

Discover

News from North Chicago

Fall/Winter 2009

Changing our future by celebrating our past

I am very proud to be Mayor during this time in our city's history. This year the City of North Chicago celebrated its 100th anniversary. The founders of North Chicago contributed hard work, determination, strength, vision, and dedication in order to establish one of the most influential groups of people and businesses throughout the county, state, and country. Although the times have changed, the caliber of people has not. The people of North Chicago still have the same goals and visions as those of yesteryear, and I am honored to be a part of the renewal of this great city.

During this year's Community Days festival, the sense of unity, service, and pride among North Chicagoans was inspiring. It was encouraging to see city employees, residents, and volunteers working together to celebrate the city that has given so much to all of us. Even though the economy has taken a turn for the worse, North Chicago is still thriving through the spirit of community and the support of local businesses, churches, and other contributors.

In an effort to keep local businesses flourishing and encourage local spending, this summer the city launched its very own stimulus package in conjunction with the North Chicago Chamber of Commerce. The coupon book advised

North Chicago patrons to "shop, spend, and save – where you live, work, and play." I would like to foster continued collaborative and creative efforts such as these in order for North Chicagoans to prosper in business and at home.

Having a constituency that is like-minded and goal oriented transcends into the city government and staff. I am very proud of the progress the city has made to restore North Chicago. As you drive around the streets of the city, it is impossible not to see the execution of an experienced and effective team working for you. Reconstruction of North Chicago's most quintessential thoroughfares is underway. The road to restoration is a challenging one, but is worth every bump and every turn.

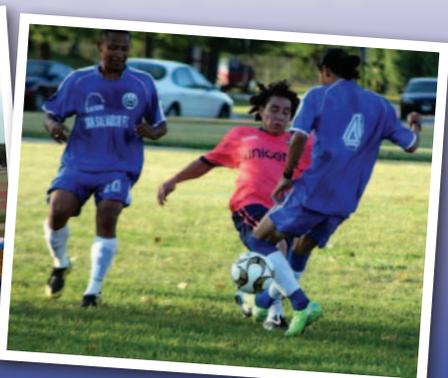
I would like to encourage the citizens of North Chicago to call upon the city staff with any questions, concerns, or needs. Please utilize the "Contact Us" section on our website at www.NorthChicago.org or dial us anytime by department listed on the back of this newsletter. We are graciously here to serve you.

As autumn has arrived, I hope you and your family reap the rewards of the season and, as always, I wish you safe and happy holidays ahead.

Thank You,

Mayor Leon Rockingham, Jr.

— 100 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT —



North Chicago has successful road construction season

MLK—Phase 1 Complete

As another road construction season winds down, phase one of the Martin Luther King Jr. Drive reconstruction project is complete. Installation of all sanitary sewer mains is complete. Crews are now installing the water main and storm sewer.

The northern two lanes of MLK will be resurfaced and open for winter travel. The MLK project is set to restart in early spring, and finalized by fall 2010. Look for construction updates and pictures in the Engineering section of the city's website.

Local streets improved

Local resurfacing projects have also been completed providing new surfaces to the blocks of Wadsworth, Lincoln, 24th, Northern, and Meadow.

Other roadway projects completed this summer include electronic pre-emption devices, detector loops, and thermoplastic striping upgrades throughout the city. These improvements increase the safety of our intersections, travelers, and pedestrians.

State working for North Chicago

The Illinois Department of Transportation finished resurfacing Green Bay Road. IDOT continues to improve Buckley Road and Sheridan Road this season. Although summer travel through the city was a challenge, North Chicago residents will have smooth roads for safe winter travel.

The Illinois Department of Transportation awarded the City of North Chicago \$144,000 through the Safe Routes to School program. The funds will be used to enable and encourage local students to walk and bike to school by adding or repairing sidewalks, replacing or enhancing crosswalks, and installing new and improved signage near all schools with grades K through 8. This project was co-sponsored by the City of North Chicago, School District 187, and Foss Park District.

Patching, sealing, and filling

City budgets do not have the capacity to include the resurfacing of all streets; therefore, the city Street Department maintains roads for safe driving. The Street Department performs strategic road patching throughout the city. This year, significant patching was completed on highly travelled roads such as Adams, Argonne, Hillcrest, and Foss Park Avenue. Although not all streets were patched, the maintenance was decisively performed in order to patch more areas in future seasons.

Crack sealing commences this fall, pothole maintenance will be performed as needed this winter, and the strategic patching reinstates next spring.

To report a pothole on a local road, please contact the Street Department at 847.596.8870.

To report a pothole on a state road (Green Bay, Buckley, Sheridan, Route 41, Route 43) call 1.800.452.4368.

Local Resurfacing Project: 24th Street from Wallace to Green Bay



Servicing sinkholes

After the harsh winter of 2008-2009, the city's underground infrastructure took a major hit, creating sinkholes throughout the city. A sinkhole is an area in the pavement typically near a drainage structure that "sinks" over time creating a hole or depression in a roadway. Many reasons including aging infrastructure, general movement of the earth, or extreme weather can cause sinkholes. Sinkhole repair requires teamwork. First, the Water Department reseals the utility by replacing or reconstructing its structure. Then the Street Department patches the open hole with asphalt.



While repairs are underway, construction barriers are placed in sinkhole areas to alert citizens of the potential hazard. To report a sinkhole forming, please contact the Water Department at 847.596.8880.

Stormwater pollution prevention

The United States Environmental Protection Agency now requires all municipalities to have a Stormwater Management Plan in place. City Council recently approved the Illicit Discharge Ordinance and Stormwater Management Program Plan, which complies with the USEPA mandate. One provision of the plan is that each property owner is responsible for ensuring that no foreign substances are deposited in the storm sewers. Learn more by viewing the ordinance and plan online or at the city Engineer's office.

Starting with this issue, North Chicago's newsletters will offer tips to property owners on how to help reduce stormwater pollution.

Tip #1 - Do not place any foreign liquids except clean water into the storm sewer inlets. Residents should gather with friends and neighbors to spend a weekend picking up trash in ditches and along roadways to prevent it from entering the storm sewer system. Ask about the Adopt-a-Highway program at the City Engineer's office 847.596.8691.



Autumn Advice

Fall has arrived! That means most everyone is raking or blowing leaves. Be sure to clean the leaves in house gutters, as they will clog the downspouts and cause ice dams when the winter freeze comes. All leaves need to be put in biodegradable bags and placed out on normal garbage pick-up days. Leaves and lawn refuse will be picked up until the middle of December. Please do not blow or rake leaves into the streets. Excessive leaves in the street cause the storm water drains to back-up, which leads to street flooding during heavy rains. Residents are responsible to help keep the streets safe and clean for everyone.

Winter Warnings

Watch out for snowplows. Give snowplows the right-of-way so that salting and cleaning operations are not delayed.

Ice can form on sidewalks and crosswalks before residents or city personnel can provide removal. Students should use extra caution when walking to school through the winter.

Never park on a Limited Winter Parking street when two inches of snow is expected to fall. All vehicles violating this sanction will be subject to towing. Under these conditions, vehicles can be snowed in from plow operations.

Talk with neighbors and work together to help each other in the winter cold.

Eliminate frozen pipes by using a dripping faucet during extreme cold temperatures.

Removing snow from sidewalks and driveways into the street is hazardous to snowplow operations. Snow should be shoveled onto the property owner's land.

Building Department Broadcast

Building Department serves the city

The Building Department stands ready to assist property owners and contractors with their projects. With the exception of fire sprinkler and elevator plans, all plans submitted for permit are reviewed in the Building Department. Site and grading plans are reviewed concurrently by our city Planner and city Engineer. Inspections that are required for a particular construction project are performed by certified and/or licensed individuals.

Demolition busting blight

North Chicago's Blight Busting Program is alive and well. In 2008, 19 properties were demolished by the city or by private owner. So far, in 2009, two properties have been demolished and the city is awaiting court orders for another 19 demolitions.

Registration with the city is required for properties that are vacant for more than 30 days. In addition to the registration, the property owner's contact information must be posted on the property. Properties that are not registered or have any posted contact information will be considered abandoned and will be placed on the demolition list. The cost of any grass cutting, board-ups, legal fees, etc. incurred by the City of North Chicago will be placed as a lien against the property.

Many properties listed on the Demolition Watch List will end up on the Demolition List for 2010. The Demolition and Demolition Watch List can be viewed at the city's web site. Visit www.northchicago.org, select the Building Department, and click on Blight Busting Program.

Landlord responsibilities

Landlords are required to have a Landlord License for each rental property that is in use. When applying for a landlord license for a particular unit(s), an occupancy inspection may be required. Landlords are ultimately responsible for the condition of their property; they may be held responsible if their tenants become a nuisance to the community (i.e. loud noise, excessive cars, overcrowding, etc.).

Vehicle ordinances

The City of North Chicago ordinances allow parking only on prepared surfaces; no lawn parking is permitted. Commercial vehicles over $\frac{3}{4}$ ton (this includes all dump trucks and semi-tractors) are not allowed to be parked in residential areas. Working on vehicles is limited to minor repairs/maintenance of personal vehicles registered to the address of the owner/tenant. Vehicles cannot be left unattended if on a jack or jack stands/ramps. Vehicles should not be left in any state of disassembly for more than 24 hours. The use of residential garages for a vehicle repair business or fleet maintenance of commercial vehicles is prohibited. Non-operable vehicles may be stored in enclosed structures (garage); storing outside and covering with tarps is not permitted. Vehicles with flat tires, cracked windshields, pools of fluids, excessive damage, or in any state of disrepair will be considered inoperable.

Friendly reminders from the City Clerk's Office



Notaries are free of charge at the Lake County Clerk's office in addition to North Chicago City Hall.

Ordinances are available at www.northchicago.org.

North Chicago City Hall will be closed in observance of these 2009 holidays:

Veterans' Day	11/11/09
Thanksgiving Day	11/26/09
Day after Thanksgiving	11/27/09
Christmas Eve	12/24/09
Christmas Day	12/25/09

SHIELDS TOWNSHIP

Shields Township has expanded its presence in North Chicago and is accepting applications for General Assistance from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month at the North Chicago Public Library, 2100 Argonne Drive. Call 847.234.0802 to schedule an appointment.

Top 10 cold weather tips from the North Chicago Fire Department

1. Smoke alarms are the best protection a home or apartment can have in case of fire – check them regularly.
2. Carbon monoxide gas is otherwise known as the silent killer. It is required by the state to have a carbon monoxide detector in every home and apartment.
3. Have a qualified professional check home heating equipment before use.
4. Make sure fireplaces and space heaters work properly and maintain three feet of clearance around them.
5. Never leave burning candles unattended.
6. Keep lit candles at least one foot away from flammable objects.
7. Keep candles away from children.
8. Use sturdy candleholders that will not tip or burn and always be sure to burn candles on a sturdy, clutter-free surface.
9. As the holiday season approaches, be careful and use electrical cords wisely – never overload an outlet.
10. Avoid putting cords against walls or furniture or running them under carpets or across doorways.

For advice on what to do if a fire occurs or how to form an escape plan, please contact the Fire Department at 847.596.8780.

Do's



Don'ts



Coming soon to the City of North Chicago...

In an effort to offer the most payment options to North Chicago residents, the city will soon begin accepting payment using MasterCard, Discover, and American Express credit cards both on-line and at the payment counter. *There is a convenience fee charged for using this system. The fee is not charged or collected by the City of North Chicago.*



Only utility payments will be accepted on-line and will require the user to enter an account number. The city hall payment center will accept credit cards to make utility payments, transfer stamps, liens, water meter purchases, and monthly train parking passes. For more information, please contact the city at 847.596.8620.

New Community Liaison Officers

The goal of the Community Liaison Officers is to service the residents of North Chicago with safety tips, address community concerns, provide education, and be the source of community information. Through this service, the North Chicago Police Department hopes to establish open lines of communication with all residents in order to address community concerns and prevent crime.

Look out for Officer Valiza Nash, Officer Walter Barnett, Officer John Burns, and Officer Ludwin Barreno as they begin walking the beat and addressing all city ordinances, state, federal, and local issues.

Please feel free to contact the North Chicago Community Liaison Officers at 847.596.8700.

North Chicago prescription discounts

The City of North Chicago prescription discount card is FREE to all North Chicago residents, regardless of age, income, or existing health insurance. By using this card, North Chicagoans may save an average of 20% off the regular retail price of prescription drugs at participating pharmacies.

Residents may pick up a card at the city hall payment center, Building Department, Fire Department, Police Department, library, or Foss Park Youth Center.

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Trick-or-Treat

It's that time of year again, the fall season is in full swing and Halloween is just around the corner. Mayor Rockingham and the City of North Chicago wish all residents and "treaters" a safe and happy holiday. North Chicago will hold Halloween trick-or-treating on Saturday, October 31 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Save the date

Join Mayor Rockingham and city elected officials for North Chicago's annual tree lighting ceremony at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, December 7, 2009 at North Chicago City Hall, 1850 Lewis Avenue. Patrons will enjoy a visit from Santa, and other festivities.

You count! So get counted!

The 2010 U.S. Census is coming in April! Making sure that every North Chicago resident is accurately counted is more important than ever. North Chicago's level of federal and state funding is based on its population.

During the last census from 1990 to 2000, North Chicago's population decreased, which cut city's funding a \$1 million per year. That is a loss of \$10 million over the last 10 years! The city cannot afford to lose additional federal and state dollars and the only way to prevent that is to make sure each and every North Chicago resident is counted.

Why fill out a 2010 Census form?

IT'S EASY! The questionnaire you receive in the mail should take no more than 10 minutes to complete.

IT'S CONFIDENTIAL! By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's answers with anyone, including welfare and immigration agencies.



United States
**Census
2010**

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