

# Discover

## *News from North Chicago*

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Summer 2009

## North Chicago continues to revitalize and renew

I am grateful and pleased that we will be working together for another four years to continue the city's economic revitalization. Much insight and progress was gained during the past four years. Revitalizing our economy involves broad-based partnerships and local sustainable investment by the private sector. It requires a brave and committed city council to help lead the vision and make tough decisions, a dedicated and committed staff to make the vision a reality, and engaged residents and businesses to be a part of the team and maintain improvements to their neighborhoods.

Because of the current economic conditions, the city is challenged with the same issues that have crippled other municipalities such as decreased revenues and abandoned properties. But because the elected officials made tough budget decisions in 2005, this city will continue to provide the expected level of municipal services and will continue

to work on economic revitalization and the city's infrastructure. A strong infrastructure provides jobs and attracts investment in the community.



Just look around and you will see progress – real changes from real strategies carried out by people who drive for results.

Again, I would like to underscore my appreciation to everyone who is a part of North Chicago.

*Mayor Leon Rockingham Jr.*

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## The impact of the 2010 Census on the City of North Chicago

In order to achieve an accurate assessment of the number and location of the people living within the nation's borders, the U.S. Constitution mandates a census of the population every 10 years.

The census population totals determine which states gain or lose representation in Congress. It also determines the amount of state and federal funding communities receive over the course of the decade. 2010 Census data will directly affect how more than \$3 trillion is allocated to local, state and tribal governments over the next 10 years.

In order for this funding allocation to be accomplished fairly and accurately, the goal of the census is to ensure an accurate count.

The U.S. Census Bureau does not ask about the legal status of respondents in any of its surveys and census programs. The 2010 Census only asks for name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship, and whether you own or rent your home. All responses are used for statistical purposes only, and all are strictly confidential. Bilingual forms are available.

It is imperative that every citizen gets counted so the city can receive its fair share of federal funding. You count! So get counted!

## Roadway improvements continue in North Chicago

### Sanitary sewer installation, digging and crushing on MLK Drive

The new sanitary sewer on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive is currently being installed down the middle of the roadway. Next, the two northernmost lanes will be closed to install the watermain and completely reconstruct the road. The southern two lanes will be completed as the last phase of the project. Check out the construction progress on the city's website at [www.northchicago.org](http://www.northchicago.org).

### State improvements

Buckley Road and Green Bay Road resurfacing have been bid out by the Illinois Department of Transportation. By the end of the paving season, there will be a brand new surface on Buckley Road from just west of Route 41 to the east end turning north up to Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. Green Bay Road will be resurfaced from Route 120 in Waukegan to just south of Buckley Road. Traffic signals will be upgraded at the following intersections: Green Bay and Saratoga, Green Bay and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Green Bay and 14th St., Green Bay and 10th St., and Buckley and Meridian.

## Martin Luther King Jr. Drive Construction Progress

### MLK Sewer Trench



The sewer trench...the barrier keeps the sides from falling in on sewer workers.

### Local improvements

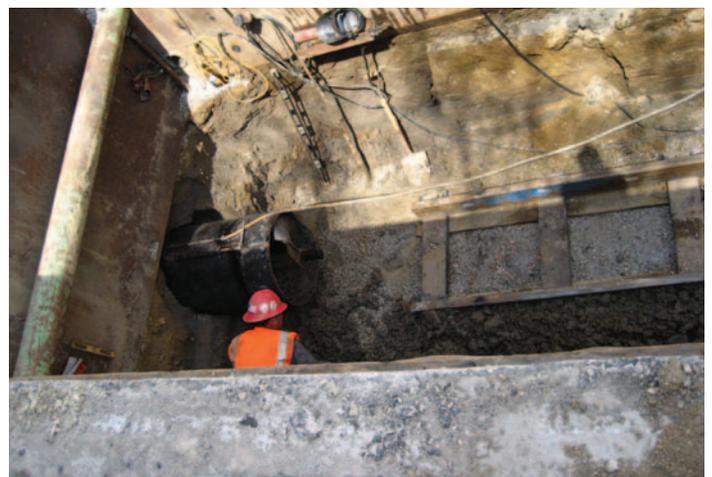
The yearly local resurfacing program is underway. This year, the following roadways are being resurfaced: Wadsworth (11th to 12th), Lincoln (17th to 18th), and 24th Street (Green Bay to Wallace), Meadow Lane (21st Pl. to MLK), and Northern Avenue (21st Pl. to south end). In addition to resurfacing, the blocks on Wadsworth and Lincoln have also been provided with a newly lined sewer to improve the sanitary sewers in those areas.

### When will my road get resurfaced?

Due to some recent harsh winters, our local roads have deteriorated quicker than normal. Unfortunately, there is limited funding for roadway reconstruction and resurfacing. While the city is excited that Martin Luther King Jr. Drive is under construction and a handful of our local streets will be resurfaced as well as state-owned highways this year, the city's goal is to provide more for our residents.

The city continues to seek grants for future reconstruction as well as recent stimulus funding for possible resurfacing. In the meantime, the Engineering Department and Street Department are working together to map all pothole locations as well as roads that require crack sealing; therefore, the Street Department can provide permanent patches this summer, rather than the temporary patches that have been put in place during the winter.

### MLK Railroad



This is the casing inside the auger pit that allows pipe to be placed under the railroad.

## Building Briefs

### Business licenses are required for landscapers

All landscaping and lawn care businesses that are based in the City of North Chicago are required to have a city business license. All landscaping and lawn care companies that perform work in North Chicago must have a contractor's license. Each vehicle must display a city sticker identifying them as either licensed contractors or a registered business. Each vehicle must display identification of the business, including phone number, on the side of all vehicles. Businesses based in North Chicago are not required to have a contractor's license to operate within the city, but will be required to post stickers and identification on their vehicles.

### Occupancy inspections required

This year, the Building Department will be aggressively monitoring landlord licensing. When applying for a new landlord license, an occupancy inspection will be required of all rental units. When renewing a landlord license, an inspection may be required. Remember, occupancy inspections are required whenever there is a change in tenants; and the inspection is to be done before the new tenants move in.

### Business inspections required

All businesses renewing licenses will be required to have a business inspection by the Building Department as well as the Fire Department. Any problems or violations found must be corrected and re-inspected prior to the issuance of the business license. All businesses are reminded that the appearance of their building and surrounding grounds have a direct impact on financial success as well as attracting more development to the city.

### Permits required

Building Permits are required for most every major project. Don't get caught without a building permit; fines assessed for working without a permit start at \$300. To determine if a permit is required, call the Building Department at 847.596.8650.

### Vacant buildings must be registered

Houses and buildings that are vacant need to be registered with the city by the owner or owner's representative.

A weather resistant sign must be placed on the front of the property which clearly identifies the owner or representative and a contact phone number. Buildings or vacant homes without such identification will be considered abandoned and subject to demolition.

Visit the Building Department webpage at [www.northchicago.org](http://www.northchicago.org), click on the "Blight Busting Program" and view the properties that are on the city's demolition and demolition watch list.

## Field Correction Notices make property owners aware of safety issues

Code enforcers issue field correction notices for code violations observed on properties. Violations include trash/debris on property, broken fences, broken windows, deteriorating structures such as garages or sheds, deteriorating soffit and fascia on the house, or deteriorating roofs.

The purpose of a Field Correction Notice is two-fold:

- 1) Property owners must be aware of problems, as some could turn into critical safety issues if left unchecked.
- 2) Field Correction Notices also serve to inform the owner that the property is detracting from the neighborhood and the city's beautification and revitalization goals.

The Field Correction Notice usually has a time limit for the problem to be corrected. The time usually corresponds to city ordinance requirements. For issues other than trash and debris, or severe safety concerns, the time limit can be extended to accommodate the property owner. The Building Department will work with all property owners to get the problems corrected. However, the owners need to contact the Building Department to explain any extenuating circumstances and provide a plan to have the problem corrected.

If there is a violation or problem with a residence, there may be assistance programs available to the owner. For more information call the Building Department at 847.596.8650.

## The challenges of attracting retail development

The Community Development and Planning Department is responsible for attracting new businesses. It may seem like an easy task...if you build it, they will come. Unfortunately, retailers are very selective when deciding where to open new stores. Most require that a site meet certain criteria before they will even consider it for a new store. Some of these criteria include:

- **Population and income** - How many people live within 1 mile of a site, within 3 miles or within 5 miles? The more people, the better chance of attracting a retailer. Also, what is the average household income? Higher incomes mean more disposable income – money that retailers hope will be spent at their store.
- **Vehicular traffic** - Retailers love traffic. How many vehicles per day (vpd) pass by the site? The more traffic passing by, the more attractive a site is for retail uses. Some retailers won't even consider a site unless it has a minimum of 15,000 vpd.
- **Distance from other stores** - When considering a new site, retailers will ask, how close is their nearest store? What about my competitors? Some stores, like pharmacies and grocery stores, locate near one another. Others, like big box stores, have distance requirements so you won't see the same store in adjacent towns.

- **Property availability** - Driving through North Chicago, one might think, "That site would be a good place for a store." But retailers will ask, "Is there ample property available for the building and necessary parking? Is the property for sale? Is the seller asking a fair price or is the price unreasonable?"
- **Crime** - Crime or the perception of crime influences where a retailer will locate. Retailers want customers to feel safe in their stores and parking lots. They want their employees to be safe too.

Be assured, the Community Development and Planning Department is working hard to bring new businesses to North Chicago. The department actively promotes North Chicago at retail conferences and networking events. Memberships are maintained with national retail associations to stay on top of current market trends and practices. A database of available property in North Chicago has been compiled to make it easy for real estate brokers to compare and evaluate sites. Businesses are contacted to let them know of available sites and any incentives for which they may qualify.

Attracting new businesses is not such an easy task. However, with continued patience and persistence on the part of city officials, staff and community organizations, we know our efforts will be successful.

## Help for North Chicago homeowners

Homeowners who may be struggling to pay their bills, keep up with their mortgage payments and stay in their homes shouldn't give up hope as there are resources available to help fight off the threat of foreclosure. These include:

- HOPE for Homeowners – allows qualifying owners to refinance a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage backed by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). Visit [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov) for more information.
- FHSASecure – allows homeowners to refinance to an FHA-insured mortgage. Visit [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov) for information on FHSASecure.
- Finally Home – allows homeowners with adjustable-rate mortgages or those with certain qualifying hardships to refinance. Visit [www.treasurer.il.gov](http://www.treasurer.il.gov) for Finally Home information.
- Homeowner's HOPE – this program provides free, HUD-approved counselors to homeowners to help avoid foreclosures. To learn more, call 888-995-4673.
- Illinois Legal Aid – information on foreclosure processes and referrals for free and low-cost legal help. Visit [www.illinoislegalaidonline.org](http://www.illinoislegalaidonline.org) for more information.
- Illinois Mortgage Lending Guide – information on mortgages, tips to avoid mortgage rescue fraud and counseling resources. Visit [illinoisattorneygeneral.gov](http://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov) or call the Homeowners Referral helpline at 866-544-7151.

## Vehicle sticker information

The City of North Chicago removed the vehicle sticker requirement for passenger vehicles and Class B truck plates, effective May 1, 2008. Vehicle stickers continue to be required for recreational vehicles, mobile homes, taxis vehicles, and trucks with a state classification above a Class B; such vehicles must have a sticker affixed to the lower right passenger side of the windshield on or before May 31, 2009.

Renewal applications have been mailed to the owner or operator of each vehicle that requires a sticker. Please update the application form and return it using the enclosed envelope with a check for the amount due. If you did not receive an application, but are the owner of a vehicle that requires a sticker, please call or visit the Comptroller's Office.

Courtesy stickers are available at no cost to those residents/businesses that would like an identification sticker displayed when traveling and parking in other communities. Pick up your courtesy sticker at city hall by providing proof of address and proof of vehicle ownership, such as showing a copy of the vehicle registration. For more information please contact the Comptroller's Office at 847.596.8624.

## Fire safety

As we welcome the warm weather, we offer this list of fire safety tips for the citizens of North Chicago to help make the season even more enjoyable.

### Grill safety

We all love to enjoy a good cookout, make it even better by following these tips:

- The only person who should be handling any type of grill equipment is an adult.
- Be sure to check grill hoses for cracking, holes, or leaks.
- Never bring charcoal grills indoors, burning charcoal produces deadly carbon monoxide.
- If grilling on a deck or patio, be sure that all curtains or blinds are away from the grill to prevent anything from catching fire.
- Never store flammable liquids or containers near the grill.
- Always keep gas propane containers upright. Keep in

## Animal license tags

The City of North Chicago requires a license for all cats and dogs in the city. Animal license tags must be renewed every year by May 31, and are easy to obtain. General fees are \$3.00; however pit bull applications and licenses require further charges. Contact the Comptroller's Office for more details at 847.596.8624.

## Waste and recyclables collection rates

The agreement between the City of North Chicago and Veolia Environmental Services provides that on each anniversary date the rates be adjusted using the annual increase of the Consumer Price Index – Chicago-Kenosha-Gary (CPI). The new rates, effective March 1, 2009, are as follows:

	Current Rates	CPI Adjustment		
		%	Increase	New Rates
Single Units	17.77	2.4%	0.43	18.20
Single Units (Seniors)	15.99	2.4%	0.38	16.37
Double Units	33.67	2.4%	0.81	34.48
Triple Units	49.60	2.4%	1.19	50.79

mind that charcoal grills cause more fires than gas grills and the number one reason is because of the irresponsible use of lighter fluid.

- Follow the instructions given to prevent excessive burning and never let using lighter fluid become a game.

### Outdoor candles

Mosquitoes and other insects have proven to be a bother during the warmer months. There are products available to help keep them at a minimum. Be sure to use them properly. Keep all torches away from tents and/or patio furniture. Also, make sure that they are in a safe area away from everyone. Always follow the directions provided.

### Fireworks

Fireworks are illegal in the state of Illinois. Keep watch for city listings to enjoy local fireworks in your area.

As always, have a wonderful season, and be safe.

## All about flood information and prevention

There are a number of reasons why yards flood. The storm sewers are not designed for uncommon storm events such as large snowmelts or large rainstorms. It is inevitable that most yards experience some type of flooding during these times. However, yards that experience flooding or “ponding” that last for more than a week likely have a significant low spot in their yard. Low spots can be caused from a variety of situations like ground settling, or homeowner manipulation.

Over capacity sanitary sewers also create flooding, which is typically caused within a residential service. This flooding can back up the sanitary system at the treatment plants causing severe maintenance issues. Sanitary sewers can also get flooded by infiltration, which is the act of water seeping through cracks within an old sanitary sewer.

### What can residents do to reduce flooding?

1. Build a rain garden. Contact the city engineer for more information at 847.596.8691.
2. Clean leaves from street inlets.
3. Do not blow leaves or grass clippings into the street which will clog the sewer system.
4. Do not connect your sump pump or gutters to the sanitary sewer, which is a city code violation.
5. Provide routine maintenance of your private sanitary sewer service.
6. Basement waterproofing.

7. Do not pour grease down sinks. It is better to capture the grease in a container, let it solidify, and throw it out with the trash.
8. Street flooding – contact the Street Department 847.596.8870.
9. Sanitary sewer backups – contact the Water Department 847.596.8880.
10. Drainage problems – contact the Engineering Department 847.596.8691.

### Here’s what the City of North Chicago does to reduce flooding:

1. Most new developments larger than 1 acre require storm water detention areas.
2. Maintenance of city detention ponds, swales, and drainage ways.
3. Repair, replacement, and cleaning of storm sewer inlets in the street.
4. Routine cleaning of sanitary sewer mains.
5. Inspection of all houses sold, to ensure sump pumps are not connected to the sanitary system.
6. Look for opportunities for regional city-owned detention areas.
7. Addition of solutions in sanitary system to break down grease and soap deposits.
8. Addition of the sanitary sewer backflow prevention cost reimbursement ordinance.
9. Lining of sanitary sewers to control water infiltration.
10. Construction of new storm sewers in overly flooded areas.

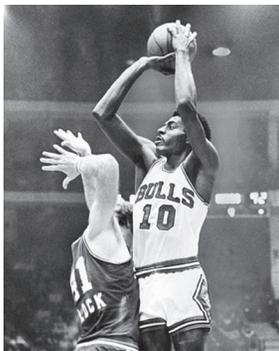
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## Parking regulations reviewed

No parking is allowed on city streets between 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m., except on Hervey Avenue between 14th and 16th. Parking on Hervey Avenue between those hours requires a parking pass. Many streets have parking stipulations and signs are posted as much as possible, but it is the resident’s responsibility to know the regulations on their street. Contact the city engineer at 847.596.8691 for questions regarding parking regulations.



## Bob Love, legendary Chicago Bulls player, inspires and challenges attendees at North Chicago Chamber Annual Dinner



Bob Love, legendary Chicago Bulls player, addressed a crowd of nearly 200 business, civic and community leaders at the North Chicago Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet.

Love expressed the importance of determination and persistence in achieving goals. "Hold on to your dreams," Love said. "Life will throw you a curve ball, but your persistence will pay off."

Banquet events included the swearing in of board members, remarks from Congressman Mark Kirk and Mayor Leon Rockingham, Jr. and an awards ceremony where outstanding members of the community were recognized for their leadership and contributions:

**Alice's Discovery Center:** *North Chicago Small Business of the Year*

**Dr. Daisy Brooks:** *Excellence in Community Service*

**Great Lakes Credit Union (GLCU):** *Excellence in Chamber Membership*

**Deb Waszak, Chief of Staff,**

**City of North Chicago:** *Excellence in Board Leadership*

**John Offner:** *North Chicago Educator of the Year*

**Kimberly Schaefer:** *North Chicago Firefighter of the Year*

**Carl B. Sain:** *North Chicago Police Officer of the Year*



Keynote speaker Bob Love and Mayor of North Chicago, Leon Rockingham, Jr.

An added feature to the banquet this year was tasteful comedy by Greg Schwem, a nationally known comedian.



Deb Waszak awards Firefighter of the Year, Kimberly Schaefer



North Chicago elected officials at Chamber of Commerce event (photo: Churchill Photography)



North Chicago department heads and staff at Chamber event. (photo: Churchill Photography)

### UPCOMING Summer Chamber Events

You're Invited to the Grant Place Open House! July 10, 3 to 8 pm. Sponsored by the North Chicago Chamber of Commerce. Featuring Best BBQ Contest and Mini Taste of North Chicago.

8th Annual North Chicago Chamber of Commerce Golf Fiesta Bowl.  
Tuesday June 9, Foss Park District Golf Course. Call 847-785-1912 to make your reservation.

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Summer 2009



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## North Chicago Community Day to celebrate city's 100th anniversary

Save the date  
Saturday, August 1, 2009

Carnival • Food • Fun • Festivities  
Basketball & Soccer tournaments



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[twitter.com/northchicago](http://twitter.com/northchicago)

### 3-on-3 Basketball

On June 6th 2009, Community Organized Police Spirit (C.O.P.S.) will host its 15th Annual 3 on 3 basketball tournament and pancake breakfast at the Marion Jones Townhomes.

For more information call 847-596-8749.



## 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 .....	847-596-8690
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