neighborhood. Parents, take notice of whom your children are with and the routes they are taking.
- Always walk on the sidewalk while trick-or-treating. If there is no sidewalk on the street, keep to the left, next to the curb, and walk single file facing (against) traffic.
- Be courteous and respectful of others' property.
- Homeowners should leave outside porch lights on. If you do not want trick-or-treaters to visit your home, turn off your exterior lights, and/or place a ["no trick-or-treating here" sign](#) on your door.

[Downtown Wheaton Trick-or-Treating](#), hosted by the Downtown Wheaton Association, will take place on Saturday, Oct. 26 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. During this event, businesses throughout the downtown welcome children to get a head start on trick-or-treating by visiting downtown businesses.

Please note that the sidewalk at the northwest corner of Main and Front streets is temporarily closed due to building construction happening near this corner. For everyone's safety, please only cross the street using marked crosswalks, and remind children to do the same. To get around this closure, pedestrians can use the crosswalk to the south side of Front Street and the crosswalk to the east side of Main Street. Thank you for your assistance in helping keep all participants safe during this popular event.



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Capital Improvement Projects Update



Mayor Suess

A key element of Wheaton's strategic plan is enhanced infrastructure. Roughly 25% of our annual budget or approximately \$30 million is dedicated each year to various infrastructure projects. These projects include maintaining our existing infrastructure and building out new infrastructure. The following are highlights of projects from this year and important improvements slated for 2025.

The City's Water Division has made significant strides in the Lead Service Line Replacement Program, a multi-year initiative replacing lead service lines with modern copper ones, ensuring access to safe, high-quality drinking water for our community. This year, the program is on track to replace 120 service lines, on both City and private property,

at no additional cost to the property owners. In 2025, the City is projected to invest \$700,000 in this program and aims to replace more than 130 service lines on both private and City property. In addition, the City projects investing \$1.5 million toward replacing water mains on James Court, Golf Lane, Golf Circle, and Frazier Court in 2025.

Road improvements have been a focal point of the City's 2024 efforts, with several miles of roads already upgraded as part of our annual Road Improvement Program. So far in 2024, the City has improved 7.7 miles of roads and is expected to complete a total of 8.8 miles by the end of the calendar year. In addition, crews are continuing to work towards the reconstruction of Gary Avenue between Harrison Avenue and Jewell Road which will add a traffic light at the intersection of Gary and Prairie to improve traffic flow. In 2025, the City is projected to invest \$6.2 million in road-related projects, which include the Hunters Glen Subdivision resurfacing, Gary Avenue reconstruction, Gables Boulevard reconstruction, and

concrete street resurfacing. Additionally, crews plan to perform important maintenance on the Manchester Road/Wesley Street Bridge and the Butterfield Road Pedestrian Bridge.

The City has also made notable progress this year in upgrading the sanitary sewer system. Crews replaced sanitary sewer lines along Kingston Street and College Avenue and coordinated this work with water main replacements in the same area. Public Works crews will have also replaced 10 sanitary sewer structures by the end of 2024. Other notable projects included High Density Polyethylene lining replacements of existing sewer lines, manhole rehabilitations, and flow metering.

Major sanitary sewer projects planned for 2025 include the rehabilitations of the Blacksmith and Albright Lift Stations, sewer main rehabilitation, manhole rehabilitation, and the Sanitary Sewer Reimbursement Program. The Basin 3 & 4 Discharge Replacement Project is another sanitary main project slated for 2025. This major project will replace large sanitary mains near Main Street

and Roosevelt Road which will improve the sanitary flow restrictions in the area.

In the ongoing effort to reduce overland flooding, the City is projected to invest \$2 million in 2025 toward various flood improvement projects. As part of the Storm Sewer Replacement Program, Public Works crews plan to replace over 50 storm structures. Crews also plan to perform rehabilitation of the Lake A Pump Station, which plays a key role in minimizing flooding on Wheaton's east side. In 2024, Public Works crews have replaced over 45 storm sewer structures and installed over 1,311 feet of new storm sewer. The Cadillac & Wakeman Flood Control Project, completed in 2024, installed new stormwater infrastructure from Parkway Drive to Cole Avenue. This project will help decrease overland flooding into homes in this area.

Through 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 walkability, crews are on track to

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complete 2.5 miles of sidewalks and plan to install an additional 2.5 miles of sidewalks in 2025. As a part of the Roosevelt Road Sidewalk Program, 4,600 feet of new sidewalks have been installed this year on the south

side of Roosevelt Road, creating full sidewalk connectivity from County Farm Road to Lorraine Road. This project is another example of the City's goal to make our community more pedestrian-friendly and increase safety.

Additionally, significant

updates to the Wheaton Public Library are slated for 2025 with the facility's roof replacement and West Side Plaza renovations.

Investing in infrastructure is essential for the City to maintain a high quality of life for residents, support public health

and safety, and promote economic growth and development both now and for future generations. We will continue to work to ensure that the City's infrastructure and capital projects meet the community's service level needs and expectations.

Thank You for Attending the 2024 Festival of Cultures



Thank you for attending this year's Festival of Cultures at Memorial Park! The event was an opportunity to celebrate the vibrant cultures that make Wheaton a warm and welcoming community to live, work, and visit.

A special thank you to Wheaton's Community Relations Commission and its members for making the event a success. If you were unable to attend, [visit the City's website to see a video](#) highlighting this year's event.

City to Begin Accepting Candidate Petitions for 2025 Municipal Election

The Office of the City Clerk will accept candidate petitions for nomination for the 2025 municipal election between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, Oct. 21-25, and Monday, Oct. 28, at City Hall, 303 W. Wesley St. If necessary, the Consolidated Primary Election will be held on Feb. 25, 2025, and the Consolidated General Election will be held on April 1, 2025 for the offices of:

- Councilmember, North District (1 position);
- Councilmember, East District (1 position);
- Councilmember, West District (1 position); and
- Councilmember, South District (1 position).

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



The Wheaton City Council approved a 5-year agreement with LRS for garbage, recycling and yard waste service for residents, which started Oct. 1. The new agreement allows 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.

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.

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.

Installing an Electric Vehicle (EV) Charger in Your Home

If you're among the growing number of people who are considering purchasing an electric vehicle (EV), you may also be considering installing an EV home charging station. An EV charger is a device that provides the electrical power needed to recharge electric cars. These chargers come in various types, primarily differentiated by their connector types and charging speeds.

Before installation, you should first have a licensed electrician perform an inspection concerning the following:

- Assessment of the proposed electrical load to ensure that the existing electrical service is large enough to handle the additional power draw.

- Verifying that your electrical service panel has room for the new circuit and can safely accept any new circuits.

Checking these areas of concern is critical for the safe operation of your home's electrical system. Keep in mind that most manufacturer warranties for both the EV charger and the vehicle will require that a licensed electrician perform the installation.

A permit is required by the City of Wheaton to add an EV charger to your home. For more information, visit [the City's Residential/Commercial Projects & Permits page](#) and select "Electric Car Charger" under the dropdown menu or call the Building Department at 630-260-2050.

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.

Pumpkin Fest

Date: Throughout October

Location: Cosley Zoo, 1356 N. Gary Ave.

Taking in the beautiful fall colors at Cosley Zoo is a must-do! Come see the animals and take in the thousands

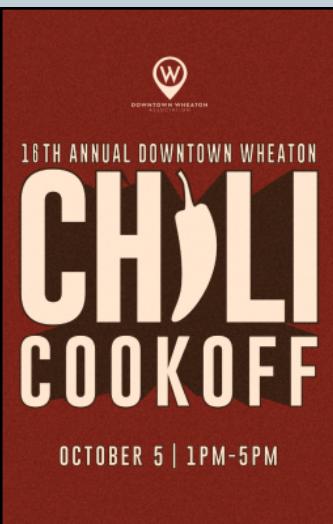
of pumpkins scattered on the zoo's lawn. Children's rides are also available. Apples, gourds, pumpkins, cider, cornstalks, and various sizes of straw bales are also available to purchase. For more information, visit [the Wheaton Park District's website](#).

16th Annual Downtown Wheaton Chili Cookoff

Date: Saturday, Oct. 5

Time: 1-5 p.m.

Location: Downtown Wheaton



The Downtown Wheaton Association's Chili Cookoff returns this October! Your favorite downtown eateries compete for your vote with their unique spin on this fan-favorite dish. Ticketholders will enjoy unlimited chili tastings before voting on the tastiest recipe. For more information about the event and to

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

Electronic Recycling

Date: Saturday, Oct. 12

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](#).

Touch-A-Truck

Date: Saturday, Oct. 12

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

Location: Liberty Drive



Honk, Honk! Beep, Beep! A community-favorite returns this October! 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, visit [the Downtown Wheaton Association's website](#).

Downtown Wheaton Trick-or-Treating

Date: Saturday, Oct. 26

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

Location: Downtown Wheaton

Bring your little ghosts and goblins to downtown Wheaton for a head start on this year's candy collection.

Please note that the sidewalk at the northwest corner of Main and Front streets is temporarily closed due to building construction happening near this corner. For everyone's safety, please only cross the street using marked crosswalks, and remind children to do the same. To get around this closure, pedestrians can use the crosswalk to the south side of Front Street and the crosswalk to the east side of Main Street. Thank you for your assistance in helping keep all participants safe during this popular event. For more information, visit [the Downtown Wheaton Association's website](#).

LIBRARY EVENTS

Register for these events at wheatonlibrary.org/calendar.

Note: In-person events take place at the Wheaton Public Library, 225 N. Cross St.

Cooking: Flavors of Fall

Date: Wednesday,

Oct. 9

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: In-person & Virtual

It's chilly outside but warm and cozy in the kitchen with aromas of apples, pumpkins, cinnamon, and vanilla. Chef Susan Maddox teaches both savory and sweet recipes to complete a meal using the fall fruit and vegetable harvest to their fullest. *Registration required.*

Honest Abe Lincoln: Campaigns and Elections

Date: Tuesday, Oct. 15

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: In-person & Virtual

Mr. Lincoln, portrayed by Kevin Wood, describes his many interesting campaign and election experiences over a long and eventful career, during a time of political intrigue and tumult when the very destiny of our nation was at stake. *Registration required.*

Concert: The Saddle Shoe Sisters

Date: Sunday, Oct. 20

Time: 2 p.m.

Location: In-person

This retro girl group performs hits from the

1940s-60s, from the Andrews Sisters to the Supremes, and much more! *No registration required.*

Cemeteries of Wheaton

Date: Wednesday, Oct. 23

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: In-person

Survey the cemeteries and funerary grounds of Wheaton with local historians Brian & Joyce Ostberg, creators of the YouTube channel BeHistoric.

We'll dig into their locations, origins, usage, and noteworthy memorials. In partnership with

the City of Wheaton Historic Commission. *Registration required.*

Paranormal Investigation

Date: Tuesday, Oct. 29

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: In-person & Virtual

Carl Crooks of Quantum Paranormal Investigators will explain the basics, including equipment and the dos and don'ts of appropriate paranormal investigation. We'll also experience evidence from well-known haunted locations in the Chicago area and Illinois. *Registration required.*

Water Rate Changes Approved to Support Necessary Infrastructure Projects

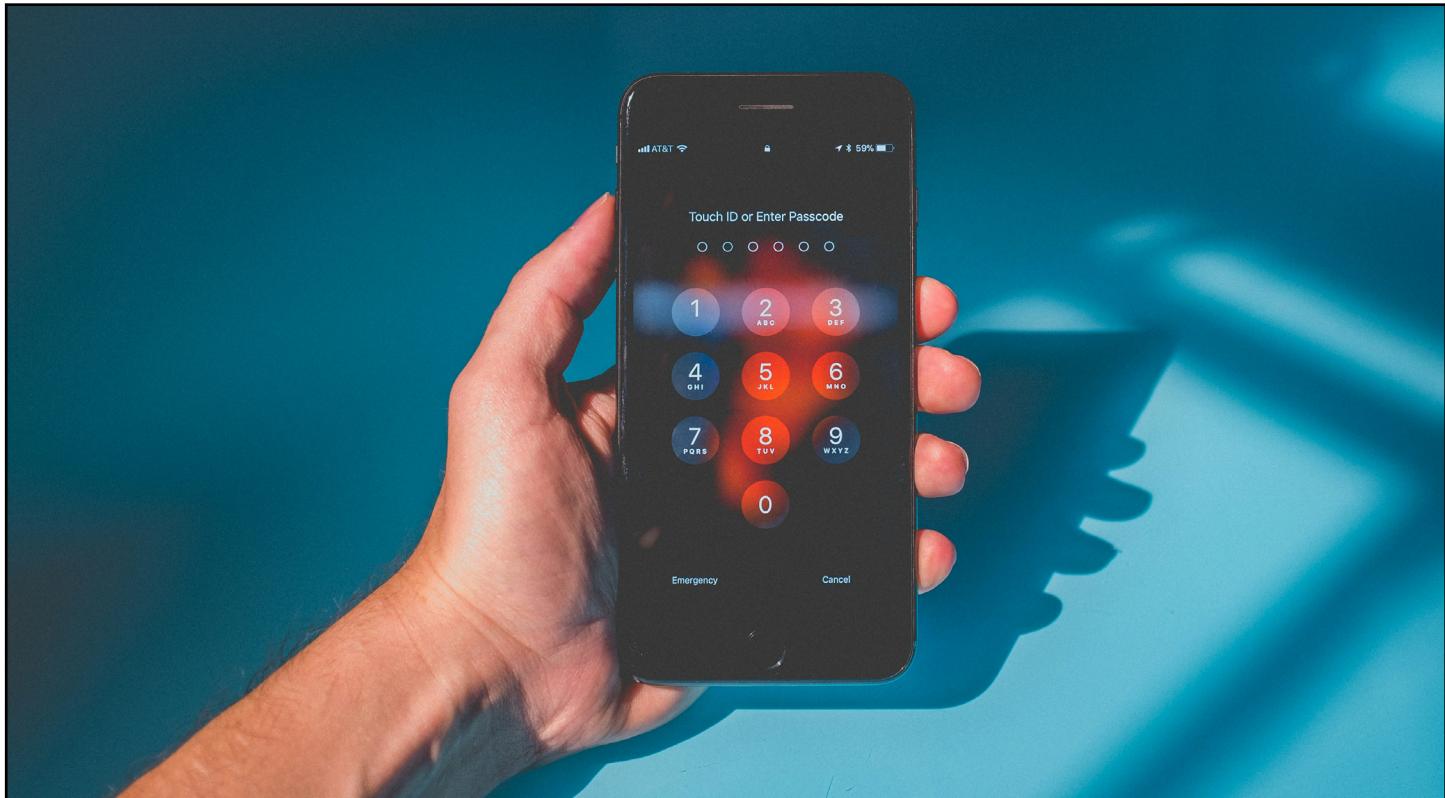


The Wheaton City Council has approved changes to the City's water rates to address aging water infrastructure, significant increases in the amount the City pays to purchase water, and rising expenses to operate the City's water system.

These changes implement the recommendations of the [Wheaton Water Rate Study](#), which includes 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 will begin with water customers' January 2025 utility bill.

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. More information is available on [the City's website](#).

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month



Cybersecurity Awareness Month, celebrated every October, serves as a reminder of the importance of online safety. In today's digital age, where we rely on the internet for everything from communication and work to shopping and entertainment, ensuring our online security is more critical than ever.

The goal of Cybersecurity Awareness Month is to educate individuals, businesses, and organizations on how to protect themselves from the ever-growing number of cyber threats. With cyberattacks like phishing, ransomware, and identity theft on the rise, it is vital to stay informed about the best ways to stay safe online. Follow these tips from the Illinois Emergency Management

Agency (IEMA) to better secure your data:

- Choose long, complicated, and different passwords for each application.
- Use multi-factor authentication.
- Regularly update computer software.
- Use a critical eye on all emails.
- If something looks strange, don't click it and immediately report any phishing attempts.

Cybersecurity Awareness Month encourages everyone to take proactive steps in safeguarding their digital lives. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, the federal government agency that monitors cybersecurity, has additional resources and tips regarding cybersecurity: www.cisa.gov/cyber-safety.



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.

CITY CALENDAR

October 2024

- 5 Coffee with Council, 10 a.m.
- 7 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 14 City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 21 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 28 City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.