

February 2014

## City Notes

### Community Survey

You might be one of approximately 2,000 Wheaton households receiving a community survey in the coming weeks.

The City contracted with the ETC Institute to conduct a survey of randomly chosen households, covering a broad range of topics and City services ranging from public safety, infrastructure and public outreach to garbage service and perceptions of the city.

If you receive a survey, you can either fill out the paper survey and mail it back to ETC Institute or use the online access code included with the paper survey to fill it out online. The survey takes about 15 minutes to complete.

If you do not receive a survey, an identical version will be available online. Once the survey is available, the City will send out a press release to its [Email Updates subscribers](#) and [announce it on Twitter](#), as well. While the responses from this survey will be kept separate from the randomly chosen survey participants, the City encourages you to participate

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## Mayor Sums Up Year of Progress

### *State of the City Address highlights economic and financial progress*

Before a crowd comprised of residents, local business owners, community leaders and others, Wheaton Mayor Michael Gresk explored how one word described the past year in Wheaton: progress.

During his Jan. 16 State of the City Address at Arrowhead Golf Club, Mayor Gresk outlined many ways the city has experienced progress.

### **Economic Development**

Among the most visible signs of progress in the community were several landmark projects providing an economic stimulus for downtown Wheaton and beyond.

A new Mariano's grocery store opened on the former Hubble Middle School site near Naperville Road and Roosevelt Road. Not only does this project add taxable property to the City's economic base, but it also created more than 400 jobs.

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A new Mariano's grocery store (top), Wheaton 121 (middle) and a new DuPage Medical Group facility were three projects Mayor Gresk highlighted as examples of economic growth.

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)

# Progress

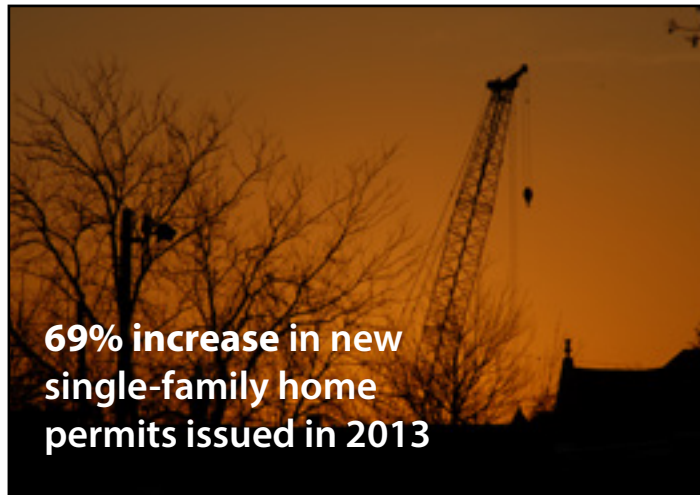
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Wheaton 121 – a luxury apartment development on the block bordered by Front, Wesley, Scott and Cross streets – also began opening in 2013. With 306 residences, this development is not only adding tax revenue, but also adding more residents to the downtown community, where they can contribute to local businesses through their patronage.

In addition, the DuPage Medical Group made substantial progress constructing a new 40,000-square foot facility at 150 E. Willow. This was the site of a shuttered Jewel grocery store that sat vacant for a number of years.

Adding to these larger projects is a long list of new businesses that started up in Wheaton in 2013. (See the list on page 3.)

Building activity also saw progress compared with the previous year. The City's Building Department issued 49 new single-family home permits in 2013, which is a 69% increase from 2012. Busi-



nesses received 47 commercial remodeling permits and 28 commercial re-occupancy permits, showing that businesses are staying and investing in improvements.

To further spur economic development, the City created a Downtown Plan to serve as a long-term blueprint for development in the central business district. The City enlisted a consultant to create a plan and solicited input from the business community, residents and other stakeholders. The City Council received the final plan and held a public hearing Jan. 27.

The plan's highlights include: creating "festival

streets;" adding a central park along Liberty Drive; improving streetscape design and style; improved signage; and marketing strategies to promote the downtown. The estimated cost to implement the entire plan exceeds \$60 million, so the City will be determining how to implement portions of the plan over time. You can see the plan and find out more at [www.wheaton.il.us/downtownplan](http://www.wheaton.il.us/downtownplan).

The City is also working toward creating a plan to guide economic development citywide. Because Wheaton is largely residential and mostly built-out, Wheaton's economic development plan needs

## Watch the Video

You can see a [video of the Mayor's presentation](#) on the City's website.

to be tailored to Wheaton's needs. City staff and the City Council will be working with community stakeholders to help formulate this plan.

## Financial Progress

In addition to progress in economic development, Mayor Gresk also highlighted the City's financial progress in the past year. While maintaining the highest bond rating municipalities can achieve, the City decreased its annual property tax levy for the fourth consecutive year and received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association for the 11th consecutive year.

## Technology

The past year also was marked by progress in using technology. One such project  
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## City Notes

### Continued from page 1

to provide additional community feedback.

ETC will compile and present the results to the City Council later this year.

## Smoke Detector Disposal

Please note that Wheaton's electronic recycling collection does not accept smoke detectors. These cannot be recycled through the City's program, nor can they be dropped off at hazardous waste sites. To correctly

dispose of smoke detectors, they need to be returned to the manufacturer.

## Christmas Light Recycling Ends

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

Bring strands of incandescent or LED lights and extension cords to the Public Works Storage Facility

at 820 W. Liberty Drive (south side of Liberty Drive) any time between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays. Look for signs directing you to the holiday light recycling area inside the gate. Lights will be accepted through Feb. 10, 2014.

The lights will be collected and then stripped and recycled for their copper and plastic parts.

## Cross Connection Control Survey

If you have a lawn irrigation system, fire sprinkler system, swimming pool

or other item that directly connects to the City's water system and requires a backflow prevention device, be sure you have filled out the Cross Connection Control Survey.

This survey is an important component of the IEPA and the City's Cross Connection Control Program. You can take the survey online at [www.wheaton.il.us/ccsurvey](http://www.wheaton.il.us/ccsurvey), use the paper copy included in your January water bill and return it to the City, or fax it to 630-260-2007.



# Progress

Continued from page 2

the City is making progress toward implementing an Enterprise Resource Planning system, which is a city-wide software system that will streamline many of the City's operations using integrated solutions.

The City also has advanced in the way it has used technology through social media, adding Pinterest to its tools for communicating with residents, and nearly doubling its number of Twitter followers. You can find Wheaton on Pinterest at [www.pinterest.com/CityOfWheaton](http://www.pinterest.com/CityOfWheaton) and on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/CityOfWheaton](http://www.twitter.com/CityOfWheaton).

## Change & Progress Facing Other Issues

In conjunction with progress, Wheaton has also seen change. In 2013, the City saw changes in leadership. William Schultz became Wheaton's new Fire Chief upon Greg Berk's retirement, and the library welcomed new director Betsy Adamowski, replacing Sarah Meisels, who retired after 47 years of service to the library. The Wheaton City Council also changed, welcoming Thoreson Saline and John Prendiville, and beginning new terms for incumbents Phil Suess, John Rutledge and Todd Scalzo.

Mayor Gresk also reviewed some of the steps Wheaton has made in addressing issues affecting Wheaton. The North Main Street Flood Control Project is substantially complete, with the exception of finishing touches such as landscaping. The first major portion of the project involved the Wheaton Park District lowering the height of the barrier that maintains the water level in the Northside Park lagoon to allow it to hold



**The North Main Street Flooding Project replaced the culverts under the street with a bridge for Main Street over Winfield Creek. This project will help lessen the incidence of flooding in this area.**

more stormwater. The City then replaced the culverts under the street with a bridge for Main Street over Winfield Creek and widened the creek channel to allow additional stormwater to flow under Main Street.

The City also continues with its Basin 4 Pilot Program, in which the City is testing methods for reducing excess inflow that can lead to sanitary backups and overflows. Previously the City identified sources where ground water can enter the sanitary sewer system, which includes a number of private and public sector sources.

The City has largely addressed the problems within the publicly owned sewer and is now testing the effectiveness of lining sanitary sewer laterals in this pilot area. While the laterals are the responsibility of the homeowner, the City is using this pilot area to measure how effective lining laterals in a specific area can be in reducing backups and overflows in the overall system. Once contracted crews complete this lining process and can measure its effect, the City will then decide on how to proceed with other portions of the system.

Another issue the City

continues to address is the devastation the emerald ash borer is bringing to Wheaton's ash tree population. The City already has removed nearly 1,000 of the City's 6,500 parkway ash trees since 2008.

However, a survey of Wheaton's parkway ash tree population showed an accelerating infestation that requires more aggressive action. The City adopted an Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan to remove all remaining parkway ash trees between now and approximately April 2017. The cost of implementing the plan is approximately \$3.2 million and will remove 5,500 trees. More on Wheaton's plan is available at [www.wheaton.il.us/ashborer](http://www.wheaton.il.us/ashborer).

## Community-Led Progress

While the Mayor outlined a number of areas where the City has moved forward in the past year, he also pointed out some of the ways residents, businesses, students, volunteers and groups continue to lead Wheaton forward as a community. Among those at the forefront are residents who volunteer their time to City commissions to create change in the community.

The Community Relations Commission is one example

## New Businesses in 2013

Advanced Healthcare  
All Occasions  
Andrew's Garden  
Bella Flora Mia  
Bella Roba  
Bricks Wood-Fired Pizza  
Café K'TIZO  
Claire's  
Edward Hines Lumber  
Essencia Yoga  
Frocks & Frills Vintage  
Hand & Stone Massage and Facials  
The Hearing Lab  
Home Again  
Hot Mama  
Impressions Nail School LLC  
Katherine Berello Dentist  
Lane Bryant  
Lap of Luxury Pet Resort  
Lifeway Christian Store  
Maller Baroque Brass Instruments  
Mariano's Fresh Market  
Mi Casa Restaurante  
Namaste Foods  
Namaste Salon  
Nothing Bundt Cakes  
Oaktree Wellness Center  
Orange Theory Fitness  
Pamplemousse Bakery  
Pinwheel Toys  
Pure Barre  
River City Roasters  
Sleepy's  
SOMA Intimates  
Sports Authority  
Tasty Food Shop  
Total Tan Today Spa  
Verizon  
Walgreens at 2191 West Roosevelt Road  
Warren's Ale House  
With Love, a Dessert Boutique  
Yogway Yogurt Shop  
Zegbens African Store

of a commission making a difference in Wheaton. The commission has developed a special relationship between the Army's 18th Infantry and the community, after a

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# Progress

Continued from page 3

Wheaton resident was severely injured in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2006. The City officially adopted the infantry as honorary residents back in 2008, and the community has sent care packages and holiday stockings to the 800+ soldiers. A few months ago, the Army unit adopted the City of Wheaton as an honorary member as a way to thank the community for its support.

The Community Mural Project was another example of the community leading Wheaton forward. This collaboration of the Community Relations Commission and the Fine & Cultural Arts Commission along with local businesses and the community resulted in a 70-foot mural celebrating diversity. It was



**The Community Relations Commission and Fine & Cultural Arts Commission collaborated to bring this community mural project to life.**

inspired by a Wheaton resident's poem and a local business owner's involvement, and it later grew to involve the entire community, inviting residents to sign their names to the mural.

The Environmental Improvement Commission has

continued to make a positive impact on the community through new and ongoing projects. The City's monthly electronic recycling drop-off continues to thrive, adding two more materials that can be recycled: fluorescent bulbs and cooking oil. These two

options help keep the mercury from fluorescent bulbs out of our ecosystem and cooking oil out of our sewers, where it can cause costly problems.

Mayor Gresk also pointed to the work of residents who volunteer their time on the Planning & Zoning Board, Historic Commission, Housing Commission, Library Board, Bicycle Advisory Committee, and Sister City Commission – just to name a few – and the contributions that the business community, schools, organizations and residents continue to make.

In closing, Mayor Gresk stated as he looks back at the past year in Wheaton and the progress made, he looks forward to what 2014 will bring: New development, new plans for the downtown, new ways to be more efficient, and a new year to keep moving our community forward.

## Upcoming Events

### Electronic Recycling

**When:** Saturday, Feb. 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.

Wheaton residents can now bring cooking oil and 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, smoke

detectors 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.

### Storytelling by Linda Gorham

**When:** Monday, February 17, 1 p.m.

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

The Wheaton Public Library will host storyteller Linda Gorham, who energizes her audience by using movement, humor, and sometimes zaniness as she tells multicultural folktales. This program is for all ages. Residents can pick up free



tickets at the Children's Desk beginning three weeks in advance.

### Guy Louis: Black History in American Music

**When:** Sunday, February 23, 2 p.m.

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

Learn how the history of

American music and Black history are intertwined in this interactive performance at the Wheaton Public Library, 225 N. Cross St. Louis uses African drums, acoustic slide guitars, and banjo to journey from the music of Africa to rag, the blues, jazz, rock and roll, and rap. Residents can pick up free required tickets at the Checkout Desk or call 630-868-7516 to reserve tickets.



# Engage 200 Community Sessions

Community Unit School District 200 is hosting a series of community engagement sessions. Community members will have an opportunity to learn about all aspects of the District, including such areas as student achievement, curriculum, technology, facilities, finances, communications and other topics. District residents also will be able to provide input and feedback regarding the opportunities and challenges facing the District in these areas.

Information gathered from the workshops will serve as the basis for a summary report that will be presented to the Board of Education in June or July.

All District 200 residents are encouraged to participate in this engagement process that will help guide the direction of the District in the future.

All sessions will take place at Monroe Middle School, 1855 Manchester Road, from 7-9 p.m.

Sessions will take place on the following dates:

- February 19
- March 26
- April 16
- May 7
- June 18

For more information, visit [www.cusd200.org/engage200](http://www.cusd200.org/engage200).



Seniors who meet certain criteria can now apply for the Senior Housing Assistance Program.

## City Accepting Senior Housing Assistance Program Applications

Wheaton seniors who are at least 65 years old, have resided in Wheaton for at least 3 years and have an annual household income of less than \$21,650 can now apply for the 2014/15 Senior Housing Assistance Program. Applications are due by Feb. 28, 2014.

This City-funded program, overseen by the Wheaton Housing Commission, provides monthly financial assistance for housing expenses. The program is open

### Senior Housing Assistance Program

- **Deadline:** Feb. 28
- [Application available on the City's website.](#)

to both property owners and renters. Eligible residents accepted for this program will receive assistance for the months of May 2014 through April 2015.

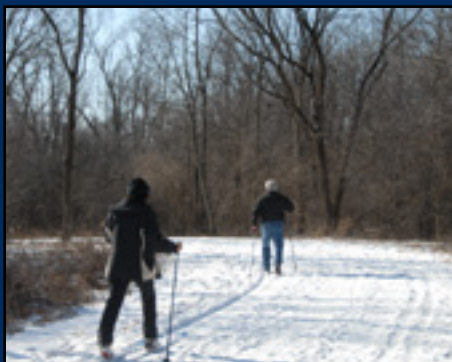
To apply for this program, [complete an application](#) and provide the requested sup-

porting documents no later than Feb. 28, 2014 to:

**Wheaton City Hall,  
Attn: Administration  
303 W. Wesley St.,  
Wheaton, IL 60187**

The Housing Commission will review all applications received, and applicants will be notified whether or not they have been approved for assistance.

Due to a set budgeted amount for this program, please note that completion of the application does not guarantee assistance.



## 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.

### February 2014

- 1** Coffee with Council, 10 a.m.
- 3** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 10** City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 17** City Offices Closed
- 18** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 24** City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.