

December 2013

City Notes

Garbage Holidays

There will be no pickup on Wednesday, Dec. 25 or Wednesday, Jan. 1. Pickup will be delayed one day Dec. 25-27 and Jan. 1-3.

City offices will be closed on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

Yard Waste Pickup Ends

Yard waste and leaf pickup in Wheaton will end the week of Dec. 9-13.

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. Advanced Disposal also takes credit card orders by phone by calling 630-587-8282.

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

Christmas Tree Recycling

Christmas trees will be collected for curbside

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Soldiers from the City's adopted Army unit stood in formation wearing the Wheaton shirts the Community Relations Commission sent as part of a care package.

Wheaton Named an Honorary Member of the 'Big Red One'

You could say Wheaton's relationship with one Army infantry has come full circle.

Wheaton's Community Relations Commission recently met with visiting 18th Infantry Captain Stephen Laz, who brought with him a noteworthy proclamation to share with the city. At the Nov. 18 City Council meeting, members of the Wheaton commission shared with the City Council a military proclamation granting the city honorary member status



Captain Stephen Laz surprised Community Relations Commission members with a proclamation making Wheaton an honorary member of the Big Red One Army unit.

of the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division

of the U.S. Army, which is
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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

Honorary

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also known as the Big Red One.

This recent declaration is the culmination of the city's long relationship with the 18th Infantry. After a Wheaton citizen – who was an 18th Infantry soldier – was severely injured in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2006, Wheaton's Community Relations Commission and the community pulled together to provide the veteran with special needs housing. Wheaton's support for the 18th Infantry continued, with the City officially adopting the unit as honorary residents back in 2008.

But going even further



City Clerk Sharon Barrett-Hagen and Community Relations Commission Chair Renee Webb accepted a certificate of appreciation for the care packages Wheaton sent last year.

back is a unique tie Wheaton has with the First Division. Col. Robert McCormick, whose estate is now Wheaton's Cantigny Park, served in the First

Division during World War I. Cantigny remains the home of the First Division Museum, which presents the history of the Army's First Division in the

broader context of American military history.

Last year, the Community Relations Commission sent care packages to each of the more than 800 soldiers in the 18th Infantry in Fort Riley, Kansas. The commission is now preparing to send care packages to the unit once it is deployed to Africa.

For more information about the 18th Infantry and Wheaton's connection with it, [see the Community Relations Commission portion of the City's website](#).

For more information on how you can assist the commission with sending care packages, contact commission member Desiray Young at desiray@jcon.com or 630-292-6610.

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recycling the first two full weeks in January (Jan. 6-17) 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.

Cell Phone Law Changes Coming

It is not too early for motorists to start thinking, planning and getting into the habit of complying with a Jan. 1, 2014 law that bans the use of hand-held devices while driving.

Drivers will still be able to use hands-free technology with hand-held devices.

The potential fine

for violating the law the first time will be \$75 and as much as \$150 for subsequent violations. Three moving violations within a 12-month period can result in a driver's Illinois license being suspended.

Drivers are also reminded that a 2010 Illinois law prohibits cell phone or hand-held device use in any school zone or construction zone.

Job Opportunity

The City seeks applicants for a temporary part-time Customer Service Representative in the Finance Department. For more information about this position and how to apply, visit the City's website at www.wheaton.il.us/jobs.

Commission News

The City Council reappointed Donald Westlake to a three-year term on the Band Commission and appointed Robert Gudmundson to a three-year term on the Planning & Zoning Board.

Business News

New businesses in Wheaton:

- **Pure Barre**, 33 Rice Lake Square: Isometric fitness, apparel and accessories
- **Andrew's Garden**, 204 W. Wesley St.: Boutique floral design store
- **Walgreen's**, 2191 W. Roosevelt Road
- **Verizon**, 143 Danada Square East: Lifestyle "smart-store"

Holiday Light Recycling

Keep your old holiday lights out of landfills by bringing them to Wheaton's light recycling drop-off site. Wheaton is partnering with Elgin Recycling (www.elginrecycling.com) for this free program.

Bring strands of incandescent or LED 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 p.m. weekdays. 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. 10, 2014.

Lights will be stripped and recycled for their copper and plastic parts. No materials will be shipped overseas.

Businesses, schools and other organizations wanting to dispose of holiday lights can participate in the program. There is no limit as to how many lights you can drop off for recycling.

Water Bill Increase Begins in January

Rise in cost for City to purchase water and infrastructure upgrades necessitate increase

To support infrastructure improvements and to offset the increase in the amount the City of Chicago and the DuPage Water Commission will be charging Wheaton for water, Wheaton's water rate will increase on Jan. 1, 2014.

The rate the DuPage Water Commission charges Wheaton for water will be increasing 18% on January 1, 2014. Also, portions of the City's system are more than 60 years old, and a 2012 study identified \$8 million in capital improvements that need to be made over five years.

In January 2013, the City changed the way it structured water billing, adding a flat monthly charge – called

a service fee – based on the user's meter size. Customers also pay a usage fee, which is based on the amount of water actually used.

The water use rate will increase from \$3.81 per 100 cubic feet to \$4.49 per 100 cubic feet on Jan. 1. While the service fee differs based on

meter size, the fee for most Wheaton customers will increase from \$5.86 to \$9.38 per month. The specific increases for each water meter size are reflected in the tables below. Nearly 90% of Wheaton customers fall into the first three meter sizes (5/8-inch, 5/8-inch by 3/4-inch, and 3/4-inch). The typi-

cal user's bill, with a 3/4-inch meter and 600 cubic feet of usage, would increase from \$28.73 to \$36.32 per month.

For more information about water billing changes and the water rate study conducted in 2012, see the City's website at www.wheaton.il.us/waterbill.

2013 Water rates and fees	
Rate per 100 c.f. - \$3.81	
Meter Size	Monthly Service Fee
5/8"	\$5.86
5/8" x 3/4"	\$5.86
3/4"	\$5.86
1"	\$11.72
1 1/2"	\$23.44
2"	\$37.51
3"	\$70.33
4"	\$117.22
6"	\$234.44

2014 Water rates and fees	
Rate per 100 c.f. - \$4.49	
Meter Size	Monthly Service Fee
5/8"	\$9.38
5/8" x 3/4"	\$9.38
3/4"	\$9.38
1"	\$18.76
1 1/2"	\$37.53
2"	\$60.05
3"	\$112.59
4"	\$187.65
6"	\$375.30

Infestation Prompts Removal of All Parkway Ash Trees

As the emerald ash borer continues to devastate the ash tree population in Wheaton, the City is stepping up its efforts to remove infested parkway ash trees.

The City already has removed nearly 1,000 of the City's 6,500 parkway ash trees since 2008. However, a recent survey of Wheaton's parkway ash tree population shows an accelerating infestation that requires more aggressive action. At its Nov. 4 meeting, the City Council adopted an Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan to remove all remaining parkway ash trees between now and April 2017. The plan estimates it will cost approximately \$3.2 million to remove about 5,500 trees.

This plan aims to follow this removal schedule:

- 728 trees: between now



Above: The City has removed nearly 1,000 of the City's 6,500 parkway ash trees since 2008. Right: Below the bark of this tree you can see the damage that emerald ash borer larvae caused.



and April 2014

- 975 trees: May 2014-April 2015
- 1,905 trees: May 2015-April 2016
- 1,904 trees: May 2016-April 2017.

The 728 trees targeted for removal between now and

April 2014 include more than 700 classified in the "high risk" category in the recent tree survey. These "high risk" trees are identified for priority removal on the City's website.

The plan also recommends replacing parkway ash trees with varied species of trees

to offset the large reduction in parkway trees and related environmental consequences that the removal of all parkway ash trees will cause.

You can [learn more about the City's response to the emerald ash borer on the City's website](#).

See the Map

[This map shows the City's progress](#) in removing parkway ash trees and "high risk" trees.

Upcoming Events



Dickens of a Christmas Stroll

When: Saturday, Dec. 7, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Where: Throughout downtown Wheaton

The Downtown Wheaton Association will host the Dickens of a Christmas Stroll, featuring holiday treats and surprises in downtown Wheaton shops.

Enjoy complimentary roasted chestnuts, cider, hot chocolate, holiday sweets, ice carvings, caroling, visits with Santa, eggnog, wine tastings, complimentary carriage rides and tea tastings. Visit downtownwheaton.com for details.

Electronic Recycling

When: Saturday, Dec. 14, 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, print-

ers and small household appliances such as toasters and hair dryers are accepted.

Also, Wheaton residents can now bring fluorescent bulbs for safe disposal (no businesses, please). The types of bulbs accepted include T-12, T-8 and T-5 fluorescent bulbs (often 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 at the monthly electronic recycling collection.

[More information is on the City's website.](#) To volunteer at an electronic recycling event, people of high school age or older can call 630-690-1237 or 630-653-8877.

Dickens of a Christmas

When: Saturdays through Dec. 21

Where: Downtown Wheaton
Carriage rides and visits with Santa will take place



Saturdays through Dec. 21, at Martin Memorial Plaza, with special activities happening on those days.

Carriage rides will take place from noon to 3 p.m., and visits with Santa will take place from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

For more information, see the Downtown Wheaton Association's website at www.downtownwheaton.com.

French Market

When: Saturdays through Dec. 21, 10 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 each Saturday near the intersection of Main Street and Liberty Drive, just south of the railroad tracks in downtown Wheaton.

Hours will be 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays through Dec. 21. Inspired by the outdoor markets of France, vendors at this weekly event sell more than your typical farmers market. Find cider and hot cocoa, baked goods, organic meats and cheeses, handmade gifts, and many specialty items.



Prevent Frozen Pipes

Do you know how to prevent water pipes in your home from freezing or how to thaw them if they do freeze? With cold winter weather approaching, a few valuable tips can save you the hassle of dealing with frozen pipes.

Make sure to insulate pipes in unheated areas or against outside walls and seal any leaks that may 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 City of Wheaton Water Division at 630-260-2090.

Both Lanes of North Main Street Now Open; Use Caution

Good news for south-bound traffic on North Main Street: both lanes are now open for motorists, as crews are approaching the final stages of the North Main Street Flood Control Project.

While traffic can now travel both north and south on Main Street, please be advised that this area is still a construction zone until further notice. Crews will be temporarily shifting traffic lanes while placing additional layers of pavement. Crews also will be installing sidewalks in this area and finishing other tasks related to the project. Landscaping work will take place this coming spring.

Please continue to use caution driving through this



The North Main Street Flood Control Project has included widening the creek channel that runs under Main Street.

construction zone.

From May until mid-November, the southbound lane of North Main Street was closed while crews replaced the culvert pipes with a bridge, widened the channel and stabilized the stream bank to reduce erosion. These enhancements

will help convey storm water downstream to Northside Park to reduce the frequency of flooding on North Main Street. You can [see a video about this project on the City's website](#).

The City thanks you for your patience as this project nears completion.

Help Available to Pay Heating Bills

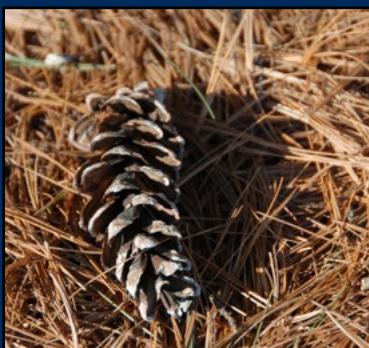
Qualifying residents who need assistance paying their heating bills this winter can apply for state and federal assistance through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

To qualify, residents must not exceed 150% of the poverty level, which

equates to a monthly income less than \$1,436 for one person, \$1,939 for two people, and \$2,944 for four people (or add \$502.50 for each additional household member). Residents must be a customer on record with the utility company, and they must submit complete documentation of income,

proof of Social Security Number, utility bills and lease.

LIHEAP grant applications are administered through DuPage County. Applications are taken by appointment. Contact DuPage County's Energy Assistance at 630-407-6500 or email liheap@dupageco.org.



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

December 2013

- 2** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 7** Coffee with Council, 10 a.m.
- 9** City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 16** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 25** City offices closed; no garbage pickup