

CITY OF WHEATON

NEWSLETTER

January 2025

CITY NOTES

January is 'Radon Action Month' in Illinois



January is Radon Action Month, and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) encourages residents to test their homes for radon. Testing kits are available at most hardware and department stores. To get accurate results, consider conducting both

(Continued on next page)

2024 Light Up Wheaton Winners Announced

Winners **Light Up**
WHEATON

13

12

8

People's Choice:
Entry #13 - 1115 S. Chase St.

Mayor's Choice:
Entry #12 - George Street

Most Creative:
Entry #8 - 1224 E. Liberty Drive

You decorated. The people voted. But most importantly, this holiday season was brightened! Thank you to all the amazing entries for the Light Up Wheaton holiday decorating contest for all your hard work!

Here are the official 2024 Light Up Wheaton award recipients:

- Mayor's Choice: Entry #12, George Street
- Most Creative: Entry #8, 1224 E. Liberty Drive
- People's Choice: Entry #13, 1115 S. Chase St.

Thank you to all who participated and helped fill our community with holiday cheer!

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

Continued from page 1

a short-term and a long-term test to ensure consistent readings. Should you find higher readings, you should contact a licensed mitigation professional who is trained to reduce radon levels. For more information, visit [IEMA's website](#).

Recycle Your Cooking Oil

Did you know that you can drop off unwanted cooking oil at the City's monthly recycling events? Help keep oil out of our sewer system, where it can cause clogs and backups, and recycle it into biofuel. The next Electronic, Scrap Metal, Textile & More Recycling Event will be Saturday, Jan. 11, 9 a.m.-noon at Wheaton's Public Works Storage Yard, 820 W. Liberty Drive. Find out more at www.wheaton.il.us/electronics.

You can also bring cooking oil to Wheaton Sanitary District, 1S649 Shaffner Road, between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Employment Opportunity

The City of Wheaton has the following employment opportunity available:

- Part-time Human Resources Coordinator
To apply, visit www.wheaton.il.us/jobs.

Board/Commission Reappointment

The City Council approved the reappointment to the following Commission:

Local Liquor Commission and Tobacco Commission

- Shannon Whitmer was reappointed for a three-year term

Holiday Light Recycling Program Returns to Wheaton



Keep your old holiday lights out of landfills by bringing them to Wheaton's holiday light recycling drop-off site at the Public Works Storage Facility (820 W. Liberty Drive) between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. weekdays now through Friday, Jan. 17.

Bring strands of incandescent or LED lights in any condition. Look for signs directing you to the holiday light recycling area just inside the gate. This program is for light strings only. Please do not drop off lawn ornaments or other decorations, and do not put lights in a bag

or box.

Elgin Recycling, www.elginrecycling.com, will collect the lights, which will then be stripped and recycled for their copper and plastic parts. No materials will be shipped overseas.

In addition to residents, the City also welcomes businesses, schools, and other organizations wanting to dispose of holiday lights to participate in the program. There is no limit as to how many lights you can drop off for recycling.

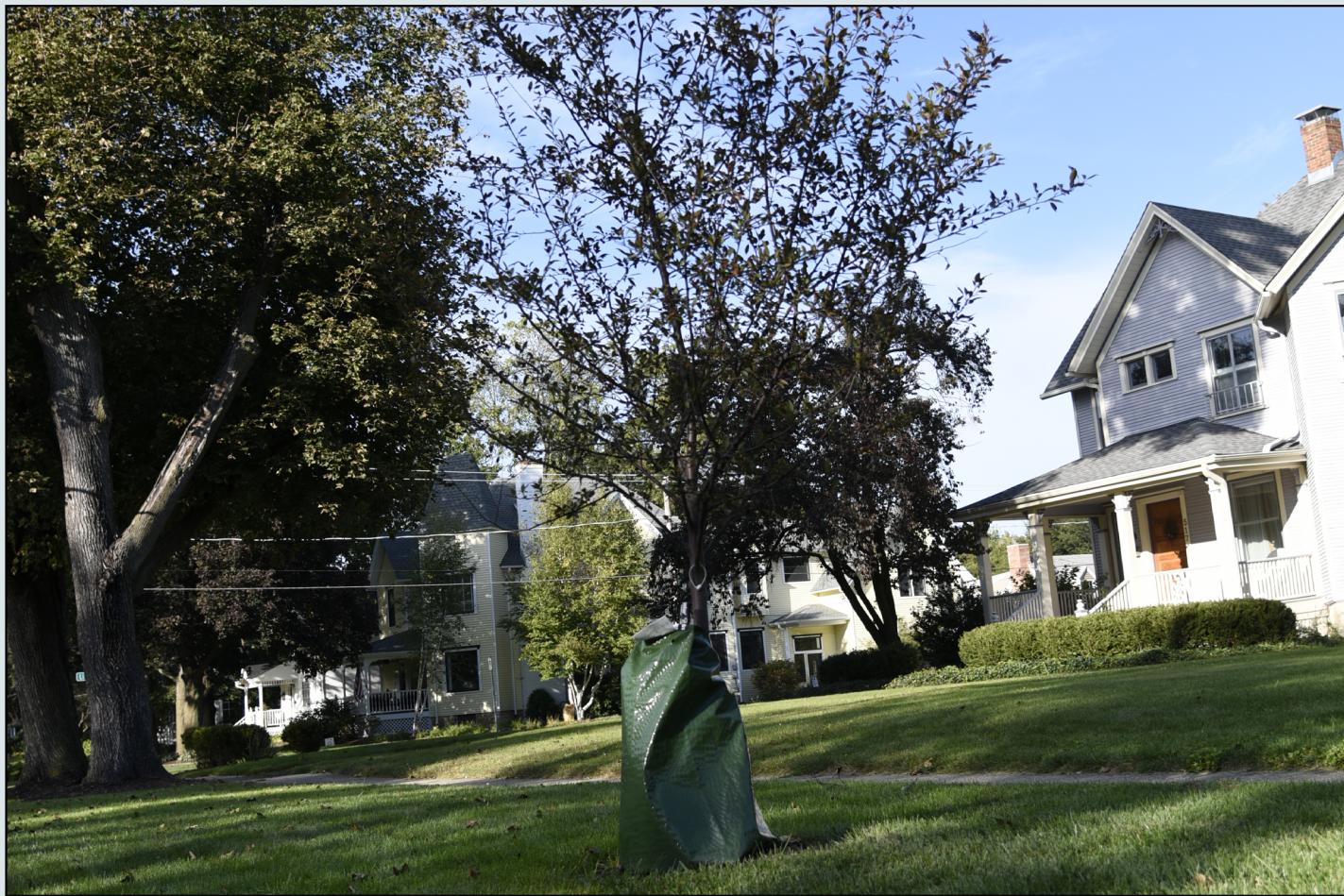
Christmas Tree Pickup Service Now Available



Christmas trees will be recycled now through the week of Jan. 6 at no charge on your garbage pickup day for residents served by LRS. During this free collection period, make sure trees are free of all decorations and are not in plastic bags. After the

free collection period, you will need to attach one garbage/organic sticker to a Christmas tree to have it collected. Please note that Wednesday through Friday pickups during the week of Dec. 30 will be delayed by one day due to the New Year's Day holiday.

Shared Cost Parkway Tree Program Returns Jan. 2



With the start of a new year comes a new opportunity for you to add a parkway tree in front of your property. The City's Forestry Division will be [accepting applications](#) for the 2025 Shared Cost Parkway Tree Planting Program starting Jan. 2. As we continue seeking ways to encourage sustainable actions in our community, this year's program will provide shared-cost funding for up to 200 new trees on a first-come, first-served basis.

Through Feb. 28, 2025, this program allows

property owners to pay \$95 per tree to have City crews plant a new tree in the parkway adjacent to their property. Property owners can select from up to 12 species. The City's Forestry Division will plant the trees in the spring, weather permitting.

To participate, [submit an application](#) to the City's Forestry Division. More information will be available in the application packet. Applications will be accepted through Feb. 28, 2025 or once the program maximum is reached.

City of Wheaton Snow Parking Reminders



Winter is here, and snow is on the way. As a reminder, after 2 inches of accumulated snowfall, parking is prohibited on any street for a period of 24 hours or until the streets have been cleared of snow. Parking is also prohibited in the Central Business District between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. or until the streets have been cleared.



Message from the Mayor: Looking Ahead to 2025



Mayor Suess

In December, the Wheaton City Council approved the 2025 Annual Budget, authorizing \$132.5 million in expenditures to deliver high-quality services and programs to our community — all without increasing the property tax levy for the sixth consecutive year. This budget includes no new taxes and focuses on critical infrastructure improvements to Wheaton's facilities, roads, sewers, and water systems. In total, the City will invest \$31 million in capital improvements, representing 23.4% of all spending. Here are some key highlights of the planned improvements for the coming year:

Annual Road Improvement Program

For 2025, the City has designated 5.5 miles of roads for improvements, with an investment of \$2.14 million. In conjunction

with road construction, the City will repair and replace water mains, sanitary sewer mains, and storm sewer mains, adding another \$1.71 million to the total investment. Another \$2 million is earmarked for various road-related projects, including street reconstruction, road maintenance, collector street resurfacing, concrete street panel replacement, and surface treatments.

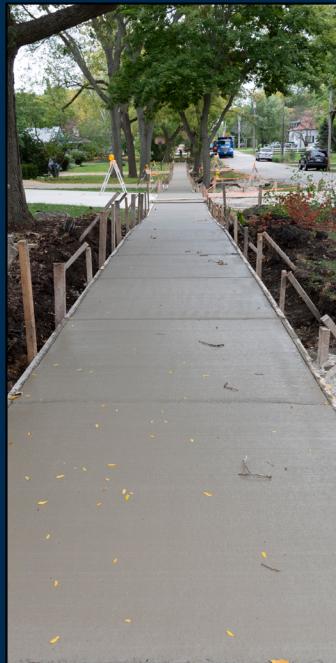
Gary Avenue, between Harrison Avenue and Jewell Road, will undergo major work. The project involves a full-depth reconstruction of the roadway. Traffic signal installation, striped crosswalks, and pedestrian countdown signals will be added at Prairie Avenue as well as widening the intersection approaches to accommodate left-



turn lanes. Additional improvements include the installation of an off-street shared-use path, extension of the Winfield Creek culvert, and installation of storm sewers.

New Sidewalk Program

To enhance pedestrian safety and community walkability, the City is continuing its multi-year program to add sidewalks on at least one side of every street. The City Council increased funding to accelerate the program with \$2 million earmarked for the 2025 New Sidewalk Program. The City will complete the sidewalk installation along Roosevelt Road, funded by a state grant, and the City will improve existing sidewalks through the Sidewalk Replacement Program.



Storm Sewer Improvements

The 2025 budget also focuses on enhancing Wheaton's stormwater infrastructure. Key projects include the Thomas Road drainage improvement, which involves installing new storm sewers between President Street and Summit Street. Another significant initiative is the Glendale Flood Prone Project to reduce overland flooding into nearby structures.



Sanitary Sewer Improvements

Sanitary Sewer Basins 3 & 4 connect at Central Park and flow south to the Wheaton Sanitary District's South Side Interceptor (SSI) at Park Avenue and Main Street. In 2025, the City will

(Continued on next page)

Continued from page 4

upgrade the sanitary sewer connection for Basins 3 & 4 to the SSI by replacing the existing sewer pipe with a new, larger pipe and installing new sewer structures. These improvements will improve the sanitary sewer flow, reduce the risk of sanitary sewer overflows, and make maintenance easier. This project is a key investment in Wheaton's infrastructure, ensuring an even more reliable sewer system for years to come.

Facilities Improvements

A total of \$5.7 million is budgeted for facility improvements in 2025. The largest facility project involves the water facility's exterior building renovations, which is budgeted for \$2.1 million.

The Wheaton Public Library's West Plaza Replacement will refurbish the plaza to improve accessibility, enhance outdoor programming, and provide a more inviting space for the community. The project involves repairing cracked concrete, replacing limestone



panels, and more improvements to create a vibrant, usable area for all.

These enhancements are essential to maintaining Wheaton's high quality of life, supporting public

health and safety, and fostering economic growth. We remain committed to ensuring that our infrastructure projects meet the community's needs and expectations, now and for future generations.

Water Rate Changes Begin with January Bill



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](#).

City Council Passes 2025 Budget with No Increase in Tax Levy for Sixth Consecutive Year



At its Dec. 16, 2024 meeting, the Wheaton City Council approved the 2025 annual budget, through which the City will continue providing the same high level of services and programs to the Wheaton community without raising the property tax levy for the sixth consecutive year. The annual budget includes no new taxes and prioritizes infrastructure improvements to Wheaton's roads, sewers and water system infrastructure.

Approximately 11.8% of a resident's property tax bill goes

to the City, funding services and infrastructure that contribute to the life safety and quality of life in Wheaton. This includes everything from road maintenance and police services to fire protection, code enforcement, snow removal, and the staff that support the daily operations of the City. Because the property tax levy will not increase with the 2025 budget, the typical property owner could see a slight decrease of approximately \$2 to \$4 in the City's portion of their 2024 property tax bill. For more information, visit [the City's website](#).



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.

Upcoming Events

- [Cocoa & Coffee Crawl](#), Saturday, Jan. 11, Noon-3 p.m.
- [Ice-A-Palooza](#), Saturday, Feb. 1, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- [Winter Wine & Cheese Walk](#), Saturday, Feb. 8, 2-5:30 p.m.

Library Events

To register for these events, please visit www.wheatonlibrary.org/calendar. Note: In-person events take place at the Wheaton Public Library, 225 N. Cross St.

- [Craft Swap](#), Saturday, Jan. 4, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., In-person
- [Art History: Vatican Splendors](#), Tuesday, Jan. 14, 7-8 p.m., Virtual
- [Decluttering Heart and Home](#), Wednesday, Jan. 22, 7-8 p.m., Virtual
- [Concert: Petra Van Nuis/Andy Brown Quartet](#), Sunday, Jan. 26, 2-3 p.m., In-person
- [Colleen Moore's Fairy Castle](#), Wednesday, Jan. 29, 7-8 p.m., Virtual

CITY CALENDAR

January 2025

- 4 Coffee with Council, 10 a.m.
- 6 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 13 City Council Public Hearings & Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 21 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 27 City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.