

January 2016

## City Notes

### No Garbage Pickup Jan. 1

There will be no garbage/recycling pickup on Friday, Jan. 1, 2016. If your normal garbage pickup day is Friday, your pickup will be on Saturday, Jan. 2.

### Parkway Ash Tree Stump Grinding

Crews contracted by the City will continue grinding parkway ash tree stumps as long as weather allows. Of the original 6,500 parkway ash tree sites, approximately 140 sites remain, requiring either stump grinding and/or landscape restoration work.

Because the restoration work is weather-dependent and dependent on the availability of topsoil, crews will return to finish this project in the late spring and early summer. The City appreciates your patience as this large-scale project nears completion.

### Recycle Unwanted Holiday Lights

Bring strands of incandescent or LED lights and extension cords in any condition

*(Continued on next page)*

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

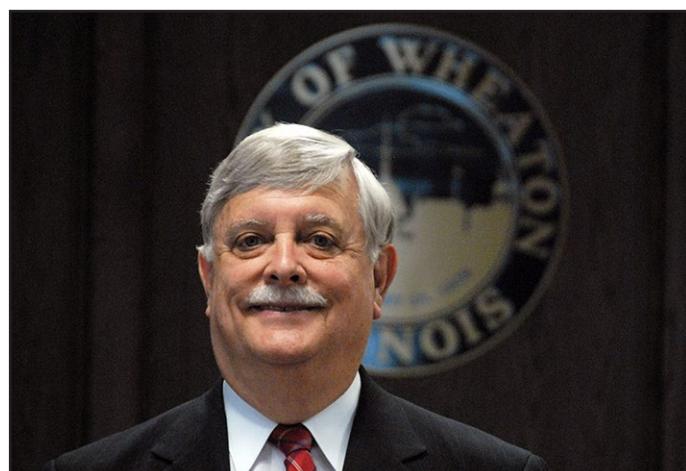
# City Manager Retiring after 41 Years of Service

*Rose has been City Manager 35 years*

**D**onald Rose, who has served as Wheaton's City Manager since 1980, announced that he will retire on April 30, 2016.

Rose began working for Wheaton in May 1974 when he was hired by then-City Manager William Kirchhoff as the Assistant to the City Manager.

Over the next six years, Rose also served as Assistant City Manager and Deputy City Manager. Rose was appointed Wheaton City Manager on Nov. 1, 1980, following the resignation of Kirchhoff, who became the City Manager in Lakewood,



Colorado.

At the Dec. 21, 2015 meeting, the Wheaton City Council approved an employment agreement appointing Assistant City Manager Michael Dzugan to the position of City Manager

effective May 1, 2016. Dzugan has been Wheaton's Assistant City Manager for the past 24 years.

Before coming to Wheaton, Dzugan was the Assistant City Manager in Crystal Lake, Illinois.

## Recycle Your Christmas Tree Jan. 4-15

**T**he City's waste hauler will collect and recycle Christmas trees for free on your normal garbage day during the first two full weeks in January (Jan. 4-15, 2016). You do not need a

garbage/yard waste sticker during these two weeks.

Remove all decorations, – including lights, tinsel, ornaments and garland – and place your tree at the curb on your regular garbage

pickup day. Please do not place your tree in a bag.

If you miss the two-week collection period, you will need to put the tree at the curb with one garbage/yard waste sticker.

### 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)

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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 on the south side of Liberty Drive. The Public Works Department will accept lights for recycling through Feb. 12.

[Elgin Recycling](#) will collect the lights, which will then be stripped and recycled for their copper and plastic parts. No materials will be shipped overseas.

## Business News

• **New location:** Luong Loi Restaurant, 111 N. Main St. Family-owned and operated specializing in traditional Vietnamese and Chinese cuisine.

• **New Business:** Escape for Fun, 314 S. Main St. Medieval-themed activity venue where participants must solve puzzles and riddles to escape the "locked-in" room.

## Commission News

The Wheaton City Council appointed Hanna Self, Arian Schattke and Christine Richardson to three-year terms on the Environmental Improvement Commission; appointed Scott Weller to become Chair of the Planning & Zoning Board; appointed Ron Almiron for a five-year term on the Planning & Zoning Board; reappointed Sarah Antas to a three-year term on the Fine & Cultural Arts Commission; and reappointed Paula Barrington to a three-year term on the Wheaton Downtown Design Board.

# City Passes Annual Tax Levy

*Levy provides increase in anticipation of likely State actions*

**A**t the Dec. 21, 2015 Wheaton City Council meeting, the annual tax levy was approved in the amount of \$19,581,241, which is an increase of 4 percent from the prior year tax levy. The City had not increased the annual tax levy since 2009. The levy provides increases in General Fund revenues in anticipation of likely State budgetary actions.

The State has proposed freezing the property tax levy for municipalities and/or reducing income tax

### Impact on Property Owners

A homeowner whose property has an assessed value of \$350,000 could see an increase of \$47.95 in the City's portion of their tax bill with this levy, if the property's assessed value does not change from 2014 to 2015.

distributions to municipalities. Either of these actions would negatively affect the City's revenues.

If a property's assessed value does not change from 2014 to 2015, a homeowner whose property has an assessed value of \$350,000 could see an increase of

\$47.95 in the City's portion of their tax bill with this levy.

The City's adopted tax levy includes the ability for the City to abate the tax levy at a later date if the State takes no actions that negatively affect the City's finances.



## Video Covers Winter Weather Preparedness

**S**now. Sleet. Ice. Sub-zero temperatures. Black ice. It's that time of year. Are you ready?

With all of the weather-related challenges that winter can bring to this region, [a new video](#) aims to help you prepare for winter weather and the hazards it creates.

Paul Sirvatka, Professor of Meteorology at College of DuPage, talks about the technology used to track winter weather; what the differences are between winter weather advisories, watches

and warnings; and at what point temperatures become dangerously cold. Sirvatka tells about what resources the College of DuPage weather lab provides for local communities and where you can see their weather models and predictions. He also shares information on interesting winter weather phenomena, such as "sun dogs" and "thundersnow."

Also, hear from Sabit Abbasi of the DuPage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Manage-



### Watch the Video

["Be Prepared for Winter Weather"](#) is available on the City's website.

ment. He shares tips on how to prepare your vehicle, your home and yourself for any winter weather you might come across this season.

[This video is available on the City's website](#) and on City of Wheaton Channel 10 (CWC10).

# Check Out New Online Water/Sewer Billing System

## *City switches from ePay to Wheaton Online Bill Pay*

**O**n Jan. 1, 2016, the City switched from ePay to a new online water/sewer bill payment system, Wheaton Online Bill Pay. There are a few things you should know to ensure that you can successfully pay your bill online.

Wheaton Online Bill Pay is the first in a group of online tools the City is rolling out. You are not required to pay online; if you would rather pay by check, you can still mail or drop off your payment at City Hall, 303 W. Wesley St.

### **What you should know about the switch:**

- If you currently receive your bill by email, you received two emails for your December bill. One is from the current ePay system, and the other is a test email from the new system. Both contain the same information.

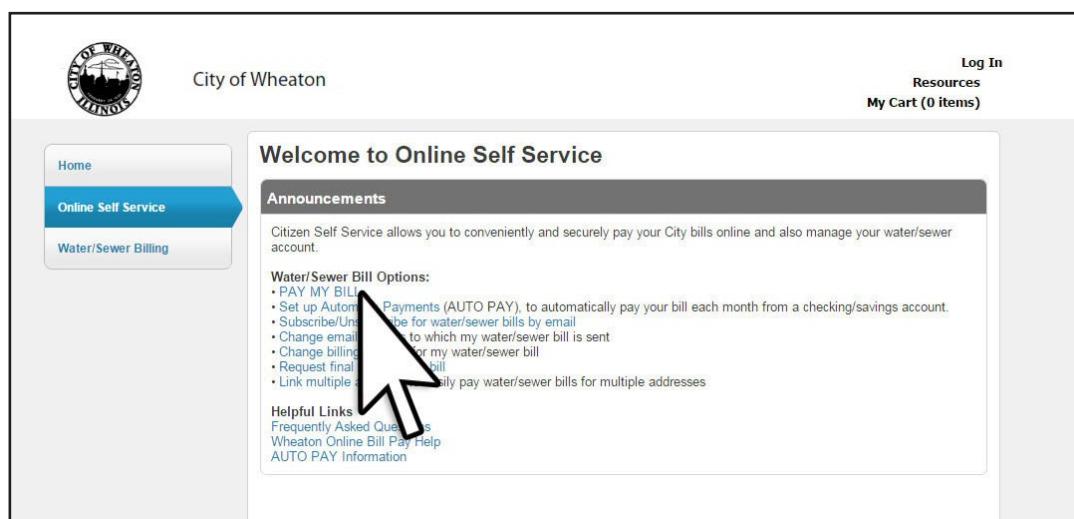
- If you are enrolled in AUTO PAY, your bill payments will continue to be automatically withdrawn from the checking or savings account you have previously authorized. AUTO PAY is a program in which your water/sewer bill is deducted automatically each month from a checking or savings account (without you needing to go online and authorize a payment each month).

- If you bookmarked a link to the ePay billing website, this link no longer works. You can access the new online bill payment service at [www.wheaton.il.us/billpay](http://www.wheaton.il.us/billpay).



## **How Do I Pay My Bill Online?**

1. Have your paper or email bill handy so you can find your Account Number and Customer ID.
2. Go to the City's website, [www.wheaton.il.us](http://www.wheaton.il.us).
3. Click on "Wheaton Online Bill Pay," which is the button near the bottom of the home page.
4. Select "PAY MY BILL" to pay your current bill, (or select "Set up Automatic Payments" to enroll in AUTO PAY).



## **Options for Paying Your Bill Online:**

There are two options for paying your water/sewer bill online with the new system:

1. Access Wheaton Online Bill Pay [on the City's website](http://www.wheaton.il.us) and manually pay your water/sewer bills each month using a credit card or debit card. You will need to have your Account Number and Customer ID (which is the same as Customer Number), which are displayed on your bill.
2. Set up Automatic Payments (AUTO PAY) to have your utility bill payment deducted each month from a checking or savings account. To set up AUTO PAY, you will need to know your Account Number and Customer ID as well as bank account information. AUTO PAY may take up to two billing cycles to become active. You will know that automatic payments are scheduled to begin when your monthly bill indicates "AUTO PAID" on your payment stub. If you are already using AUTO PAY, you do not need to enroll in this option again.

# Upcoming Events

## "I Love Wheaton" Photography Contest

**Date:** Through Jan. 15  
**Location:** Wheaton Public Library, <225 N. Cross St.>

Show off your talent and love for your city by submitting a photo of anything within Wheaton. Drop off your photograph on 8-by-10-inch glossy paper to the Wheaton Public Library's second floor Reference Desk by Jan. 15. Winners will be chosen by a panel of community leaders and will be displayed on the library's new gallery wall during the month of February. This contest is open to Wheaton Public Library cardholders only, but all ages are welcome. One entry per person, please.

## Winter (Indoor) French Market

**Dates:** Saturdays through March 26, 2016  
**Times:** 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
**Location:** Downtown Wheaton train station, <402 W. Front St.>

The popular Wheaton French Market has moved indoors for the winter. You can find many of the same vendors with various specialty foods, baked goods, home decor, gifts and more. For more information, contact Bensidoun USA at 312-575-0294 or [ccbcecs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ccbcecs@sbcglobal.net).

## Electronic Recycling

**Date:** Saturday, Jan. 9  
**Time:** 9 a.m.-noon  
**Location:** Public Works Storage Yard, <820 W. Liberty Drive> (near the Police Station)

Bring unwanted electron-

ics, including nearly anything with a cord, to the monthly electronic recycling collection. Please note: These collections are currently unable to accept CRT (large tube) televisions, projection-screen televisions and console televisions.

Also accepted are scrap metal, household batteries, cooking oil and fluorescent tube bulbs. This is a drive-through event where volunteers will help unload items from your car. Memory will be destroyed from devices, and electronics will be recycled. [More information](#)

## State of the City Address

**Date:** Thursday, Jan. 21  
**Time:** 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.  
**Location:** [Cantigny Park's Le Jardin Restaurant](#)

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.

## Sunday Concert: Dave Rudolf & the British Invasion

**Date:** Sunday, Jan. 24  
**Time:** 2 p.m.  
**Location:** Wheaton Public Library, <225 N. Cross St.>

Join Dave Rudolf and friends as they take you back to the days of the British Invasion. Enjoy hits by The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, The Kinks, and more. Pick up free tickets at the Checkout Desk or call 630-868-7510 to reserve.



## Apply for City's 2016 Senior Housing Assistance Program

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 Commission is tasked with managing this program.

Residents must meet the three following requirements in order to qualify for the Wheaton Housing Assistance Program:

**1. Age:** The minimum age for acceptance into this

program is 65 years old.

**2. Residency:** The minimum length of Wheaton residency for acceptance into this program is 3 years.

**3. Income:** The maximum annual household income for acceptance into this program is \$23,500.

Senior Housing Assistance applications are now available. 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).

## Help Prevent Crimes & Accidents

The Wheaton Police Department encourages you to use these tips to help prevent accidents and crimes.

Driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs remains the No. 1 cause of fatal traffic crashes across the nation. Please use a designated driver, a cab, or public transportation if you consume anything that may impair your ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.

Always lock your home, leave a light on a timer, and

have a neighbor retrieve your mail when you will be away from home. You can complete a vacation house watch with the police department when you will be away from home for more than a few days. Officers will check your home periodically. Vacation house watch requests may be filed in-person at the police station or online at [www.wheaton.il.us/servicerequest/](http://www.wheaton.il.us/servicerequest/).

Always remove valuables from the inside of your parked car and keep the car locked, no matter where it is parked.

# Watch New “Wheaton Remembers” Video

**W**hat was Wheaton like in the 1960s? Long-time residents John Hartness, Nick Kosiara and Larry Tabor have plenty of stories to share.

For starters, the north side of Wheaton had a horse race track and a nursing home with zoo animals used for therapy. What is now Northside Park's sledding hill was a swimming pool overlooking the park that was built in the 1930s as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration projects.

In a [new edition of “Wheaton Remembers”](#), hear interesting stories about playing in “Cheese Creek,” what kids did for fun, and what it was like growing up in Wheaton



in the era of The Beatles and the assassination of JFK. This recurring television series invites longtime Wheaton residents to share their stories of growing up in Wheaton

to educate residents and preserve Wheaton's history for future generations. [This video is available on the City's website](#) and on [City of Wheaton Channel 10](#) (CWC10).



**Watch the Video**

You can watch [“Wheaton Remembers: Growing Up on the Northside in the 1960s”](#) on the City's website or on City of Wheaton Channel 10 (CWC10).

If you or someone you know are a longtime Wheaton resident and are interested in being a guest on “Wheaton Remembers,” contact Richard Sagen at 630-260-2036 or [rsagen@wheaton.il.us](mailto:rsagen@wheaton.il.us). The City seeks both individuals and small groups to participate in the series.

## Don’t Pour Cooking Oil Down the Drain; Bring it Here

**W**hether you’re deep-frying a turkey, cooking with some olive oil or have cooking oil in your cabinet that is past its prime, what you do with that cooking oil can cause costly problems.

Pouring cooking oil down your sink’s drain can cause blockages and sanitary sewer backups, potentially creating costly (and messy) sewer problems. And pouring anything down the storm drain is illegal. Even though vegetable

oil is not toxic like petroleum, pouring it down the storm drain will harm animals, plants and anything it coats.

Instead of pouring cooking oil down the drain, pour it into a container and bring it to one of the City’s monthly electronic recycling events. In addition to electronics, batteries and scrap metal, the City collects cooking oil from 9 a.m. to noon the second Saturday of each month at the Public Works Storage Yard, [820 W. Liberty Drive](#). This is a drive-

### Cooking Oil Recycling Program

- **Date:** Second Saturday of each month
- **Time:** 9 a.m.-noon
- **Location:** Public Works Storage Yard, [820 W. Liberty Drive](#)

through event, and volunteers will unload items you bring to this collection from your car.

The collected cooking oil is turned into biofuel, which is

used to fuel vehicles. The last pickup of the City’s cooking oil yielded 200 gallons, equal to 1,528 pounds of oil that is not stuck or sticking to the sides of Wheaton’s sanitary sewer pipes and causing backups.

This event collects corn oil, olive oil, peanut oil and any type of vegetable oil. Please note that this program cannot accept bacon or meat grease.

The next monthly recycling event will take place on Saturday, Jan. 9.

## 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.

### January 2016

- 1 City offices closed; no garbage pickup
- 4 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 9 Coffee with Council, 10 a.m.
- 11 City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 19 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 25 City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.