

January 2015

## City Notes

### Christmas Tree Recycling

Live Christmas trees will be collected as part of curbside recycling the first two full weeks in January (Jan. 5-16, 2015), with no sticker required.

Simply follow these tips to ensure your tree will be picked up during the two-week free collection period:

- Remove all decorations, including tinsel, garland, lights and ornaments.

- Do not place your tree in a bag

- Place your tree at the curb the evening before or the morning of your normal garbage pickup day.

After Jan. 16, you will need to attach one blue yard waste/garbage sticker to your tree for it to be picked up.

### Garbage Holiday

There will be no garbage pickup on Thursday, Jan. 1, 2015. Thursday and Friday garbage routes will be one day later during this week.

### City Offices Closed

City of Wheaton offices will be closed on Thursday, Jan. 1.

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## City Needs Your Feedback for Upcoming Website Redesign

The City's website, [www.wheaton.il.us](http://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, the City is beginning the process of re-designing the website.

### Please Take This Survey

How can Wheaton's new website better meet your needs? Take the survey at: [www.wheaton.il.us/survey](http://www.wheaton.il.us/survey)



For the new website to meet your needs, the City would like your help in identifying what you would like to see on the new site. How can the site be improved? What type of information or features should the City in-

clude or not include on the new site? Please take a moment to [share your feedback through this online survey](http://www.wheaton.il.us/survey) collecting information about your experience using the City's website and ideas for improvement.

## City Thanks Outgoing Councilwoman

*Evelyn Pacino Sanguinetti elected Illinois Lieutenant Governor*

During the Dec. 15 Wheaton City Council meeting, the Council presented a plaque of appreciation to Evelyn Pacino Sanguinetti, who resigned from her position as Councilwoman At-Large to become Lieutenant Governor of Illinois. She will be sworn into office as Lieutenant Governor

this month.

Pacino Sanguinetti has served as a Wheaton City Councilwoman since she was elected to the Council in 2011. Her term was due to expire in May 2015.

The Council thanked Pacino Sanguinetti for her service to the community and wished her well in her new role.



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)

# City Notes

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## Change to Council Planning Sessions

In addition to providing input at the Wheaton City Council's regularly scheduled City Council Meetings, individuals also can now provide input at City Council Planning Sessions. These workshop-style sessions allow the Wheaton City Council to discuss pending issues, but the Council takes no formal action during the sessions.

Public comment is welcome during formal City Council Meetings, which are typically held on the first and third Monday of each month. City Council Planning Sessions typically take place on the second and fourth Mondays of each month in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 303 W. Wesley. Agendas outlining the Council's discussion topics are posted on the City's website prior to each meeting.

The community is also welcome to discuss City matters at Coffee with Council, an informal gathering in the Gamon Room of City Hall on the first Saturday morning of most months.

To confirm meeting dates, see the calendar on the City's website at [www.wheaton.il.us/calendar](http://www.wheaton.il.us/calendar).

## Prevent Frozen Pipes

Do you know how to prevent water pipes in your home from freezing or how to thaw them if they do freeze? With cold winter weather approaching, a few valuable tips can save you the hassle of dealing with

frozen pipes. Make sure to insulate pipes in unheated areas or against outside walls and seal any leaks that may let cold air in. Keep your garage door closed if your water meter is located in that area. Disconnect your garden hose and shut off the water supply to outside faucets.

If the temperature gets extremely cold, open cabinet doors under sinks to allow heat to get to pipes and let a faucet drip at a trickle if possible. Questions may be directed to the City of Wheaton Water Division at 630-260-2090.

## No Electronic Recycling Drop-Off

Please note that the City no longer accepts electronics for recycling at the Public Works Storage Yard. However, the City's waste hauler will recycle electronics curbside on your garbage day as long as you call 630-587-8282 to arrange a pickup at least one day before your normal garbage day and you affix one large garbage sticker per item (or bundle smaller items together, up to four items per sticker).

A number of other retailers, recycling facilities and nonprofit organizations also accept electronics for recycling. [See the City's website for more information.](#)

## Commission News

Dottie Mackie was reappointed to the Band Commission and Bill Balis was appointed to the Community Relations Commission, both for three-year terms.

# Water Bill Increase Begins

*Increase offsets water costs, infrastructure*

To support infrastructure improvements and to offset the increase in the amount the City of Chicago and the DuPage Water Commission will charge Wheaton for water, Wheaton's water rate increases on Jan. 1, 2015. The rate the DuPage Water Commission charges Wheaton for water increases 17% on Jan. 1, 2015.

The water use rate will increase from \$4.49 per 100 cubic feet to \$5.05 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 \$9.38 per month to \$13.59 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 \$36.32 per month to \$43.89.

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

### 2015 Water rates and fees

Rate per 100 c.f. - \$5.05

Meter Size	Monthly Service Fee
5/8"	\$13.59
5/8" x 3/4"	\$13.59
3/4"	\$13.59
1"	\$27.18
1 1/2"	\$54.35
2"	\$86.96
3"	\$163.06
4"	\$271.76
6"	\$543.53

### 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 1/2"	\$37.53
2"	\$60.05
3"	\$112.59
4"	\$187.65
6"	\$375.30



# Senior Housing Program Accepting Applications

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 mini-

mum 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](mailto:LQualkenbush@wheaton.il.us).



## 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, winter fruits and vegetables, specialty foods, gifts and more during the indoor French Market. For more information, email [bensidoun@yahoo.com](mailto:bensidoun@yahoo.com).

### Chicago Cossacks

**Date:** Sunday, Jan. 11

**Time:** 2 p.m.

**Location:** Wheaton Public Library, [225 N. Cross St.](#)  
Join the Chicago Cossacks

for Russian, Ukrainian and Russian Gypsy traditional songs, dances and tunes. Complete with traditional costumes and instruments. Pick up your free tickets at the Checkout Desk or call 630-868-7510 to reserve tickets. This program is part of the Sunday Sampler concert series sponsored by the Friends of the Wheaton Public Library.

### Music and Memory

**Date:** Wednesday, Jan. 14

**Time:** 7 p.m.

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

Wheaton author Margaret Philbrick will discuss how music affects memory,

especially in relation to Alzheimer's disease and dementia, and how it served as the foundation for her novel, "A Minor: A Novel of Love, Music & Memory." No registration required. [More information](#)

### State of the City Address

**Date:** Thursday, Jan. 15

**Time:** 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Location:** [Arrowhead Golf Club](#)

Mayor Gresk will present his State of the City Address during 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 (CWC10) after the event. Registration is required to attend the event, and a fee applies.

### "Wheat Belly": Review and Discussion

**Date:** Thursday, Jan. 22

**Time:** 7 p.m.

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

Find out why wheat is suddenly the bad guy in the

modern American diet, what gluten really is, and how science proves that wheat is the single largest contributor to our nation-wide obesity epidemic. Register online at [www.wheatonlibrary.org/calendar](http://www.wheatonlibrary.org/calendar) or call 630-868-7520.

### The Sandwich Generation: Balancing Aging Parents & Busy Families

**Date:** Thursday, January 29

**Time:** 7 p.m.

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

How do you balance work and your own family while trying to address the needs of your aging parents? Attorney John Pankau and an expert panel will discuss the phenomenon known as the "Sandwich Generation." Learn what options are available to address present and future needs. The Senior Resource Alliance of Chicagoland is a panel of experts in the areas of finance, estate planning, housing and health care options. Register online at [www.wheatonlibrary.org/calendar](http://www.wheatonlibrary.org/calendar) or call 630-868-7520.

# Video Gives Tips for Saving Energy

By now, many Wheaton residents have already received “smart meters,” which are the new digital electric meters replacing ComEd’s analog electric meters throughout the Chicago area. Switching from an analog meter to a digital meter has a number of advantages for consumers, including the ability to receive information about your hourly energy use and enroll in programs that can save you money on your electric bill.

Watch a new video with Liz Lyon, a representative from Elevate Energy, a

Chicago-based nonprofit organization that aims to help residents learn about energy efficiency, lower their energy costs and connect them with programs that help protect the environment. Elevate Energy receives state and federal funding to support its programs and educational efforts.

By default, residents currently pay a fixed rate per kilowatt-hour for the amount of energy they use. With smart meters, residents will have the ability to enroll in dynamic pricing programs with pricing that changes throughout



**Watch the Video**

“Smart Energy Tips” is available on the City’s website and on CWC10.

the day based on the market price of energy at a given time. People who are enrolled in one of the dynamic pricing programs can save money by timing their higher energy-using activities – such as running a dishwasher, washing machine or dryer – to coincide with when energy prices

are lower – such as at night or in the early morning hours.

In the video, Lyon also explains the advantages of improvements being made to the utility’s infrastructure, commonly referred to as the “smart grid.” Advances in technology will allow the new system to receive information about outages automatically, without the need for residents to call and notify the utility company of an outage.

You can [watch this video on the City’s website](#) or on [City of Wheaton Channel 10 \(CWC10\)](#).

## Tax Levy Decreased

For the fifth consecutive year, the City of Wheaton decreased its annual property tax levy. On Dec. 15, 2014, the Council approved the annual 2014 tax levy in the amount of \$18,643,957, which is a decrease of approximately \$400,000 (or 2.1%) 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.

## Program Allows Residents to Recycle Cooking Oil and Fluorescent Tubes

Some common household items can cause some major problems if you toss them in the trash or pour them down your drains.

When you pour cooking oil down the drain, it sticks to sewer pipes, potentially causing costly clogs and breaks. Grease can even interfere with water treatment at sanitary facilities.

Fluorescent tube bulbs can cause dangerous problems. When tossed in the trash, they release mercury vapor into the air, which is a highly toxic substance that

can affect the human nervous system and harm the brain, heart, kidneys, lungs and immune system.

Instead of pouring cooking oil down the drain or including fluorescent tubes with your garbage, bring them to the City’s Public Works Building, 821 W. Liberty Drive, on the second Saturday of each month between 9 a.m. and noon. Cooking oil is collected and recycled into bio-fuel. Bring your cooking oil or bacon grease in a milk jug, bucket or container. Motor oil is not accepted.

Fluorescent tubes are safely recycled using a machine called the Bulb Eater Lamp Crusher. This machine uses vacuum force to draw in the tube into an air-tight container that simultaneously crushes the bulb and captures the mercury vapor. Currently, the fluorescent tube program is for Wheaton residents, not for businesses. The types of bulbs accepted include T-12, T-8 and T-5 fluorescent tubes, aquarium tubes and under-counter fluorescent tubes. CFL bulbs cannot be accepted.



## 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 2015

- 1** City offices closed; No garbage pickup
- 3** Coffee with Council, 10 a.m.
- 5** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 12** City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 20** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 26** City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.