

April 2012

City Notes



Yard Waste Pickup Resumes April 2

Yard waste pickup in Wheaton resumes on your collection day during the first week of April. As a reminder, yard waste can be placed either in containers no larger than 33 gallons in volume or in biodegradable bags. Each container or bag needs a blue yard waste sticker – the same sticker that is used for garbage collection.

If containers are not feasible, brush and tree trimmings must be placed in stacks no longer than 4 feet in length and 18 inches in diameter. Stacks do not need to be bundled with twine but must have a garbage/yard waste sticker attached.

For more information about yard waste and garbage collection, [visit the City's website](#).

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Wheaton Coordinates Firefighting Resources with Three Communities

Alliance created common procedures among departments

Nearly two years of work is paying off for an alliance of local fire departments. The Wheaton Fire Department has joined the Winfield, West Chicago and Carol Stream Fire Protection Districts in creating the West Suburban Fire/Rescue Alliance, a formal effort to create more cooperation among the fire departments. Last month, the Alliance launched a dispatch system that better coordinates emergency services and enhances the departments' ability to share resources.



The switch to a unified dispatch system required a great deal of coordination from the departments, as the departments first had to develop common response procedures to incidents and common training. It also required DU-COMM (the dis-

patch agency) to completely reprogram the Computer Aided Dispatch system for these departments.

Although all four communities use DU-COMM as their dispatching service, each

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You can now watch "A Chat with the Mayor" on your smart phone or tablet.

Videos Now Mobile-Friendly

You can now watch the latest [Wheaton videos](#) on the go. To meet the needs of the increasing number of residents who use smart phones, tablets or similar mobile devices to access the internet, the City has expanded its options for watch-

ing City videos by making them mobile-friendly. Software enhancements now allow you to watch videos from the City's website on most mobile devices – meaning you can watch the City's videos

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Contact
the City

Police/Fire: 911
After-Hours Water/Sewer Emergency: 630-260-2161
General Information: 630-260-2000, 630-260-8090 (TDD)
City Hall Hours: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday

Feedback:
 Please mail your comments to:
 Mayor's Office, 303 W. Wesley St., Wheaton, IL 60187
 Or, email comments to: feedback@wheaton.il.us

Mobile

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about community events or the latest City Council meeting wherever you are.

Whether you are viewing videos from a mobile device or a computer, you can skip to the specific portion of a meeting that you want to view by clicking on the agenda item listed for public meetings.

A new function of the enhanced video service is the ability to search all videos for keywords. For example, if you're looking for any videos pertaining to recycling, enter "recycling" into the search field, and the results will include CWC10 programs about recycling in Wheaton and City Council meetings

in which recycling was discussed.

The City of Wheaton uses Granicus' Open Platform and Government Transparency Suite to engage citizens in public meetings and City events online.

"When a community like Wheaton takes an initiative like this toward open government, they're matching government responsiveness to today's technological demands: online, mobile, instant and convenient," said Granicus Chief Executive Officer Tom Spengler.

To watch videos on your mobile device, simply visit www.wheaton.il.us, and click on "Videos" on the blue bar along the top of the page. Find the video you would like to watch, and click on "Video" to the right of the title.



Firefighting

"In this time of tight budgets, the move toward cooperative services just makes sense."

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community previously had its own set of procedures for how it responded to emergencies within and outside of its community. With the new automated system, when DU-COMM receives a call for an emergency anywhere within the four communities, it automatically dispatches the closest available fire station to the emergency. During high call demand situations, the residents within these four communities may have fire personnel from a different community show up to assist you in an emergency, as the system automatically draws from shared resources across the departments.

The four departments have created standard response procedures, standard training procedures, standard communication procedures, and standard operating guidelines. These efforts will result in all four of the departments responding to emergencies in a common manner, with common operational procedures and common training methods.

"I'm pleased to see this system put into place because I believe the City will see better service on a consistent basis from the West Suburban Fire/Rescue Alliance based on functional cooperation," said Wheaton Fire Chief Gregory Berk.

Chief Berk stressed that the alliance is not a con-

Gregory Berk,
Wheaton Fire Chief

solidation of the fire departments – it's all about functional cooperation. It allows these fire departments to share common resources, provide more cost-effective services to residents in all of the jurisdictions and increase safety for response personnel by using common procedures. Rather than being limited to the resources of Wheaton's three fire stations, now the Wheaton Fire Department can automatically draw from the resources of 10 fire stations within the alliance, and the alliance is considering expansion. A number of other communities have expressed interest in joining the West Suburban Fire/Rescue Alliance, which would broaden this base of available resources even further.

"As time moves on, the Alliance Departments will begin working on other initiatives such as cooperative purchasing activities and opportunities for resource sharing," Chief Berk added. "In this time of tight budgets, the move toward cooperative services just makes sense. To be able provide more efficient, cost-effective services is a great benefit to our community."

City Notes



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City Offices Closed

City of Wheaton offices will be closed on April 6. Garbage pickup will not be affected.

Hydrant Flushing Begins This Month

The City's Water Division will begin its 2012 Hydrant Flushing Program on April 22 and will continue for about two weeks. To minimize inconvenience to residents,

hydrant flushing will be done between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. Sunday through Thursday.

The purpose of this program is to flush out particles that accumulate in water lines. During or immediately following the hydrant flushing, water discoloration may occur. It is best not to draw large amounts of water if you experience discoloration. If you have questions, call the Water Division at 630-260-2090.

Last Call for Good Citizen Nominations

Submit nominations by email or mail through April 13

The Community Relations Commission seeks nominations for its annual Good Citizen Awards, and the deadline to nominate someone is quickly approaching.

These awards honor Wheaton residents whose actions have benefitted other Wheaton residents or the community by:

- volunteering many hours of personal time to a civic organization, group or service club
- accomplishing a good deed by going above and be-

yond the expected, or

- performing a heroic act, such as assisting a neighbor in a time of need or crisis.

Awards will be given in four categories: high school student, adult, senior citizen and group.

To nominate someone, simply explain why the resident(s) should be recognized in two pages or less. Describe what the person did and how it made a difference in the lives of Wheaton community members or classmates. Be sure to include the name, address and nominating category of the nominee plus your name, address and phone number.

You can nominate someone either by email at



The winners of the 2012 Good Citizen Awards will be honored during the May 21 City Council meeting.

sbarrett-hagen@wheaton.il.us or by mail to: City Clerk, Wheaton City Hall, 303 W. Wesley St., Wheaton, IL 60187. Nominations are due by

April 13, 2012.

Award recipients will be honored at the Wheaton City Council meeting on May 21, 2012.

Know What to Do to Prepare for a Tornado

Learn difference between watch, warning

Tornados are violent, rotating storms with winds that can exceed 300 miles per hour. Nearly 1,000 tornados touch down in the U.S. every year. The Wheaton Police Department encourages you to know what to do to prepare for a tornado.

Be alert to weather conditions. Designate a shelter area in your home, such as a basement, storm cellar or the lowest building level available.

Danger signs of a tornado include a dark, often greenish sky; large hail; large, dark, low-lying clouds (particularly if rotating); and a large roar, similar to that of a freight train.

A tornado watch means severe thunderstorms or tornados are possible in the area.

A tornado warning means severe weather has been reported by spotters or indicated by radar. Warnings

indicate imminent danger to life and property to those in the path of the storm.

What to do during a tornado watch:

- Stay tuned to radio or TV for updates.
- Watch for danger signs of a tornado.
- If you see approaching storms or any danger signs, be prepared to take shelter at any time. Some tornadoes advance so quickly that advance warning is not possible.
- Stay out of large, flat buildings with wide-open areas such as supermarkets or shopping malls.
- Stock your home shelter area with a flashlight, a battery-powered radio, extra batteries, water and a first aid kit.

What to do during a tornado warning:

- If you are under a tornado WARNING, seek shelter immediately!
 - Go to your designated shelter area.
 - If in any structure, head to the basement. If there is no basement, head to the lowest building level, and go to the center of the room away from windows, corners walls and outside walls.
 - Get under a sturdy table and use your arms to protect head and neck.
 - Do not open windows.
 - If you are in a vehicle, trailer or mobile home, get out immediately and seek shelter in a nearby building.
 - If outside with no shelter, lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head and neck with your hands. Do not get under an overpass or bridge.
 - Watch out for flying debris.
- Tornado sirens are activat-

ed in Wheaton when requested by an official; observed by trained weather spotters and confirmed by a police officer; or when a tornado warning or damaging storm is heading toward the city based on National Weather Service reports.

In the event that the tornado sirens have been activated, please stay tuned to your TV or radio for severe weather information and updates. There is no all-clear signal given.

Please note that severe weather sirens in our area were not designed to be heard inside buildings – especially when people are asleep. Wheaton emergency officials recommend that every household contains a NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)-approved weather radio.

Also, note that tornado sirens are tested the first Tuesday of every month at 10 a.m.

Upcoming Events

Celebrate Spring, Celebrate Easter ▶

When: April 7, 10 a.m.-noon

Where: Memorial Park (Wheaton and Karlskoga avenues) and throughout downtown Wheaton

The Downtown Wheaton Association invites children to take part in its Celebrate Spring, Celebrate Easter event. An Easter egg hunt will take place at 10 a.m. in Memorial Park, followed by an Easter bonnet contest at 10:30 a.m. and a performance by Academy of Dance at 11 a.m.

At noon, kids can visit downtown businesses for treats and prizes. For more information, see the [Downtown Wheaton Association's website](#).

April Electronic Recycling Collection

When: April 14, 9 a.m.-noon

Where: Public Works Storage Facility, 820 W. Liberty Drive

Drop off your unwanted electronics and rechargeable batteries for recycling during the City's monthly collection event. Electronics such as televisions, computers and printers and small household appliances such as toasters and hair dryers are accepted. Please note that the collections no longer accept household batteries; only rechargeable batteries will



now be accepted.

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

French Market ▼

When: Saturdays, starting April 21, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Where: Main Street and Liberty Drive

Flowers, locally grown produce, baked goods, jewelry, crafts and more are sold from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Saturday at Wheaton's popular outdoor French Market.

For information, contact Bensidoun USA at 312-575-0286.

Recycling Extravaganza

When: April 21, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Where: Commuter Parking Lot 9, Liberty Drive & Carlton Avenue

The Environmental Improvement Commission

encourages residents to drive through the annual Recycling Extravaganza. The event is in a convenient drop-off format with stations to recycle a wide variety of items. See page 5 for the list of items accepted at the event.



Go Fly a Kite Festival ▲

When: Saturday, April 21, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Where: Graf Park, 1855 Manchester Road

The fourth annual Go Fly a Kite event will return to Graf Park, with participants attempting to break Wheaton's record of 843 kites in the air simultaneously. The Wheaton Park District sponsors the free event, which also includes kite making, games, the Chicago Fire Kite Team and more.

For more information, see

the [Wheaton Park District's website](#).

Arbor Day Celebration

When: April 27, 9:15 a.m.

Where: Wheaton North High School, 701 W. Thomas St.

Wheaton's Forestry Division and Environmental Improvement Commission will join students at Wheaton North High School for the City's annual Arbor Day Celebration at the school.

Native Illinois Plant Sale

When: April 28, 8:30 a.m.-noon

Where: Wheaton Public Works Building, 821 W. Liberty Drive

Find environmentally friendly plants that require less maintenance, no pesticides and are drought-resistant. You can [check out a list of plants that will be available at the sale](#) and [watch an informative video with tips](#) on picking the best plants for your yard.

Prairie Path Cleanup

When: April 28, 9 a.m.-noon

Where: Illinois Prairie Path; meet at Stevens Park at the corner of Lincoln Avenue and the Prairie Path

Bring a pair of work gloves and help clean up the portion of the Illinois Prairie Path that runs through Wheaton. This event is coordinated by the Environmental Improvement Commission. Groups, individuals and students are welcome. Those who would like to clean a specific portion of the path should call 630-260-2870 or email cleanupthepath@yahoo.com ahead of time.



New Items Will Be Accepted at Recycling Extravaganza This Year

Take advantage of convenient event

Wheaton's Environmental Improvement Commission is gearing up for a Recycling Extravaganza April 21 that will accept a wide variety of items for recycling or reuse. From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. you can drop off the items below at the Commuter Parking Lot at Carlton Avenue and Liberty Drive.

The convenient setup allows you to simply drive through the different stations and unload the items you no longer want. Note that this year **books will not be part of the Recycling Extravaganza.**



Items That Will Be Accepted

- **Electronics:** Such as computers, laptops, copiers, keyboards, mice, modems, monitors, printers, audio/video equipment, scanners, radios, stereos, telephones, cords/chargers
- **Working appliances**
- **Scrap metal:** Such as metal hangers, metal fencing, hot water heaters, washers, dryers, metal lawn furniture, pots, pans, screen doors, tomato cages
 - o NO refrigerators, freezers or air conditioners
- **Goodwill Specialized Collection:** Clothing, linens, shoes and any textile (holes, stains, rips OK)
 - o NO fabrics used with chemicals (such as rags used to clean up oil, paint, stains, turpentine)
- **Building Supplies for Habitat for Humanity:** Clean, usable building materials
 - o NO painted lumber
- **Pet Equipment:** Dog kennels, cat transport cages, leashes (no metal collars), stainless steel food/water bowls
- **Bicycles:** Working or nonworking (adult, child, any type/size), helmets, baskets, pumps
- **Car, sump pump or boat batteries; household batteries**
- **American flags:** Tattered and torn OK
- **Keys:** Household, car, luggage, etc.
- **Eye glasses, wheelchairs, hearing aids**
- **Cell phones**
- **Musical instruments**
- **Working tools**



- **Fire extinguishers**
- **Ink cartridges**
- **License plates**
- **Propane cylinders**
- **Oxygen tanks**
- **Sewing machines, clothing buttons**
- **Yarn**
- **LP records**
- **Rulers**
- **Altoid mint tins**

No hazardous waste will be accepted.

To volunteer, groups or individuals high school age or older can call 630-690-1237 or 630-653-8877. For additional questions about items accepted, call 630-545-9710.

ComEd Open House is April 4

*Learn about planned
improvements to
infrastructure system*

City of Wheaton staff members have been working with ComEd for a number of months to address specific areas in which residents have experienced repeated power outages. In addition to working to fix problems in these specific areas, ComEd also is starting a number of improvement projects aimed at upgrading infrastructure.

The City will host an open house with ComEd representatives from 7-9 p.m. April 4 at City Hall to discuss what is being done locally to improve service reliability and infrastructure projects the utility company is planning.

The open house will begin with a presentation by ComEd officials addressing improvements planned for Wheaton and the utility's long-term upgrade plan. After the presentation, ComEd will provide representatives to talk to residents about different aspects of service, such as the storm restoration process and smart grid improvements.

Butterfield Widening Project Half Complete

*North-south traffic
affected during
construction*

The Illinois Department of Transportation continues working on its project to widen Butterfield Road (Route 56) from Naperville Road to Route 59, making the entire stretch of roadway four lanes. While the City of Wheaton is not the responsible agency for this project, information is provided to inform the many residents who will be affected by the construction and resulting improvements.

The Illinois Department of Transportation has received a construction schedule for the remainder of the work along Butterfield Road



from the contractor that is performing this project.

The month of March included installing the noise wall along the north right-of-way, removing the existing pavement, repairing storm sewer pollution devices, and installing additional pavement striping.

In April, the contractor will begin working to relocate the City water main in the north right-of-way, install storm sewer-related items, and work along the intersections of Butterfield

Road with Orchard, Wiesbrook and Naperville roads. A contractor will be working on all intersections simultaneously, which will impact north-south traffic. This is necessary due to previous delays related to utilities. The contractor will continue preparing the base for new pavement on the north side of Butterfield Road.

The contractor is approximately 50 percent complete with the construction project and anticipates that it will be complete in the fall of 2012.

Participate in Police Blood Drive May 18

In acknowledgement of National Law Enforcement Week, the Wheaton Police Department will sponsor a blood drive on May 18. The event will be at the Wheaton Police Depart-

ment, 900 W. Liberty Drive, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. LifeSource Blood Services will operate the blood drive.

Blood donation opportunities are available to anyone wishing to donate.

To set up an appointment to donate blood, visit www.lifesource.org. If you need assistance with registration or you have any questions, contact the Police Department at 630-260-4861.



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 at Wheaton City Hall. Visit www.wheaton.il.us for a complete list of meetings and events.

April 2012

- 2** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 6** City Offices Closed (Garbage not affected)
- 9** City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 14** Coffee with Council, 10 a.m.
- 16** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 23** City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.