

Wheaton

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Magazine

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Building on Success
Since 1964*





The charming city of Wheaton, part of the western suburbs of the greater Chicagoland area, offers its residents and local businesses a truly distinct, unmatched community in which to reside. Home to more than 55,000 residents and 2,500 businesses, and with a locale only a short distance from the bustling city of Chicago, Wheaton is able to provide large-city conveniences with a smaller town lifestyle and close-knit neighborhoods.

Wheaton continues to be an ideal place for first time homebuyers or those simply looking to relocate a family, offering a large selection of styles and prices that are sure to suit any taste.

The area's superior medical offerings are abundant, with top-rated institutions such as Central DuPage Hospital and Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital, along with the specialized facility of SportsMed–Wheaton Orthopaedics, Wheaton Eye Clinic and various practices. Education hails as another significant aspect of life in Wheaton, with the reputable Wheaton Community School District 200 and the esteemed Wheaton College.

More than 829 acres of recreational area lies within Wheaton, coupled with an array of facilities including the Arrowhead Golf Club, Cosley Zoo, Rice Pool, the Northside Family Aquatic Center and Parks Plus Fitness Center. Residents and visitors also take in the culture of Wheaton, through art galleries, museums and annual events such as Taste of Wheaton, Go Fly a Kite, July 4th Parade and Fireworks.

Business is as diverse as it comes in Wheaton, with everything from family-owned ventures to national chain stores. Major development in the area's business districts continues, in the Danada area as well as the historic downtown center. A collection of eclectic retail shops, varied food establishments, and the popular French Market add to the city's progressive economy.

This dynamic community is second to none when it comes to comfortable, safe living with easy access to a wide range of essential resources. The opportunities for locating to Wheaton are endless for both residents and business owners, and visiting is just as wonderful. Welcome to the beautiful city of Wheaton!



Historical Perspective

A few miles west of downtown Chicago, Wheaton celebrated its 150th anniversary. This Chicago suburb's humble beginnings gave way to a rich history of development and growth. From its first-class educational institution, Wheaton College, to the many famous Americans who have called it home, Wheaton's history illustrates what strategic planning, resolve and a little luck can do.

Wheaton began when three men, Erastus Gary, Jesse Wheaton and his brother Warren, migrated to northeastern Illinois from Connecticut in the 1830s. They claimed large tracts of land in the DuPage area and were soon joined by other New Englanders looking to start new lives in what was then the western frontier of the United States. In 1849, the Wheatons made a strategic decision that would forever change their little community. The Galena and Chicago Union Railroad were planning a line through the area and the Wheatons adroitly offered to donate some of their land to the effort so that they would be close to the trade and travel route. The railroad stop was called the Wheaton stop after the brothers, thus the settlement had its name.

Soon after the railroad arrived, the people of Wheaton began a practice that still defines the city today: they started commuting. In 1859, the village was officially incorporated. Over the next 30 years the population grew steadily, due, in large part, to the easy access the train provided to surrounding communities. In 1860, the Illinois Institute, which had been founded by local Methodists, changed names and became known as Wheaton College, an educational institution which still operates today.

Wheaton became the DuPage County seat in 1867 after a very close referendum to remove the county seat from Naperville. However, the people of Naperville were reluctant to relinquish county records from their courthouse, prompting the famous "midnight raid." In this late night raid, a group of Wheaton men successfully invaded Naperville's courthouse and removed the county records. As they were being chased by Naperville citizens on

their way back to Wheaton, several of the books fell off a wagon. The Naperville men scooped them up and hid those books in Chicago for safe keeping. Unfortunately, all those volumes were lost in 1871 as the great fire burned its way through the city. Naperville refused to recognize the election that gave Wheaton the county seat and it was several years before the matter was officially settled. Today, Wheaton is proud to be the home of DuPage County government.

Throughout the next century, Wheaton grew as a commuter city, allowing people who worked in Chicago a more desirable, small-town lifestyle. In that time, Wheaton was home to several famous Americans. Comedians John and Jim Belushi both spent their young lives in Wheaton before going on to Hollywood fame. Both attended Wheaton High Schools and the nearby College of DuPage. Horror movie director-extraordinaire, Wes Craven, attended Wheaton College. His famous movie “Nightmare on Elm Street” may have been named for a street in Wheaton. Also, former professional footballer Red Grange spent his early years in Wheaton. Grange led Wheaton High School to an undefeated season his junior year, scoring 36 touchdowns in the process.

For 150 years, the city of Wheaton has stood out as a haven for its inhabitants. What began as a frontier settlement gradually evolved into a commuter’s escape from the big city. Through hard work and perseverance, Wheaton has put itself on the map. Today, it is home to over 55,000, each living a bit of the good life its founders envisioned.



Residential Living

When initially developed, The Apartments of Wheaton Center was a \$30 million development in downtown Wheaton that transformed the abandoned rail yards of the Chicago, Aurora & Elgin rail line into a new type of suburban residential environment. Defining the skyline of Wheaton, The Apartments of Wheaton Center embodied something entirely new and different: a combination of living features and amenities previously found only in the upscale downtown Chicago residential developments.

Then, much like now, Wheaton Center drew the majority of residents from the surrounding areas of Wheaton and Chicagoland. They may have been attracted to the property by the unique architecture of Dubin, Dubin & Moutoussamy, one of the most prominent architects of residential skyscrapers in the mid-20th century who became known for their buildings of grid facades and with a dense pattern of windows to celebrate the beautiful views. Their decision to create an environment that offered ‘something for everyone’ and a ‘walk-to-everything’ location was visionary.

Today’s residents are enjoying the benefits of their foresight, along with the 21st century updates that have been made as a result of an on-going multimillion dollar improvement program. The first phase of improvement program Tower One was vacated for complete renovation, inside and outside. Inside, granite and stainless steel kitchens and baths, along with wood floors, updated hardware, paint, and modern day finishes have attracted new residents and have likewise charmed current residents. Whether one is a new or an existing resident, each values being able to choose among contemporary studios, one-, and two-bedroom apartment homes, each with at least one private balcony and some with as many as three balconies, all of which are completely new.

Under the direction of leasing director Valerie Lauper, the leasing team shows visitors their choice of 30 different floor plans. “It’s not the typical residential property. Not only are floor plans offered to meet every need,

residents are able to enjoy a view that lets them wake up to the Chicago skyline, the surrounding forestry, or the charm of Wheaton's downtown. We allow them to choose a setting that's comfortable for their lifestyle; one that will make them happy to watch the sun rise or set, or a moon-filled evening sky."

Residents enjoy the updated multi-media Club Room with flat screen TVs, a pool table, luxurious leather seating, and a coffee bar. They sip complimentary Starbucks coffee as they read their mail in the Internet Café. Life is good at Wheaton Center, and the property has been given a new name — The Apartments of Wheaton Center — to reflect all that's new and improved.

Other property amenities include an indoor health club with his and her saunas, an aerobic studio with classes, a swimming pool, basketball court, tennis courts, children's play area, four parking garages and ample outside parking as well. Resident outings and social events are part of The Apartments of Wheaton Center experience. It's perfect for those who want care-free, comfortable living that allows them to take advantage of all that the prestigious western suburbs has to offer. Just across the street is the Wheaton Metra train station connecting them to downtown Chicago or to the scenic Geneva area to the west.

The 758-rental-unit development has two 20-story towers and four three-story buildings on 16 acres of landscaped grounds. Located at Carlton and Liberty, The Apartments of Wheaton Center is about 10 minutes north of the Naperville Road exit of I-88, just north of Roosevelt Road. Learn more about these renovated apartment homes at www.wheatoncenterapartments.com., by phone at 630.653.2000, or stop by for a leisurely tour.



Wheaton Park District

Herman Melville once said, “They talk of the dignity of work. The dignity is in leisure.”

If that’s the case, then Wheaton possesses great dignity in its impressive Park District, which claims as its mission “to enrich the quality of community life through a diversity of healthy leisure pursuits and heightened appreciation for our natural world.” The Wheaton Park District certainly takes leisure to heart, operating 829 acres of parks, pools and open spaces for recreational use.

According to Marketing and Fund Development Manager, Margie Wilhelmi, what makes the Wheaton Park District unique is the wide variety of special facilities it offers, encompassing outdoor fun, educational, environmental and natural programs, and even Illinois history and arts activities.

High on the list is the Cosley Zoo, an educational opportunity for visitors to get up close and personal with wildlife and domestic animals native to Illinois. The nationally accredited zoo provides numerous educational programs for school groups, as well as summer camps. The Wheaton Park District earned high praise for the community event “A Day at the Races,” a program developed to increase community involvement, as well as raise funds for the zoo. “It was a fun program, and it was recognized by the Illinois Parks and Recreation Association as an outstanding program in 2008,” says Wilhelmi.

The Lincoln Marsh Natural Area offers programs such as environmental awareness and team-building activities. A staff of facilitators are available to guide groups through the courses, one of which includes high ropes. In addition, Lincoln Marsh presents many natural and environmental education programs and summer camps, offering a 146-acre natural break from urban life.

The Park District also operates two swimming pool facilities: Rice Pool and Water Park on the south side of town, and Northside Family Aquatic Center on the north. Both boast impressive records, with lifeguards at both facilities receiving the “Elite” National Aquatic Safety Award for the last 14 years. In addition, Rice Pool and Water Park has received the Illinois Park and Recreation Association’s Outstanding Facility Award.

The Clocktower Commons offers The Rail, a 12,000-square-foot skate park equipped with areas for beginner and advanced skateboarders. There’s also the Prairie Path Mini Golf Course, an 18-hole course with a water feature, a putting green and 10 ADA-accessible holes. One of the more unique facilities offered is the Arrowhead Golf Club, providing an elegant private club atmosphere with new restaurant, bar, a banquet facility, meeting and dining rooms, Pro Shop, a cross-country ski center, all completely open to the public.

Along with the physical activities offered, Wilhelmi cites a large number of adult education programs, a roster that is constantly expanding in response to public. The newest courses offer financial and retirement planning, along with exercise and travel programs geared toward adults. That includes older adults, and the Memorial Park Leisure Center provides plenty of activities and programs for that group as well.

The creative arts, including theater, is another element of the overall plan, according to Wilhelmi. “Our Performances are organized in-house. The cast varies, often including children as well as adults, and it takes place at the Community Center auditorium.” In addition, the Center offers lessons for guitar, violin, drums and a variety of rhythm instruments. A pottery studio offers classes and a setting for parties for all ages.

Perhaps one of the most unusual innovations is the recent intergovernmental agreement for it to operate the DuPage County Historical Museum in downtown Wheaton. There is a new curator and educator on staff with plans for new programs and exhibits. In addition, the Park District offices have moved into the museum, successfully blending the two entities.

As a result of its commitment to the complete spectrum of leisure activities, the Wheaton Park District has four times been awarded the National Gold Medal for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management by the National Park & Recreation Association, as well as that organization’s Excellence in Aquatics Award. Other national recognition includes the Daniel Flaherty Award and the U.S. Department of Interior Innovation Award earned for the Lincoln Marsh Wetlands Project. Within State of Illinois, the Wheaton Park District has received the Illinois Park and Recreation Association’s Distinguished Agency Award, along with the aforementioned Outstanding Facility Award for Rice Pool and Water Park. For more information about these great facilities and programs, visit www.wheatonparkdistrict.com

Wilhelmi is justifiably proud of the Park District’s high profile in the area. “The Wheaton Park District definitely stands apart from the basic—what a park district is all about. It’s a team effort, with people who have a passion for bringing recreation to the community.”

Therein lies the dignity of leisure.



Golf Town

Golfers are regularly drawn to the Wheaton area's well-maintained, challenging courses, establishing the community as one of the finest places to spend a day on the links in the Chicagoland, and beyond.

- Fairways, Greens & Clubs Golf Museum Downtown Wheaton is home to a nationally recognized golf museum. Fairways, Greens & Clubs highlights the development of American golf. It is unique in its comprehensive look at the golfers and designers, equipment and courses that have influenced the growth of a sport originally played only by aristocrats. More than 30 custom-designed cases, set in the atmosphere of a vintage clubhouse, hold an exceptional collection of clubs, balls, trophies and images unmatched in the Midwest. Each visitor is given an individual tour of the exhibits by trained guides who are eager to share their vast knowledge of this great sport. It is a wonderful opportunity to see a featherie and a horse lawn boot; a sand tee mold and a Chicago Golf 1899 tournament program; one of Bessie Anthony's clubs and the grass samples carried from course to course by Robert Foulis. The museum is also available for rent by private parties and provides a perfect setting for a party or business function. 315 W. Front Street, 2nd Floor • 630-871-6601

- Arrowhead Golf Club Situated on 221 acres of wooded land in Wheaton is the historic Arrowhead Golf Club. Originally named the Antlers Club at its opening in the 1920s, the club was ultimately renamed Arrowhead in 1929. In 1982, the club was purchased by the Wheaton Park District, which has invested greatly in regular updates over the years. Today, Arrowhead Golf Club offers three challenging nine-hole courses featuring bent grass tees, greens and fairways, water hazards on 17 of the 27 holes and 77 sand traps. In 1990, Arrowhead added the Learning Center, which is equipped with a lighted, 30-stall driving range, a putting green and a separate chipping green with three bunkers. Golfers can take advantage of group lessons and private lessons with a PGA Professional as well. Arrowhead, which has earned a 4.5 Star Rating by Chicagoland Golf Magazine in recent years, boasts of a newly renovated Clubhouse. Recognized as one of the finest facilities in the Chicagoland area,

the Clubhouse is composed of the delicious Arrowhead Restaurant & Bar, a banquet facility, meeting and dining rooms, the stocked Pro Shop, a Halfway House, a cross-country ski center and spacious men's and women's locker rooms. Arrowhead is located at 26W151 Butterfield Rd. in Wheaton. For more information, call 630-653-5800 or visit www.arrowheadgolfclub.org.

- **Cantigny Golf Course** Cantigny Golf Course opened for play in spring 1989 and has since risen to become one of the top public courses in the U.S. Designed by Roger Packard, and later updated by Jacobson Golf Course Design, the course has garnered a slew of awards over the years, among them a rating in the "Top 100 Golf Courses You Can Play for Under \$100" (Travel + Leisure Golf), "Top 50 Courses You Can Play in America" (Golf Magazine) and, upon its opening, Cantigny was named the "Best New Public Course in America" (Golf Digest). The 27-hole championship course is made up of three, nine-hole courses (Woodside, Lakeside and Hillside), and sits in the middle of the 500-acre Cantigny Park. The course is complete with bent grass tees, greens and fairways, a dozen lakes, two creeks, 70-plus sand traps, thousands of stately trees and more than 100,000 blooming flowers. In the last decade or so, Cantigny has hosted the U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship (2007), the Illinois State Amateur Championships (1996, 2002 and 2008) and a number of USGA qualifying tournaments. The brand new Cantigny Golf Academy is a premier learning and training center providing a variety of classes and lessons. The Golf Academy's practice space includes short game areas with greens for putting, chipping and sand play, as well as full swing areas. The Clubhouse is home to a Golf Shop that has been rated in the "Best 100 Golf Shops in America" by Golf Operations three times since 1995, as well as the Red Oak Room (fine dining) and the Fareways Bar & Grill (casual dining). Cantigny is located at 27W270 Mack Rd. in Wheaton. For more information, call 630-668-8463 or visit www.cantignygolf.com.

- **Chicago Golf Club** Chicago Golf Club, regularly ranked in the top 100 golf courses in the U.S., is an exclusive private club that was founded in 1893 by Charles Blair Macdonald. The original course was recognized as the first 18-hole course in the country. It was redesigned in 1923 and today offers a fast-paced game, devoid of many trees. The intimate links-style course spans 6,500-plus yards of golf from the longest tee and features wide bent grass fairways, large bent grass greens and a hilly layout. It has been host to a number of tournaments in its history, including the U.S. Amateur Championships, two Walker Cups and three U.S. Opens. The Clubhouse and training amenities such as a putting green, chipping area and a teaching pro, round out the offerings at the Chicago Golf Club. This historic course is sure to present a challenge to even the most skilled golfers—it's a true classic! The Chicago Golf Club is located at 25W253 Warrenville Rd. in Wheaton. For more information, call 630-665-2988.

- **Klein Creek Golf Course** Located in nearby Winfield is Klein Creek Golf Course, opened in 1994. The Dick Nugent-designed course is a favorite among locals and visitors, and has been recognized by Chicagoland Golf and Golf Digest as one of the area's leading public courses. Klein Creek offers a well-maintained 18-hole, par-72 course stretching over 6,700 yards of championship golf. No matter the skill level, novice and professional players each find enjoyment in the course's testing play from four sets of tees. Overlooking the peaceful course is the contemporary Clubhouse, with amenities such as the casual Creekside Restaurant, the event pavilion (offering facilities for up to 275 people), a gazebo-style Halfway House and spacious locker rooms. Also in the Clubhouse is the award-winning Golf Shop, headed by knowledgeable staff members and PGA professionals, who are also available for lessons. Klein Creek Golf Course is located at 1N333 Pleasant Hill Rd. in Winfield. For more information, call 630-690-0101 or visit www.kleincreek.com.



Shop, Dine & Buy

In economic times that tend to make even the most passionate shoppers stay home more often, the city of Wheaton is doing what it can to make every shopping dollar count—not just for local consumers, but the entire community as well—with the Shop-Dine-Buy Local program, implemented at the start of 2009.

Spearheaded by Wheaton’s Chamber of Commerce, Shop-Dine-Buy Local sends a message as simple and clear as its slogan. When combined with Wheaton’s “green” initiative, which encourages such measures as reduced packaging, reduced pollutants (by walking as opposed to driving) and locally grown and made products, Shop-Dine-Buy Local creates an irresistible temptation for the community-minded in the Wheaton area.

Jim Kozik, director of planning and economic development for the City of Wheaton, hopes it is enough of a “temptation” to divert local consumers from shopping out-of-town—or more importantly, from shopping online. “Though it can be really convenient, online shopping doesn’t result in any benefit to the community the way the taxes are structured,” he explains. “The same stuff can often be bought locally... and ideally, things like property taxes can keep from increasing (with local support). I think a lot of other communities are probably doing the same sort of thing.”

Town Square Wheaton is a retailing gem, designed by prominent architect Robert A. M. Stern, who also designed international projects in Spain and The Netherlands. Golden-hued brick walks connect shoppers to their favorite specialty stores and eateries, and to a range of professional services. Parking is within steps of storefronts and there's plenty of comfortable seating, including umbrella tables in the spring and summer. The center offers free Wi-Fi, an uncommon amenity but one of great value to the many professionals who tend to meet friends and colleagues for breakfast, lunch or dinner at the center. With nearly 50 retailers including Express, Victoria’s Secret, Chico’s, American Eagle, White House/Black Market, The Gap, Banana Republic, Talbots and Ann

Taylor, Yankee Candle, Bath & Body Works, Jos A Bank, Pot Bellys, Kay Jewlers, Gymboree, the center is also home to local favorites such as The Perfect Thing, Altobello Fine Jewelers, Frank Girona Salon & Spa, Egg'lectic Cafe and L'Anne.

Choosing to shop at locations such as these means choosing to put a percentage of every dollar spent into Wheaton itself, which results in additional support for the city's firefighters, police officers, road repair, education programs.

It also results in more local employment opportunities—or sometimes, provides a chance for someone to start a new business. Case in point is the French Market, a Paris-based, European-styled open-air collection of local food, art and other creations that draw big crowds every Saturday from April through November. Kozik knows of vendors who started with the French Market, but quickly grew successful enough to have their own brick-and-mortar business in the area. "It's definitely an opportunity for people with very little investment to start something and make it grow," says Kozik.

The French Market is part of weekend activities in Downtown Wheaton, a popular shopping district driven largely by independently owned businesses. "Even in this economic downturn, downtown Wheaton has done pretty well," reports Downtown Manager Tim Rater. "We've had several new stores open up in the past few months, and other stores have actually expanded because business is booming."

Whether they're selling dresses, tea, products made entirely from recycled materials, or day spa services, Rater attributes much of their success to the direct connection made between local merchants and the public, a collective "pull" that seems to pay homage to historical elements that make Wheaton special. "It's a connection that a franchise store just can't make," he points out, adding that the downtown area is remaining successful enough—even in the shadow of a nationwide recession—to prompt more would-be retailers to seek it out.

So if you must surf the Internet, bypass the online stores, keep your credit card in your wallet and search instead for coupons and dining specials at the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce Website, www.wheatonchamber.com. Familiarizing yourself with Wheaton's shopping offerings couldn't hurt, either.

"We have a lot of undiscovered jewels downtown... you could spend the entire day and not get to them all," notes Rater.



Bridal Business

Whether style leans toward traditional, classic, elegant, casual, simplistic or formal, a wedding is as much a special event as it is a mirror of a couples' own personalities. While the bride and groom are the real stars of the day and their families and friends play integral roles, the professionals behind the scenes orchestrate many of the details and guarantee all runs smoothly. Luckily, the city of Wheaton is home to a wealth of these masters.

One of the first decisions to be made in planning a wedding is where the ceremony and reception will take place. Some couples choose to exchange vows in a place of worship. Wheaton's extensive population of churches, chapels, other places of faith, and parks provide an array of choices.

Many ceremony spots, ranging from outdoor locations to hotels, banquet halls and golf courses are also ideal. Events at Arrowhead and Cantigny are both premium choices with expert staff to host both ceremony and reception.

"Cantigny has two beautiful facilities to host your very special day," says Mike Machay, director of food and beverage at Cantigny. "The Red Oak Room at Cantigny Golf has a panoramic view of the gorgeous golf course and swan lake. Le Jardin at Cantigny Park features a setting in the serene gardens."

"Experienced planners, chefs and service staff are attentive to details," according to Machy. Cantigny has "a great reputation for our food and service" is "a well-established leader in the community" and offers competitive prices.

Danielle Marie Salerno, director of catering at Arrowhead Golf Club shares, "Arrowhead provides everything the bridal couple could ever want or need for their wedding day. If it is not something our event planners have in-

house, our event planners make a phone call to get it here.”

“Our weddings are beautiful because Arrowhead Golf Club is a spectacular site inside and out—the building itself is so impressive. The staff has been our key to success, providing the highest level of service to Arrowheads guests,” says Salerno.

Often times settling on the main color theme of the day is the next phase in planning, which leads to choosing the wedding party’s attire. The shades and hues to choose from are endless, as are the styles—from bold to muted from modern to traditional.

Nicole Kalteux Kurz, owner of The Dress by Nicole in Wheaton, utilizes her expertise in the fashion industry to help dress wedding parties by coupling complimentary attendant wear and the “perfect” bridal gown. No bridal outfit is complete without the final touches of accessories, all available at The Dress by Nicole.

“We carry designers that are very exclusive. Sometimes we are the only store in the Midwest with that designer. This gives the customer the chance to get something truly unique,” says Kurz. “We provide a comfortable yet chic atmosphere to shop. We go above and beyond to make sure our customers have everything they need for their event.”

As far as trends go today, Kurz shares, “Brides are still going for a formal look with long dresses, but many are going short for the summer weddings for a casual feel. Chocolate browns, navy and purples are very popular.”

As for the location of The Dress by Nicole, Kalteux Kurz “searched for the perfect location for a year and a half and finally settled on historic downtown Wheaton and it was a great choice. The community of Wheaton is such a wonderful place. Everyone has been so supportive. Wheaton has just about everything you need for a wedding from dresses to flowers to invitations to restaurants and so much more. The many parks and Wheaton College also make great places for photos.”

When it comes to flowers, all designs can add a splash of natural beauty to the day. Flowers can be worn or carried, acting as a part of the attendants’ ensemble. Flowers can also decorate a ceremony location, be used at receptions to accentuate a head table, gift table or cake. Many times couples choose to use floral arrangements as centerpieces.

Amlings has a long history, spanning over 100 years. The Wheaton location is staffed by highly experienced professionals who make it a point to work closely with their clients to ensure their floral elements complement the style of a wedding.

“Amlings is a full-service flower shop. We have a wonderful team of experienced designers; all of us have over 30 years of experience. We believe in providing a personal touch and developing a relationship with our brides so that we can enhance the vision she has for her special day,” says Gloria Hainsworth, store manager. “Each wedding is unique, because each bride is. She probably has planned this day out in her mind since she was a little girl. We try our best to bring her vision to a reality.”

The trends in flowers have gone “back to the round bouquet, lots of roses or calla lilies. There is a resurgence of

garden flowers, stock, ranunculus, delphinium, just to name a few. There is also a trend to the hand tied look, which is very simple and natural.”

Despite the fact that the world is communicating more and more through digital means, paper communication remains the mainstay for wedding communication. In this day of wedding Websites and online RSVPs, couples still send out save-the-date cards and wedding invitations through the U.S. Postal Service. In fact, save-the-date cards have become more widely used to accommodate extremely busy schedules. Couples are choosing to send out these cards to announce their upcoming nuptials in an effort to give their guests enough notice, since, traditionally, wedding invitations are not sent out until six to eight weeks prior to the actual wedding date.

With the immense selection of papers available, brides are sure to find something to match their tastes and style of the wedding. Beyond the preliminary paper products sent out before the wedding, ceremony programs, dinner menus, place cards and thank you notes are just some of the other stationery selections available for the main event.

Thia & Co. of Wheaton is in the business of purveying paper products as well as items such as guest books, garters, unity candles, toasting flutes and other wedding-related accessories.

“The stationery products are essential to a wedding because they set the tone for the event. All the planning comes together in the invitation,” according to Owner Mary Ellen Fyock. “Not only do we have a wide range of products but we are trusted advisors. We listen and work with our customers so that they feel confident that they are getting what they want. This is more ... emotional support, recognizing how important the invitation is and how scary it can be.” Fyock says that there is “no need to be scared at Thia & Co. This is not our day but our customer’s day and we want to provide joy and comfort, and make our contribution.”

In Wheaton, an engaged couple can find all the essentials to plan the event of a lifetime. Salerno states, “I believe Wheaton is the most romantic town to host a ceremony and reception in. There are so many chapels, churches, parks and quaint places.”

Machay shares, “When the bride, groom and family focus on each other and the true significance of the day, you know that this couple really gets it and are going to be a great married couple for a long time. That is when you appreciate hosting their reception and being a part of their very special day.”



The Local Arts Scene

Wheaton has an extremely rich arts community. From world-class music and live theatre to the melodic sounds of a chamber orchestra, area residents don't have to go very far to experience top-notch entertainment.

- Wheaton Drama, Inc. www.wheatondrama.org

Wheaton Drama, Inc. (WDI) became an official entity in 1931, and has continued to grow and expand throughout the years. Jack Smith, a member at large and past President of WDI, says, "By 1998, we were selling out most of our shows and getting wonderful financial support from our members and the community."

With a strong volunteer base and high-level talent, the group has staged some truly impressive shows. Smith points out, "Many patrons have commented that the quality of the performances and the production itself are at the same or higher quality than shows they see in downtown Chicago."

The group puts on five shows each season with an occasional sixth show in the summer months. There is something for everyone, including musicals, comedies, dramas and mysteries. WDI is also involved in many area events. "We are strongly committed to our community and are involved in most activities, including the 4th of July and Winter Parade; Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus greet children in our lobby on the weekends between Thanksgiving and Christmas; and we have an outstanding Children's Summer Workshop," says Smith.

- McAninch Arts Center www.cod.edu/ArtsCntr

Affectionately known to those in the area as "the MAC," the McAninch Arts Center at the College of DuPage is

home to the Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, the New Philharmonic and the DuPage Opera Theatre. Dance, theatre and visual arts have been offered to the public since 1986 through the Center, which also has an extensive community outreach program. Stephen Cummins, the director of the Center, says, “The MAC strives to be the cultural hub of our area, committed to presenting the best in the visual and performing arts while providing educational opportunities for students and community members.”

There are three theatres on site at the Center, and each offers its own unique experience to the audience. The Mainstage has 793 seats, while Theatre 2 is a more intimate space at 195 seats. There is also the Studio Theatre, which is a black box performance space. In addition to the live performance venues, the MAC also hosts a gallery area, located near the Mainstage lobby.

- Camerata Chicago www.cameratachicago.com

Those who enjoy listening to top-quality classical music will appreciate Camerata Chicago, a Wheaton-based chamber orchestra with 16 to 20 musicians. Created in 2003, the group serves Wheaton, Chicago and other surrounding communities. Camerata Chicago performs about eight times per year and play a wide range of musical selections, including pieces from Mozart and Handel. At the helm is Music Director Drostan Hall, the founder of the group.

Hall, a Wheaton resident, says that in addition to featuring musicians from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Lyric Opera, Camerata Chicago has professional caliber members from Wheaton. “We also feature two or three exceptionally talented young musicians in the orchestra when we play,” says Hall. The group also performs while standing; adding a unique energy to each performance.

- Anima www.animasingers.org

Anima Young Singers of Greater Chicago (formerly the Glen Ellyn Children’s Chorus) is another group in the area that is considered world class. This group of young singers was founded in 1964 and has garnered an international reputation for excellence. A variety of programs are available to children from kindergarten through high school, and the focus is on choral music, which is taught in a very nurturing atmosphere. Some of the programs offered, include the “treble chorus” for beginners, the “concert chorus” for intermediate students and the “touring chorus,” which is considered the advanced program.

- Glen Ellyn-Wheaton Chorale www.gewchorale.org

The Glen Ellyn-Wheaton Chorale draws its 60 members from many different suburbs and has singers ranging from the novice level to professional level within its ranks. Weekly rehearsals culminate in two major concerts each year, and the chorale group has an audition-only membership. The musical selection at concerts varies and can range from jazz to gospel to show tunes. The Ensemble is a smaller group chosen from the chorale and it consists of between 12 and 16 members.

The two seasonal concerts are held in December and May, but the groups also perform at other smaller locations throughout the year. Ruth Sauer has been with the chorale since it first started 24 years ago and notes that their audiences come from as far away as Indiana and Wisconsin. Sauer also points out one of the features she believes makes the choral group special, saying, “There is a real sense of community within the group—we really try to

help one another out.”



Wheaton College

Wheaton has always found at its center a strong moral core. From its participation in the Underground Railroad during the Civil War to the many organizations set up to help the less fortunate, the city has always extended a hand in the direction of what is right. Along those lines, a major force for moral values in the city has always been Wheaton College, an institution with the mission of combining excellent education with high moral values and a desire to extend those values into the community. As such, the college has become integrated with the community in such a way that one could not imagine itself without the other.

While the original college was set in place in 1853 by the Wesleyans, the true history of Wheaton College really began in 1859, when Pastor Jonathan Blanchard arrived from Knox College in Galesburg. Blanchard was a strong abolitionist and crusader for social causes, and his stern sense of moral decency was to become the hallmark of the college, renamed in honor of Warren Wheaton, who donated the land for the institution.

Through the years, Blanchard's dream of a bastion of educational and religious enlightenment was upheld by subsequent presidents, including Blanchard's son, Charles Albert Blanchard, who himself was a Wheaton graduate and who led the college for 43 years. The school continued to grow, earning national academic accreditation and attracting top-quality instructors to teach in the rapidly developing academic departments.

As the academics flourished, the religious foundations remained intact, with daily morning chapel for both students and instructors. The school itself is committed to the principle that truth is revealed by God through Christ, and as such, seeks to relate a Christian liberal arts education to the needs of contemporary society with a curriculum that combines faith and learning.

Wheaton College has grown through the years and currently boasts 40 diverse majors that include more than just

theological studies. A full range of undergraduate degrees include Anthropology, Biology, Environmental Studies, Art, Music, Mathematics and Business, to name a few. In addition, the school offers Masters programs in such areas as teaching, political science and psychology. In addition, Doctoral Degrees are offered in Biblical and Theological Studies, as well as in Clinical Psychology.

The school is affiliated with the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, but also maintains accreditation with such national secular organizations as the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, National Association of Schools of Music, National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and the American Psychological Association. In fact, Wheaton College today is continually listed in national surveys as one of the top Christian-based schools in the nation, and has even been reported by U.S. News and World Report to be considered the “Harvard of evangelical colleges.”

Above all, Wheaton College follows a mission to share its resources with the community, providing access to programs and education that will benefit and enrich the people of the town itself. According to Wheaton College Sesquicentennial Coordinator Marcy Hintz, Wheaton knew the importance of having an institute of higher learning within the community. “He knew it would shape the morals, the education, the leaders and give the town a family-friendly feel.”

It is that close relationship with its community that makes it such a unique and special place.

“We have a lot of resources open to the public, which are either free or affordable,” says Hintz, herself a recent Wheaton graduate. “The artists’ series in our performing art venue brings in performers from around the world,” she says, adding that the athletics department offers outreach activities such as summer sports camps for area children.

Other campus facilities are impressive as well. The Billy Graham Center, named for one of the school’s most famous graduates, houses Wheaton’s graduate school, along with the college’s archives and special collections, a museum on the history of evangelism and the campus radio station, WETN, 88.1 FM. In addition, the school’s Marion E. Wade Center is a museum repository for writing and artifacts from authors C.S. Lewis, J.R. Tolkien, Dorothy Sayers, George MacDonald, Owen Barfield, G.K. Chesterton and Charles Williams, a group of British authors who formed an influential school of thought in literature based on Christian thought and themes.

The Wheaton College 2009 sesquicentennial celebrated the school’s legacy of top-quality education in the Wheaton community. In keeping with the school’s tradition, the sesquicentennial celebration was a dignified one, with one of the highlights being the Fourth of July parade float that highlighted the school’s history and community outreach. In addition, the school’s Homecoming also featured a sesquicentennial theme honoring the school’s long and proud relationship with the Wheaton community.

Wheaton College has maintained its high ideals and commitment to both education and high moral values. As Hintz puts it, “One of the greatest pleasures of my job is seeing how Warren Wheaton’s purpose for having a college in the center of his village has really come true. He gave us a generous gift, and we’re glad to share our talent and resources with the community.”



To Your Health

There is no doubt that Central DuPage Hospital (CDH) is a national leader. All one has to do is peruse through the hospital's exhaustive list of prestigious awards and recognitions to get a feel for the great successes CDH has achieved over the years. For several consecutive years, CDH has been named a Thomson Reuters 100 Top Hospital, earned the nation's "Most Wired Hospital" award four times, is regularly listed among the top five percent in the nation for patient safety and has highly-rated programs in orthopaedics, stroke and neurovascular, gastroenterology, surgery and cancer care, among others.

"These awards are the by-product of our unwavering commitment to strive to perform in the top 10 percent of all hospitals in everything we do," explains CDH's Senior Media Relations Specialist, Amy Jo Steinbruecker.

Since its establishment in Winfield more than 45 years ago, CDH has embarked on a number of major advances in order to keep ahead of the needs of their patients. To provide the best possible pediatric care, the hospital is equipped with a pediatric outpatient clinic, a pediatric emergency department and the county's first Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and Pediatric ICU. Through a unique arrangement with Children's Memorial Hospital, more than 60 pediatric specialists are on the medical staff of both hospitals to bring their expertise to the western suburbs.

CDH has been the place for many firsts in the area's medical community. It was the first hospital in the country to perform open-heart surgery; the first to use an FDA-approved robotic system in surgery; and is a leading hospital in the treatment of many neurologic disorders, such as strokes, brain tumors and Parkinson's disease.

CDH has also invested in the expansion of its facilities and technology, growing from its original 113-bed hospital in 1964 to the 313-bed facility it is today.

In February 2008, CDH began phase one of construction for the new Bed Pavilion, which called for a new 360-space parking structure. Once that phase was completed, CDH commenced development of the five-story, 202-room Bed Pavilion that will transition the campus to all private rooms, and bring even more sophisticated technology to patients. That facility is expected to open in November 2011.

In the fall of 2008, cancer survivors teamed up with CDH, Radiation Oncology Consultants and ProCure Treatment Centers to break ground on the state-of-the-art Proton Therapy Center of CDH located in nearby Warrenville. Currently, there are less than 10 proton therapy centers in the entire U.S., making this a truly monumental addition to the hospital's list of services, programs and facilities. After advocating for more than five years, the nearly 60,000-square-foot, four-treatment room facility is expected to open in 2011. At full capacity, it will be capable of treating approximately 1,500 patients each year. The project is estimated to generate nearly 500 full- and part-time positions between construction and its initial opening.

The most recent element of the hospital's larger construction project is the addition of a new cancer treatment and imaging center. CDH received state approval on its plans to construct the facility, which will be located adjacent to the Proton Therapy Center, also in Warrenville, just off of Rt. 88. "We desire to build a comprehensive cancer center that is easily accessible to patients within the region," says Steinbruecker.

The comprehensive outpatient cancer center will feature diagnostics, treatment services and a host of support services essential to the healing process. Patient education and prevention programming, crucial research initiatives and community outreach measures round out the list of offerings at the center, set to open ahead of the Proton Therapy Center in 2011.

Additionally, CDH recently entered into a 10-year agreement with Loyola University Medical Center. With this agreement, leading Loyola medical oncologists have established a practice on the hospital's campus and will be included among the physicians providing quality medical attention at the new cancer center.

Central DuPage Hospital touches many residents of the western suburbs, employing nearly 4,000 full- and part-time staff members and boasting more than 900 on its medical staff.

The future certainly looks bright for this world-renowned hospital. Stay tuned and check out the latest updates on www.cdh.org.



Local Nonprofits

Modern life can sometimes be overwhelming for many people. Fortunately, if they live in Wheaton, a large number of organizations are ready and willing to help a person get back on his or her feet, or to help a family get through a rough patch.

We are facing difficult times, and yet it's comforting to know that there are still those who are willing to care for those who have stumbled or fallen. Wheaton knows, and Wheaton cares.

- People's Resource Center (PRC) www.peoplesrc.org

The People's Resource Center (PRC) began 35 years ago when a group of families reached out to their neighbors in need by creating a community food pantry. Since then, the PRC has grown to serve more than 28,000 low-income DuPage County residents and is now the largest food pantry in DuPage County. Most families who visit the PRC are working, but struggle to make ends meet due to the high cost of living.

At the PRC, only five cents of every dollar goes to administrative costs. The programs include basic services of food, clothing and emergency assistance, as well as training programs to help those take steps toward a brighter future. These empowerment programs include literacy, computer training and refurbished computers for families' homes, art enrichment and job search assistance. All the programs are free and many are held in neighborhood sites throughout the county.

PRC relies on the efforts of 16 Board Members, 25 staff members and over 1,000 volunteers and partner agencies throughout the county. It exists to respond to basic human needs, promote dignity and justice, and create a future of hope and opportunity for the residents of DuPage County through discovering and sharing personal and

community resources.

- DuPage County P.A.D.S. (Public Action to Deliver Shelter) www.dupagepads.org

One of the largest area groups designed to help the homeless is DuPage P.A.D.S., a group committed to providing shelter, support services and advocacy to the DuPage County homeless. The group is dedicated to helping provide a chance for people in crisis to reach the point where they can once more reside within the community. To that end, the group provides overnight housing and meals in various area churches throughout the year. A transitional housing program for single men and women provides up to two years of safe, consistent housing, during which homeless persons can work toward independence while retaining their dignity. Finally, permanent supportive housing is available for those who cannot safely care for themselves due to mental illness, substance abuse or health problems.

Along with housing, P.A.D.S. offers such services as case management, employment readiness support and life skills enrichment. Programs include everything from basic needs and drug and crime prevention to anger management and social skills, all designed to provide help to those who need it in the most dignified manner possible.

- Outreach Community Ministries, Inc. www.outreachgrp.org

Public organizations, such as P.A.D.S., also work hand-in-glove with private and religious organizations to help solve the crisis of homelessness. One of the religious organizations with a prominent Wheaton profile is Outreach Community Ministries, Inc., a Christian organization founded in 1971 by a coalition of several local churches. One of the group's branches includes Wheaton Youth Outreach, an organization designed to provide housing for young women in need. The program includes various housing units in Wheaton, as well as in Carol Stream.

In downtown Wheaton, two transitional living houses serve homeless girls without children or who are newly pregnant and examining their options. According to Gail Hoffman, director of the WYO, the goal is to provide stable housing and help the girls to what they need so they can become financially independent, contributing members of society. "We believe if we can catch people at the right time, they will not just need the system, but will contribute," she says. "It's a vulnerable population, but a rewarding age to turn their lives around. We encourage them to either finish high school or get their GED, then to complete a job training program, anything we believe will enable them to earn a living wage, get child care and get their finances in order. They can be with us up to two years to accomplish this."

The organization also runs Jubilee Village in Carol Stream, a 17-unit apartment building for single moms with one child or women in late-stage pregnancy who have made the decision to parent. Everyone living there is expected to work or attend school for a total of 40 hours per week, and safe, affordable child care is available through a partnership with the YMCA or the girls' schools (some of the girls attend West Chicago High School, which offers child care for students).

The atmosphere is that of a group home, although the girls live in separate units. They attend a community meal once a week, and have programs to help them learn parenting skills, financial literacy and relationship counseling.

Yet, while the efforts are impressive, Hoffman says they are a drop in the bucket for a bigger problem. “We get about 450 calls a year, and have opportunities for about 25 girls.” Although she wishes more could be done, Hoffman finds the results encouraging. “If you can catch [these girls] on the cusp of becoming adults and give them support, they are a population that will reward you.”

- Midwest Center for Homeless Veterans www.helpaveteran.org

They fought for our freedom; it’s only fitting that homeless veterans be provided with help coupled with the dignity they deserve. That’s the goal of the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans. The organization strives to overcome whatever situation led to the veteran’s homelessness and to help him or her return to a useful, productive life.

The transitional living facility in Wheaton provides help by giving its residents the skills needed to return to normal life. These skills include GED and college advising, therapy for mental disabilities and substance abuse, legal assistance and job training and help in finding employment. In addition, residents are taught such independent living skills as financial budgeting, basic housekeeping and meal preparation, all designed to help the veteran once again enjoy independent living and personal dignity. Off-site services are also provided, through cooperation of hospitals, doctors, lawyers and educators, as well as area businesses, all designed to maintain the shelter’s mission: “To Serve Those Who Served the Nation.”



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