

April 2013

## City Notes



### **Yard Waste Pickup Resumes April 1**

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 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](#).

*(Continued on next page)*

## **Vote in Consolidated Election April 9**

*Early Voting option available until April 6*

**T**he April 9, 2013 Consolidated Election will be for the election of township, municipal, park district and school district officials.

In Wheaton, the four district City Council positions and one of the At-Large positions are up for election.

### **City Council**

The candidates, as registered through the DuPage Election Commission, are as follows:

**Councilman At-Large (to serve an unexpired 2-year term) Candidate:**

- John R. Prendiville

### **Councilman North District**

**Candidates:**

- Philip J. Suess
- Ted Rodgers 4
- Alberta Adamson
- J.T. Del Alcazar

### **Councilman South District**

**Candidate:**

- John K. Rutledge

### **Councilman East District**

**Candidate:**

- W. Thoreson Saline

### **Councilman West District**



#### **Candidate:**

- Todd Scalzo

### **Early Voting**

Early voting is available as an option for registered voters through Saturday, April 6.

The Early Voting location in Wheaton is at the DuPage County Election Commission office, 421 N. County Farm Road, Room 1-500B. The site is open 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday; 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, April 6; and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sundays.

On Election Day, which is Tuesday, April 9, 2013, polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. To check your regis-



**Watch the Video**

[See a video of the candidates](#) for City Council, Park District Board and District 200 School Board from the March 14 Candidates Forum hosted by the League of Women Voters and Wheaton Chamber of Commerce.

tration or for more information, you can visit the DuPage County Election Commission's website at [www.dupageco.org/election](http://www.dupageco.org/election) or call 630-407-5600.

## 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](mailto:feedback@wheaton.il.us)

# Downtown Streetscape Plan Public Meeting is April 4



*See design options for long-term plan and share your input as City develops vision*

The City continues to make progress toward developing a long-term strategic plan and vision for Downtown Wheaton. Based upon input from various shareholders and the public meeting in late February, the Design Workshop consultant team will be presenting its preliminary recommended streetscape plan for Downtown Wheaton at a public meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 4, in the City Hall Council Chambers.

This plan will outline recommended options for various streets in Downtown Wheaton. The meeting will also present design options for a linear "central park" along the Prairie Path and other options designed to

improve various areas within Downtown.

Participants will have the opportunity to provide guidance to the project team concerning the prioritization of improvements in downtown, including the preferred streets and the preferred



types of improvements to be made to the various areas in downtown over the short term and long

term. The input from the public on April 4 will assist the project team in preparing its final plan and recommendations for Downtown Wheaton, which will be presented at a public hearing in May.

For more information on this project, see the [Downtown Plan section of the City's website](#).

## City Notes

### Business News

Businesses that recently opened or are opening soon in Wheaton include:

- Lane Bryant, 42 Danada Square West
- Nothing Bundt Cakes, 421 Town Square
- Sports Authority, 101 Rice Lake Square.

### Commission News

The City Council approved the reappointment of Ginny Christensen to the Community Relations Commission for a three-year term and the reappointment of Scott Weller to the Planning & Zoning Board for a five-year term.

## Celebrate Prairie Path's 50 Years with Cleanup

*Individuals and groups welcome to participate in April 27 event*

Bring some work gloves and help clean up a Wheaton gem that is 50 years old this year. Volunteer groups and individuals of all ages are encouraged to help with the annual Prairie Path Cleanup from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, April 27.

The cleanup starts from Stevens Park, located at the corner of Lincoln Avenue and the Illinois Prairie Path. Any group that is wanting to clean a specific area should send an e-mail to [cleanup-theopath@yahoo.com](mailto:cleanup-theopath@yahoo.com) ahead of time.

This event is organized by Wheaton's Environmental Improvement Commission.



**Volunteers should bring work gloves and meet at Stevens Park at 9 a.m. April 27 to receive a location where they can help.**

# Recycling Extravaganza Returns April 20

*Paper shredding,  
carpet recycling  
added to this event*

Wheaton's Environmental Improvement Commission will host its 25th Recycling Extravaganza on April 20, an event that collects everything from scrap metal and musical instruments to building supplies and eye glasses. From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., volunteers at this drive-through event will unload items from your car as you drive past the different stations in the commuter parking lot at Liberty Drive and Carlton Avenue.

Depending upon the item, materials will be either recycled or reused. For example, all electronics will be ground down in a secure manner so their raw materials can be recycled, whereas items like rulers and bicycles can be reused.



## **Items that will be accepted:**

- Office paper for shredding on site – 3 copy box limit; no binders or plastic bags
- Scrap metal such as pots, swing sets, hangers, shelving, lawn furniture, tomato cages, drained lawn mowers, washers, dryers, air conditioners
- All electronics (anything with an on/off switch, and all electric cords)
- Cell phones
- Residential carpeting and padding
- Building supplies including lighting fixtures in good condition only
- Clothes, blankets, towels, sheets, shoes, any textiles for Goodwill Industries – in any condition
- Propane tanks
- Large SLA batteries (car, sump pump, boat, motorcycle)
- Working bikes
- Wheelchairs
- Buttons, rulers, sewing machines
- Music instruments, LP records
- Eye glasses, keys, hearing aids

## **Recycling Extravaganza**

- **Date:** Saturday, April 20
- **Time:** 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- **Location:** Commuter parking lot at Carlton Avenue and Liberty Drive

- Worn American flags for proper retirement
- Fluorescent tube bulbs from Wheaton residents only

## **Items that WILL NOT be accepted:**

- Refrigerators and freezers
- Household batteries
- CFL bulbs
- Hazardous waste (other than SLA batteries)
- Books (You can bring them to SCARCE in Glen Ellyn. See [www.scarcecoed.org](http://www.scarcecoed.org))

Volunteers are needed. To volunteer, groups or individuals high school age or older can call 630-690-1237 or (630) 653-8877.

# Find Eco-Friendly, Low-Maintenance Plants at Sale

Wheaton's Environmental Improvement Commission encourages you to grow native by finding native northern Illinois trees, shrubs, grasses and flowers at its Native Illinois Plant Sale. The event, in partnership with the Wheaton Park District, offers a large variety of environmentally friendly plants native to this area. The sale will be from 8:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 27 in the Wheaton Public Works Building, 821 W. Liberty Drive.

Requiring less water and no pesticides, native plants are preferable for the local environment. A list of the

## **Native Illinois Plant Sale**

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plants that will be available at the sale includes information about the plants, including what type of sunlight plants prefer, how tall they will grow, which plants attract certain wildlife, flower colors, blooming period and much more.

You can also bring home free wood chips if you bring



your own container. Rain barrels can be pre-ordered from the Conservation Foundation for pickup the morning of the sale. Call (630) 428-4500 or visit <http://upcycle-products.com/index.asp> (the Wheaton link is on the right side of the web page). For more information on plants and prices, visit [www.wheatonparkdistrict.com](http://www.wheatonparkdistrict.com).

# Upcoming Events

## Electronic Recycling

**When:** Saturday, April 13, 9 a.m.-noon

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

Drop off your unwanted electronics for recycling during this monthly collection event. Electronics such as televisions, computers, printers and small household appliances such as toasters are accepted. Wheaton residents can bring fluorescent bulbs for safe disposal (no businesses, please). The types of bulbs accepted include T-12, T-8 and T-5 fluorescent bulbs (found in light fixtures used in utility rooms and basements); aquarium tubes; under-counter fluorescent tubes. Please do not tape fluorescent tubes together. CFLs and household batteries are not accepted. [More information is on the City's website.](#)

To volunteer, call 630-690-1237 or 630-653-8877.

## French Market

**When:** Saturdays, April 20-Nov. 9, 2013, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Where:** Parking lot at Main Street and Liberty Drive in downtown Wheaton

Wheaton's popular outdoor French Market takes place from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. each Saturday from April 20 through Nov. 9 near the intersection of Main Street and Liberty Drive, just south of the railroad tracks in downtown Wheaton. Inspired by the outdoor markets of France, vendors at this weekly event sell much more than your typical farmers market. Find



pastries, flowers, art, jewelry, handmade gifts, locally grown produce and many specialty items at the Wheaton French Market.

## Go Fly a Kite Festival

**When:** Saturday, April 20, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Where:** Graf Park

The Wheaton Park District invites the community to take part in its annual Go Fly a Kite event from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 20 at Graf Park. It will include the Chicago Fire Kite Team, professional kite flyer demonstrations, and the attempt to break Wheaton's record of most kites in the air simultaneously. This event is free, but registration is requested. For more information, visit [www.wheatonparkdistrict.com](http://www.wheatonparkdistrict.com).

## Recycling Extravaganza

**When:** Saturday, April 20, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Where:** Commuter parking lot at Carlton Avenue and Liberty Drive

Drop off electronics, paper for shredding, scrap metal and much more at this drive-through recycling event. See page 3 for more information.

## Arbor Day Celebration

**When:** Friday, April 26

**Where:** Lincoln Elementary School, 630 Dawes Ave.

Celebrate Arbor Day and Wheaton's status as a Tree City USA during this event, which includes the Environmental Improvement Commission and students from Lincoln School. For more information, [see the City's website](#).

## Native Illinois Plant Sale

**When:** Saturday, April 27, 8:30 a.m.-noon

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

Find eco-friendly trees, shrubs, grasses and flowers at this annual sale. For more information, see page 3.

## Prairie Path Cleanup

**When:** Saturday, April 27, 9 a.m.-noon

**Where:** Begins at Stevens Park, located at Lincoln Avenue and Illinois Prairie Path

Help keep the Illinois Prairie Path looking beautiful. Meet at Stevens Park with work gloves to be assigned an area to clean. See page 2.

## Good Citizen Nominations Due April 12

It's time again to highlight the community members who make Wheaton a better place to live. Wheaton's Community Relations Commission encourages you to nominate residents for the 2013 Good Citizens Awards. These awards help the City recognize and thank those in Wheaton who make the quiet, generous and often extraordinary contributions that make this outstanding community.

Nominee categories include: high school student, adult, senior adult, and group.

Nominees may be recognized for outstanding volunteer service to the community, school or neighborhood. This may include volunteer service for school, church, a nursing home, civic group or non-profit organization. A person may also be nominated for service to an individual, such as tutoring or assisting an elderly neighbor. A nominee must be a current resident of Wheaton and have done something for the benefit of Wheaton and its citizens.

To nominate someone, fill out the nomination form, which is [available on the City's website](#), at the Wheaton Public Library and at the Wheaton Park District Community Center. Submit completed forms by email to [sbarrett-hagen@wheaton.il.us](mailto:sbarrett-hagen@wheaton.il.us) or mail it to: City Clerk, Wheaton City Hall, 303 W. Wesley St., Wheaton, IL 60187. Nominations are due by April 12, 2013.

Nominations will be reviewed by the Community Relations Commission, and award recipients will be honored at the Wheaton City Council meeting on May 20.

# Protect Yourself from Email Tax Scams

**I**t is tax season, and criminals are seizing the opportunity for scams. Don't become the next victim.

Scammers leverage every means at their disposal to separate you from your money, your identity or anything else of value they can get. They may offer seemingly legitimate "tax services" designed to steal your identity and your tax refund, sometimes with the lure of bigger write-offs or refunds. Scams may include mocked-up websites and tax forms that look like they belong to the IRS to trick you into providing your personal information.

Scam artists can prey on users by promising refunds that are fraudulent, a scam the IRS says has been rampant in previous years. In these scams, notices are posted on bulletin boards, in libraries and at other community sites where people visit either in person or online. Scammers make money from this trick in two ways: first, they collect a fee for helping to "file" for a refund on behalf of their victims, and then they steal the victim's identity for further exploitation. The victims are left paying a fee for a fraudulent service, not getting a refund they thought they would, and

## *Police Department offers helpful tips for tax season*

are potentially in a position to face charges for failing to file a return or for committing fraudulent reporting.

### **How to Recognize an Email Tax Scam**

According to the IRS, below are the key ways to recognize an email tax scam. The email:

- requests personal and/or financial information, such as name, SSN, bank or credit card account numbers or security-related information, such as mother's maiden name, either in the email itself or on another site to which a link in the email directs you;
- includes exciting offers to get you to respond, such as mentioning a tax refund or offering to pay you to participate in an IRS survey;
- threatens a consequence for not responding to the email, such as additional taxes or blocking access to your funds;
- has incorrect spelling for the Internal Revenue Service or other federal agencies;
- uses incorrect grammar

or odd phrasing:

- discusses "changes to tax laws" that include a downloadable document (usually in PDF format) that purports to explain the new tax laws (these downloads are populated with malware that, once downloaded, may infect your computer).

### **How to Avoid Becoming a Victim**

To stay safer this tax season, follow these five steps:

1. Secure your computer. If your computer does not have proper security controls, it is vulnerable to access by criminals, who may be able to steal information stored on it. Make sure your computer has

the latest security updates installed. Check that your anti-virus and anti-spyware software are running properly and are receiving automatic updates from the vendor.

2. Carefully select the sites you visit. Safely searching for tax forms, advice on deductibles, tax preparers and other similar topics requires caution. Know the site. Know the company. Do not visit a site

by clicking on a link sent in an email, found on someone's blog or on an advertisement.

3. Don't fall prey to email, web, or social networking scams. Common scams tout tax rebates, offer great deals on tax preparation or offer a free tax calculator tool. If you did not solicit the information, it's likely a scam. If the email claims to be from the IRS, it's a scam – the IRS will not contact you via email, text messaging or your social network, nor does it advertise on websites. If the email appears to be from your employer, bank, broker, etc. claiming there is an issue with what they reported for you and you need to verify some information, it might be a scam. Contact the entity directly before responding.

4. Never send sensitive information in an email. It may be intercepted and read by criminals.

5. Use strong passwords. Cyber criminals have developed programs that automate the ability to guess your passwords. Passwords should have a minimum of nine characters and include upper case (capital letters), lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols.



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

### April 2013

- 1** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 4** Downtown Streetscape Plan Public Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 8** City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 9** Election Day
- 13** Coffee with Council, 10 a.m.
- 15** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 22** City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.