

December 2015

## City Notes

### Garbage Holidays

There will be no garbage pickup on Friday, Dec. 25, 2015 or Friday, Jan. 1, 2016. Friday garbage routes will have their garbage/recycling picked up on Saturday during these weeks.

### City Offices Closed

Non-emergency City offices will be closed on Friday, Dec. 25 and on Friday, Jan. 1.

### Yard Waste Pickup

Yard waste and leaf pickup will end the week of Dec. 14-18.

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/bag requires a green leaf sticker, available at City Hall and at many local grocery and hardware stores. Advanced Disposal also takes credit card orders by phone by calling 630-587-8282.

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

### Business News

• The current 39,000-square-foot **Whole Foods** store at 151 Rice Lake Square

*(Continued on next page)*

## New Police Chief Sworn In

### *Wheaton Welcomes New Police Chief*

Following the retirement of longtime Police Chief Mark Field last month, the City appointed Commander James Volpe to become the new Wheaton Police Chief. Mayor Michael Gresk performed the swearing-in ceremony on Nov. 9.

Since 1983, Chief Volpe has been a part of the Wheaton Police Department in a variety of roles. He has served as a Patrol Officer (1983-93), Shift Commander/Sergeant (1993-2001), Watch Commander/Lieutenant (2001-09) and Division Commander – Investigations (2009-present). He also has served as the Commander



for the Special Weapons and Tactics Team (1999-2009).

Chief Volpe received a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Illinois State University in 1980. He obtained a Juris Doctorate Degree from DePaul University Law School in 1992.

In addition, Chief Volpe

has served as an instructor for the Suburban Law Enforcement Academy in physical training, defensive tactics and legal education. He has also served as an Adjunct Instructor at Northwest Multi-Regional Training in the use of force and physical fitness and wellness.

## Prevent Frozen Pipes with These Tips

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 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.

Direct questions to the City of Wheaton 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

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will be relocating to a new 55,000-square-foot location in the former Dominick's at 91 Danada Square East. The new location is expected to open late 2016 or early 2017.

- **Wear and Share Sport**, a sporting goods consignment shop for all ages, all sports, apparel, equipment and gear is now open at 123 W. Wesley St.
- **FTX Crossfit**, an elite fitness center, is now open at 1010 Geneva Road

## Commission News

The City Council reappointed Steph McGrath to the Wheaton Downtown Design Review Board, Vickie Miller to the Community Relations Commission and Nancy Allured to the Environmental Improvement Commission. Each is for a three-year term.



## Christmas Tree Recycling

Christmas trees will be collected as part of curbside recycling the first two full weeks in January (Jan. 4-15, 2016) without a garbage/yard waste sticker. Remove all decorations and place your tree at the curb on your regular garbage pickup day. Do not place your tree in a bag.

If you miss the two-week collection period, put the tree at the curb with one garbage sticker.



**Please remember not to shovel/blow snow into the street or onto the parkway of another property. Not only is it a nuisance, but it can also create safety hazards for drivers.**

# Snow Removal Reminders

**A**s snowy weather arrives, the City of Wheaton has a few reminders that will help City crews to clear Wheaton streets and minimize safety hazards.

Plowing, blowing or shoveling snow into the roadway or across the street to the opposite parkway creates several problems. Snow that piles up in the street creates more narrow traffic lanes and produces safety hazards for other drivers. It also can cause plows to hit the curb, which can damage the curb. For these reasons, last year the City enacted an ordinance that makes pushing snow into the street or onto an opposite parkway a violation of City Code. Please help keep our streets safe by adhering to this ordinance. Violations yield a minimum fine of \$100 per day.

You can also help by keeping fire hydrants clear of snow and by removing obstructions – such as por-



**You can help the Wheaton Fire Department by keeping fire hydrants clear of snow.**

table basketball hoops or decorative stone boulders – that are within 5 feet of the paved street. Finally, please remember that after 2 inches of accumulated snowfall, parking is prohibited on any street for 24 hours or until streets have been cleared.

Finally, please clear snow from sidewalks near your home. Keeping sidewalks clear, especially near intersections, is very helpful for children walking to school or their bus stops and other neighbors who use the side-

walks.

To receive timely information during severe winter weather, you can [follow @CityOfWheaton on Twitter](#) or [get information delivered to you through Email Updates](#).

Twitter also allows anyone with a mobile device to receive the messages Wheaton distributes through Twitter as text messages without having a Twitter account. To enroll, send a text message to 40404 with "Follow @CityOfWheaton" in the body of the text message. [More information is available on Twitter's website](#).

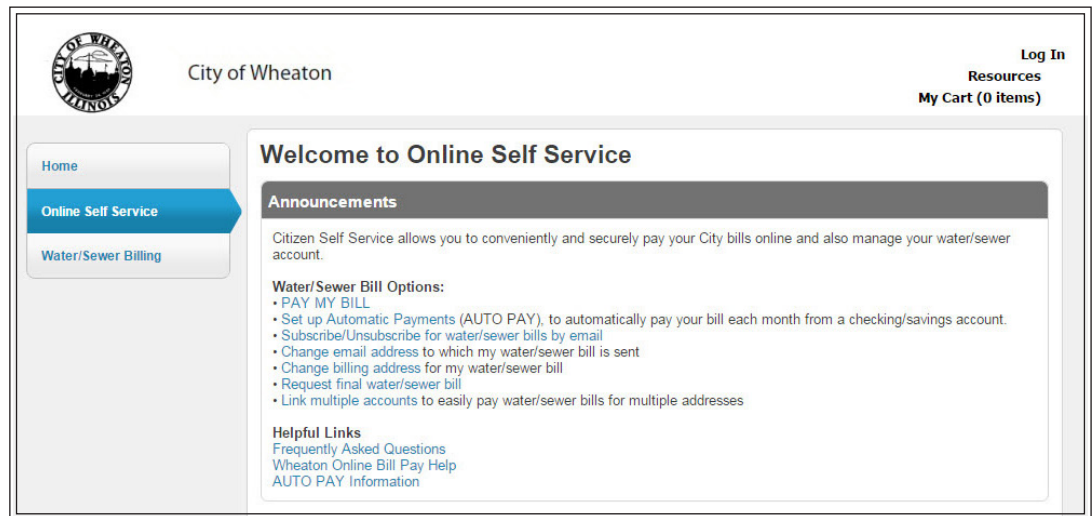


# New Online Water/Sewer Billing Begins Jan. 1

The City will be transitioning from ePay to a new online bill payment system for water and sewer billing on Jan. 1. Once the switch from ePay to Wheaton Online Bill Pay occurs, you will be able to pay your City water/sewer bill online, subscribe to receive your bill by email (if you do not already receive your bill by email), change your billing address and more.

The new bill payment system, Wheaton Online Bill Pay, will replace the current ePay system on the City's website. **If you have previously bookmarked a link to the ePay service on your computer, please note that this link will no longer work starting Jan. 1.** You can access the new online bill payment service by visiting [www.wheaton.il.us](http://www.wheaton.il.us).

If you currently receive your water/sewer bill by email, you will continue to receive your bill by email. **Please note that as the City transitions to the new service, you will receive your December email bill from both ePay and the new Online Bill Pay service.** Both bills will contain the same account information and water/sewer charges. The email from the City's new



Online Bill Pay is a test of the new email system and is not an additional bill. If you pay your utility bill online prior to Jan. 1, you should use ePay.

You are not required to pay your water/sewer bill online. If you prefer to pay by check, you can mail or drop off your payment at City Hall, 303 W. Wesley St.

## How to Pay Your Bill Online After Jan. 1:

There are two options for paying your water/sewer bill online with the new system:

1. Access Wheaton Online Bill Pay on the [City's website](http://www.wheaton.il.us) and manually pay your water/sewer bills each month. You will need to have your Ac-

count Number and Customer ID (which is the same as Customer Number), which are displayed on your bill.

2. Set up Automatic Payments (AUTO PAY) to have your utility bill payment deducted each month from a checking or savings account. To set up AUTO PAY, you will need to know your Account Number and Customer ID as well as bank account information. If you are already using AUTO PAY, you do not need to enroll in this option again; your bill payments will continue to be automatically withdrawn from the checking or savings account you have previously authorized.

Wheaton Online Bill Pay is the first in a group of online



## Helpful Tip:

Want your computer to remember your Account Number and Customer ID so you don't need your utility bill next time? On the Water/Sewer Billing page, check the box next to where it says "Remember these values" so your Account Number and Customer ID will be saved for next time. (For security reasons, this is not recommended on public or shared computers or devices.)

tools the City is rolling out. Look for more Online Self Service options coming soon to the City's website.



To use the new online water/sewer billing service (after Jan. 1), go to [www.wheaton.il.us](http://www.wheaton.il.us) and look for "Wheaton Online Bill Pay."

## What You Need to Know About the New Online System

- If you are already signed up for AUTO PAY to have your water/sewer balance automatically deducted from a checking/savings account each month, you do not need to take any action.
- If you currently receive your bill by email, you will receive two emails with your bill attached in December: one from the current ePay system, and one from the new Online Bill Payment service. You should use ePay to pay your bill online if you remit payment before Jan. 1.
- On Jan. 1, you can no longer pay your bill through ePay. Beginning Jan. 1, you need to use the new online bill payment system to pay your bills online. Access Wheaton Online Bill Pay from the City's website at [www.wheaton.il.us](http://www.wheaton.il.us).
- If you prefer to pay by check, you can mail payments to the City, drop off payments in the drive-through drop box located in the City Hall parking lot (enter using the driveway just west of City Hall on Wesley Street), or bring payments to the Finance Department at City Hall, 303 W. Wesley St.



# Upcoming Events

## Festival of Lights and Trees

**Date:** Nov. 27-Dec. 31

**Time:** 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

**Location:** Cosley Zoo, [1356 N. Gary Ave.](#)

Cosley Zoo is transformed into a winter wonderland with 20,000 twinkling lights creating spectacular displays. This event also includes Christmas trees, hot chocolate and holiday gifts. For more information, [see the Wheaton Park District's website.](#)

## A Visit with Santa

**Date:** Saturdays through Dec. 19

**Time:** 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Location:** Martin Memorial Plaza, [Front and Main Streets](#)

Children can visit Santa in his house at Martin Memorial Plaza during the Dickens of a Christmas celebration. Santa will be in his house Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. through Dec. 19.

## Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides

**Date:** Saturdays through Dec. 19

**Time:** Noon-3 p.m.

**Location:** Where: Martin Memorial Plaza, by the Christmas Tree at [Front and Main Streets](#)

As part of the Dickens of a Christmas Celebration, the Downtown Wheaton Association invites you to take horse-drawn carriage rides through the downtown each Saturday through Dec. 19. [More information](#)

## Winter (Indoor) French Market

**Dates:** Saturdays through March 26, 2016

**Times:** 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Location:** Downtown



Wheaton train station, [402 W. Front St.](#)

The popular Wheaton French Market has moved indoors for the winter. Find many of the same vendors with various specialty foods, baked goods, home decor items, gifts and much more. For more information, contact Bensidoun USA at 312-575-0294 or [ccbcec@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ccbcec@sbcglobal.net).

## Holiday Stroll

**Date:** Saturday, Dec. 5

**Time:** 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

**Location:** Downtown Wheaton stores and businesses

The shops in downtown Wheaton will be sharing the spirit of the season with complimentary holiday treats throughout the day, including cider tastings, eggnog, peppermints, Christmas cookies and more. The day will also include complimentary carriage rides, carolers and other special activities.

## Electronic Recycling

**Date:** Saturday, Dec. 12

**Time:** 9 a.m.-noon

**Location:** Public Works Storage Yard, [820 W. Liberty Drive](#) (near the Police Station)

Bring unwanted electronics, including nearly anything with a cord, to the monthly electronic recycling collection. **Please note:** *These collections can't accept CRT (large tube) televisions, projection-screen televisions and console televisions.*

Also accepted are scrap metal, household batteries, cooking oil and fluorescent tube bulbs. This is a drive-through event where volunteers will help unload items from your car. Memory will be destroyed from devices, and electronics will be recycled. [More information](#)

## Santa's Craft Corner

**Date:** Dec. 5, Dec. 12

**Time:** 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Location:** Cosley Zoo, [1356 N. Gary Ave.](#)

Can't make it to the North Pole? Do the next best thing and come to Cosley Zoo where you can see Santa and the animals! While visiting Santa, make a craft or two

and enjoy refreshments. [See the Wheaton Park District's website for more information.](#)

## Frosty Fest

**Date:** Saturday, Dec. 12

**Time:** 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Location:** Town Square Wheaton, [Naperville Road and Blanchard Circle](#)

Town Square Wheaton will be transformed into a winter wonderland with activities and festivities for the entire family, including live reindeer, train rides, pony rides, face painting and Santa. [More information](#)

## Vivaldi Strings Concert

**Date:** Sunday, Dec. 13

**Time:** 2-3 p.m.

**Location:** Wheaton Public Library, [225 N. Cross St.](#)

Wheaton Public Library is pleased to welcome back the Wheaton College Community School of the Arts performance ensemble, Vivaldi Strings. They will play a special holiday show by the stairwell on the main floor of the library.

# Recycle Unwanted Holiday Lights

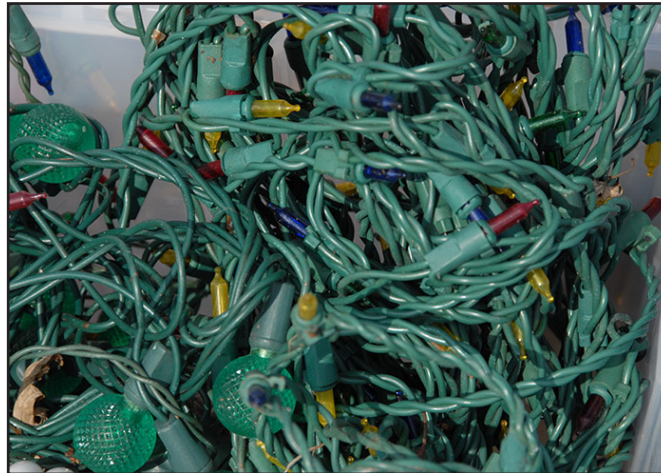
*Copper and plastic from lights can be recycled*

**K**ee your old holiday lights out of landfills by bringing them to Wheaton's light recycling drop-off site.

Starting Nov. 30, 2015, you can 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 on the south side of Liberty Drive. The Public Works Department will accept lights for recycling through Feb. 12, 2016.

[Elgin Recycling](#) 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,



## Holiday Light Recycling

- **Dates:** Weekdays through Feb. 12, 2016
- **Time:** 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **Location:** Public Works Storage Yard, [820 W. Liberty Drive](#), inside the gate

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.

# Help Keep the Wreath Red

**T**his holiday season, the Wheaton Fire Department will decorate Wheaton's three fire stations with wreaths that have a special significance. The wreaths are part of the Keep the Wreath Red fire safety campaign, a statewide program that reminds you to practice fire safety during the holiday season.

The wreaths feature red lights, and for each Wheaton fire caused by holiday decorations, the Fire Department will replace one red bulb with a white bulb.

Help the Fire Department Keep the Wreath Red by:

- Unplugging holiday lights before leaving home or sleeping,
- Being careful with candles and open flames,
- Using flame-retardant decorations,
- Ensuring lights are in good condition and Underwriters Laboratories (UL) listed, and
- Keeping real trees watered.

# Ordinance Applies to E-Cigarettes

**O**n Oct. 5, 2015, the Wheaton City Council passed an ordinance updating the City's Smoke-Free Air Regulations. In the City of Wheaton, e-cigarettes are now treated the same as tobacco products. This means that people are prohibited from smoking tobacco products and e-cigarettes:

- In all enclosed public places and places of employment
- Within 25 feet of public entrances to buildings
- In open air public dining

ing areas and within 25 feet of those areas

- Within certain unenclosed places, including all outdoor events and venues, Adams and Memorial parks.

The penalty for violating the ordinance is a fine of \$75 for individuals who smoke in a prohibited area and \$150 for owners or managers of a public place or workplace who allow smoking in a prohibited area. The City can also suspend or revoke any City permit or license issued for the premises in which the violation occurred.



# That's a Lot of Pumpkins!

The Nov. 7 pumpkin drop-off for composting yielded 4.72 tons of pumpkins in just three hours! This collection was run by the Environmental Improvement Commission, SCARCE, Advanced Disposal and volunteers.



# French Market Moves into Train Station for Winter

*Find seasonal gifts, specialty foods, etc.*

Are you a fan of Wheaton's French Market? Then check out its cold-weather counterpart: the Winter Market.

Each Saturday through March 26, 2016, the indoor Winter Market will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the downtown Wheaton train station. Located at Front Street and West Street, these indoor events will offer seasonal goods, handcrafted gifts, specialty foods, baked goods, jewelry and more.

For more information, contact Bensidoun USA at 312-575-0294 or [ccbcec@sbc-global.net](mailto:ccbcec@sbc-global.net).



## Winter (Indoor) Market

- **Date:** Saturdays through March 26
- **Time:** 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **Location:** Downtown Wheaton Train Station, Front Street and West Street

# ComEd Encourages Customers to Be Aware of Scams

*Utility company has seen significant increase in reported incidents targeting customers*

In light of a recent surge in reported incidents, ComEd encourages customers to be aware of scammers and frauds targeting both residential customers and small businesses.

Phone scams include stories that the customer's billing cycle has changed and payment is needed immediately; the account is past due and immediate payment is required to avoid disconnection of service; or that the customer's

previous payments were not accepted or processed. In those cases, the scammers instruct customers to buy a prepaid credit card and direct them to call back with the personal identification number (PIN).

ComEd Security has investigated each reported incident and is concerned with the unprecedented surge of scam attempts in recent weeks. More than 80 percent of the reported scams in the

last 30 days have been targeting small businesses. Scammers are requesting funds between \$100-\$300 from residential customers and \$1,000 to \$1,600 from small businesses.

ComEd representatives always carry proper identification and never ask customers for cash or personal financial information. Also, ComEd will never call a customer to request cash or ask you to buy a prepaid credit card to pay

a bill.

Anyone who believes he or she has been a target of a phone scam is urged to contact the Illinois Attorney General's office toll free at 1-800-386-5438 or visit the Illinois Attorney General's website at [www.illinoisattorney-general.gov](http://www.illinoisattorney-general.gov) and click on the link "Protecting Consumers." Customers can reach ComEd at 1-800-EDISON1 to inquire details on their account or report a possible scam.



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

### December 2015

- 5 Coffee with Council, 10 a.m.
- 7 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 14 City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 21 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 25 City offices closed; no trash pickup