

December 2012

## City Notes

### Garbage Holidays

There will be no garbage pickup on Tuesday, Dec. 25, or Tuesday, Jan. 1 due to the holidays. Pickup for Dec. 25-28 and Jan. 1-4 will be delayed by one day.

City offices will be closed Dec. 24-25 and Dec. 31-Jan. 1.

### Job Opportunities

The City of Wheaton seeks applicants for two employment opportunities. One is a part-time customer service representative – accounts payable in the Finance Department. The other is a winter seasonal support staff position in the Public Works Department. To find out more, visit [www.wheaton.il.us/departments/hr/jobs](http://www.wheaton.il.us/departments/hr/jobs).



### Holiday Light Recycling

The City of Wheaton will offer free holiday light recycling again this year in  
(Continued on next page)

## City Launches Mobile-Friendly Website

*Menu links to most requested information*

On average, 20 percent of traffic to the City's website now comes from mobile devices such as smartphones. To accommodate this growing number, the City recently launched a mobile-friendly version of the website featuring the most frequently accessed portions of the City's website in an easy-to-use format ideal for viewing on smaller screens.

Now, if you access the City's website, [www.wheaton.il.us](http://www.wheaton.il.us), from a smartphone, you will automatically connect to the City's mobile site. The mobile menu offers a list of the most heavily visited areas of the website, such as news, City calendar, agendas and minutes, things to do and videos.

In the news section, you



can tap on each item once to preview a summary of the item, and click "View Full Article" to see the entire item.

Because of the vast amount of content that the City's website contains, the City is not able to optimize

the entire website for mobile devices. However, by giving users direct links to the areas of the website that are most frequently used, this mobile solution will assist the greatest number of mobile users in a simplified format.

If you are unable to find the information you are seeking, you can always access the full website by using the "Full Site" link on the bottom of every page. Please note that if you go to the full site, you will need to click on the "Return to Mobile" gold bar across the top (or the "Mobile Site" link on the bottom blue bar if you don't see the gold bar) in order to return to the mobile version of the website.

Please share any comments through the feedback form link located at the bottom of the mobile site's main menu.

## Learn How to Prevent Frozen Pipes this Season

Do you know how to prevent water pipes in your home from freezing or how to thaw them if they do freeze? A few valuable tips can save you the hassle of frozen pipes. Make sure to insulate pipes in un-

heated areas or against outside walls and seal any leaks that let cold air in. Keep your garage door closed if your water meter is located in that area. Disconnect your garden hose and shut off the water supply to outside faucets.

If the temperature gets extremely cold, open cabinet doors under sinks to allow heat to get to pipes and let a faucet drip at a trickle if possible. Questions may be directed to the Water Division at 630-260-2090.

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)

## City Notes

### (Continued from page 1)

partnership with Elgin Recycling. This program offers an eco-friendly alternative to putting lights in landfills.

Bring strands of incandescent or LED holiday lights and extension cords in any condition to the Public Works Storage Facility at 820 W. Liberty Drive any time between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays (excluding holidays). Look for signs directing you to the holiday light recycling area just inside the gate. The Public Works Department will accept lights for recycling through Feb. 22, 2013.

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.

### Leaf Pickup Ends

Leaves will be collected on the same day as your regular garbage and recycling pickup through Dec. 14, 2012.

Place leaves in containers 33 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 a green leaf sticker, which is available at City Hall, 303 W. Wesley St., and at many local grocery and hardware stores. Veolia also takes credit card orders by phone by calling 630-587-8282.

### Christmas Tree Recycling

Christmas trees will be collected for curbside

recycling the first two full weeks in January (Jan. 7-18) without a sticker. Remove all decorations, including tinsel or garland, and place your tree at the curb on your regular garbage pickup day. Please do not place your tree in a bag.

### Volunteers Needed

The Environmental Improvement Commission needs your help. Please consider helping with the monthly electronic recycling collection events, which take place on the second Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to noon at the Wheaton Public Works Storage Yard, 820 W. Liberty Drive. Call 630-690-1237 or 630-653-8877 to volunteer.

### Business News

The City of Wheaton welcomes the following new businesses:

- Smoke Ringz BBQ, 322 E. Geneva Road
- Mi Casa Mexican Restaurant, 1720 N. Main St.
- Phabulux Nails, 111 W. Willow Ave.
- Prairie Path Outfitters, 360 W. Front St.

### Commission News

The City Council approved the appointment of Richard Schuster to the Historic Commission and the reappointments of Vickie Miller to the Community Relations Commission, Nancy Allured and Hanna Self to the Environmental Improvement Commission, and Steph McGrath to the Wheaton Downtown Design Review Board. All appointments and reappointments were for three-year terms.

## EPAY Service Temporarily Unavailable Starting Dec. 1

### *Look for December bill in the mail*

**D**ue to unforeseen circumstances presented by the City's EPAY service provider for water billing, the City will be transitioning to a new EPAY service at the end of November. Because of this transition, the EPAY website and service will be unavailable starting Dec. 1 and lasting approximately two weeks. During this time, you will not be able to pay your bill through EPAY online.

This service interruption will only affect EPAY account access and online payments – those customers who normally log in and authorize a one-time credit or debit payment will be unable to do so during the service interruption. Customers who have their billed amount automatically deducted each month through AutoPay or those customers who ordinarily receive a paper bill do not need to take any action.

EPAY customers who normally receive an ebill will also receive a paper copy of their bill in November. EPAY customers have several options for how they pay their bill:

If you pay before November 30, 2012, you may continue to use the EPAY website and pay online as you normally do.

If you pay after Nov. 30, 2012, you must pay using the

### Please Note:

You will need information included in the **paper bill mailed to you in December** in order to re-register for the EPAY service once the transition is complete.

paper bill provided to you and pay either:

- By mailing your bill and paying with a check,
- By dropping off your bill and check in the drop box just west of City Hall, 303 W. Wesley St., or
- By paying at the Finance Counter at City Hall, 303 W. Wesley St. You can pay by check or credit card at the Finance Counter.

If you are a current ebill customer you will also receive a paper bill in December and will not receive an ebill. Please note that you will need to re-establish your EPAY account using the information provided on the mailed copy of your December bill. Unless you re-register for EPAY service under the new system, you will not receive future ebills.

The City apologizes for this inconvenience to EPAY customers and appreciates your cooperation as this transition is completed.

## Commission Seeks Members

**T**he Community Relations Commission seeks residents who are interested in becoming members of the commission. This commission leads programs such as Make a Difference Day and the Good

Citizen Awards each year. To apply, fill out a [Boards and Commissions Volunteer Application form](#) and submit it to the City Clerk's Office. Find out more about the commission on the City's website.

# Water Billing Changes Begin in January

## Rate, bill structure will soon change

At the Nov. 19 Wheaton City Council meeting, the Council approved changes to the City's water billing rate and structure. A study of the City's water rate performed by an outside firm determined the City needs to raise its rates in order to offset an increase in the amount the City of Chicago and the DuPage Water Commission will be charging Wheaton for water starting in January 2013. The changes also are necessary to support infrastructure improvements needed for the aging water system.

The chart below shows the effect the rate changes will have on the average user – a customer with a  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch meter using 600 cubic feet of water in a month – compared to

the rate for other communities. Note that the amounts for other communities were calculated using their current rates, without potential increases the communities will likely impose in response to the City of Chicago and DuPage Water Commission water rate increases. The only exception is Naperville, which has published its rates for 2013. As shown below, the average user's bill in Wheaton would increase from \$20.73 to \$28.73 per month, which remains lower than most surrounding communities, even before those communities implement their own rate increases.

### New Rate Structure

Because there are many fixed costs associated with delivering water and maintaining infrastructure, the

### Changes You Will See:

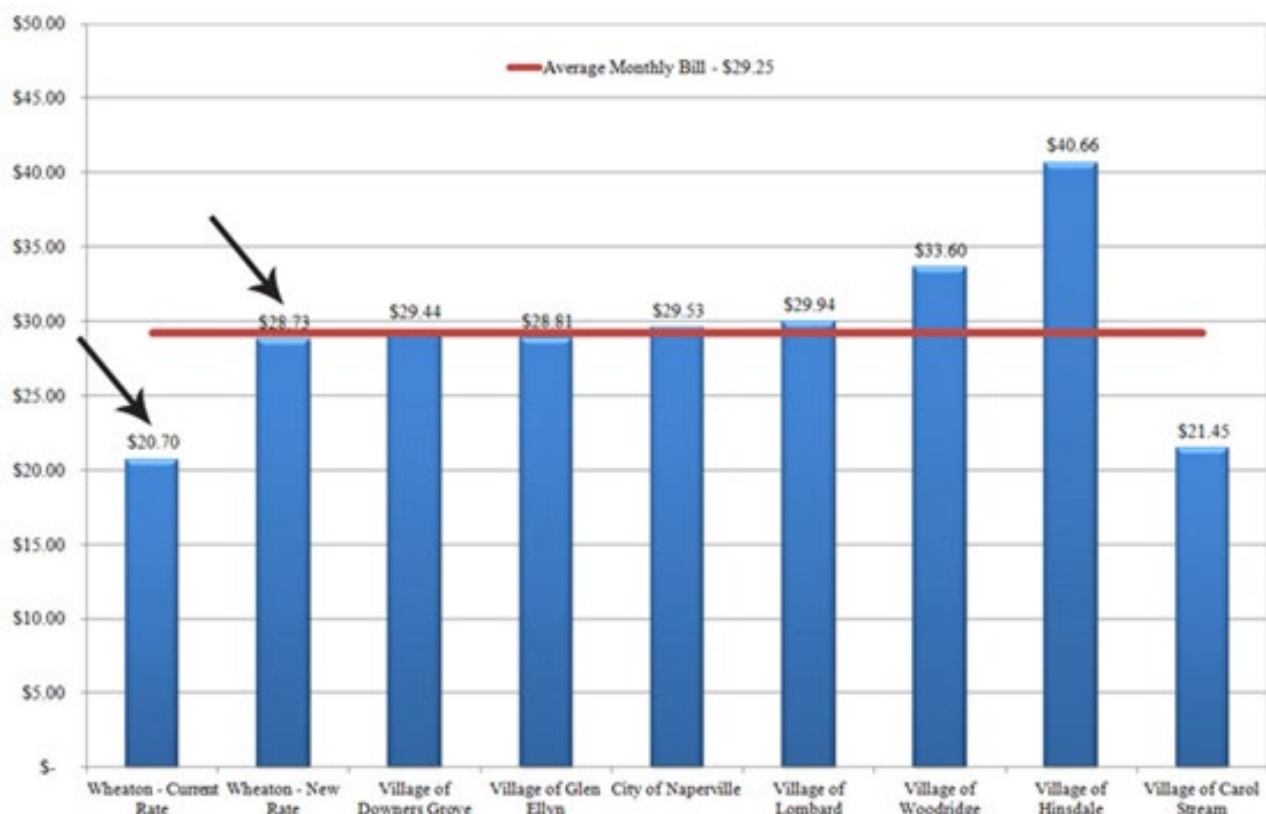
- **Usage Rate Change:** Increase from \$3.45 to \$3.81 (per 100 cubic feet of water used)
- **Service Fee Added:** A flat service fee is based on water meter size. For most, the charge will be \$5.86/month.
- **Why is this necessary?:** The cost of water Wheaton purchases will be increasing significantly, plus the City needs to support infrastructure improvement projects.

new water billing will include a service fee – a flat monthly charge that will assist in paying for these fixed costs. The fee is based on industry standards and will be charged based on the customer's meter size, as the meter size is the best way to calculate the potential demand on the system. Approximately 89% of Wheaton customers will fall into the lowest fee category for  $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch and  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch water meters, which is \$5.86 per month. The new rate example

shown above already includes the service fee. The usage rate will increase from \$3.45 per 100 cubic feet of water to \$3.81 per 100 cubic feet in 2013.

These changes in rate in structure will go into effect with customers' January bill. For more information about water billing changes or to watch videos of related City Council discussions, see the "Water Bill Changes" section on the City's website at [www.wheaton.il.us/waterbill](http://www.wheaton.il.us/waterbill).

Average Monthly Water Bill Comparison:  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch meter, 600 cubic feet water use





# Vacant City Council Position Up for Election

Candidacy petitions for the 2013 Wheaton municipal election are now available in the Office of the City Clerk at Wheaton City Hall, 303 W. Wesley St., Wheaton, Illinois. One two-year unexpired position to fill a vacancy due to a resignation is up for election. Candidates shall:

- Be registered voters of the City of Wheaton and candidates must reside within the corporate limits of the city at least one year preceding the election; and

- File Nonpartisan Primary Petitions for Nomination signed by at least 81 registered City of Wheaton voters residing within the corporate limits of the City of Wheaton together with a Statement of Candidacy, Loyalty Oath (optional), and a receipt indicat-

ing the candidate has filed a Statement of Economic Interest with the DuPage County Clerk.

Petitions for nomination are filed with the Wheaton City Clerk, City Hall, 303 W. Wesley St., Second Floor. The filing period is Dec. 17-24, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., excluding weekend days and holidays. Note: City Hall offices will be open from the hours of 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. only on Dec. 24.

A Consolidated Primary election will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2013 if more than four candidates file for the At-Large City Council position. The Consolidated Election will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2013, with the successful candidate taking office at the latter of either the first regular or special meeting after receipt of the official election

## Applications Accepted for Appointment

Wheaton Mayor Michael J. Gresk is seeking individuals who would be interested in being appointed to the currently vacant At-Large City Council position. The position became vacant on Nov. 19, 2012 as a result of Councilwoman Jeanne Ives's resignation. The appointment to this position will be for approximately four months, ending in May 2013.

Individuals interested in being considered for this position are asked to submit the following documents to Mayor Gresk at Wheaton

City Hall, 303 W. Wesley St., no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 28, 2012:

- A complete resume
- A statement identifying the reasons why you want to be considered for an appointment to the City Council

- A statement identifying the issues you believe are the most important issues the City is facing, as well as your opinion on how those issues should be addressed

Any questions should be made to the Wheaton City Clerk Sharon Barrett-Hagen at 630-260-2012.

results or at the first regular or special meeting in the month following their election. For

further information, contact the City Clerk's office at 630-260-2012.

## Upcoming Events

### Electronic Recycling

**When:** Saturday, Dec. 8, 9 a.m.-noon

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

Drop off your unwanted electronics for recycling during the City's monthly collection event. Electronics such as televisions, computers, printers and small household appliances such as toasters and hair dryers are accepted. Please note that household batteries are not accepted at the monthly electronic recycling collection. More information is [on the City's website](#).

### The Christmas Carol in 40 Minutes

**When:** Saturday, Dec. 8, 1 p.m.

**Where:** Wheaton Public



Library, 225 N. Cross St.

Forty minutes is all it takes for Chicago actor Ed Dzialo to present the holiday classic "The Christmas Carol" in his

one-man show complete with costumes, music and sound effects. The event, for ages 6 and up, is free but requires advance tickets by calling

630-868-7516 or pick them up at the library before the event. More information is available at [www.wheatonlibrary.org](http://www.wheatonlibrary.org)

### Dickens of a Christmas Events

**When:** Through Dec. 15

**Where:** Downtown Wheaton

The Downtown Wheaton Association's Dickens of a Christmas Celebration will include carriage rides from noon to 3 p.m. Saturdays through Dec. 15, at Martin Plaza (Front Street and Main). Also, Visit with Santa will take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays through Dec. 15 at Community Bank. Finally, a holiday open house and ice sculpting will be featured on Saturday, Dec. 1, starting at noon. For more information, see <http://downtownwheaton.com/calendar-of-events/>.

# Get Ready for Winter Weather

*Please keep hydrants clear from snow*

City of Wheaton employees are ready for unpredictable winter weather that December often brings the Midwest. From Public Works crews prepared to plow away snow to Police and Fire personnel ready to respond to weather-related accidents, this can be a busy time of year for the City. Still, there are a number of things you can do to help the process go more smoothly.

## When Snow Arrives

One of the best ways you can assist with the snow removal process is being educated about the City's procedures for clearing snow. When snow starts to fall or icy conditions are present, the Public Works Department begins salting City streets. Crews begin plowing operations after 2 inches of snow have accumulated.

Snow plows address roads in the following order of priority areas:

**Priority 1:** Main thoroughfares, high-volume areas and potentially dangerous areas such as railroad crossings, school zones, curves, bridges and intersections

**Priority 2:** Secondary and residential streets



**Priority 3:** Cul-de-sacs and dead-ends. These are the last areas plowed because the City must use pickup trucks rather than large snow plows to clear roads.

The City uses this prioritized route system to ensure emergency vehicles have access to all main parts of the city and emergency facilities.

After snow plowing is complete, crews reapply salt to reduce icing conditions.

You should note that not every street in Wheaton is maintained by the City, and in these areas, other governmental bodies are responsible for snow removal. For example, DuPage County controls main roads such as Geneva, Jewell and Naperville roads, and the state of Illinois maintains Roosevelt and Butterfield roads.

To enable snow plows to clear roads as quickly as

possible, City Code prohibits parking on any City street or highway after 2 inches of accumulated snowfall and for 24 hours thereafter or until the streets have been cleared of snow. Parking also is prohibited in the core downtown area between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. or until streets have been cleared.

## Lend a Hand

When clearing snow from your own sidewalks or driveway, the City asks that you keep a few things in mind. Wheaton's Fire Department asks for your help to keep the area around fire hydrants accessible to firefighters in the event of an emergency. If you use a professional snow removal company, please instruct them not to pile snow near fire hydrants or in the street.

You can also help keep

Wheaton safe for children walking to school and other pedestrians by shoveling the sidewalk near your property, which is especially important near intersections where pedestrians need to cross. Help make Wheaton a pedestrian-friendly community by clearing snow from sidewalks in front of your property, and consider assisting neighbors who may have trouble keeping their own sidewalks clear.

Please note that placing snow in the street violates City Code, and violators may face fines. When you shovel or blow snow with a snowblower into the street, it not only hinders the efforts of City crews who are trying to keep roadways clear, it also creates a safety hazard for other drivers.

Finally, you can help by never attempting to drive around a slow-moving snow plow or salt truck. Snow plow and salt truck operators are just trying to make the roads safe; please be patient for your own safety and the safety of others around you.

To receive updates or email notifications from the City, sign up for [Email Updates](#) or follow @CityOfWheaton on Twitter.

To contact the City's snow operation dispatch center, call 630-260-SNOW (7669).



## 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.

### December 2012

- 1** Coffee with Council, 10 a.m.
- 3** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 10** City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 17** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 24** City offices closed
- 25** City offices closed; No garbage pickup
- 31** City offices closed