

Discover

News from North Chicago

Summer 2010

Public servants put citizens first

The City of North Chicago has been working hard to provide residents with superior municipal services while operating on a narrow and limited budget. I believe we have made the proper decisions in order to not only carry out these services, but to enhance them as well. The city has decided to allocate existing funds toward technology improvements in order to maximize productivity and efficiency throughout the organization.

The ability to communicate quickly and effectively with our residents is a critical need. The City of North Chicago currently has the capacity to notify and update our constituents within minutes of time-sensitive situations through our existing 911 database. Emergency and public outreach messages can automatically be sent through landline phone numbers using our Connect CTY service. In the coming months, residents will be able to receive important emails and text messages by enrolling in the Connect CTY service directly from our website or by applying in person at city hall.

The city has also implemented a cost savings and preventative measure through the newly managed Accident Review Board. This committee is designed to offer safety recommendations to employees and ultimately reduce costs incurred due to worksite accidents, saving tax dollars and preserving and protecting our valued public servants.

North Chicago received a facelift during this year's City Wide Pride Day sponsored by the North Chicago Chamber of Commerce. Thank you to the volunteers from Forest City, Robert Morris University, Abbott, and EMCO who spent the day painting city entrance signs and planting flowers throughout North Chicago. A major project of the day included painting railings, pulling weeds, and picking-up litter at the Great Lakes train station. Please do your part to maintain the beauty and cleanliness of North Chicago; our image starts within.

The city, school district, and park district have been diligently working to prepare for our Fifth Annual North Chicago Community Days Celebration. Community Days is the city's way of showing appreciation to our residents, while invoking city pride and offering a positive event to those who matter most: our neighbors, friends, and family.

This year's festival begins on Saturday, August 7, with a Kick-off Parade at 10:00 a.m. Live entertainment, music performances, soccer and basketball tournaments, children's activities, tug-of-war competitions, and bingo games will be held throughout the day. The evening will conclude with a spectacular professional fireworks display. The

celebration continues on Sunday, August 8 with an afternoon of gospel performances on the event grounds. I hope to see you all there celebrating among friends and neighbors.

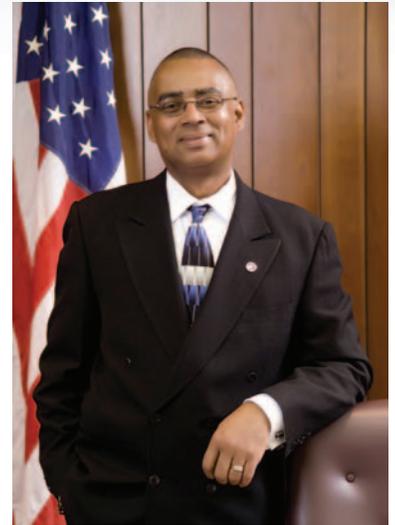
I am proud to announce that the Illinois legislature has officially decided to rename the North Chicago portion of the Amstutz Expressway to the Bobby E. Thompson Expressway. Our late State Representative, Eddie Washington, championed the renaming of the expressway after our esteemed and accomplished former Mayor Bobby Thompson who was the first African American Mayor of North Chicago and pivotal in the establishment of Fire Station II and for the modernization of our Water Plant.

Although Representative Washington will be missed, his legacy will live on as an effective public servant and a progressive advocate for North Chicago and the 60th District of Illinois.

On a closing note, I would like to remind residents about the importance of checking on family members and neighbors, especially seniors and children who do not have air conditioning. Summer temperatures in North Chicago can reach alarming rates and every citizen deserves to have a safe and healthy season.

Sincerely,

Mayor Leon Rockingham, Jr.



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DR

MLK Construction – The End Is Near

Phase III has been under construction all year completing work in the southern lanes of the project. Soon, the project will transition into Phase IV, which is the cleanup phase where final paving, striping, signage, and landscaping take place. The project will be complete this fall.

We realize this project has been a major impact to the commuters and businesses that use the roadway and we appreciate the patience all have had in waiting for this important thoroughfare to be completed.

Local Improvements completed under budget

Due to the current economic state, more companies looking for work, and competitive bids, the city was able to save on construction costs for our Local Road Improvement Program. This year's local projects not only fixed some poor roadways but also affected countless commuters and residents. Lakeside Avenue received brand new pavement that will benefit commuters of North Chicago Train Station. The Morrow Avenue improvements include resurfacing a residential area, two schools, and an industrial route. Improvements were also made on an alley in Ward 1. Fortunately, the city's cost savings this year allows more funds to be available for next year. The 2011 Local Road Improvements will be announced near the end of 2010.

Prevent flooding: Follow sewer guidelines

The City has been distributing the Sanitary Sewer and Stormwater Guide to areas known to have flooding problems, especially sanitary sewer problems. The guide explains not to place the following in your toilets and sinks which will back up your sewer service and even the sewer main: greases, oils, solid food scraps, diapers, disposable contraceptives, personal hygiene products, cotton balls, cotton swabs, baby wipes, and facial wipes. Understand that if you place these things into the sewer system, you are clogging not only your sewer but also your neighbor's sewer causing unneeded flooding.

Crack filling extends life of roadway

Crack filling is the single most important maintenance procedure that can be performed on a street to prolong the life of the surface. Some of the worst surface damage is caused by water infiltration that distresses existing cracks. This is a major problem in the Great Lakes region due to the dramatic effects of below freezing temperatures. The freezing / thawing cycle makes a crack enlarge and deteriorate rapidly. Properly executed crack filling stops this process and increases the longevity of the roads. This June, many North Chicago streets received crack-filling treatments under the direction of the City Engineer.

Roads received new stripes

In its third year, the city-wide striping project continues with replacing the lane lines and turn lanes along major roadways. While parking lots typically receive a coat of traffic paint, roadways use a heated plastic called thermoplastic for the striping. Heated to around 400 degrees, the thermoplastic material consists of pigments, binders and glass beads that form a durable, longer lasting product with nighttime visibility.

This year, 14th Street received restriped turn lanes, downtown Sheridan Road received new parking spaces, Commonwealth Avenue received a new centerline and turn lanes, and Ward 6 received some new stop bars and crosswalks.

With respect to our storm sewers, only rainwater should be allowed to flow into the storm sewer drains. Keep any lawn chemicals, household products, soaps, and other fluids from entering the storm drain. This affects the streams and rivers that feed our lakes and negatively impacts the environment. Do your part to keep our sewers clean.



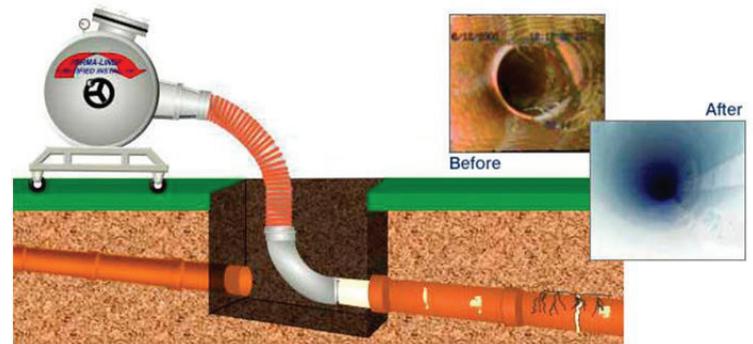
Stormwater Tip #3



**Check your car for leaks
and recycle your motor oil**

Sanitary Sewer Lining Program continues

In April of this year, the sanitary sewer located in the 1600 and 1700 block of Park Avenue was lined with a process called Cured in Place Pipe. This is the third year of successfully improving the sanitary sewer system. Sewer lining is a less costly way to improve the sewers, especially when compared to the alternative of pipe replacement. Sewer lining assists in reducing infiltration of storm water into the sanitary sewer system.



HYDRANT FLUSHING

Residents will observe the City of North Chicago Water Department crews working at fire hydrants in their area and see water running into the streets. This procedure is called the flushing of water lines or hydrant flushing. The process of periodically “flushing” fire hydrants is an important preventative maintenance activity. Although it may appear to waste water, this process is part of a routine maintenance program necessary to maintain the integrity of the water system and to continue to deliver the highest quality water possible to our customers. Flushing the water system on a routine basis removes sediment from lines and keeps the entire distribution system refreshed.

Because of the flushing procedure, residents in the immediate vicinity of the work being performed may experience temporary discoloration of their water. This discoloration consists primarily of harmless silt and precipitates becoming stirred up within the water mains and is not considered a health hazard. This in no way affects the safety of the water we provide. However, it can create staining on porcelain and laundry. For this reason, it is vital that the public be aware of the time and locations that it will be affected so that proper measures can be taken. If you experience discoloration in your water after the distribution

crew have been flushing in your neighborhood, clear the pipes in your own home by running all water faucets for at least 5-10 minutes.

This same philosophy of water line preventative maintenance is one that you should use in your own home. Your home’s water heater should be drained and flushed at least once (1) a year to keep it working efficiently and to protect the quality of water inside your home. In addition, if you go out of town and there is no water use in your home for a week or more, when you return, it is always a good idea to run all your faucets for a minute or so before using the water. This ensures that you do not use any stagnant water that may have developed in your home’s pipes while you were away.

REASONS FOR TESTING:

- Determination of how much water is available for fire protection
- Condition of the water distribution system and means of determining needed improvements
- Detection of closed valves in the water system
- Familiarize the firefighters with the type of water availability in order to be better prepared for a fire
- To ensure the fire hydrant is in good working condition and operating as it should in case of an emergency

Contact the North Chicago Water Department with any questions or concerns – 847-596-8880.

Rain Gutters

Do you see trees sprouting in the rain gutters of your house? Now is a good time to make sure they are free of all debris. Clogged gutters and downspouts will cause water to back-up and overflow in the summer. The overflowing water will hit the ground right next to your basement foundation and can eventually cause basements to flood or damage the wood structure of the house.

In the winter, these back-ups form Ice Dams, which cause water to back up under the shingles and eventually cause roof damage and leaks.

A little prevention now will help avoid major problems down the line.

Sump pump discharge

We all know that keeping water out of basements and crawl spaces is important. If ground water is not controlled and gets into these spaces, it can damage foundations and cause mold growth. The logical solution would be to get the sump water out to the street; HOWEVER, this poses a threat in the winter months in the form of ice build-up making driving dangerous.

Many properties have their sump discharges going directly into the street. If you are one of those property owners, you will be receiving, if not already, a notice to pull your sump discharge back away from the street so that it drains onto your property. If you are fortunate, and have a storm sewer inlet next to your property, you can tie your discharge line into it for a nominal charge by a contractor. The more expensive option is to have your discharge line tied directly into the storm sewer line. For information on these two options, contact the City Engineer at (847) 596-8691.

Remember, your sump pump discharge cannot affect your neighbor's property.

If you do not have a sump pump in your home, then the drain tiles around your foundation are tied into the sanitary sewer line leaving your house and going to the sanitary main. In cases of heavy or long-term rain, this overwhelms the sanitary sewer system and causes backups. It is the homeowner's responsibility to have these systems separated so that there is the sanitary sewer system leaving the house and a sump pump system to collect ground water and discharge it out into the yard or into a storm main as previously mentioned.

Buildings found without separate systems during a sale inspection will be required to have repairs made by a licensed contractor before occupancy can be granted.

Overgrowth in alleys

We get a number of complaints from citizens regarding overgrowth in some alleys making them almost impassable by car. Residents are reminded that if you have an alley on the rear of your property you are responsible for weeds and trees up to the pavement just as it is in the front yards. Even if you have a fence up in your backyard, that strip between your fence and the alley needs to be maintained by keeping grass and weeds cut and trimming back any branches from trees hanging into the alley.

If there is a tree on your property, but next to the alley, that is causing problems, we can look at it for you to see if it should be cut down. If it does need to come down, and it is in the parkway area, the City will take care of it.

Grass cutting

This year our hands are full with the abandoned and foreclosed properties. Grass and weeds are to be no higher than 5 inches. This includes around structures such as foundations, mailbox posts, etc. We have some beautiful yards in North Chicago, and we can have so many more. Do your part and keep your yards looking neat and trash free. Even if you rent, you can do your part in keeping the areas cleaned up.

Remember, it is unlawful to blow grass clippings or leaves into the street. This will eventually get to the storm drains and cause them to back-up, which may cause flooding problems.

Abandoned properties

If you know of an abandoned property or see a known abandoned property being broken into, call the Police 847-596-8700 or Building Department 847-596-8650.

Parking updates and reminders

As a reminder, parking is not allowed on unimproved surfaces. Parking spaces and driveways are to be paved with asphalt or be made of concrete. This requirement is enforced when the property is being sold or if an existing parking area is creating a public nuisance.

Trucks over $\frac{3}{4}$ ton (landscape trucks, dump trucks, box trucks, etc.) are not allowed to be parked in residential areas. This includes backyards or behind the house, where the owner thinks it cannot be seen, and alleys. Do not risk getting a ticket or having the vehicle towed.

To improve traffic flow and reduce congestion on streets, parking is no longer allowed on the following locations:

- Both sides of Atkinson Road
- East side of Wadsworth Avenue
- South side of 12th Street
- North side of 20th Street

To alleviate the overcrowding problem and illegal parking issues at Great Lakes Train Station, the City now only sells a maximum of 31 monthly passes for this parking lot. Five new spaces have been added on the east side of the train station to assist with the demand. The east lot has typically been the taxi area and has now been restriped to define taxi staging and add new parking for commuters. Now that all striping and signage is complete, vehicles are subject to parking violations.



Landlord Licensing Ordinance

City Council recently passed a new Landlord Licensing Ordinance, which goes into effect immediately. This is the reason licensing notification was not sent out in April as they are each year. The new ordinance is much more comprehensive. If you have not received your renewal packet, you will very soon. The deadline for filing renewal applications is September 1, 2010, for this year only. Here are some highlights of the new ordinance:

1. New fee is now \$35.00/building address, regardless of number of units in the building.
2. Occupancy Inspections for rental properties will now be good for two years. Under the old ordinance, an occupancy inspection was required every time there was a change in tenants. In order to apply for a landlord license, all dwelling units must have an Occupancy Certificate indicating that the unit has been inspected within the last two years.
3. There will be landlords that have a number of units that do not have occupancy inspections. The ordinance specifically states that for the first year of implementation, landlords will have 6 months to schedule occupancy inspections for those units that are without certificates.
4. The ordinance contains a sample "crime-free" addendum, which Landlords are strongly encouraged to use as an addendum to their current and future leases. The addendum is signed by both the landlord and the tenant and essentially means that if the tenant allows or causes criminal disturbances (violence, domestic, drugs, etc.), and then the landlord has the right to begin eviction proceedings.
5. Occupancy load calculations (number of people that can reside in one dwelling) are also included in the new ordinance. The calculation is based on square footage of usable space in the bedrooms. 50 square feet of usable floor space is required for an individual. For example, if a bedroom has 105 square feet, two individuals may occupy the room; if it is 95 square feet, then only one may be allowed to use the room.

The ordinance can be reviewed in its entirety on the City website www.northchicago.org or you may pick up a copy at the Building Department.

Summer Heat Safety Guide

Summertime means activities and fun under the sun! Normally, our bodies keep themselves cool by letting heat escape through the skin and by the evaporation of sweat (perspiration). When the body does not cool properly or does not cool enough, a person can suffer a heat-related illness, or even die when heat pushes the body beyond its limits.

Preventing Heat-Related Illness

- Never leave children or pets alone in closed vehicles. Temperatures inside a closed vehicle can reach 140 degrees Fahrenheit (F) within minutes. Exposure to such high temperatures can kill in minutes.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Avoid drinks with alcohol or caffeine.
- Air conditioning provides the safest escape from extreme heat.
- Plan to check on family, friends, and neighbors, especially the elderly, who do not have air conditioning or who spend much of their time alone.
- Wear loose, lightweight, light-colored clothing. Light colors reflect heat and sunlight and help you maintain a normal body temperature.
- Slow down. Reduce, eliminate or reschedule strenuous activity. If you must engage in strenuous activity, do so during the coolest part of the day, which is usually in the morning between 4:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m.
- Stay in the shade when possible, and avoid prolonged sun exposure during the hottest part of the day, between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- Take frequent breaks when working outdoors or engaging in physical activity on warm days.
- Take advantage of the Official Cooling Center for the City of North Chicago, located in the North Chicago City Hall Council Chambers.



Warning: Do not violate railroad signals

Resident and visitor safety is the single most important priority of the City of North Chicago; it is something we take very seriously. Please review the following information regarding railroad safety.

When the bells and lights are flashing at a railroad crossing, it is illegal to cross the tracks. The police can and will enforce the law on this matter. The Illinois State Law (625 ILCS 5/11-1011) cites, "No pedestrian shall enter, remain upon or traverse over a railroad grade crossing or pedestrian walkway crossing a railroad track when an audible bell or clearly visible electric or mechanical signal device is operational giving warning of the presence, approach, passage, or departure of a railroad train. A violation of any part of this Section is a petty offense for which a \$250 fine shall be imposed for a first violation, and a \$500 fine shall be imposed for a second or subsequent violation. The court may impose 25 hours of community service in place of the \$250 fine for a first violation."

3-on-3 Basketball Tournament & Back to School Jam!

On August 14 2010, the Community Organized Police Spirit (C.O.P.S.) and the Lake County Housing Authority will host its 16th Annual 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament & Back to School Jam at the Marion Jones Townhomes. For more information call 847-596-8749.





Welcome the "McGruff Mobile"

With an effort to be more proactive in the schools, the North Chicago Police Department, Juvenile Division, has earned a vehicle that will provide a visible acknowledgment of its presence in the city. The McGruff Mobile will help create a positive image of the NCPD to our young residents. We have already received positive feedback from North Chicago students who enjoyed having the McGruff Mobile parked at their school from time to time.

Message from your City Clerk: For 2011 Primary and General Elections (once SB 3012 signed)

Circulation period for candidate petitions:

Primary Election: Aug 24, 2010 - Nov 22, 2010
(Highland Park, North Chicago, Waukegan)

General Consolidated Election:

Oct 5, 2010 - Jan 3, 2011

Filing period for candidate petitions:

Primary Election: Nov 15, 2010 - Nov 22, 2010
(Highland Park, North Chicago, Waukegan)

General Consolidated Election: Dec 27, 2010 - Jan 3, 2011



The Robert Morris University Ladies Soccer Team volunteers during City Wide Pride Day.

Join the North Chicago Fire Department at the Fire Safety Fair!

Firefighters will be offering fire safety tips and car seat safety advice on July 31 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Foss Park District, 1730 Lewis Avenue. Kids can enjoy interactive games and tour the Safety Trailer. Free food and giveaways will be provided.



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Summer 2010



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North Chicago, IL 60064

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POSTAL CUSTOMER



COMMUNITY DAY



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SATURDAY AUGUST 7

SUNDAY AUGUST 8

10:00am
Parade

11:00am
Festival • Merchants
3-on-3 Basketball Tournament
Soccer Tournament • Concerts
Helicopter Landings
Activities for Children
Raffles & Giveaways

11:00am & 4:00pm
Bingo

Noon
Special Performance:
Jazz Steppers Drill Team & Drum Core

12:30pm & 2:30pm
Library Story Time

2:00pm
Special Performances

3:00pm
Special Performances:
"Those Funny Little People"

4:30pm
Steppers Demonstration

6:00pm
Concert on the Lawn:
"Lonnie Givens & G&G Show Band"
"Greg Rockingham Jazz Ensemble"

Nightfall
Fireworks Display

2:00pm
Food Vendors

3:00pm - 7:00pm
Concert on the Lawn:
"Walt Whitman and the Soul Children of Chicago"
"Glenn Johnson & the Voices of Inner Peace"
Other Special Guests

City of North Chicago

Leon Rockingham, Jr. / Mayor

Lori Collins / City Clerk

Kenneth Robinson / Treasurer

Ernest Fisher / 1st Ward Alderman

Hornsby Kneeland / 2nd Ward Alderman

Valerie DeVost / 3rd Ward Alderman

Bobby Allen / 4th Ward Alderman

Torrance D. Abrams, Sr. / 5th Ward Alderman

Bob Runnels / 6th Ward Alderman

Vacant / 7th Ward Alderman

Contact Information

Emergency	911
General	847-596-8600
Clerk	847-596-8682
Police Dept.	847-596-8700
Payment Center ..	847-596-8635
Building	847-596-8650
Human Resources ..	847-596-8645
Engineer	847-596-8691
Mayor's Office	847-596-8610
Treasurer	847-596-8628
Fire Dept.	847-596-8780
Water Billing	847-596-8626
Community Development	847-596-8670
Street Dept.	847-596-8870
Water Dept.	847-596-8880