

January 2013

City Notes

No Garbage Pickup Jan. 1

There will be no garbage/recycling collection on Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2013. Collection will be delayed by one day for the remaining days of the week.



Christmas Tree Recycling

Christmas trees will be collected and recycled on your regular collection day during the first two full weeks in January (Jan. 7-18) for no charge. During this free two-week collection period, trees must be free of all decorations and cannot be in plastic bags. After the two-week collection period, Christmas trees will require one yard waste sticker affixed to it to be collected.

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Water Rate Change in Effect

Starting with this month's water bill, you will see changes to the City's water billing rate and structure. A study of the City's water rate performed by an outside firm determined the City needed to raise its rates in order to offset an increase in the amount the City of Chicago and the DuPage Water Commission are charging Wheaton for water starting this month. The changes also are necessary to support infrastructure improvements needed for the aging water system.

Because there are many fixed costs associated with delivering water and maintaining infrastructure, the new water billing includes a service fee – a flat monthly charge that will assist in paying for these fixed costs.



The service fee will help pay for infrastructure improvements needed for Wheaton's aging water system.

The fee is based on industry standards and is charged based on your meter size, as the meter size is the best way to calculate the potential demand on the system. Approximately 89% of Wheaton customers fall into the lowest fee category for 5/8-inch and 3/4-inch water meters, which

is \$5.86 per month. The usage rate increased from \$3.45 per 100 cubic feet of water to \$3.81 per 100 cubic feet in 2013.

For more information about water billing changes or to watch videos of related City Council discussions, visit www.wheaton.il.us/waterbill.

Tax Levy Decreased for Third Year

For the third consecutive year, the City of Wheaton decreased its annual tax levy. On Dec. 17, 2012, the Council approved the annual 2012 tax levy in the amount of \$23,005,047,

of which \$15,299,075 is levied for general purposes and \$4,405,972 is for debt services. When the abated portion of the debt service is included, it reduces the debt service levy to \$3,460,744,

and the resulting tax levy for 2012 is \$18,759,819. This is a decrease of 0.1% from the previous year's levy, making this the third consecutive decrease in the City's annual tax levy.

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

Limited-Time Rebate Available for Energy Upgrades

An alliance of local organizations, utility companies and non-profit groups is helping Wheaton homeowners increase the comfort of their homes this season. The alliance, Energy Impact Illinois, recently introduced a special limited-time rebate for homeowners of up to \$1,750 to make energy efficiency improvements to their homes.

Issues with drafty rooms and other weatherizing problems can be solved by making

energy efficiency improvements like sealing up air leaks and installing proper insulation, which the rebate is designed for.

Wheaton homeowners are now eligible for the up to \$1,750 rebate to take energy efficiency steps in their own homes. To receive the rebate, call Energy Impact Illinois at 855-9-IMPACT. Energy Impact Illinois will help you determine eligible rebates and connect you to certified contractors who can assess and

estimate the right mix of air sealing and insulation projects that will achieve savings. (There is a customer co-pay of approximately \$99 for this assessment.)

The rebate can help homeowners save, on average, 70 percent on the typical cost of the actual work. Energy Impact Illinois will also link you to attractive loan options with zero percent interest for the first year to make up any difference.

More than half of to-

tal energy costs come from heating and cooling a home and almost all homes let too much air escape or penetrate. Most homes also have incorrectly installed or insufficient amounts of attic insulation. Air sealing and insulating a home are some easy, right-now steps homeowners can take to reduce energy bills and create a more comfortable home for winter.

For more information, you can call 855-9-IMPACT or visit www.TheEnergyBills.org.

City Notes

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Keep Hydrants Clear

The City of Wheaton Fire and Public Works departments need your help this winter. Please help them by clearing snow from around fire hydrants. This ensures that firefighters can quickly access hydrants when responding to a fire.

Also, please request that your snow plowing service not bury hydrants with snow when they plow your driveway.

Garbage Holidays for 2013

Take note of the 2013 holiday schedule for garbage/recycling pickup:

- **New Year's Day: No pickup on Jan. 1, 2013.** Pickup for Jan. 1-4 will be delayed by one day.
- **Memorial Day: No pickup on May 27, 2013.** Pickup for May 27-31 will be delayed by one day.
- **Independence Day: No pickup on July 4, 2013.** Pickup July 4-5 will be delayed by one day.
- **Labor Day: No pickup on**



Sept. 2, 2013. Pickup for Sept. 2-6 will be delayed by one day.

- **Thanksgiving Day: No pickup on Nov. 28, 2013.** Pickup for Nov. 28-29 will be delayed by one day.
- **Christmas Day: No pickup on Dec. 25, 2013.** Pickup for Dec. 25-27 will be delayed by one day.

Commission News

The City Council approved the reappointment of Phil Landrum to a three-year term on the Environmental Improvement Commission.

Holiday Light Recycling

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.

Bring strands of 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.

Commission Seeks New Members

Are you interested in England or Sweden? Would you like to get to know people in England and Sweden, even if you don't travel there? The Wheaton Sister City Commission, which encourages communication between Wheaton and its sister cities, Wheaton Aston, England, and Karlskoga, Sweden, is seeking new members.

More information about the commission is available on the City's website, or email the commission at sscwheaton@yahoo.com. If you are interested in joining the commission, fill out the Boards and Commissions Volunteer Application and return it to the City Clerk, Wheaton City Hall, 303 W. Wesley St., Wheaton, IL 60187.

Law Targets Parents who Allow Underage Drinking

On Jan. 1, 2013, a stricter Illinois law goes into effect, cracking down on parents who allow underage people to drink on their property.

Public Act 97-1049 expands upon the current law, which already states it is illegal for parents or guardians to allow underage drinkers to consume alcohol at their residence. The new law takes that law one step further, specifying that it is also a crime to allow the minors to drink on any property under the parent's or guardian's control – including barns, cabins, boat-houses, guest houses, etc.

The expanded law makes it a misdemeanor carrying a \$500 fine for any adult to knowingly permit minors under the age of 21 to drink alcohol on their property or in their home. If the violation results in bodily harm or death, the adult will be charged with a felony.

These changes in state law become effective Jan. 1, 2013

It further provides that a parent or guardian who knowingly permits his or her residence, or any other private property under his or her control, to be used by an invitee, under the age of 21, of the parent's child or the guardian's ward in a manner that constitutes a violation of the Act's prohibited sales and possession provisions is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

This change also provides that a parent or guardian is deemed to have knowingly permitted his or her residence, or any other private property under his or her control, to be used in violation of the Act if he or she knowingly authorizes or permits consumption of alcohol by underage invitees.

The provisions about use of a residence by an underage invitee modifies some of the elements of the offense by:

The expanded law makes it a misdemeanor with a \$500 fine for any adult to knowingly permit minors under the age of 21 to drink alcohol on their property or in their home.

(i) providing that any person, including a tenant or lessee, who knowingly authorizes or permits a residence which he or she occupies to be used by an invitee under 21 years of age for possession or use of an alcoholic beverage violates the Act, if other specified conditions are met; and (ii) by striking the requirement that the person occupying the residence know that the underage person who possesses or consumes alcohol left the

residence intoxicated.

Finally, this law change provides that a person shall not be in violation of the provisions of this Act concerning prohibited underage alcohol consumption at a residence if: (A) he or she requests assistance from the police department or other law enforcement agency to either: (i) remove any person who refuses to abide by the person's performance of his or her legal duties under this Act or (ii) terminate the activity because the person has been unable to prevent a person under the age of 21 years from consuming alcohol despite having taken all reasonable steps to do so, and (B) this assistance is requested before any other person makes a formal complaint to the police department or other law enforcement agency about the activity.

Upcoming Events

Electronic Recycling

When: Saturday, Jan. 12, 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. Please note that household batteries are not accepted at the monthly electronic recycling collection. More information is on the City's website.

The Environmental

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

State of the City Address

When: Thursday, Jan. 17, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Where: Arrowhead Golf Club
Mayor Gresk will make his State of the City Address at this Chamber of Commerce monthly luncheon. The City will record the event, and it will be available on the City's website and on City of Wheaton Channel 10 after the event. Registration is required and a fee applies to attend the Chamber event.

State of the Community Forum

When: Thursday, Jan. 17, Doors open at 7 p.m.; speakers begin at 7:30 p.m.
Where: Wheaton Park District Community Center, 1777 S. Blanchard Road

The Wheaton League of Women Voters will host a public forum on the State of the Community on Thursday, Jan. 17, 2013, at the Wheaton Park District Community Center. The doors will open at 7 p.m. followed by the speakers at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Gresk and representatives from the Community Unit School District 200 Board and the



Wheaton Park District Board will give presentations, followed by a question and answer session.

New Name for Garbage Hauler; Contract Extended

*Stickers, service
remain unchanged*

You may notice a change with Wheaton's garbage and recycling hauler. In November, Advanced Disposal Services took ownership and operations of Veolia's waste business, so Wheaton residents are now served by Advanced Disposal.

However, not much will change for you. Your delivery day will remain the same, and you will continue to use the same stickers and recycling carts. The only difference will be logo changes on invoices (if you receive monthly cart service for garbage and are billed with an invoice), trucks, uniforms and communications from the company.

The City Council voted to extend the current contract with Advanced Disposal (formerly Veolia) for a three-year period. The City previously signed a five-year contract with Veolia beginning July 1, 2008 that was set to expire in June 2013. Advanced Disposal/Veolia offered a three-year contract extension with no sticker price



Your garbage day, procedures for placing garbage and recycling at the curb, and stickers remain the same as before Advanced Disposal Services took over Veolia's waste business.

increase in the first year of the contract (July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014), and a 2% increase in sticker prices for the following two years. The Council chose to extend the contract because of Veolia's performance as the City's waste hauler, and in past years, going out to bid for a new contract has resulted in significant increases in sticker rates for residents.

Once the contract extension begins in July 2013, Advanced Disposal will begin offering curb side pickup of electronic waste (such as computers and televisions) for one sticker per item. Also, items considered "white goods" – appliances containing hazardous components, such as refrigerators, hot water heaters, microwaves and humidifiers – will only require one sticker per item, instead of three stickers.



Starting in July, Wheaton residents will be able to place electronics like computers at the curb for pickup for one garbage sticker per item.



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 for a complete list of meetings and events.

City Calendar

January 2013

- 1 City offices closed; No garbage pickup
- 7 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 12 Coffee with Council, 10 a.m.
- 14 City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 22 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 28 City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.