

February 2015

City Notes



Job Opportunities

The City of Wheaton is seeking applicants for the following opportunities:

• **Part-time Summer Intern, Engineering Department:** This paid internship position involves representing the Engineering Department as a field inspector for capital improvement projects, assisting project engineers with surveying/construction layout; and performing computer-aided drafting using the AutoCAD program. Applicants must be currently enrolled in a college Civil Engineering curriculum or related course work.

• **Full-time Police**

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Mayor Recaps 2014, Looks Ahead during Annual Speech

If you ask Mayor Michael Gresk to sum up the past year in Wheaton, he will point out some defining numbers that encapsulate 2014, as he did during his annual [State of the City Address](#). Here are some of the significant numbers.

22 Twenty-two days last winter dipped below zero degrees, causing a variety of problems at the start of 2014 – from an abundance of potholes popping up, stress on the roadways, a spike in road salt prices and frozen underground pipes. The past winter tested the City's infrastructure and marked a challenging start to 2014. To sum it up, the National Weather Service stated the four-month period between December 2013 and March 2014 ranked as the coldest on record – dating back to 1872.

6,321 Of the **6,321 ash trees** that lined Wheaton parkways before the emerald ash borer infested the entire



City crews worked to repair portions of the roadways that deteriorated from the extraordinarily harsh winter in 2014.

region, **less than 600** remain standing. Spring's arrival highlighted a rapid acceleration of emerald ash borer infestations in the community and region. In response, the Forestry Division accelerated its ash tree removal program, and Wheaton initiated a City-funded parkway tree replacement program to begin a large-scale reforestation effort throughout the community.

4.1 Over the past year, City crews im-

proved **4.1 miles** of roadways and replaced **2,505 sidewalk squares**. Last year's sidewalk program focused on the northern quadrant of Wheaton (north of Harrison Avenue), and in 2015, crews will replace sidewalk squares in the southwest area of the city. The City also plans to improve another 4.1 miles of roadways in 2015.

5 For the **fifth consecutive year**, in 2014 the

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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

Speech

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City lowered its property tax levy, a sign of its excellent financial health. Mayor Gresk highlighted the City's highest possible bond rating, reflecting the City's excellent credit worthiness. In addition, the latest financial audit of Wheaton's finances and processes showed an increase in the City's net financial position by \$1.6 million.

18 Other signs of financial growth include

the **18 new businesses** the Mayor highlighted in his speech, the completion of Wheaton 121's 300-unit luxury apartment development and the opening of DuPage Medical Group's new 40,000-square-foot medical office space in downtown Wheaton.

29% The Wheaton economy showed strength with its **29% increase** in new single-family home permits issued in 2014, compared with 2013. In addition, the City's Building & Code Enforcement Depart-



ment issued **7%** more permits

in 2014 than the previous year, showing the economy continuing to pick up.

84% **Eighty-four percent** of Wheaton residents randomly selected to participate in a communitywide survey gave positive ratings for their overall satisfaction with City services – a full 27 percentage points higher than the national average. While there are several areas identified in the survey where Wheaton continues to strive for improvement, the overall satisfaction score reflects the largely positive results the community gave across the board in the survey, rating Wheaton at or above the national average in

54 of 66 areas assessed. From this survey, the City received important community feedback and direction on how the City can better serve the community and achieve the City Council's strategic goals.

2015 and Beyond

In his annual presentation, Mayor Gresk also highlighted a few projects that will help make the City more efficient in 2015.

One of the major projects that the City will continue to implement over the next year is an Enterprise Resource

Planning (ERP) system. This is a city-wide software system that is streamlining many of the City's operations by integrating them.

The systems affect everything from payroll and permitting to utility billing and parking tickets, and this will modernize how the City assists residents and businesses.

The City also is working to develop a redesigned website with similar goals of efficiency and better serving the community. Because people who use Wheaton's website often access it on a mobile phone, an iPad or another device, the City is developing a website that responds to many types of devices and technology

The City has enlisted assistance in optimizing its snow routes and procedures. This is another area where Wheaton is looking toward the future with efficiency in mind, as well as a project related to energy efficiency. The City will be replacing high-pressure sodium street lights in some areas with LED fixtures. The new fixtures use about half the amount of energy as the current ones with bulbs that last more than twice as long.

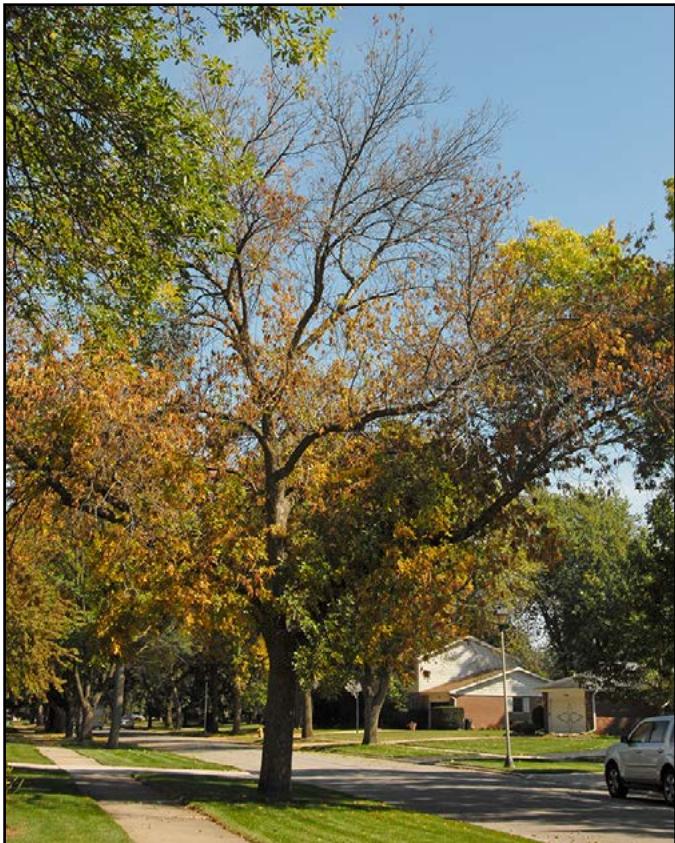
In closing, Mayor Gresk stated he looks forward to a new year sure to bring progress, growth and new businesses as the City continues to strive toward best serving the community.

New Businesses

- A Baby Naturally
- Armand's Pizzeria
- Art and Glass Studio
- Dry City Brewery
- Joan's Place
- Kilwin's
- Next Yoga
- M & Co. Salon
- Mile Long Records
- Moore Toys & Gadgets
- PampleMousse Bakery
- Pier One Imports
- Peet's Coffee
- Prairie Path Books
- P.S. Flowers
- River City Roasters
- Subway
- The Lock Up



Property Owners Required to Remove Diseased Trees



Contracted crews are removing diseased trees located in City parkways, but property owners are responsible for removing infested trees on private property.

Applies to infested ash trees on private property

Ash trees infested by the emerald ash borer aren't just an eyesore; they also have the potential to become dangerous.

While contracted crews finish removing ash trees located in City parkways, the City reminds property owners that they are responsible for removing ash trees on private property infested by the emerald ash borer. Infested trees become unstable, eventually posing a safety hazard.

[Wheaton City Code states](#) that ash trees infested with the Emerald Ash Borer and elm trees infected with the fungus known as Dutch Elm Disease are declared a public nuisance. It is the responsibility of the property owner to promptly remove and properly dispose of these trees. The City recommends you contact a certified arborist regarding tree removal.

Unfortunately, unless prop-

erty owners have been continuously treating their ash trees with emerald ash borer insecticides, their trees are most likely already infested.

"The emerald ash borer has killed millions of ash trees across the U.S., and the unfortunate reality is that unless you have been treating your trees, you can expect them to become infested," said Forestry Superintendent Kevin Maloney. "Look for the signs of infestation – such as dieback in the crown of the tree, woodpecker damage and D-shaped holes in the bark. This tells you that your tree is infested and will likely need to be removed."

Emerald Ash Borer

For more information, visit www.wheaton.il.us/ashborer.

City Notes

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Services Representative, Police Department: This civilian, uniformed position of the Police Department works under the general supervision of the Police Services Manager. This position is responsible for organizing and performing a multitude of assignments, while providing professional internal and external customer service.

For more information, visit www.wheaton.il.us/jobs.

Commission News

The City Council approved the appointment of Anthony Asta and Greg Halvorsen Schreck to the Fine & Cultural Arts Commission for three-year terms.

Senior Housing Program Accepting Applications

Application for program due Feb. 27

Since 1972, the City of Wheaton has administered a Housing Assistance Program to assist its senior citizens with their housing costs. The City's Housing Assistance Commission is tasked with managing this program.

To qualify for assistance, recipients must meet these qualifications:

- Must be a resident of the City of Wheaton (with a minimum residency of 3 years)
- Must be 65 years of age or older.
- Must have verifiable annual household income, per



the Commission's eligibility standards, of no more than \$22,500.

To inquire about the program, please contact Lindsay Qualkenbush at the City of Wheaton at 630-260-2019 or

at LQualkenbush@wheaton.il.us. An [application is also available on the City's website](#).

Applications for this program are due no later than Feb. 27, 2015.

City Needs Your Feedback for Website Redesign

The City of Wheaton's website, www.wheaton.il.us, is getting ready for an update. Since the current website's launch in January 2008, the devices people use to access the internet, the types of services and information users want online, and even the ways many people find information online have changed.

To modernize the City's website so it works easily for



all users – including residents, businesses, visitors and others – the City is beginning the process of redesigning the website.

For the new website to meet your needs, the City would like your help in iden-

tifying what you would like to see on it. How can the site be improved? What type of information or features should the City include or not include on the new site?

Please take a moment to share your feedback [through this online survey at www.wheaton.il.us/survey](http://www.wheaton.il.us/survey) collecting information about your experience using the City's website and ideas for improvement.

Take The Survey:

How can the City of Wheaton's new website better meet your needs?

Take the survey at: www.wheaton.il.us/survey

Upcoming Events

Indoor French Market

Dates: Saturdays through March 28, 2015

Time: 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Location: Downtown Wheaton Train Station, [West Street & Front Street](#)

Find baked goods, specialty foods, gifts and more during the [indoor French Market](#). For more information, email bensidoun@yahoo.com.



Five Famous African American Women

Date: Sunday, Feb. 8

Time: 2 p.m.

Location: Wheaton Public Library, 225 N. Cross St.

Through story and song, meet Phillis Wheatley, America's first African American poet. Relive the Boston Massacre through the eyes of Crispus Attucks' wife. Join Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman as they look back over their lives. Rejoice with Gwendolyn Brooks, recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for poetry and a former Illinois Poet Laureate. Register at [wheatonlibrary.org/calendar](#) or call 630-868-7520.

Joan Hammel and Friends

Date: Sunday, Feb. 15

Time: 2 p.m.

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

In honor of President's Day, Joan Hammel and Friends will perform American jazz and swing classics from their American Songbook set. Pick up free tickets at the Wheaton Public Library Checkout Desk or call 630-868-7510 to reserve.

Mexico's Colonial Gems

Date: Thursday, Feb. 19

Time: 7 p.m.

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

Escape the frigid cold with Mexico's Colonial Gems. Experience the history, architecture, culture and festivals of Guanajuato and San Miguel with Russ DiTusa of DiTusa Travel of Wheaton. These colonial silver cities should be on every traveler's bucket list. Register online at [www.wheatonlibrary.org/calendar](#) or call 630-868-7520.

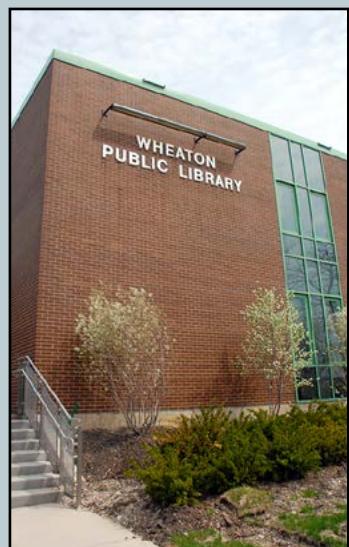
The Beatles' Studio Years 1967-1970

Date: Thursday, Feb. 26

Time: 7 p.m.

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

Learn about how the Beatles broadened their artistry into uncharted waters by using the studio as a tool to achieve sounds heretofore only heard inside their own heads. Performance and promo clips, augmented by rare photos and unreleased audio of the group at work showcase their reaching the height of their success, just before the split. Register online at [www.wheatonlibrary.org/calendar](#) or call 630-868-7520.



New Train Warning System Activated

Metra and Union Pacific activated their new Another Train Warning System at the downtown Wheaton train station. If a train is present and another train is approaching, a red "Danger" sign illuminates and flashes continuously. Also, a white "Another Train Coming" sign illuminates steadily, and an audible warning sounds continuously. The system stays active as long as there is more than one train in the area of the station.

The system aims to improve the flow of commuter and freight traffic by allowing trains to safely operate past a station while a commuter train is stopped there. It is part of a larger \$165 million improvement project.

Improvements at the station also include new pedestrian paths to safely guide commuters away from the tracks to a gated crossing and additional pedestrian fences to improve separation between pedestrians and trains.

Other elements of the overall project include an upgraded rail signal system to improve train flow, new crossovers and a third set of rails in two bottleneck areas.



Ensure you are not providing coyotes with a source of food, such as pet food left outdoors.

Learn to Discourage Coyotes, Protect Pets

While coyotes are valuable in decreasing the rodent population, their presence in populated areas can be minimized by removing things that attract them to places they are not wanted. [Coyotes can become a nuisance](#) when they have easy access to food in residential areas, such as pet food or garbage.

NEVER feed a coyote

Take steps to ensure that you are not providing them with a source of food, either intentionally or unintentionally:

- Feed pets indoors or

promptly remove dishes when pets complete their meal outside. Store bags of pet food indoors.

- Clear brush and dense weeds from around property to deprive rodents of shelter and reduce protective cover for coyotes.

- Use trash barrels equipped with tight clamping devices on the lids.

- DO NOT feed or provide water for coyotes or other wildlife. This practice abnormally attracts coyotes and promotes increased numbers of rodents, birds and other creatures that can provide major portions of the coyote's natural diet.

How to Protect Pets

- Keep small pets (cats, rabbits, small dogs) indoors. Don't allow them to run free at any time. They are easy prey.
- Use a short leash when walking your pet. Never let a coyote get between you and your pet.

- Dogs should be brought inside after dark and never allowed to run loose or unsupervised. This is especially important during mating season, which is February through April.

- Fences do not guarantee your pet's safety. Always attend to small pets outdoors.



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.

February 2015

- 2** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 7** Coffee with Council, 10 a.m.
- 9** City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 16** City Offices Closed
- 17** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 23** City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.