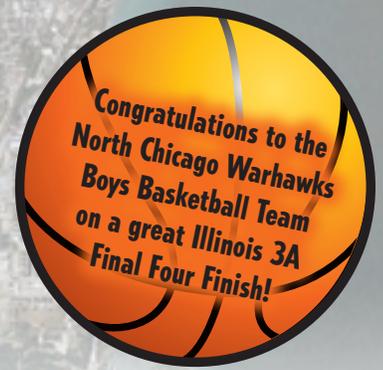


Discover

News from North Chicago



Spring 2011

From the desk of Mayor Leon Rockingham, Jr.

Our number one priority as public servants is to keep our citizens safe and informed. The Blizzard of 2011 rocked all of us – but it did not take us down. Even though our region was declared an official civil disaster, the City of North Chicago cleared all streets and alleys within two days when many municipalities across the county took much longer. Thank you to every member of my staff, who worked tireless hours, sacrificed their own safety and put our citizens first during an extreme time of need.

This is also a good time to point out the importance of emergency preparedness. Please have a safety plan for your family in the case of an emergency. I encourage every resident to sign up for the city's Blackboard Connect service available at our website – you will receive important emergency related messages that could save your life.

North Chicago continues to make strides in the overall betterment of our community. By combating crime, consolidating city services, improving infrastructure and focusing on economic development, we are laying the groundwork for a viable future for our city and our residents.

I am proud to report that the North Chicago crime rate is the lowest it has been since 2001 and compared to U.S. National Overall Crime indicator census, the City of North Chicago crime rate is 40% below the national average.

The current economic climate has affected residents, businesses and municipalities all across our nation. Unfortunately, North Chicago was not able to escape the financial crisis; however, we are working diligently to create a city that is fiscally stronger than ever.

In an effort to reduce budget spending, the city has chosen to consolidate services through internal reorganizations. Two positions in the Human Resources Department have been eliminated, the Information Technology Department has been restructured, and the Building and Community Development Departments have been combined. The Fire and Police Departments are also streamlining some positions in order to serve the city more efficiently and cost effectively. City Council also voted to consolidate the current city Street Department, Water Plant and Water Distribution Departments to form a unified Public Works Department that will save taxpayer dollars.

To minimize the need for citywide layoffs, the city recently offered every employee the Voluntary Separation Program – some employees

seized the opportunity to take advantage of the program's incentives. We are still facing challenging times ahead; however, due to the hard work and strategic planning of our brave and committed city council and dedicated city staff we will prevail.



This year, we have signed an agreement with Weston Solutions to begin the assessment and planning phase of the city's Sheridan Crossing development. Weston Solutions brings technical expertise, corporate partnerships and other important resources that we have not had in the past. Future phases of the project will create jobs, stimulate the local economy, and most importantly, capitalize on the city's progress in revitalizing the property by utilizing the city's infrastructure improvements and rehabilitation of Martin Luther King Jr. Drive.

Beginning in the first part of April, the Weston Solutions team will host community outreach meetings to solicit input from local residents and businesses. I encourage all North Chicago citizens to take part in these meetings. Sheridan Crossing is North Chicago's stamp on the north shore, this is our city – let's show the world who we are! Be sure to check our city website for meeting dates and details.

The 2010 Census numbers are in - North Chicago's population is 32,574. Even though the city experienced a decrease in residency, projections estimated the city to have a population of approximately 28,000, which would have been devastating to the city budget and available services. The city's Complete Count Committee, which had representation from the City of North Chicago, Foss Park District, North Chicago School District #187 and Naval Station Great Lakes coordinated with other community programs to host focus groups, rallies, and other census awareness programs. Thank you to the city staff led by Economic Development Director, Joseph Napolitano and all city volunteers for educating our residents on the importance of census reporting and subsequently getting an accurate count for the city. Way to go North Chicago!

As always, I would like to remind the citizens of North Chicago to call upon city staff with any questions, concerns, or needs. Please utilize the "Contact Us" section on our website at www.NorthChicago.org. We are graciously here to serve you.

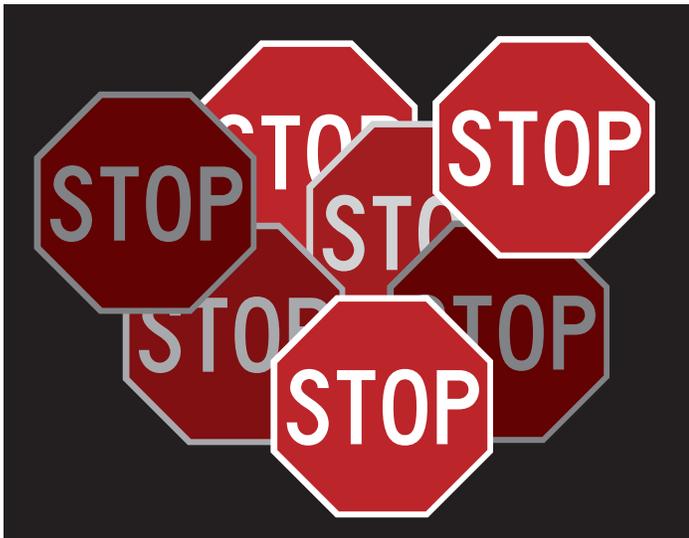
Best Regards,

Mayor Leon Rockingham, Jr.

Resurfacing projects in the works

The City of North Chicago is set to pave the streets on the 1200 block of Wadsworth, 1600 block of Park, and 19th Place (from Dugdale to the west end.) The city will also construct new curbs and pave Natoma Avenue between Argonne and 18th Place. Culverts will no longer be needed under the driveways on this stretch of Natoma and will be removed as part of the project. Construction is anticipated between May 1 and July 1.

The Lake County Department of Transportation will be resurfacing 14th Street (Pulaski Drive) between Route 43 and Green Bay Road. Construction is anticipated between April 25 and July 15.



Traffic signals, signs and safety

Why do some traffic signals not change from red to green if no one is travelling in the other direction? Some signals are set up to change on a timer system that is set based on traffic counts that were taken at the time the signal was installed. Other signals use a system of detecting wires under the asphalt surface. The installation of many North Chicago signal detectors took place in 2009. The detectors at 14th and Jackson will be replaced when 14th Street is rehabilitated.

In order to comply with a newly instituted federal mandate, the city is installing and upgrading all street signs to an appropriate reflectivity standard by 2016. This mandate will improve traffic safety by making city traffic signs readable

from an appropriate distance at night. The sign upgrades will reduce night accidents due to poor signage reflectivity.

Commuters may also notice flashing lights and cameras affixed to traffic signals. The flashing lights are Electronic Vehicle Pre-emption (EVPs). Police cars, fire trucks and ambulances initiate the lights in order for the signal to display a green light during times of emergency. The cameras only exist on county or state roads. Lake County uses the cameras to monitor intersection safety through their Lake County Passage system, which posts live traffic updates and more at www.lakecountypassage.com.

Winter mailbox damage

During heavy snowfalls, such as the Blizzard of 2011, it is very difficult to clear the snow without damaging some mailboxes. Because snowstorms occur in our area each winter, the City of North Chicago does not recommend the installation of decorative brick structure mailboxes.

In regards to snow removal damages, the North Chicago Snow and Ice Management Policy states the following:

“Mailboxes, fences or other private structures damaged during snow removal will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Only those mailboxes, fences, etc. that were properly located and installed on private property and then damaged by plowing operations will be repaired at the city’s expense. If a mailbox, fence, or other structure is not properly located, the city bears no responsibility when and if a plow damages the structure. Note that the Postal Office Standard is to locate a mailbox a minimum of 12 inches from the curb (measured to the face of the mailbox, not the post) and place the mailbox at a height 48 inches from bottom of box to ground.”

For damages incurred on Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive and 14th Street west of Green Bay, contact Lake County. For damages incurred on Green Bay, Buckley, Route 43, and Route 41, contact IDOT.

Recognition for MLK rehab

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive Rehabilitation project received two awards in early 2011 from reputable the engineering and public works organizations. On February 4, Mayor Rockingham joined the city's engineering firm, Ciorba group to receive the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) merit award. The city also received an award for transportation projects completed with a budget between \$5 million to \$25 million from the American Public Works Association (APWA.)



Angela McCray, City of North Chicago Interim Chief of Staff; Josh Wheeler, City Engineer / Ciorba Group; Jennifer Grazier, Ciorba Group; Mayor Leon Rockingham, Jr.; Howard Westphal, Ciorba Group; Matt Lehan, Ciorba Group

News from the Water Department

For the 5th consecutive year, the City of North Chicago Water Treatment Facility received an award for excellence in maintaining fluoridation standards from the Illinois Department of Public Health. The department also achieved the following goals throughout 2010: stayed below state mandated 8% for unaccounted water, completed IDOL/ OSHA training programs and performed in-house water treatment facility staff training.

This year, as in years past, North Chicago tap water met all USEPA and state drinking water health standards. We are able to report that the department had no violation of a contaminant level or any other water quality standard violation in the previous year.

The city's water treatment plant houses an Illinois Certified Lab staffed with licensed microbiologists and Class A operators. Microbiologists sample and test the finished and raw water at various points in the distribution system and before the water leaves the plant.

In order to maintain our high standard of water quality, the city has instituted a quality assurance program that is composed of a set of operating principles that to be followed during sample collection and analysis. The principles include: quality assurance, quality control, laboratory organizational structure, laboratory facilities, supplies, equipment, laboratory safety, sample handling, laboratory analytical methods, certification of analytical results, sample report forms and recordkeeping.

The water distribution system is now equipped with a distribution monitor which allows city staff to keep an eye on critical water quality parameters such as turbidity, chlorine, ph, conductivity and temperature. All levels are transferred electronically to our SCADA system located at the treatment facility. Should water quality measurements shift outside normal operational ranges, an alarm is sounded and a staff member takes every step possible to resolve the issue.

As always, the City of North Chicago is committed to providing our residents with information, please feel free to contact the Water Department for more information. To obtain a copy of the Water Quality Report, visit the Water Department section of www.northchicago.org.

Water utility updates

This year, North Chicago joined other regional communities in joint bidding for sewer lining projects. This is an innovative way to reduce costs and save money. This spring, the city will re-line the sanitary sewer located in the 1200 block of Wadsworth and 1800 block of Lincoln with the cured-in-place-pipe process. The new sewer lining will improve the infrastructure, extend the sewer's lifetime, and reduce sewer flooding.

The Water Department will perform hydrant flushing and a start a valve-exercising program this year. These programs help the city learn what parts of the water system need replacing and ensure that the existing system is in working order.

The Water Department also continues fixing sinkholes and replacing old sanitary lids. Performing this type of maintenance will improve safety, reduce backups caused by inflow and infiltration, and keep our utilities in good working order.

Remember, residents can take advantage of the Backflow Prevention Reimbursement Program, contact the Economic Development Department for more information.



Now that spring is here, many times, the winter thaw leaves behind eroded grass patches throughout residential lawns. Homeowners should revegetate the bare spots to beautify landscapes and prevent sediments or rock particles from entering the storm sewer system. Excessive erosion causes obstructions in stormwater outlets downstream, resulting in water quality and natural habitat concerns.

Water meter reading

Residential water meter reading is performed on a quarterly basis while commercial and industrial readings are taken monthly. The current cost for drinking water for residents and businesses within the city limits is 3.33/1000 gallons while the sewer rate is 0.93/1000 gallons. The question that has become quite popular is "Why do I receive sanitary bill from the City of North Chicago and North Shore Sanitary District?" The answer to this is customers are charged a rate from the city for the transmission of sanitary wastes and infrastructure maintenance, while North Shore Sanitary District charges the customer for treatment of the sanitary waste.



Residents can prevent water leaks

Prevent a possible increase in water consumption by regularly checking for leaks. Leak detection can be performed right from your home meter. First, ensure all water in the house is off. Next, locate the red wheel that sits atop the meter head. If there is no water running through the meter, the red wheel should not be moving. If the wheel is moving in a clockwise direction and all the water in the house is turned off, there is a leak. The usual suspect is typically a toilet running somewhere in the house. If the running water is not easily detectable, contact a plumber for repairs to prevent a costly water bill.

Do you want to learn more water conservation tips?

Pick up a brochure at city hall on water use regarding lawn care, indoor water use, how to fix a toilet leak, and rain barrels. Brochures provided by the Lake County Water Supply Advisory.



Building Community & Development Department — Code enforcement

Illegal apartments in attics and basements

One has to only read the newspaper or watch the news to hear of tragic accidents where lives have been lost because the victims could not get out of the house. It happens too often to ignore! Take for instance, the following article from the Portland Press Herald (Maine):4/21/06

Grim Result from Building Code Violations

A child's death in an apartment fire in Maine was a result of building code violations. A third-floor unit built without city permission lacked vital safety features the law required.

Although the owner was denied permission to add a fifth unit to his building, he disregarded the building code and built anyway. Compounding the tragedy, the child's apartment was in violation of the city building code that requires apartments above the second floor to have two exits if the hallway leading to the nearest stairs is not fire-rated or does not have a sprinkler system. The child's apartment had none of these safety features, state fire investigators said. The unit also lacked smoke detectors. While an occupant may have started this fire accidentally, codes also mandate wiring and heating standards that lessen the chance that construction flaws will endanger people's safety.

What is of utmost importance here is that building and fire codes exist for good reasons, and the safety of occupants is the most important reason of all. People building homes or putting on additions must conform to housing codes and get all the proper approvals. Lives are at stake! Codes are important, and efforts to undermine or ignore them are worth penalizing. The alternative, as in this case, can be grim indeed.

There are numerous requirements that have to be met before approval is given for construction of room additions, basement sleeping rooms, etc. It is in the property owner's best interest to check with the Building Department before starting construction.

Recent North Chicago property inspections have turned up these types of illegal rooms that were constructed without approval. Homeowners and buyers have had to dismantle these illegal structures before a mandatory Occupancy Certificate can be issued.

Occupancy Certificates and overcrowding

There has been much discussion about problems with overcrowding in apartments and single-family homes. The City of North Chicago Building Department will be stepping up enforcement of this life-safety problem in the coming months of 2011.

Enforcement is not based on the make-up of a single family, but rather, by a calculated occupancy load, which is outlined in the 2006 International Property Maintenance Code. Occupancy will be determined based on calculated square footage in a dwelling.

For example, every bedroom occupied by one person shall contain at least 70 square feet. Every bedroom occupied by more than one person shall contain at least 50 square feet for each person. In addition to sleeping room (bedroom) requirements, there are square footage requirements for the living and dining rooms.

A dwelling with an occupancy load from 3-5 persons must have a living room with a minimum of 120 square feet and a dining room with a minimum of 80 square feet. This is in addition to the required square footage for sleeping rooms for the number of occupants.

What's the bottom line? If a dwelling has an occupancy load of five and there are 10 people, 5 will have to find another place to live. Violations of the codes will bear financial consequences for the property owner, but more importantly, violations risk the lives of our residents.

Codes to follow

The following codes are used by the City of North Chicago in addition to local ordinances approved by the City Council:

- International Building Code (IBC) 2006
- International Mechanical Code (IMC) 2006
- International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) 2006
- International Residential Code (IRC) 2006
- National Electrical Code (NEC) 2005
- International Fire Code (IFC) 2006
- Illinois Plumbing Code (Latest edition)
- Illinois Accessibility Code (Latest edition)

GRAFFITI

Graffiti is the scourge of any neighborhood. It is unsightly, offensive and not even “good art”. It can have a direct impact on people trying to sell their property and will cause potential buyers to look elsewhere. The individuals who do this have no respect for the personal property of others; their neighborhood or even themselves. They do it to “prove” something to someone else; they think it is “cool”; or they want to mark their “territory” that is not even theirs. Above all they show cowardice as they perform their assault on personal properties at night and in the alleys, out of sight.

That being said, what is left is the responsibility of cleaning it up, which according to city ordinances, rests with the property owner. Covering up this damage takes money and property owners’ time, both of which are scarce in today’s economy. As a result, many times the graffiti is hastily covered over with whatever paint the property owner may have on hand, like white paint on brown siding or blue paint on a green house, which does not solve the problem.

If a property is hit with graffiti, the owner will receive a Field Correction Notice directing the removal or covering up within 7 days. If for some reason, property owners cannot take care of the graffiti, the city will be prepared to step in and assist. If assistance is needed, please call the Building and Community Development Department for assistance within 7 days of receiving the Field Correction Notice. The Department will coordinate the remediation and the property owner will be required to sign a liability release before the city can work on their property.

Working together, the city and residents can continue to beautify the City of North Chicago. Everyone needs to be vigilant about what is going on in his or her neighborhood. If you see suspicious activity or see someone “tagging” property with graffiti, call the Police Department immediately. The more eyes we have in our community, the better chance we have in stopping this nonsense.

Spring Cleanup

Spring is here, and so is spring-cleaning! The melting snow reveals all of the past winter’s trash and debris. Property owners are responsible for keeping their property clean and well maintained. However, everyone has a responsibility to refrain from littering.

Cleanup time is also the time to get rid of the junk that may have accumulated in backyards, as well as the junk vehicles that take away from the fresh and clean image of city neighborhoods. Additionally, garages, sheds, fences and even houses, may need a little “TLC” when it comes to maintenance. A fresh coat of paint, straightening a leaning fence and repairing the garage shingles all contributes to beautifying North Chicago.

In March Veolia will pick-up yard waste on trash pick-up days. Yard waste must be in biodegradable bags or in plastic

garbage cans that are clearly marked “Yard Waste.” Tree/shrub branches and limbs must be bundled with biodegradable twine. The bundles cannot exceed 5 ft. in length and must be of a size that is easy to handle.

Seniors and disabled residents can obtain a special back door service pick-up by contacting Veolia directly at 847-623-3870.



Licensing & permits

Landlord licensing

The new landlord-licensing program enacted by City Council in 2010 is progressing well. To ensure that we reach our goal of 100% compliance, we are doing a crosscheck of water billing to identify multi-unit properties. If a multi-unit is suspected, property owners will receive a letter stating the possible need for a landlord license and subsequent required occupancy inspections. The property must respond or a summons to administrative court will be sent. For now, all 2010 late fees (\$70 per building) have been waived; however, if the owner ends up in court for not responding and is found liable the fines can be substantial.

Landlord license renewals for the 2011-2012 year will begin May 1st. A late penalty fee schedule will apply for next year; it is listed in the Landlord Licensing Ordinance, which is on the city website. Remember, Occupancy Inspections are required for every rental unit and are good for two years.

Contractor licensing

Contractors working in the city must be licensed or registered with the City of North Chicago. They are also responsible for applying for required permits before commencing work on any job. Property owners should call

the Building Department to make sure their contractor is licensed with the city before any work is started. Only licensed contractors who have pulled necessary permits are responsible for the work. Specific work that is done by a sub-contractor without notifying the Building Department will not be inspected.

Permits

Most major work requires proper permits; do not get caught without one! It is the property owner's responsibility to make sure hired contractors have secured and posted the proper permits for work. Call the Building Department, 847-596-8650 for questions as to whether a permit is required.

Contract for Deed property purchases

Sometimes, properties are sold under Contract for Deed, which is an arrangement between the buyer and seller. This form of property sale is not recorded with the county. It is important to know that under Contract for Deed, the original owner is still considered the responsible party for code violations and will still receive correspondence from the city for action to be taken on any violations.

Economic Development

Grant Place Retail Center

The City of North Chicago is pleased to announce that Yes Vital Pharmacy has opened in the Grant Place retail center on Sheridan Road. This store provides much needed pharmacy services for North Chicago residents. The pharmacy is located just south of Intervention Arms Medical Center and the North Chicago Community Bank.

What is YOUR vision for Sheridan Crossing?

The City of North Chicago & Weston Solutions, Inc. want to know!

Make your voice heard at www.northchicago.org
Attend a public meeting at 6:30 p.m.
City Hall - 4/12 or Forrestal School - 4/19

Call Kelly Dougherty: 312-424-3317
Email: sheridancrossing@northchicago.org
Sheridan Crossing Development: MLK Dr. & Sheridan Rd.

Homeowner rehabilitation programs

The City of North Chicago offers two homeowner rehabilitation programs for qualified residents:

Emergency home repair services

Emergency home repair services are available for issues relating to immediate health and safety concerns, such as loss of heat or hot water, roof leaks and plumbing or electrical hazards. Deferred loans of up to \$10,000.00 in repairs are available.

General Rehab Program

General Rehab Program repairs are available for non-emergency repairs that address building code deficiencies in homes. Deferred loans of up to \$40,000 in repairs are available. Call the City today at 847-596-8670 to see if you qualify for these programs.

Renovated Homes for Sale

The City of North Chicago has received federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funds and used these funds for the purchase and renovation of two homes:



1932 Seymour



2100 Wallace

These homes are a great bargain and are available to qualified purchasers. For more information, call Pam Jeffries at 847-596-8670.

Growing North Chicago

North Chicago Neighborhood Gardens

Neighborhood Garden Program

The North Chicago Neighborhood Garden Program is now in its second year! Don't miss out on this opportunity to grow fresh vegetables and meet fellow gardeners.

We provide all participants with a 10' x 10' plot of land, tilled and ready for planting. To get you started, you'll receive a selection of vegetable plants and seeds, but you can grow whatever vegetables you prefer. Water, hose, a storage shed and garden tools are provided at the garden. Periodically, we will provide gardening tips and ideas to help your garden succeed. All you do is make a commitment to maintaining your plot.

Our primary garden is located in the Dugdale Park Neighborhood, on Arrington Drive. Depending on response, a second garden may be available on Broadway at 20th Street.



For more information on this program and to apply for a free garden plot, please contact the Economic Development Department at 847-596-8670.

North Chicago Police Department 2010 Annual Crime Summary

Between 2008 and 2010, violent crime in the City of North Chicago is down 5.5% and property crime is down 4.9%. “We’ve seen a pretty dramatic decline in crime rates,” Police Chief Michael Newsome stated. In addition, the North Chicago Police Department is using all of its tools to address and improve the quality of life in our community. Chief Newsome adds that, “Policing is more proactive. Our officers are doing an outstanding job with the resources at hand.”

Another aspect contributing to the lower crime rate is due to addressing the needs and concerns of our young citizens. “Efforts to attend to the needs of young offenders through community

outreach programs has helped,” stated Mayor Rockingham at the most recent PTCO graduation ceremony, “The more attention we pay to at-risk kids within our community, the better prepared the city will be to deter bad choices.”

For the past 7 years, overall crime reported has been dropping in the city by an average of 5% per year. The UCR FBI Crime indicator also shows that at this current rate, crime is in a downward vector. Compared to the overall national standard, the City of North Chicago falls “well below” what other cities are experiencing in the effects of ‘Overall crime’.

North Chicago Police Department 2010 Crime Summary

- Overall Crime reported compared to 2007 has dropped 19%
- Overall Crime reported compared to 2004 has dropped 50%
- Overall Crime for the City of North Chicago has not been this low since 2001
- Compared to the “U.S. National” the Overall Crime indicator census, the City is 40% below the national average.



Highlights from Shields Township

We encourage residents to come to our monthly Town Board meetings and get involved. Meetings are held in our Community Room the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Please note: the April 21st meeting will be held in the North Chicago City Hall Council Chambers at 6:30 p.m. We want to hear from you...your questions or concerns. Please plan to attend!

Our Food Pantry is fortunate to have deep community support in the form of food and financial donations, as well as volunteers. We always welcome ongoing community assistance. Pantry hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Wednesdays and Thursdays. Please refer to our website, www.shieldstownship.com, for a link to the Food Pantry under the Supervisor’s tab.

Finally, please remember that Shields Township has a representative at North Chicago Library every first Monday of the month from 2:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. (walk-ins welcome) and every third Monday afternoon of the month by appointment. We are available to help with General or Emergency Assistance, help with utility bills, or referrals to other partners. Contact Devon Nelson at 847-234-0802 for details.

Important emergency preparedness information From the Fire Department

Prevention is key

Please remember to check the smoke detector(s) and carbon monoxide detector(s) in your home to make sure they are working properly. They save lives before we get there!

Preparing for a Tornado

The change in the weather means tornado season is approaching. While about a thousand tornadoes touch down in the US, each year and only a small percentage actually strike occupied buildings, every year a number of people are killed or injured. The chance a tornado will strike a building that you are in is very small; however, you can greatly reduce the chance of injury by doing a few simple things.

One of the most important things you can do to prevent being injured in a tornado is to be alert to the onset of severe weather. Most deaths and injuries happen to people who are unaware and uninformed. Young children or the mentally challenged may not recognize a dangerous situation. The ill, elderly, or invalid may not be able to reach shelter in time. Those who ignore the weather because of indifference or overconfidence may not perceive the danger. Stay aware and you will stay alive!

Get a survival kit that includes:

- Essential medications and eyeglasses for each family member
- Sturdy shoes
- Flashlight and portable AM radio – don't forget extra batteries for both
- Written instructions on how to turn off your home's utilities
- Conduct periodic tornado drills, so everyone remembers what to do when a tornado approaches

Stay tuned-in to storm warnings:

- Listen to local radio and TV stations for storm information
- Tornado WATCHES and WARNINGS are issued by the National Weather Service
- A tornado WATCH means a tornado is possible in your area.
- A tornado WARNING means a tornado has been sighted and may be headed for your area

- If a WARNING is issued, go to safety immediately
- Listen to local radio and TV stations for further updates

Be alert to changing weather conditions:

- Blowing debris or the sound of an approaching tornado may alert you
- Many people say an approaching tornado sounds like a freight train

When a tornado warning is issued:

- The tornado may be approaching your area
- If you are inside, go to the safe place you picked to protect yourself from glass and other flying objects - under stairs in the basement is the best
- Stay away from windows
- If you are outside, hurry to the basement of a nearby sturdy building or lie flat in a ditch or low-lying area
- If you are in a car or mobile home, get out immediately and head for safety (as above)

When the tornado passes:

- Watch out for fallen power lines and do not venture into the damaged area
- Listen to the radio for information and instructions
- Use a flashlight to inspect your home for damage - avoid using candles or matches due to possible leaking natural gas

Receive emergency alerts

Alert Lake County

Are you prepared in the event of an emergency? Alert Lake County is a fantastic resource for you and your family as well as your business. On the website, you can sign up for emergency alerts, and learn about ways you can be prepared in the event of an emergency as well as know what the county does when boil orders, pandemic flus, extreme temperatures, major storms and national threats like terrorism create emergency situations. Visit www.alertlakecounty.com to sign up today.



North Chicago: Residential choice in power may be coming soon

The City of North Chicago will be placing a referendum on the upcoming April 5 ballot. If approved, the referendum would allow the city to solicit bids for the purchase of power on the open energy market. The goal is to reduce the electricity costs for residential homes and small businesses.

Residential electric rates are set every May by ComEd. The fixed rates are then in effect for 12 months. The City of North Chicago is taking the necessary steps to have other electric suppliers provide rate quotes to compete with ComEd. Even if the power is purchased from another supplier, ComEd would continue to service the residential accounts.

The City of North Chicago has been purchasing its power for water pumping and street lighting operations from suppliers other than ComEd since 2007. These suppliers have been able to offer lower rates than ComEd.

Since the State of Illinois deregulated ComEd, 75% of all commercial power is now being purchased by suppliers other than ComEd. However, few residents have moved to other energy suppliers. As a result, the State of Illinois changed the laws to allow more residents to seek lower energy rates from other suppliers.

Municipalities are now able to receive bids from suppliers on behalf of the entire community. If the rates are lower than ComEd's, the City of North Chicago can move all residential (and small commercial) accounts in the city limits to the new

supplier. This is similar to how the city sets the rates for trash haulers or cable suppliers.

Before the City of North Chicago can make this choice, the residents have to approve a resolution on the April 5 ballot.

Even if the resolution passes, the municipality is not obligated to switch suppliers. The resolution simply gives the City of North Chicago the right to solicit competitive bids. Once the bids are received, the North Chicago City Council will decide if it is in the best interest of the residents to move to the lower cost supplier. If not, all residents will remain with ComEd for the following 12 months.

ComEd will continue to deliver the power over its transmission system. Residents will continue to call ComEd in the event of a power outage. Residents will still be customers of ComEd's delivery system. The City of North Chicago has the option of continuing to use ComEd for monthly billing. The only thing that may change is the possibility of purchasing energy from a supplier other than ComEd.

Should the City of North Chicago select a new energy supplier, the supplier will contact each resident to see whether they want to participate in the new plan. If the resident prefers to not participate, they will need to send in a short form (supplied by the energy supplier) informing the supplier of their desire to continue purchasing their power from ComEd.

Emergency notifications

City of North Chicago Blackboard Connect

The city also has an emergency alert system that is customized to reach every North Chicago residence and business. In the case of an emergency or safety warning, the city will send out a Blackboard Connect automated message to every phone landline within the city's database. Residents and business owners are encouraged to register for Blackboard Connect at the city's website. Registration is easy; it gives North Chicago residents the option of receiving messages via text, email and/or mobile phone. Visit www.northchicago.org to sign up today.



Volunteers Needed

North Chicago residents are needed to serve on the Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC). The CAC is responsible for reviewing applications and determining funding levels for public agencies seeking Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The CAC is composed of six (6) local residents and three (3) representatives from the business and industrial communities of North Chicago. The members are appointed and approved by the Mayor for two-year terms. The CAC meets approximately 4-5 times per program year. Get involved - serve on this important committee! Interested residents should call Pam Jeffries, CDBG Administrator, at 847-596-8670.



SAVE THE DATE! – August 6 & 7, 2011

Save the Date! This year’s Community Days celebration will take place on August 6 & 7. Community Days is a collaborative effort among the City of North Chicago, Foss Park District and the North Chicago School District #187, created to show appreciation to the residents of North Chicago. Thousands of citizens and friends flock to North Chicago to watch the parade, participate in soccer and basketball tournaments, taste the flavors of our local food vendors and enjoy live music, entertainment and fireworks.

Community Days also allows businesses, who are supported by North Chicago residents, the opportunity to give back to their loyal customers. Mayor Rockingham stands firm on not spending taxpayer dollars on the event; donations and sponsorships are crucial to the success of Community Days – it is the one and only citywide event where local commerce can be recognized through advertising, vendor and parade involvement. To take part in this year’s North Chicago Community Days celebration, contact 847-596-8640 or visit www.northchicago.org.



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 POSTAL CUSTOMER**

Are you a food vendor or business leader in or around North Chicago?

Don't miss the chance to reach out to the community at this 2-day, family-oriented festival complete with a parade, live music, sports tournaments and more!

For vendor or sponsorship opportunities, visit northchicago.org or call 847-596-8640



Employment Recruitment Center

LIVE @ www.northchicago.org

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City of North Chicago

Leon Rockingham, Jr. / Mayor

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Kenneth Robinson / Treasurer

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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 & Community Development	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
Economic Development.....	847-596-8670
Street Dept.	847-596-8870
Water Dept.	847-596-8880