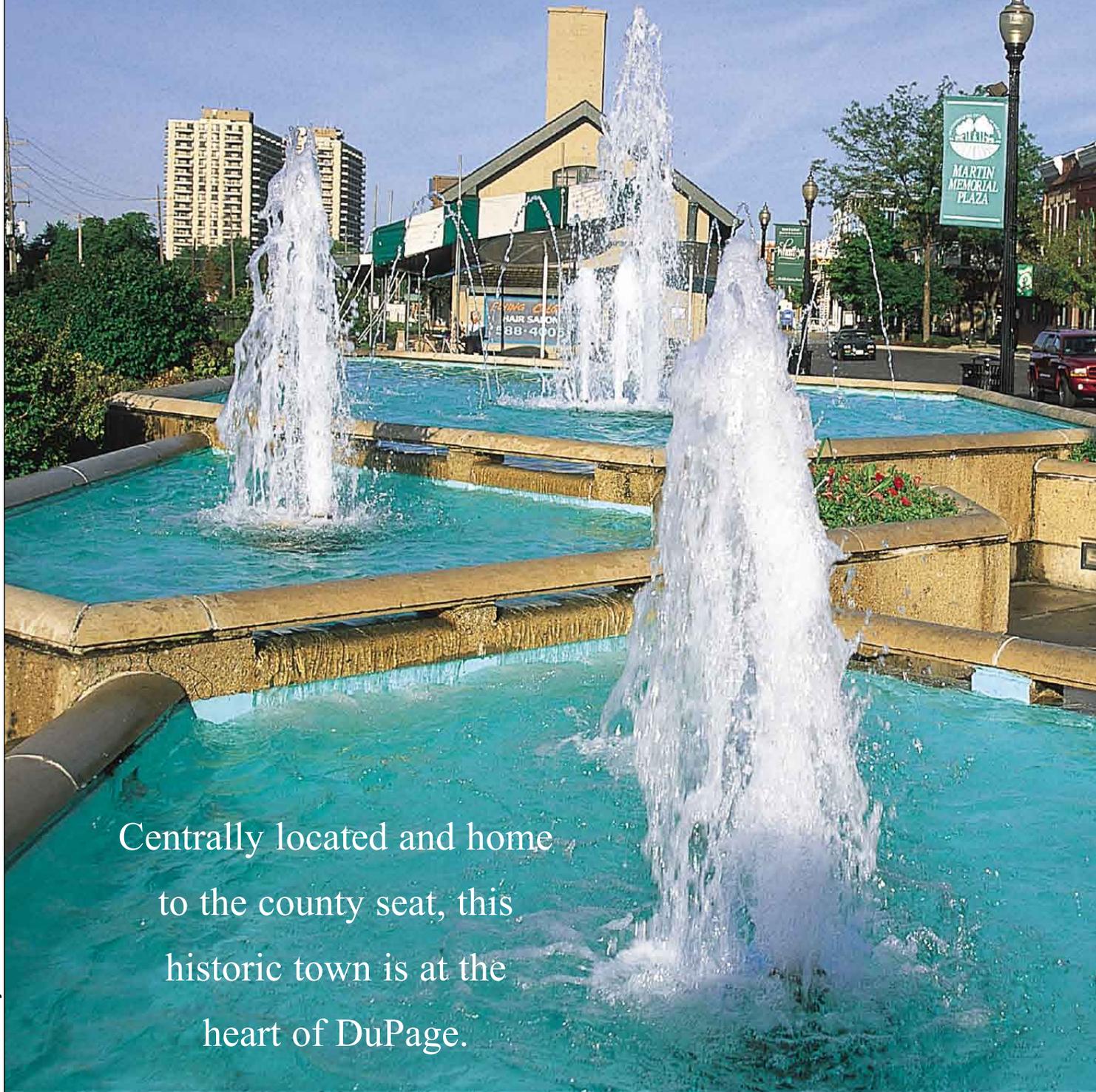


WHEATON

PRESENTED BY KAREN LIPPOLDT OF RE/MAX SUBURBAN



Centrally located and home
to the county seat, this
historic town is at the
heart of DuPage.

Photos courtesy of the Downtown Wheaton Association



The fountain at Martin Plaza on Front Street offer a calming oasis amidst the hustle and bustle of the downtown business district.

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HEN YOU WANT TO KNOW what's really happening in a place, you talk to some of the people who are most involved. And if you want to know where to go and what to do, you look for someone experienced to serve as a guide. With that in mind, we asked more than a dozen Wheaton residents and community leaders to give us their thoughts about the town in which they work and/or live. Following are some of their insights, recommendations, nuggets of useful or unusual information, and hopes for the future.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT LIVING OR WORKING IN WHEATON?

Barry Keefe, Director of News and Community Affairs, 101.9 WTMX-FM, The Mix: The best thing about living in Wheaton for me is having a home near downtown and being able to walk there for tasks ranging from grocery shopping to espresso at Starbucks.

Mark Field, Chief of Police, Wheaton Police Department: People care about the quality of life in the community.

Mary Beth Moran, President, Wheaton Chamber of Commerce: It has a very strong sense of community. The neighbors know each other and take the time to chat.

AN INSIDER'S GUIDE TO WHEATON



The downtown business district has benefited from an influx of new shops and restaurants

Ralph Heatherington, Principal, Wheaton North High School: The people, their friendliness, helpfulness and encouragement.

Carla Spielman, Downtown Wheaton Association: The people — the people in Wheaton make it what it is — a warm, friendly and wonderful place to grow a business.

Duane Litfin, President, Wheaton College: I appreciate the people: friendly, interested, involved, caring. There is a strong town/gown relationship between Wheaton College and the community. Not all academic institutions enjoy such a mutually supportive relationship.

Steve Klaus, Personnel Manager, Wheaton Municipal Band: A community that highly values its arts — music especially!

Denise King, President, Wheaton Newcomers Club: Good schools, shopping and a great community center and park district — and the restaurants are getting better.

Carol Simler, Executive Director, DuPage P.A.D.S.: Strong community support for

our mission.

William Hackett, Retired Distribution Manager for Sears and 30-year resident: Proximity to all Chicagoland programs, events and cultural activities — from the Fox Valley to the city.

ANY INTERESTING TRIVIA ABOUT WHEATON THAT MOST PEOPLE WOULD NOT KNOW?

Sandra Tragemann, Business Office Manager, Wheaton Public Library: One of the stations for the Underground Railroad was located in Wheaton. The original building was the Illinois Institute, which is now Blanchard Hall at Wheaton College. Also, Wheaton once had one of the finest horceracing tracks in the state — “Wheaton Driving Park,” established in 1894.

Charles Baker, Principal, Wheaton Warrenville South High School: Internationally renowned astronomer Edwin Hubble, for whom the Hubble telescope was named, graduated from Wheaton High School in 1906 and appeared on the cover of Time Magazine on

February 9, 1948.

Klaus, Wheaton Municipal Band: Wheaton has one of the oldest municipal (city-sponsored) bands in the world — over 70 years.

Field, Police Department: Wheaton is the hometown of Bob Woodward, Red Grange and the Belushi brothers. Also, Wheaton wasn't the first county seat.

Keefe, 101.9 WTMX-FM: Wheaton College has an observatory atop its science building that is commonly opened up for public use. Great fun for the kids!

Heatherington, Wheaton North High School: Chicago Golf Club is the oldest 18 hole golf course in the U.S.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST MISCONCEPTION ABOUT WHEATON?

Moran, Wheaton Chamber: Outside of Wheaton people still think only of the churches. They forget the great restaurants, schools and shops.

Keefe, 101.9 WTMX-FM: That's the easiest of all. Wheaton is not dry ... or so my friends tell me at Muldoon's!

Field, Police Department: That Wheaton is crime-free/drug-free. We share the trials and travails of suburban U.S. communities.

Hackett, Retired Businessman: That it's a "stuffed shirt" community.

HIDDEN TREASURES (PERSONS, PLACES OR THINGS) WITHIN WHEATON THAT OUTSIDERS MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT?

Field, Police Department: Hurley Gardens, the DuPage County Historical Museum and the Popcorn Shop.

Heatherington, Wheaton North High School: Cosley Park and Zoo.

Keefe, 101.9 WTMX-FM: Wheaton's best hidden treasure is the walking trail that winds its way through the Lincoln Marsh. You've got to work to find the entrance (it's behind a screw factory ... seriously). And it's a great get-away-from-it-all walkway.

King, Wheaton Newcomers Club: Rice Lake Pool and Whole Foods.

Hackett, Retired Businessman: Adams Park, the award-winning Wheaton Municipal Band and Cosley Zoo.

Litfin, Wheaton College: Chicago Golf, one of the most venerated golf courses in the nation. Or how about the Wade Center, which has one of the finest C.S. Lewis collections in the world, and the Billy Graham Center museum on campus. Both are truly interesting places to visit.

IF YOU HAD OUT-OF-TOWN GUESTS, WHAT TWO OR THREE PLACES IN AND AROUND TOWN WOULD YOU BE SURE TO BRING THEM?

King, Newcomers Club: Cosley Zoo and Emilio's restaurant.

Tragemann, Wheaton Public Library: In the summer — Memorial Park for a concert, Cantigny gardens and grounds, and the French Market on Saturday mornings.

Keefe, 101.9 WTMX-FM: I'd show nieces and nephews the basement of the county museum, with its wonderful model train layout, and families shouldn't miss the genuine mastodon exhibit at Wheaton College. For little boys, there is nothing better than climbing the tanks at Cantigny.

Moran, Wheaton Chamber: One 20 Ocean Place, Cosley Zoo, the Prairie Path, Wheaton College and the parks and downtown.

Field, Police Department: The view from the top floor of the parking garage in the Central Business District.

Baker, Wheaton Warrenville South High School: Adams Park, the C.S. Lewis exhibit and Cantigny.

Hackett, Retired: Cosley Zoo and Wheaton College.

MOST SCENIC SPOT IN WHEATON?

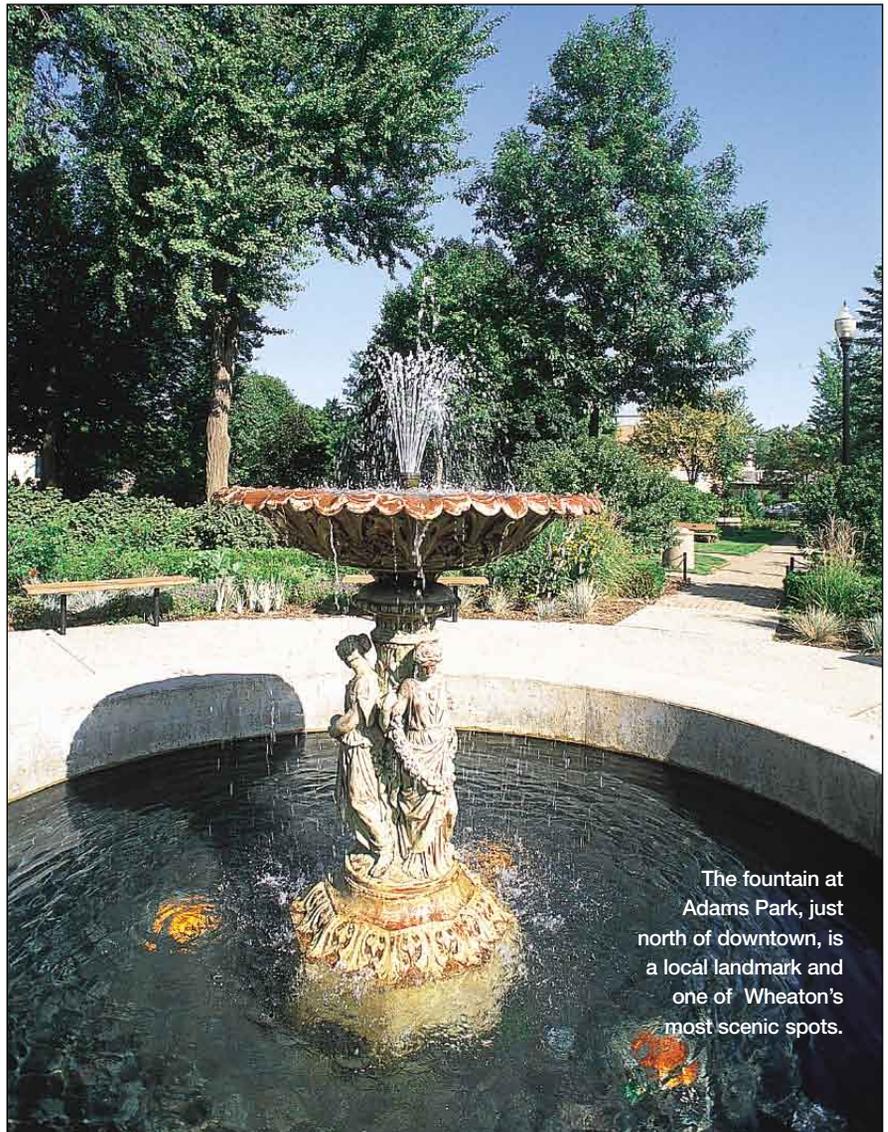
Heatherington, Wheaton North High School: Northside Park.

Spielman, Downtown Wheaton Association: Martin Plaza on Front Street, sitting by the fountain and soaking up the hustle and bustle of surrounding business and visitors.

Keefe, 101.9 WTMX-FM: The family campground at Blackwell Forest Preserves.

Moran, Wheaton Chamber: The Prairie Path.

King, Newcomers Club: The Adams Park



The fountain at Adams Park, just north of downtown, is a local landmark and one of Wheaton's most scenic spots.

THIS PARK DISTRICT FACILITY IS A REAL ZOO

Part farm, part wildlife refuge and part history museum, Wheaton's Cosley Zoo is arguably the most unusual park district facility in the western suburbs. Quirky as the combination might seem, the little 5-acre zoo has a loyal following of appreciative visitors, particularly among families with small children, scout leaders and school field trip organizers, for whom Cosley is a perennial favorite destination.

Opened in 1974 as the Cosley Children's Park and Museum, the facility has grown and evolved over the years. It started with only a few farm animals but is now home to numerous domestic species, ranging from a 2-lb dwarf rabbit to a 2,000-lb draft horse. Soon after it opened, the zoo also began serving as a refuge for rehabilitated native Illinois wildlife, like coyotes, fox and deer. These wild animals have either suffered permanent injuries, like a bird unable to fly due to a broken wing, or have been mentally imprinted from

being raised by humans, which impairs their wild instincts and cannot be reversed. "The wildlife that have been imprinted," Senior Zookeeper Colleen Pawlicki says, "might cause harm to themselves by either going up to humans, since they are used to that, or by starving to death."

Although the zoo staff does not have the permits to rehabilitate the wildlife on site, they make sure the animals they receive have an enriching habitat. "An enriching habitat is important," Pawlicki explains, "and allows the animals to use their sense much like they

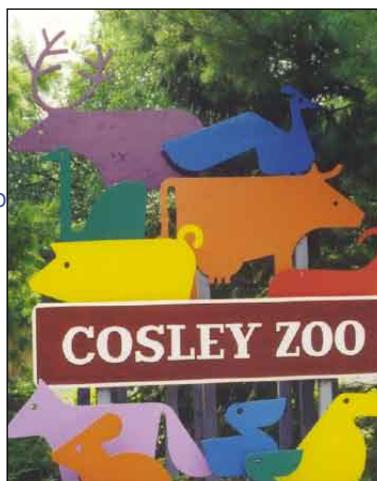
would in the wild."

The efforts of the Cosley Zoo encourage one primary goal: to inform. "We really try to educate people in a way that they can relate to so they have a better understanding of the animals," says Pawlicki. "It has a big impact on them and they'll know what to do if they encounter any of them on their own."

The zoo holds regular "Casual Interpretation" sessions, where visitors can hear stories and touch or see a demonstration about the various animals. Another interactive program component is Critter Carts, offering a variety of hands-on activities ranging from playing in mud like a raccoon, to touching animal skins and skulls, to creating take-home crafts.

Also on the Cosley property are a 125-year-old barn, an 1887 railroad station and an antique caboose, providing visitors with a mix of local history.

Cosley Zoo is located at 1356 Gary Ave. and is free and open to the public throughout the year. Reservations are required for organized groups of 10 or more. For more information about the zoo and its programs, call 630 665-5534, or visit www.wheatonparkdistrict.com/facilities/cosley.html. Tracy Tryban



Fountain.

Tragemann, Wheaton Public Library: Adams Park and Hurley Gardens — great for picture taking and tranquility.

Hackett, Retired: Cantigny Park.

MUST EVENT OR PLACE TO SEE AND BE SEEN BY LOCAL "MOVERS AND SHAKERS?"

Moran, Wheaton Chamber: Autumn Fest in Memorial Park in September.

Keefe, 101.9 WTMX-FM: The 4th of July parade! It's one of the oldest and biggest Independence Day traditions in the U.S.

Tragemann, Wheaton Public Library: The Cosley Zoo fundraiser in October.

Spielman, Downtown Wheaton Association: "A la Bastille!" — the downtown association's annual black-tie fundraising dinner. A Bastille Day celebration complete with fine French cuisine and cancan dancers. Everyone who's anyone is there!

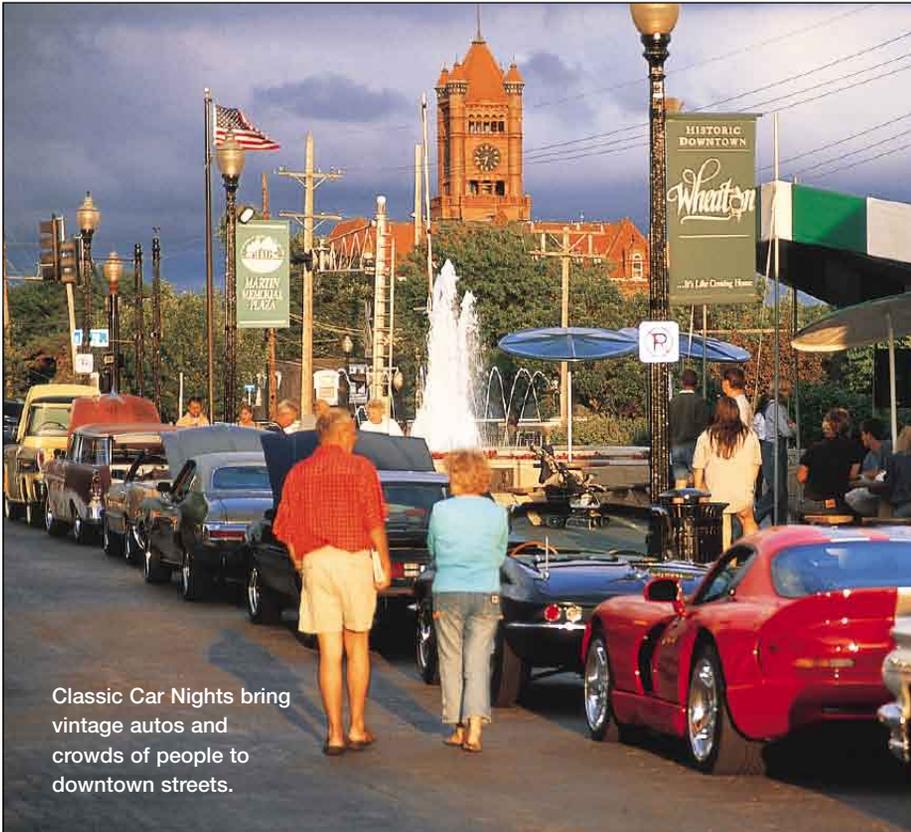
Hackett, Retired: Thursday evening summer Wheaton Municipal Band concerts.

FAVORITE RESTAURANT(S)?

In the not so distant past, this is a question that would have drawn a laugh or blank look from most Wheaton residents because the selection of dining establishments, particularly downtown, was limited at best. That is certainly not the case any more. In fact, so many different restaurants were cited by our panel, that no single eatery emerged as a clear consensus favorite.

Among those restaurants most frequently mentioned were One 20 Ocean Place, for its fine seafood and its distinctive ambiance; relative newcomer Emilio's Tapas, for its unusual Mexican Spanish-based cuisine; and Muldoon's, for its "great food" and warm atmosphere.

Others receiving special mention included Cochon Sauvage, the casual French bistro on College Avenue; Fitness Cafe, for its "healthy and delicious fare;" Seven Dwarfs on Roosevelt Road, for its service and friendliness; and Butterfield's Pancake House, which serves up the best breakfasts and lunches in town, according to retired businessman and 30-year resident William Hackett.



Classic Car Nights bring vintage autos and crowds of people to downtown streets.

FAVORITE SHOP(S)?

Thanks to the development of the Dan and Ada Rice property in the 1980s — which resulted in Wheaton Town Square, Danada East and West, and Rice Lake Square — Wheaton is blessed with an unusual breadth of retail shopping, particularly for an older town.

The newer malls were a mixed blessing for awhile, because initially they pulled shoppers away from the downtown area. That has changed in recent years, as the downtown has attracted new shops and restaurants of its own to complement the longtime retailers that have been fixtures in the community.

Among our panel's favorite shops are a mix of both the old and the new, starting with The Little Popcorn store, a "one-of-a-kind" Wheaton institution, according to several of our panelists. Other longtime retailers that have a loyal following including Gaede's clothing store; Carlson Paint & Art, the county's oldest paint store; Paper House for unique gifts; Design Gallery, for its home accessories and "beautiful floral arrangements;" and Wheaton Meat Co., for its "excellent and innovative meat" selection.

New stores receiving high marks from our

panelists include m & em's children's boutique, JB Winterberry, for home decor and antiques; I.V. Moss & Co, for antiques and home and garden accessories; and Graham's Chocolate Shop. The latter is "a special addition to downtown," says resident Barry Keefe, news director at 101.9 WTMX-FM, because "now we don't have to go to Geneva for our 'Graham's fix.'"

HOW TO BE A REAL HEATONITE?

Moran, Wheaton Chamber: Shop at The Little Popcorn Store.

Keefe, 101.9 WTMX-FM: Make sure your lawn chair is in place by 6 a.m. on the 4th of July ... and wear plenty of sun screen.

Field, Police Department: Attend Wheaton Municipal Band concerts in Memorial Park in the summer.

Tragemann, Wheaton Public Library: Participate and get involved in the community and sponsored events.

BIGGEST CHALLENGE FACING WHEATON IN THE NEXT 10 TO 20 YEARS?

Spielman, Downtown Wheaton Association: Additional development in the downtown — keeping it in scale with our turn-of-the century atmosphere and balancing new businesses and residential units.

Moran, Wheaton Chamber: Continued redevelopment of the downtown and Northside of Main Street.

Simler, DuPage P.A.D.S.: Housing that is affordable.

Keefe, 101.9 WTMX-FM: Continuing the quality re-do of the downtown district.

King, Newcomers Club: Continued downtown redevelopment and managing tear downs so we don't lose our variety of housing.

Field, Police Department: Changing demographics.

Heatherington, Wheaton North High School: Encouraging businesses and those outside of Wheaton to come to Wheaton.

IF YOU COULD SNAP YOUR FINGERS AND CHANGE, ADD, OR DO ONE THING TO MAKE WHEATON BETTER, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Baker, Wheaton Warrenville South High School: Eliminate the train-traffic from the heart of the town.

Hackett, Retired: Provide more over or under passes at the railroad track. Delays while waiting for the trains are unacceptable.

Keefe, 101.9 WTMX-FM: Complete the rehab of the grand theatre downtown.

Heatherington, Wheaton North High School: Improve the downtown area to encourage more business and improve the tax base.

King, Newcomers Club: A good saloon! ♦

*Presented By Karen Lippoldt
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