

January 2014

## City Notes

### **Tax Levy Decreased**

For the fourth consecutive year, the City of Wheaton decreased its annual property tax levy. On Dec. 16, 2013, the Council approved the annual 2013 tax levy in the amount of \$18,850,357, which is a decrease of \$100,000 (or 0.5%) from the previous year's levy.

While the amount homeowners will be taxed depends upon the property's assessment, most owners will not see much of a change in the City's portion of their property tax bill compared to last year.

### **No Garbage Pickup**

There will be no garbage/recycling pickup on Wednesday, Jan. 1. Pickup will be delayed one day Jan. 1-3.

City offices will be closed on Jan. 1.

### **Light Recycling**

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



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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](mailto:feedback@wheaton.il.us)

## Watch for Community Survey

*Residents randomly chosen to take survey; anyone can take online survey*

**L**ook carefully through your mail in the coming weeks. Amid the belated holiday greeting cards, advertisements and bills, you might be one of approximately 2,000 Wheaton households receiving a community survey.

The City has contracted with the ETC Institute to conduct a survey of randomly chosen households. The statistically valid survey covers a broad range of topics and City services, ranging from public safety, infrastruc-



**A confidential survey seeking residents' input on a variety of topics and City services will be mailed out in coming weeks.**

ture and public outreach to garbage service and perceptions of the city.

If you are part of the representative sample of the  
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## Important Snow Reminders

**W**ith winter upon us, the City has a few reminders that pertain to snow.

When clearing snow from your own sidewalks or driveway, the City asks that you keep a few things in mind. Wheaton's Fire Department asks for your help to keep the

area around fire hydrants accessible to firefighters in the event of an emergency. If you use a professional snow removal company, please instruct them not to pile snow near fire hydrants.

You can also help keep Wheaton safe for children

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# City Notes

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Wheaton is again partnering with Elgin Recycling ([www.elginrecycling.com](http://www.elginrecycling.com)) for this free program.

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. The Public Works Department will accept lights for recycling through Feb. 10, 2014.

The lights will be collected and then stripped and recycled for their copper and plastic parts. No materials will be shipped overseas.

The City welcomes residents, businesses, schools and other organizations to participate in the program. There is no limit as to how many lights you can drop off for recycling.

## Business News

New Wheaton business:  
• **PampleMousse Bakery,**



**The City's waste hauler will collect Christmas trees for recycling Jan. 6-17 on your garbage day.**

118 N. Main St.: French-inspired bakery  
• **River City Roasters**, 114 N. Main St.: Superior micro-roasted coffee

## Christmas Tree Recycling

Wheaton's garbage and recycling hauler will collect Christmas trees for curbside recycling the first two full weeks in January (Jan. 6-17) without a sticker.

Remove all decorations, including tinsel or garland, and place your tree at the curb on your regular garbage pickup day. Please do not place your tree in a bag.

After the two-week collection period, Christmas trees will require one yard waste sticker affixed to it to be collected.

## Commission News

The City Council approved the reappointment of Tracy Jones to the Downtown Design Review Board for three years and the reappointment of Stephanie McGrath to the Historic Commission for three years.

# Survey

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community that receives a survey, your participation will help guide the City Council's future decisions and identify areas where the City can make improvements.

Residents who receive a survey in the mail can participate in one of two ways:

1) fill out the paper survey and mail it back to ETC Institute using the postage-paid envelope provided, or

2) use the online access code included with the paper survey to fill it out online. The survey takes about 15 minutes to complete.

Some residents may receive a telephone call from ETC Institute reminding them to complete the survey. Individual results remain completely confidential, and the City of Wheaton will not be informed which residents received or completed surveys.

If you do not receive a survey, you can still weigh in. An identical version of the survey

## What if I Don't Receive a Survey?

If you don't receive a survey in the mail, **you can participate online.** The City will post a link to the survey on its website, [www.wheaton.il.us](http://www.wheaton.il.us) and will send it to [Email Updates subscribers](#).

will be available online. While the responses from this survey will be kept separate from the randomly chosen survey participants, the City encourages you to fill out the online survey so it can gain as much feedback as possible from the community.

The City appreciates your participation, as the results of this survey will help the City quantify the level of satisfaction residents have with police, fire and public works services, communication with residents and more.

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

# Snow

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walking to school and other pedestrians by shoveling the sidewalk near your property, which is especially important near intersections where pedestrians need to cross. Help make Wheaton a pedestrian-friendly community by clearing snow from sidewalks in front of your property, and consider assisting neighbors who may have trouble keeping their own sidewalks clear.

In addition, please note that placing snow in the street violates City Code. When you shovel or blow snow with a snowblower into the street, it not only hinders the efforts



## Watch the Video

Learn about the City's Snow Command Center operations in a new video, "[Clearing the Way with Wheaton's Snow Command](#)".

of City crews who are trying to keep roadways clear, it also creates a safety hazard for other drivers.

To learn about the City's Snow Command Center operations, you can watch a new video, "[Clearing the Way with Wheaton's Snow Command](#)". It is available online and on City of Wheaton Channel 10.



**The ideas suggested in the Downtown Plan include creating a more permanent structure for the French Market.**

## Downtown Plan Public Hearing is on Jan. 27

The City Council will be conducting a public hearing on Monday, Jan. 27 on the strategic plan and streetscape plan for Downtown Wheaton. This will take place during the City Council's Planning Session at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 303 W. Wesley St.

To accomplish the City Council's goal of enhancing economic development in the downtown area, the City contracted with planning/urban design consultant Design Workshop to create a strategic plan and streetscape plan.

The plan aims to:

- Establish a vision for Downtown
  - Outline strategies and policies that the City and the private sector can pursue to implement the ideas set forth in the plan
  - Outline a streetscape plan for the Downtown that matches the vision, and
  - Elevate the success of the district.

At the Jan. 27 meeting, Design Workshop will present the plan to the Council and solicit final public feedback.

The plan is available for review online at [www.wheaton.il.us/downtownplan](http://www.wheaton.il.us/downtownplan).

## Survey in January Water Bill on Cross Connection Control

*Complete survey if you have lawn irrigation or fire sprinkler system*

Along with your January water bill from the City of Wheaton, you will find a Cross Connection Control Survey. If you have a lawn irrigation system, a fire sprinkler system, swimming pool, boiler or other item directly connected to the City's water system that requires a backflow prevention device, this survey applies to you.

Cross connections within the public water system are a serious concern, as they can allow contaminants or pollutants to enter the public water system through backflow.

Every two years, the Water Division is required by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to conduct

### Electronic Recycling

**When:** Saturday, Jan. 11, 9

a.m.-noon

**Where:** Wheaton Public

Works Storage Facility, [820 W. Liberty Drive](http://820WLibertyDrive)

Drop off your unwanted electronics for recycling during the City's monthly collection event. Electronics such as TVs, computers, printers and small household appliances such as toasters and hair dryers are accepted.

Wheaton residents can also bring fluorescent bulbs for safe disposal (no businesses, please). Bulbs accepted include T-12, T-8 and T-5 fluorescent bulbs; aquarium tubes; under-counter fluorescent tubes. Please do not tape fluorescent tubes together. CFLS and household batteries are not accepted.

The City also will be collecting cooking oil for recycling into bio-fuel. This program helps keep cooking oil out of sewer pipes, where it can stick and cause costly clogs and breaks. 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.

### State of the City Address

**When:** Thursday, Jan. 16,

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 online 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 Communities

**When:** Thursday, Jan. 16, 7

p.m. networking, 7:30 event

**Where:** Wheaton Park District Community Center, [1777 S. Blanchard Road](http://1777SBlanchardRoad)

The Wheaton League of Women Voters will host an event with leaders from Wheaton and nearby communities discussing issues common to all. The event is open to the public and will be recorded for showing on CWC10 after the event.

# Coyote Attacks Reported to Police Department

## *Fences don't guarantee your pet's safety*

The Wheaton Police Department has received recent reports of coyote attacks on small dogs.

On Dec. 10, Wheaton Police received a report that two coyotes took a dog from outside a residence in the 1100 block of South Marcy Avenue.

On Dec. 8, Wheaton Police responded to a report that a coyote attacked a small dog in a fenced yard near North Pierce Avenue and West Liberty Drive. The dog suffered extensive injuries, requiring it to be put down.

On Nov. 27, a resident in the 1700 block of Sjorgren Court was outside with two dogs, one of which was on a leash, when a coyote quickly approached and took the unleashed small dog. A Wheaton Police officer observed the coyote leaving the area with the dog.

Fences do not guarantee your pet's safety. Always attend to small pets outdoors, and keep them on a leash whenever possible.

Coyotes are often more visible this time of year as food becomes more scarce



its direction. Acting aggressively adds to the coyotes' natural fear of humans.

If you see a coyote acting in a threatening manner, call 9-1-1. Police officers will respond.

NEVER feed a coyote. Take steps to ensure that you are not providing them with a source of food, such as pet food stored outside or unsecured trash. Section 14-102 of the Wheaton City Code prohibits the feeding of coyotes.

For more information about coyotes, [see the City's website](#). You can report coyote sightings or incidents by [using this online report form](#).

## Water Bill Increase Will Begin on January 1 in Wheaton

To support infrastructure improvements and to offset the increase in the amount the City of Chicago and the DuPage Water Commission will be charging Wheaton for water, Wheaton's water rate increases on Jan. 1, 2014. The rate the DuPage Water Commission charges Wheaton for water increases 18% on Jan. 1, 2014.

The water use rate will increase from \$3.81 per 100 cubic feet to \$4.49 per 100 cubic feet on Jan. 1. While the service fee differs based on meter size, the fee for most Wheaton customers

will increase from \$5.86 to \$9.38 per month. The specific increases for each water meter size are reflected in the tables below.

Nearly 90% of Wheaton

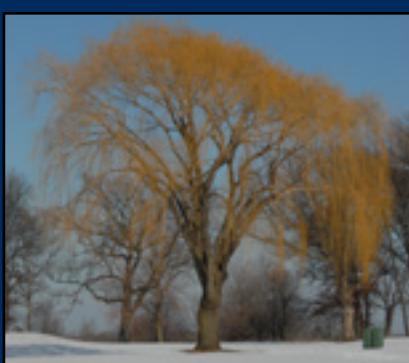
customers fall into the first three meter sizes (5/8-inch, 5/8-inch by 3/4-inch, and 3/4-inch). The typical user's bill, with a 3/4" meter and 600 cubic feet of usage, would increase

from \$28.73 to \$36.32 per month.

For more information about water billing changes, see the City's website at [www.wheaton.il.us/waterbill](http://www.wheaton.il.us/waterbill).

| 2013 Water rates and fees  |                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Rate per 100 c.f. - \$3.81 |                     |
| Meter Size                 | Monthly Service Fee |
| 5/8"                       | \$5.86              |
| 5/8" x 3/4"                | \$5.86              |
| 3/4"                       | \$5.86              |
| 1"                         | \$11.72             |
| 1 1/4"                     | \$23.44             |
| 2"                         | \$37.51             |
| 3"                         | \$70.33             |
| 4"                         | \$117.22            |
| 6"                         | \$234.44            |

| 2014 Water rates and fees  |                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Rate per 100 c.f. - \$4.49 |                     |
| Meter Size                 | Monthly Service Fee |
| 5/8"                       | \$9.38              |
| 5/8" x 3/4"                | \$9.38              |
| 3/4"                       | \$9.38              |
| 1"                         | \$18.76             |
| 1 1/4"                     | \$37.53             |
| 2"                         | \$60.05             |
| 3"                         | \$112.59            |
| 4"                         | \$187.65            |
| 6"                         | \$375.30            |



## 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.

### January 2014

- 1 City offices closed; no trash pickup
- 4 Coffee with Council
- 6 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 13 City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 21 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 27 City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.