



WHEATON, ILLINOIS

FIRE CHIEF



EXECUTIVE RECRUITMENT



GovHRUSA, LLC is pleased to announce the recruitment and selection process for the City of Wheaton, Illinois' next Fire Chief. This is an excellent opportunity to join a highly collaborative organization and work with employees who are dedicated to serving the residents and businesses of Wheaton, who in return, highly value the efforts of the Wheaton Fire Department. This brochure provides background information on the City of Wheaton, the municipal organization and the qualifications and experience the City is seeking in its next Fire Chief. Candidates interested in applying for the position should submit their résumé and cover letter along with contact information for five work-related references to the recruitment website: www.govhrjobs.com. Electronic submissions are required. The position is open until filled.

Please contact Vice-President T.E. Sashko by telephone at 847-380-3240x123 with any questions about this opportunity, or via email: tsashko@govhrusa.com.

PROFESSIONAL ANNOUNCEMENT FIRE CHIEF WHEATON, ILLINOIS

The City of Wheaton, IL (52,749) located approximately 25 miles west of Chicago, and the County Seat of DuPage County, IL is seeking an experienced and passionate leader to serve as its next Fire Chief. The City has been listed amongst the “Top 25 Highest Earning Towns” (CNNMoney) having a very desirable family oriented culture, rich with many retail, park, education, dining and faith based churches, synagogues, mosques and more.

The City is home to Wheaton College located just east of downtown, which has been referred to as “The Harvard of Evangelical Schools” and is known for its interdenominational elite liberal arts education. The Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Campus of the Illinois Institute of Technology is also located in Wheaton and is home to the School of applied Technology providing education and training for working professionals. Located in nearby communities is the College of DuPage serving community college students in the region. Wheaton is also home to the DuPage County Fair and the DuPage County government campus.

The Fire Chief position is a very visible member of the senior leadership team of the City and requires well-developed leadership abilities and management skill sets that are based upon consensus building and problem-solving. He/she must be a highly motivated, self-starting, and confident individual with excellent, genuine, and trustworthy interpersonal skills. The City is seeking progressive candidates committed to excellence in delivery of fire/EMS. Specialized Response and Emergency Management services. The current Fire Chief is retiring after a successful career with the department.



FIRE DEPARTMENT AT A GLANCE

- Including the Fire Chief, the Wheaton Fire Department is staffed by 38 full time personnel, 19 contract personnel who staff their ALS/EMS response and transport provider services, one part time Administrative Assistant, and one part time Emergency Management Specialist.
- Firefighters and Lieutenants are represented by the International Association of Firefighters Local 3481.
- The command staff consists of the Fire Chief, three Assistant Chief-Shift Commanders (24/48), one Assistant Chief-Administration with oversight of Training/Risk Management (40 hr.), and one EMS/Community Risk Reduction Manager (40 hr.). Each shift has a Shift Commander, 3 Fire Lieutenants, 6 Firefighter/EMT-B's, and 6 Paramedics.
- The department responded to 6135 total calls for service in 2021. The Wheaton Fire Department is a founding member of the West Suburban Fire Rescue Alliance consisting of six Departments who participate in functional cooperation for all hazards training and response. The Department is also a member of MABAS Division 12 (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) and DuComm 9-1-1 Dispatch.
- The City encompasses 11.43 square miles from providing modern fire/EMS services from 3 fire stations.
- Union Pacific runs 20-25 daily freight trains through Wheaton. Union Pacific (UP) runs freight and Metra commuter trains through Wheaton (60 commuter trains a day during the workweek; 353 commuter trains a week). The fire department holds an ISO Class 2 insurance rating.

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

- **Innovative:** Bring fresh ideas to the organization and offer unique perspectives and experiences.
- **Energy:** Provide enthusiasm and focused energy to all projects and a passion for service to the community. Be one who is highly motivated and can develop and articulate a long-term plan for the fire department with the charisma to lead the team to an even higher level of excellence. Be a highly motivated, visionary, goal-oriented leader with a proven ability to gain cooperation and communicate clear direction.
- **Versatility:** Play an important role in coordinating, facilitating, and managing projects that require involvement across multiple service areas with a strong desire to work in a collegial, team-oriented environment.
- **Leadership:** Be dedicated to becoming an effective servant leader and building collaborative and positive relationships with other staff members and outside organizations in the region. Have an open, trustworthy, friendly personality and communication style and a calm demeanor; be one who can establish trust quickly with others along with a strong sense of humor. Have thorough knowledge of the principles of personnel management including recruiting, training, promoting, disciplining, and terminating employees within a fire service context and more.



SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES:

- Shall possess a bachelor's degree in Public Safety Administration or related field from an accredited college or university. A master's degree preferred.
- The position requires 10 years of firefighter experience and employee supervision.
- All requirements of 65 ILCS 5/10-1-7.3
- Illinois EMT-B Certification
- Ability to wear Department self-contained breathing apparatus and maintain compliance with respiratory requirements.
- Candidate's successful completion of the Executive Fire Officer Program offered by the National Fire Academy, and or Chief Fire Officer Designation is desired.
- Reside within ten (10) miles of the City of Wheaton and ability to timely respond to major emergency incidents.

COMPENSATION, BENEFITS & HOW TO APPLY

The annual starting salary range for this position is \$129,730 to \$181,622 depending upon qualifications. The City of Wheaton also offers an attractive benefits package. Candidates interested in applying for the position should submit their résumé and cover letter electronically at www.GovHRjobs.com, along with contact information for five (5) work-related and/or professional references to consultant T.E. Sashko, Vice-President, GovHR USA. Position is open until filled. Questions may be directed to [T.E. Sashko](mailto:T.E.Sashko) at (847)380-3240 x123.

The City of Wheaton is an equal opportunity employer.



COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

The city of Wheaton, Illinois, may be overshadowed by its Chicago neighbors, but it deserves a lot of credit for its nature and the fun things it can do. This affluent city of 53,000 residents has a variety of attractions in and around Chicago and its suburbs, making it a great place to explore. It also has many architecturally complex libraries, numerous restaurants, coffee shops and parks and is one of the best places to live in Illinois. The city offers residents a dense suburban feel with a wide variety of single family, to multiple family home settings. Wheaton covers 11.43 square miles and is the sister city of Karlskoga, Sweden.

Location, location, location - possibly the three most important words describing the Wheaton vibrance and livability. Fortunately, in Wheaton, there is no shortage of amazing local amenities and interesting things to do. Some of the interesting things to do and attractions include Cantigny Park, First Division Museum at Cantigny, and Cosley Zoo. Wheaton is the 27th largest community in the State of Illinois.

Known as one of Chicago's most conservative suburbs, Wheaton has forty-five churches located within city limits and an additional thirty places of worship in the outlying unincorporated areas, representing nearly forty religious denominations. The Genus Edition of Trivial Pursuit states that Wheaton has "more churches per capita than any other town in America." Built in 1926, the national headquarters of the Theosophical Society in America is located on a 42-acre (170,000 m²) estate on the north side of Wheaton.

The Union Pacific / West Line runs through downtown Wheaton and has been a staple of Wheaton since its founding. Metra has two stops along the line in Wheaton, one at College Avenue serving Wheaton College, and another at West Street in the heart of downtown Wheaton. It passes under a bridge just west of downtown, and over County Farm Road, just north of the DuPage County Government Complex.

Established in 1972 by the Wheaton Franciscan Sisters, Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital is a rehabilitation hospital located on the west side of Wheaton on Roosevelt Road, one half mile south of the DuPage County Government Center. It has been operated by Northwestern Medicine, since 2016.[33] Marianjoy is a nonprofit hospital dedicated to the delivery of physical medicine and rehabilitation, with 127 beds

SHOPPING AND ENTERTAINMENT

Wheaton boasts a vibrant downtown with many restaurants, shops and services. The Downtown Wheaton Association hosts many events throughout the year to promote local businesses including The French Market, The Chili Cookoff, Vintage Rides, Boo-palooza (Downtown Wheaton Trick-or-Treat), A Dickens of a Christmas, Wheaton Wedding Walk and Wheaton's Wine & Cultural Arts Festival.

With over 35 restaurants in downtown alone, finding the dining experience of your choice in Wheaton is easy for any palate. Numerous stand alone and shopping center options are found in the city including [Danada Square East Shopping Center](#) (TJ Maxx, Starbucks, Cycle Bar, Petco and much, much more), [Main Street Mall](#), [Town Square Wheaton](#) (Chicos, Jos. A Bank, LensCrafters, Talbots) and more. Downtown Wheaton is home to perhaps one of the narrowest stores in the Chicago area. The Little Popcorn Store on Front Street was formerly an alley between two buildings and features the exposed brick walls of its neighbors. The store has been around since the 1920s and currently sells candy for as little as 2¢ a piece and, of course, fresh popcorn.

Wheaton is also home to the historic Grand Theater, built in 1925. In recent years, the theater and volunteers had begun a restoration to its original state, complete with a lighted dome ceiling dotted with stars, and a newly painted floor. It celebrated its grand reopening on May 11, 2002, and on August 25, 2005, the Theater was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The property near downtown Wheaton is home to the DuPage County Fair, the largest agricultural trade show in Illinois. In late May and early June, Taste of Wheaton showcases local food, craft beer, wine, beer and wine from around the country and the world, as well as a variety of food and beverage vendors. And in late July and early August, the Wheaton Brew Fest invites craft beer fans to sip on local brews, accompanied by live music and good food. The DuPage County Fair invites visitors and locals to enjoy local food, watch the rodeo, observe the animals and ride the rides.

LIBRARY

The Wheaton Public Library is frequently ranked as one of the top ten libraries in the nation compared to other libraries serving similarly sized populations. In 2006, a three-story addition was added, followed by significant renovations which were completed in 2007, to bring the square footage up from 74,000 to 124,000. The annual public library budget in 2018 was \$4.084 million. As of 2019, the total circulation was 1,013,326, the number of items in the collection was 262,745, and the number of visitors was 525,711. The previous public library was converted into the DuPage County Historical Museum, between 1965 and 1967.

EDUCATION:

Wheaton College is located just east of downtown Wheaton. Sometimes referred to as "The Harvard of Evangelical schools", Wheaton College is known for being an interdenominational destination school for devout Christian students seeking an elite liberal arts education. Wheaton's campus features the Billy Graham Center, named for the college's most famous alumnus, which contains a museum dedicated to both the history of American evangelism and the international ministry of Billy Graham. Wheaton College is also home to the Todd M. Beamer Student Center, which was dedicated in 2004 to the memory of Todd Beamer, a hero from United Airlines Flight 93, and two other Wheaton alumni who died in the September 11 attacks.

The Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Campus of the Illinois Institute of Technology is also located in Wheaton, and is home to the School of Applied Technology and offers technology-oriented education and training for working professionals.

[College of DuPage](#), with facilities in several towns adjacent to Wheaton, serves community college students in Illinois' Community College District 502.

Most of Wheaton is part of [Community Unit School District 200](#). The Wheaton public school system is regularly listed among the finest in Illinois, with the School Board receiving the fifth consecutive Governance Award in 2020, from the Illinois Association of School Boards. A few families in the northeast corner of Wheaton reside in Glen Ellyn School District 41, and one elementary school that is located in the southeastern part of Wheaton, Briar Glen Elementary School, is part of Community Consolidated School District 89.

High schools

- Wheaton North – consists of students from Monroe and Franklin Middle Schools
- Wheaton Warrenville South – consists of students from Edison and Hubble Middle Schools
- Glenbard South High School (unincorporated Glen Ellyn) – serves students in far Southeast Wheaton who do not attend Wheaton Warrenville South High School

Middle schools

- Franklin – funnels into Wheaton North High School
- Hubble – funnels into Wheaton Warrenville South High School
- Monroe – funnels into Wheaton North High School
- Glen Crest – funnels into Glenbard South High School
- Edison – funnels into Wheaton Warrenville South High School

Elementary schools

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| • Bower | • Johnson | • Pleasant Hill |
| • Briar Glen | • Lincoln | • Sandburg |
| • Arbor View | • Longfellow | • Washington |
| • Emerson | • Lowell | • Whittier |
| • Hawthorne | • Madison | • Wiesbrook |

Private Schools

- St. Michael's (Pre-K-8) and St. Francis High School

PARKS AND RECREATION

The [Wheaton Park District](#) has received the National Gold Medal Award for Excellence from the National Recreation and Park Association four times, in 1984, 1990, 1996, and 2005. It boasts 52 parks covering more than 800 acres, including:

- The 135-acre (55 ha) Lincoln Marsh Natural Area, with over 300 species of prairie and wetland plants and animals, and a regionally acclaimed ropes course.
- Cosley Zoo, founded in 1974, housing over 200 animals that represent over 70 species.
- Two public swimming pools, the Northside Family Aquatic Center, and the Rice Pool and Water Park with three water slides, a zero-depth entry point and sand volleyball courts.
- The 27-hole Arrowhead Golf Club, renamed in 1929 from the Antlers Golf Club, which was built in 1924. A new clubhouse was built in 2004-2005.
- The Chicago Golf Club is a prestigious private golf club on the southside of Wheaton. It is the oldest 18-hole golf course in the nation. It has hosted numerous U.S. Open and U.S. Amateur Golf Championships in its history. In 2005, it was host to the Walker Cup.
- Cantigny Park and Golf Course is the former estate of Chicago Tribune owner Robert R. McCormick, is in southwestern Wheaton. The park contains a championship 18-hole public golf course that was the site of the 2007 US Amateur Public Links. The park also contains two museums, one relating to the Chicago Tribune, and the other devoted to the First Division of the United States Army, as Robert McCormick was a colonel in the First Division during World War I.
- The Danada Forest Preserve and Equestrian Center is located on the site of the former estate of Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice, after whom Danada is named. In the 1940s, the Rices added a barn to the estate to house horses. In 1965, their horse Lucky Debonair won the Kentucky Derby. The Danada Farm estate was acquired by the county in 1980 and 1981.
- The Illinois Prairie Path runs throughout Wheaton, including the intersection of the Aurora Branch and Elgin Branch, just west of downtown near the railroad tracks.

WHEATON AT A GLANCE

Incorporated: 1890
Land Area: 11.43 square miles
County: DuPage
Average Home Value: \$ 342,000
Median Household Income: \$ 91,241
Households: 19,377
Wheaton Racial Makeup: White: 83.3% Asian: 6.6%
Hispanic: 6.2% African American: 3.9%



THE MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATION

Wheaton's Strategic Plan's 5 key priorities are: Financial Stability, Enhanced Infrastructure, Responsive & Efficient Services, Community Safety, and Environmental Sustainability. These priorities are critical to our vision of maintaining Wheaton as a safe, inclusive and vibrant community.

The City of Wheaton operates under the Council-Manager form of government and is a home rule community, which gives the City Council a broad range of authority over local affairs. Under this form of government, the City Manager, who is appointed by the City Council, coordinates and is responsible for the daily operation of all City departments. As the City's chief administrative officer, the City Manager appoints all department heads and prepares the annual budget for the City Council's approval. In addition, the City Manager prepares the agenda for City Council meetings.

Wheaton's City Council is comprised of six representatives and the mayor, all who are elected by Wheaton voters for four-year terms. Four Council members represent [Wheaton's four voting districts \(PDF\)](#), while two members and the mayor are elected at-large. The non-partisan City Council exercises policy-making and legislative powers of the City, including adopting ordinances and resolutions, approving the City's annual budget and enacting tax levies.



EXPERIENCE, KNOWLEDGE, MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP STYLE

- Candidates must have an outgoing personality and be approachable and accessible to residents, business, and government leaders. The next Fire Chief will be open and available to all Fire Department personnel and City staff. The Chief will be welcoming of diversity within the workforce and the community.
- The Fire Chief must have the maturity and self-confidence to firmly and diplomatically present professional views,

concerns and implications of proposed policy actions that may be under consideration, while also being committed to carrying out final decisions in a timely, professional and impartial manner.

- The Chief is expected to be a strategic thinker, anticipating issues and trends and will be open to new approaches and technologies. The next Chief must think beyond the operations of the fire department, understanding the needs of the City as a whole and of the region's public safety community.
- Candidates should not be micromanagers and should possess well-developed writing and public speaking skills. They must have an excellent reputation and demonstrate a high degree of personal and professional integrity.
- The next Fire Chief should have excellent financial management skills, knowledge of capital planning and organizational management and a clear understanding of resource limitations.
- Candidates must be committed to training, professional development and succession planning. They should embrace Community Risk Reduction and new EMS strategies and be committed to the techniques and philosophy of this method of delivery of modern EMS and fire services.
- The Chief must have a team management orientation and the ability to work with the City Manager, department directors and employees throughout the City and Fire Department organization in an effective harmonious manner.
- Candidates will have the experience necessary to review organizational structure, staffing, and personnel assignments and make changes when appropriate. They will be experienced in addressing internal organizational and personnel issues as well as have demonstrated ability in addressing these matters in a positive, professional, timely and impartial manner.