



February 2013

## City Notes

### Saline Appointed to City Council

The Wheaton City Council appointed resident W.



Thoreson Saline II to the vacated At-Large City Council position during the Jan. 22,

2013 City Council meeting. Saline was sworn in and immediately began serving as one of two At-Large City Council representatives. The appointment will last until the election and seating of a new At-Large City Councilman in May 2013.

### Christmas Light Recycling Continues

The City of Wheaton will continue its free holiday light recycling program in partnership with Elgin Recycling. This program offers an eco-friendly alternative to putting lights in landfills.

You can bring strands of

(Continued on next page)

## Annual Speech Focuses on Progress toward Goals

Wheaton Mayor Michael Gresk presented his annual State of the City Address twice on Jan. 17, speaking at the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce luncheon and at a League of Women Voters forum. Mayor Gresk began by highlighting some of the outside recognition Wheaton has received in the past year confirming why it is a desirable community – including being named among the top 100 best places to live in the country by Money Magazine, and ranking No. 6 out of 250 Chicago suburbs for public transit.

In order to meet residents' expectations in this top-rated community, Mayor Gresk outlined progress the City is making toward its four goals set in 2011: financial stability, quality infrastructure, efficient and effective services, and economic development.

### Financial Stability

In the area of financial stability, Mayor Gresk announced that Wheaton once again received the top bond



rating, Aaa, from Moody's Investor Services, reflecting the City's demonstrated

record of tight budget management and strong reserve levels. The City will continue to make decisions with financial stability in mind, such as the actions the Council took this past year to reduce its debt service. By taking advantage of low interest rates, the City was able to refinance and refund some of its bond



### Watch the Video

Watch the Mayor's presentation of the State of the City Address on the City's website

issues. Savings from restructuring bonds for the library renovation project alone will save an estimated \$1.4 million.

### Infrastructure Projects

A large portion of the Mayor's presentation focused

(Continued on next page)

## 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)



## (Continued from page 1)

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.

## Business News

Now open: Warren's Ale House, 51 Town Square Wheaton; offers artisan food, craft beers and more. [www.warrensalehouse.com](http://www.warrensalehouse.com)

## Commission News

The City Council reappointed Sarah Antas to a three-year term on the Fine & Cultural Arts Commission; appointed Paula Barrington and Kevin Maguire to three-year terms on the Downtown Design Review Board; and appointed Deborah Eastman to a three-year term on the Group Care Home Commission.

# Speech

## Continued from page 1

on infrastructure projects under way, such as the sanitary sewer program. With the help of an outside contractor, City staff has completed a great deal of work within the public portion of the sanitary sewer system and also identified where stormwater is entering the system and causing sanitary sewer backups and overflows. What happens is that when it rains, stormwater gets into the sanitary sewer system – through sump pumps that are illegally hooked up to the system, faulty service laterals, deficiencies in the sewer main and other sources – and this water causes the system to exceed capacity, causing sanitary sewer backups and overflows.

In the pilot area in which the City is working, crews have found that about 98 percent of the problems are coming from the segment of the system that is the property owners' responsibility, which is from the residence or building to where the prop-



**The City has some necessary infrastructure improvements planned for the City's water system.**



**A program to begin replacing the sidewalks in the worst condition began this year. Crews started with the southeast portion of Wheaton.**

erty connects to the sewer main. Now the City is working to see how repairing sections of the sanitary sewer system on private property in this pilot area can improve inflow into the system. The City will measure its effectiveness and determine if this pilot model should be used in other portions of Wheaton.

The City also is working to address flooding issues through its overland flooding mitigation action plan. This involves identifying homes that would receive overland flooding in a critical storm event and determining the types of work that could be done to mitigate flooding. So far the City has studied two areas in the City that receive the most flooding, and the City will be looking at these findings to decide how to proceed. Many of the options for mitigating flooding in these areas would cost millions of dollars.

A major infrastructure project the City began in the past year was the sidewalk replacement program. The City has begun replacing sidewalks in the worst condition by starting with a quadrant of the City bounded by Wheaton's southern and eastern limits, Naperville Road to the west and Roosevelt Road to the north. Like with the sanitary sewer program, the City

is starting with one pilot area to see whether this model should be used citywide.

Another sidewalk program that kicked off in the past year was a shared-cost program for creating new sidewalks where there currently are none. The City offered this program to residents whose property met the program criteria, and it was a 50-50 shared cost between the property owner and the City.

The past year also presented the need for the City to look at its water rate and billing structure, taking into account the 20 percent hike in cost for the City to purchase water from the DuPage Water Commission that started in January 2013. In addition to the increased cost for water, the City also has a number of necessary infrastructure improvements to the water system that will need to be performed in the coming years.

An outside firm that performed a water rate study concluded the City needed to restructure its water billing to charge users both a flat service fee based on meter size and a rate for the amount of water used.

The final topic related to infrastructure that Mayor Gresk discussed in his

*(Continued on next page)*

# Speech

Continued from page 2

presentation was the City's work with ComEd to push for improvements in the community. Based on the City's input, ComEd performed work to target areas that experienced repeated outages. Crews made improvements in 20 areas. ComEd also held a community open house to hear from residents and explain improvements that are planned for its infrastructure.

## Efficient & Effective Services

In line with the City's third strategic goal, Mayor Gresk gave examples of how the City is seeking ways to be more effective and efficient. One such example is how the Wheaton Fire Department joined the fire departments/districts in West Chicago, Carol Stream and Winfield to form the West Suburban Fire/Rescue Alliance. This partnership maintains each unit's legal entity, but established common procedures and operations so all of the units could work together seamlessly. This also involved reprogramming their dispatching through DU-Comm with automatic dispatching abilities drawing from the entire alliance for the closest available equipment or personnel, regardless of the community in which the emergency takes place. The units will be working together to share resources and plan for future equipment needs in order to save taxpayers money.

The City is also working to make its communications more efficient by creating a new mobile-friendly website and by using Twitter. About 20 percent of the City website's traffic comes from mobile devices such as smartphones, so the mobile website connects these users with a streamlined



**The fire departments from Wheaton, West Chicago, Winfield and Carol Stream formed the West Suburban Fire/Rescue Alliance to be able to work together seamlessly. They developed common procedures and reprogrammed the dispatch system to draw resources from the nearest location.**

version of the website that presents the most frequently accessed information. The format is a simplified design



that is easy to use on a mobile phone. The City also now uses Twitter to communicate with a different segment of citizens.

This method of communicating can be especially valuable in disseminating information quickly in emergencies and other situations where timeliness is essential.

## Economic Development

In terms of economic development, Mayor Gresk pointed to the Downtown Strategic Plan & Streetscape Plan as one of the projects the City took on in the past year to create a long-term plan for shaping the vision of downtown Wheaton. Consulting firm Design Workshop is

continuing to develop these plans based on its research, public input sessions, online forum, and meetings with City staff and key groups.

The City also will be working with a consulting firm to create an overall economic development plan for Wheaton. The goal will be maximizing taxable property value, reducing vacancies and creating an inviting environment for doing business consistent with the needs and values of the community. The City estimates this process will be completed this summer.

During the presentation, Mayor Gresk listed some of the projects and developments that opened in the past year, including Studio Movie Grill, Wear & Share, Prairie Path Outfitters, Five Guys, Charming Charlie and Warren's Ale House. Two major developments in progress include the redevelopment of the former Hubble Middle School/Wheaton Central High School site into a Mariano's Fresh Market, and the Wheaton 121 development, which

will include 306 luxury apartments in the vacant block bordered by Front, Cross, Wesley and Scott streets.

Finally, Mayor Gresk outlined some of the businesses that will be coming soon, such as Sports Authority moving into the former Borders Books space in Rice Lake Square, Bricks Pizza opening in downtown Wheaton, the redevelopment of the former Suburban Buick property, Nothing Bundt Cakes, SOMA, and Hot Mama coming to Town Square, and the former downtown Jewel store property being redeveloped into a three-story medical office building.

Mayor Gresk concluded his presentation by stating there is no shortage of hard work to be done, and outside forces such as state government and the national economy could negatively affect Wheaton. However, Wheaton is moving forward, setting long-term goals and making decisions that are keeping this a top community.

# Forum on Suburban Heroin Epidemic is Feb. 4

*Police Department  
encourages Wheaton  
community to attend*

The Wheaton Police Department is hosting a community forum on the growing epidemic of suburban heroin use at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 4 at the Wheaton Park District Community Center, 1777 S. Blanchard Road, Wheaton. The forum is intended to bring interested members of the community in touch with members of local law enforcement, the DuPage County State's Attorney's Office, and health service experts.

All community members are encouraged to attend the forum, where they can gain useful information about the scourge of heroin use in the suburbs.

The following professionals are scheduled to attend:

• **Bob Berlin**, DuPage County State's Attorney: Berlin has served as the DuPage



County State's Attorney since Dec. 14, 2010. He has prosecutorial experience in Cook, Kane and DuPage counties, where he has successfully prosecuted numerous murder cases and serious felonies.

• **Claudia Evenson**, Director of Outreach Services for Rosecrance Health Network: Evenson coordinates various community activities such as educational programming in schools and early intervention classes. Evenson holds a certificate in Addiction Studies

## Suburban Heroin Epidemic Forum

- **Date:** Monday, Feb. 4
- **Time:** 7 p.m.
- **Location:** Park District Community Center, 1777 S. Blanchard Road

from Felician College and is a Certified Supervisor Alcohol Drug Counselor with more than 27 years of experience.

• **John Roberts**, Co-found-

er of HERO (Heroin Epidemic Relief Organization): Roberts is a former Captain of the Chicago Police Department who retired after more than 30 years of service. He holds several advanced degrees including a doctoral degree from Loyola University. He is also a parent who tragically lost his son to heroin addiction.

• **Kathleen Burke**, CEO Robert Crown Center for Health Education: Burke joined the Robert Crown Center for Health Education in July 2005. She has introduced an intensive collaborative effort to create a new model of health education that is relevant, sustainable and effective for both children and their influencers. She is a member of a task force for NCPIE, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and representatives from 15 nationally recognized prevention, health professional and child advocacy organizations.

## Upcoming Event

### Electronic Recycling

**When:** Saturday, Feb. 9, 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.

The Environmental Improvement Commission needs your help with these events. To volunteer, call 630-690-1237 or 630-653-8877.

## EPAY Users Must Register Again to Use this Service

*Autopay users are not affected*

In December, the City's provider for EPAY electronic billing service switched to a new system. Because of this, any Wheaton residents who usually log in to the EPAY site to manually make electronic payments will need to register again for the service. Even if you were previously enrolled in the program last year, you will need to complete the registration.

You can log into the new EPAY site by visiting <https://www.tmainc.us/XSaLTWebs/tmaGateway/epay/> DefaultTask?MUNI=WHT. In order to register again, you will need information from your most recent paper bill, which was mailed to you.

Note: Autopay users (customers whose water bill is automatically deducted each month) do NOT need to do anything. Customers who pay using the paper bill do not need to do anything, either. The City apologizes for this inconvenience.

## No Primary Election Needed

The City of Wheaton will not be holding a primary municipal election, as there were not enough candidates to require it. More than four candidates would need to run for each position for a primary to be necessary.

Each of the four district representative seats on the Wheaton City Council (north, south, east and west) will be up for election in the Consolidated Election on April 9, 2013. Registered Wheaton voters can also vote for the replacement of one at-large City Council position, which became vacant when Jeanne Ives resigned from the Council.



## City Accepting Applications for Senior Program

Senior citizens can now apply for assistance with housing costs through the Wheaton Housing Commission's 2013-2014 Senior Housing Assistance Program. To qualify for assistance with housing expenses, you must:

- Be at least 65 years old
- Have been a Wheaton resident for at least 3 years
- Have a maximum total annual household income of \$21,300.

The City is now accepting applications, which are available at City Hall, 303 W. Wesley St., or on the City's website. Applications are due by Feb. 28, 2013.

For information, please contact Sara Bemer at 630-260-2019.

# Coyote Mating Period Begins Soon

*Take extra precautions this time of year to keep pets safe*

From approximately February through April, you may see more coyotes in the community, as this is their typical mating period. While pets do not comprise a large portion of a coyote's diet, it is especially important to keep your pets on a leash during this time of year, when you may be more likely to encounter a coyote. Coyotes are opportunistic and will go for easy prey, such as an unattended pet.

Coyotes can become a nuisance when they have easy access to food in residential areas, such as pet food or garbage. To discourage their presence, eliminate outdoor sources of food.

Many wildlife experts believe that coyote "hazing" can help deter coyotes. This is the term used for actions such as making loud noises or threatening gestures toward coyotes in an attempt to reestablish a healthy fear of humans. Hazing is not intended to physically harm coyotes. If you encounter a coyote, make yourself look as large as possible, and use the hazing techniques mentioned above.

The City encourages you to help report coyote incidents so that it can respond



### Watch Videos

To watch videos about coyotes in this area and learn more, go to [www.wheaton.il.us/coyote](http://www.wheaton.il.us/coyote)

appropriately. The Coyote Incident Report Form is an online questionnaire available on the City's website that you can use to help re-

port coyote incidents with questions specific to the incident. However, please note that if a coyote is acting in a threatening manner toward a human, you should call 9-1-1, and an officer will respond. If you do not have internet access but would like to report a coyote incident, you can call the Police Department at 630-260-2161.

For more information, visit [www.wheaton.il.us/coyote](http://www.wheaton.il.us/coyote).



## 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.

### February 2013

- 2** Coffee with Council, 10 a.m.
- 4** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 11** City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 18** City Offices Closed
- 19** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 25** City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.