

# Discover

## *News from North Chicago*

Summer 2011

### From the desk of Mayor Leon Rockingham, Jr.



North Chicago has experienced some extreme weather this year. The July 11 windstorm that hit our city was the third storm we endured in approximately three weeks. North Chicago experienced over twenty individual downed power lines and seven residents had trees fall on or into their homes.

Although North Chicago Public Works Crews worked tirelessly to clear roads, my staff reached out to the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network (IPWMAN) to help expedite cleanup efforts. Public Works employees from the Village of Villa Park, City of Genoa and Village of Barrington aided North Chicago with emergency assistance, helping city crews clear hundreds of trees strewn across every block.

By Sunday, July 17 all 7,500 households that had reported power outages were 100% restored, with most of them back up and running on Friday, July 15. This storm is a clear reminder of the need for emergency preparedness. Please contact the North Chicago Fire Department, 847-596-8780 for advice on creating an emergency kit for your household.

The safety of North Chicago residents is my number one priority; therefore, I am pleased to announce that the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity awarded the City of North Chicago with \$250,000 for the purchase and installation of new state-of-the-art emergency sirens. Thank you to Ted Wilder, Fire Chief for championing this project and State Representative Rita Mayfield for her support.

Being accountable for the expenditure of taxpayer money is one of the city's greatest responsibilities. As noted throughout this newsletter, we are continuously working hard to save money in every way possible. Most recently, the City of North Chicago has saved tax dollars by reorganizing the Public Works Department, collaborating with other cities for infrastructure improvements, and obtaining various federal and state grants to fund public projects whenever possible.

To strengthen city-resident communication, I will be hosting "Mayor Rockingham's Fifth Mondays." Every month that has a fifth Monday, I will be available at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers to answer questions and address the concerns of North Chicago residents. The first "Fifth Monday" meeting will take place on Monday, August 29 – all are welcome.

I hope to see you all at the 6th Annual Community Days celebration on August 6 and 7 – be sure to check out the city tent to learn about what the City of North Chicago has to offer you! As always, I hope you have a blessed season.

Sincerely,

*Mayor Leon Rockingham, Jr.*

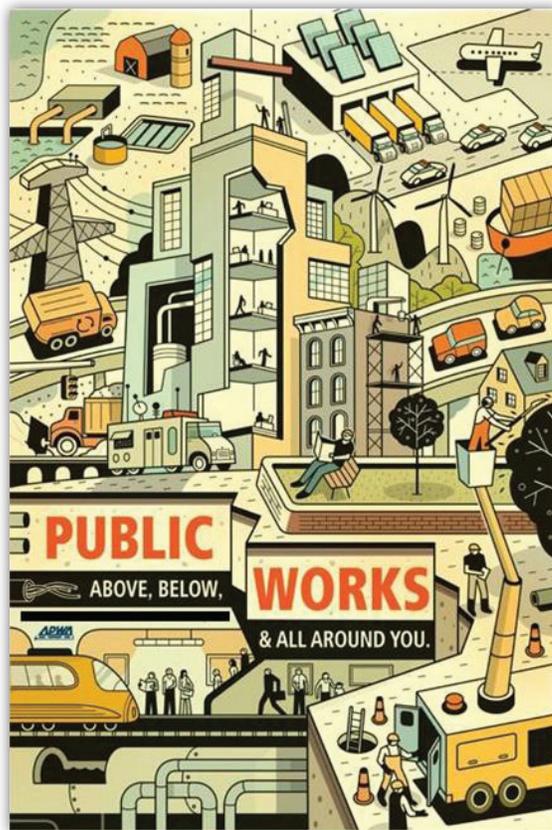
## Local roadwork projects underway

This spring, the 1200 block of Wadsworth, the 1600 block of Park, a portion of 19th Place and a portion of Natoma Avenue was resurfaced or rehabilitated with new curbs and asphalt surfaces. The 2012 Local Project will be planned in Fall of 2011 and is anticipated to have 3-5 roadways receive new surfaces next year.

## Strategic partnering saves money for infrastructure improvements

In planning for this years road and sewer projects, the City of North Chicago teamed up with several area organizations in order to “joint bid” or basically “buy in bulk” resulting in reduced unit pricing for construction costs, saving taxpayer dollars. It is projected that joint bidding saved the city’s taxpayers \$15,000 to \$20,000 of a budgeted \$80,000 worth of projects.

- This summer, the cracks on Jackson Street will be sealed in order to extend the life of the roadway. A partnership with the Village of Gurnee helped reduce costs for this project.
- Also this summer, Atkinson Road, Adams Street, 17th Street, and 14th Street will get new lane striping. The city was able to reduce the cost by 50% by partnering with a multitude of communities in the Suburban Purchasing Cooperative through the Northwest Municipal Conference.
- The sewer lining project on the 1200 block of Wadsworth and 1800 block of Lincoln also made use of joint bidding. The city partnered with four other communities in south Lake and north Cook counties and again found significant taxpayer savings.



## New! Public Works Department

The City of North Chicago is pleased to announce the creation of the North Chicago Public Works Department. The department will be headed by a Director of Public Works and will consist of two divisions: the Street Division and the Water Division. The Street Division will be responsible for maintenance of streets and sewers while the Water Division is responsible for the operation of the Water Plant.

This reorganization was completed to not only save taxpayer money, but it was also done to create a more efficient, better equipped, and more well-rounded set of employees who can address the needs of the city more quickly and with more skill. It helps those that wanted to learn the profession of Public Works to obtain a variety of skills through cross training.

Public Works maintenance projects are underway, such as asphalt patching, concrete work, sign replacing, landscaping projects, water valve additions, fire hydrant repairs and sewer repairs. At this time, residents can still call 847-596-8880 for water related concerns and 847-596-8870 for street related concerns.

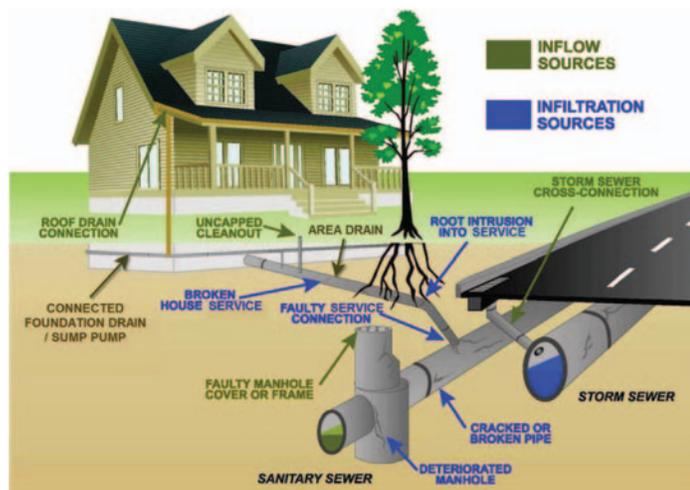
## Defeat Heat Exposure

The Cooling Center for North Chicago residents will be open as needed during extreme weather conditions in the City Council Chambers, 1850 Lewis Avenue, North Chicago. Please remember to check on family members and neighbors, especially children and seniors who do not have air conditioning. For assistance, please contact the 847-596-8774.

## The ins and outs of floods

Flooding is a continuous public/private issue within all cities and North Chicago is no exception. Flooding comes in many forms such as sewer backups, yard flooding and roadway flooding.

The Public Works Department resolves stormwater flooding by keeping drains unclogged before and during rainstorms. When a puddle forms on a roadway and retreats within a few hours, the storm sewer is in good working condition and is the right size for the area. Storm sewer problems exist when areas remain flooded for days on top of existing drainage inlets. When this occurs, the City Engineer and Public Works Department inspect the area to determine a proper solution.



Sanitary backups caused by too much stormwater entering the sanitary sewer are many times a private issue from ‘inflow sources’ of stormwater. The picture below shows examples of private problems that cause backups, such as sump pumps, foundation drains and cleanouts. ‘Infiltration sources’ are also a source of excess water usually caused by a cracked or broken pipe.

The City of North Chicago repairs public pipes through the annual Sewer Lining Program. It is advised that residents have regular sewer service inspections to prevent any unwanted and costly damages.

Call the city to report flooding or to get advice on flood prevention, we are here for you!

Street flooding: Public Works Street Division, 847-596-8870  
Sanitary backups: Public Works Water Division, 847-596-8880  
General questions: City Engineer, 847-596-8691

## One smoke that’s not cause for alarm



A large amount of public flooding occurs from sanitary sewer connections that are related to the private connection, which is the property owner’s responsibility. In order to take a proactive step against flooding, the city has decided to assess public sewer flooding through smoke testing the sewer system. The smoke testing will take place citywide over the next five years; smoke testing is a safe and common procedure used by many municipalities.

Smoke testing involves placing non-hazardous non-toxic smoke into the sanitary main, and allowing the smoke to show above ground where problems exist. Smoke may billow out of gutters or out of the front yard or out of a stormwater inlet. Smoke that comes out of an inlet indicates a problem with the storm sewer system and will be fixed by the city. Smoke that comes out of the yard shows a problem with a sump pump connection, a foundation drain connection, or broken/cracked service lateral. Smoke that comes out of gutters illustrates an illegal connection of the roof drain system.

When the smoke shows problems, the city will contact the property owner to address the issue. Resolving these problems helps that property owner as well as neighbors on the block. If you already know that your gutters, sump pump, or foundation drain connect to the sanitary sewer, please disconnect it and redirect it to the storm sewer. This will keep you from having an unfortunate backup and reduces potential for flooding for your neighbors as well.

As a reminder, the city offers the Backflow Prevention Assistance Program to help property owners correct any backflow problems. Contact the Building and Community Development Department for more information, 847-596-8650.

## Skokie River Consortium Update

The Skokie River Consortium, which includes north shore communities from Waukegan to Highland Park, has been meeting over the past few years to find joint solutions to stormwater flooding issues along the North Branch of the Chicago River Watershed, specifically the Skokie Drainage Ditch. The Skokie flows through a series of pipes and ditches within North Chicago from the Procter and Gamble property on 14th Street through Foss Park Golf Course, along the ComEd Substation at Martin Luther King, Jr., Dr. and then south along the Abbott facility, through the Naval golf course - Willow Glen. The residents of Northern Avenue are most significantly affected by the flooding.

The Consortium has created a newsletter, which is now available at [www.northchicago.org](http://www.northchicago.org), as well as the media rack in the City Hall foyer. This newsletter details information about the consortium as well as provides a list of projects that is or has been completed in the member communities.

## Recouping storm costs

### *New sewer lining from hurricane damages*

The City of North Chicago received a grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity in the amount of \$101,000 for new sewer lining on Hervey Avenue from 14th Street to Argonne Drive. This is a one-time grant that was awarded due to storms that occurred from Hurricane Ike in 2008. The new sewer lining will repair the damage caused by the stormwater that created additional infiltration to the sewer line. This does not eliminate the damages due to illegal dumping of grease or illegal hookups such as sump pumps, but it should help to minimize the backups that occur on this street.

### *Workforce paid for blizzard*

Cleaning up tons of snow doesn't come cheap! Therefore, the city has applied for \$40,000 in Federal Disaster Assistance money through Lake County Emergency Management Agency to FEMA. The money will be used to reimburse the city for the extra workforce that was needed during that storm.

## Stormwater Tip #6



Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and gutters to prevent debris from entering the storm sewer.

## BUILDING DEPARTMENT

### Building Permits

The Building Department wants to remind residents and commercial property owners that permits are required for the following types of home construction projects:

- Additions
- Basements finishes
- Driveways
- Electrical upgrades
- Fireplaces
- Garages
- Home construction
- Major remodeling
- Porches
- Re-roofing
- Siding
- Signs
- Step replacement
- Swimming pools
- Concrete work
- Furnace replacement
- Decks
- Sheds
- Fences
- Sprinkler systems
- Gazebos
- Sewer line repair
- Patios
- Major plumbing work

A permit must be obtained before work can begin for any of the above-mentioned categories. The cost of a building permit varies according to the project. For more information or to schedule an inspection, please contact the Building Department at 847-596-8650.

## Unlicensed Contractors

If a property owner hires an unlicensed contractor, he/she does so at his/her own peril. In most instances, a dispute about non-payment or poor workmanship will arise. Any effort to ask for help from the Building Department or the courts will inevitably be unsuccessful. For the same reason, an unlicensed contractor may not use the courts to recover payment for work done. **BE SURE YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE DEALING WITH!** Plumbers and roofers must be licensed by the State of Illinois before they can be registered with the City of North Chicago. If you are negotiating with a contractor, contact the Building Department at 847-596-8650 to find out if the contractor is licensed or registered with the City of North Chicago. We can also do State inquiries for plumbers and roofers.

## Yard Waste Collection

Veolia collects yard waste on your normal garbage pick-up day, at the curb. Tree branches and trimmings must be bundled in manageable bundles no longer than 5 ft in length. All other yard clippings must be in a paper yard waste bag or in a plastic trash can clearly marked "Yard Waste." Logs over 4" in diameter, and tree stumps, will not be picked up by Veolia. For any questions or concerns related to waste collection, contact Veolia, 847-623-3870.

## No Trucks in Residential Areas

City of North Chicago Zoning Ordinances specifically states that trucks over  $\frac{3}{4}$  tons are not allowed to be parked in residentially zoned districts. This specifically applies to dump-trucks, box trucks and semi-tractors, whether they are parked in the front, side or rear of a property.

Additionally, paving and landscaping equipment may not be stored or parked in residentially zoned neighborhoods. This would include bobcat (skid-steer tractors) and pavement rollers.

## City Blight-Busting Program

Residents may have noticed that the Lakeview Motel, also known as the Ron Ric Motel on Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive was recently demolished under a court order. The city continues to actively pursue those properties that are abandoned, nuisance and distressed properties through the court system. Several demolition orders are being held for residential and commercial buildings, which the city will systematically demolish, based on previously allocated funding.

# Grass Cutting

Grass cutting is the responsibility of property owners, including trimming grass and weeds around structures such as buildings, fences, trees, etc. Grass and weeds may not exceed five inches. Residents or owners must not leave large clumps of dead grass after cuttings nor blow grass cuttings into the streets as this causes clogging in the city storm sewers resulting in flooding during heavy rainstorms.

The City Code Enforcers will issue a warning if a property is not in compliance with these grass-cutting laws. There will only be one warning. If the warning is not heeded, the property is subject to a city-issued grass cutting, which in

turn gets billed to the property owner. The city also has the right to summon property owners to Administrative Court for failing to comply with the warning.

The City of North Chicago has contracted out grass-cutting services for abandoned properties. To report a property that is abandoned and has tall grass, please call the Building Department at 847-596-8650 and we will notify the grass-cutting service. Grass-cutting costs for abandoned properties are automatically placed as a lien against the property.

## City Wide Pride shines through in North Chicago

Community members and business leaders came together this spring for North Chicago's annual "Citywide Pride Day." The beautification initiative is a collaborative effort between the North Chicago Chamber of Commerce and the City of North Chicago.

Volunteers and city supporters showed their pride through neighborhood clean-up projects taking place in various locations around North Chicago. A major project of the day included painting railings, pulling weeds, and picking-up litter at the Great Lakes train station. Teams also revamped the landscaping at city hall with new plants, flowers and mulch. Other groups planted flowers in the planters along Sheridan Road and at Grant Place.

Deigan Environmental Associates took it upon themselves to remove an old fence and install a landscaped focal point at the corner of Broadway and Sheridan Road. Chamber Board Member and North Chicago Economic Development Director, Joe Napolitano said, "Thank you to all of our volunteers, including the City of North Chicago, P&G, Forest City, Modern Tattoo, Deigan Environmental, Passion Outreach, the North Chicago Housing Authority and many others for making a difference in our community."



## NO MORE TALKING OR TEXTING WHILE DRIVING IN NORTH CHICAGO

The North Chicago City Council passed an Ordinance No. 121 prohibiting the use of wireless telephones and electronic devices while driving on May 16, 2011.

Excerpt from Ordinance No. 121 – "No person shall drive a motor vehicle while using any wireless, mobile, cellular, analog wireless or digital telephone, personal data assistant, or electronic communication device, including without limitation: (1) talking or listening to another person on the telephone; (2) text messaging; (3) sending, reading or listening to an electronic message; and (4) browsing the internet."

Exceptions: Law enforcement officers and operators of emergency vehicles, when on duty and acting in their official capacities; persons using a telephone with a hands-free device that allows the driver to talk to and listen to the other party on the telephone without the use of the driver's hands; persons using a telephone, personal data assistant or electronic communication device for purposes of contracting or communicating with public safety or other emergency service providers while driving a motor vehicle; persons using a telephone, personal data assistant or electronic communication device in a motor vehicle that is parked in position.

Penalty: Any person violating this ordinance shall be fined fifty-five dollars (\$55.00) on the first offense and shall be fined for any subsequent offense of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) or more the seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00).

Review the ordinance in its entirety at [www.northchicago.org](http://www.northchicago.org). For more information, contact the Police Department, 847-596-8719.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

Most fire deaths and injuries occur in the home and nearly all home-fires are preventable. Each of us can share the responsibility of keeping fires from starting. Americans over the age of 65 have a fire death rate nearly twice the national average. For those over 75, this jumps to three times the national average.

The North Chicago Fire Department encourages everyone to review our Fire Safety Checklist. Each item you are not able to check-off is an opportunity for you to take the steps necessary to keep your home fire safe.

## HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

### Heating

- Baseboard heaters do not touch any furniture or curtains, or other items stored on the floor.
- You have your chimneys and heating systems inspected, cleaned and repaired prior to the heating season.
- All portable heaters are placed at least three feet from bedding, furniture, and other flammable materials. They are plugged directly in the wall, not into an extension cord.
- Portable heaters are turned off when you leave the room or before going to bed.
- Every fireplace is equipped with a sturdy metal screen.

### Electrical

- You use as few extension cords and plug adapters as possible.
- Extension cords used are not tacked to walls, run under rugs, or through doorways.
- Small appliances, like the toaster, are unplugged when not in use.

### Housekeeping

- Matches and lighters are kept out of the reach of children in a secure place.
- Paint, varnish, and other flammables are stored in sturdy metal containers and in a cool place.
- Ashes from fireplaces and barbecues are only disposed of in metal containers.

- Candles are only lit when someone is able to keep an eye on them, and when placed in sturdy holders away from things that can burn.

### Kitchen

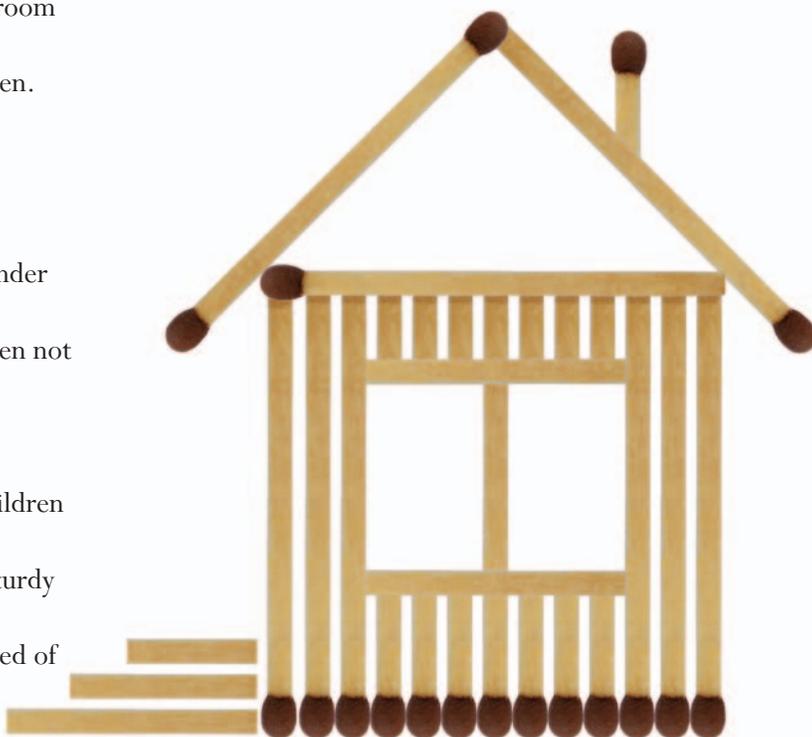
- In the event of a grease fire, you know that the best thing to do is to put a lid on it.
- Cooking is never left unattended.
- The oven is never used to heat the home.

### Smoke Alarms

- Smoke alarms are installed on a ceiling or high on the wall outside of the bedrooms on each level of the home and in every bedroom.
- Smoke alarm batteries are changed twice a year.
- Smoke alarms are tested and vacuumed regularly.

### Escape Plan

- You have a plan of escape showing two ways out of every room in your home, especially bedrooms.
- You regularly practice your escape plan by holding fire drills in your home.
- Windows used for escaping can be opened easily.
- Your house numbers are clearly visible from the street.



## What is a Stroke?

Also known as a brain attack, a stroke is a sudden blockage or rupture of a blood vessel cutting off vital blood flow and oxygen to the brain, causing loss of consciousness, partial loss of movement, or loss of speech.

- In the United States, stroke is the third leading cause of death, killing about 137,000 people each year.
- Approximately 795,000 strokes will occur this year.
- Stroke can happen to anyone at any time.
- African Americans have almost twice the risk of first-ever stroke compared with Caucasians.

### Risk Factors

- High blood pressure: The number one risk factor for stroke.
- Obesity: excessive weight puts a strain on the entire circulatory system.
- Diabetes: People with diabetes have a higher stroke risk.
- Sickle cell anemia: The most common genetic disorder amongst African Americans. If sickle-shaped cells block a blood vessel to the brain, a stroke can result.
- Smoking: Risk for stroke doubles when you smoke. If you stop smoking today, your stroke risk will immediately begin to decrease.

Know the signs and call 911 if you experience any of these symptoms:

- SUDDEN numbness or weakness of face, arm or leg - especially on one side of the body.
- SUDDEN confusion, trouble speaking or understanding.
- SUDDEN trouble seeing in one or both eyes.
- SUDDEN trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination.
- SUDDEN severe headache with no known cause.

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

The North Chicago Police Department has teamed up with ADT to offer two alarm packages to North Chicago residents.



*ADT Always There.®*

#### *BHS 4000 Hardwired System*

Includes 2 door contacts, 1 motion detector, 1 control panel, 1 keypad, 1 battery backup, yard sign and window stickers for \$0 down on a 3-year monitoring agreement at \$42.99/month. There is an additional \$149 required to make the package wireless. Residents MUST have phone line for this system.

#### *ADT Safewatch QuickConnect Wireless System*

Includes 2 door contacts, 1 motion detector, 1 control panel/keypad with battery backup, yard sign and window stickers for \$49 installed on a 3-year monitoring agreement at \$42.99/month. There is an additional \$90 + \$2 per month required for cellguard if no phone line is in the home.

These packages are available for a limited time. For more information, call 630-458-7730.



Mayor Rockingham declares

# SHAWN MARION DAY

in the City of North Chicago



## *NBA Champion receives Key to the City*

Basketball fans packed the North Chicago High School gym on Monday, July 18, as Mayor Rockingham and the City of North Chicago hosted a rally in honor of North Chicago's Hometown Hero, Shawn Marion, NBA Champion of the Dallas Mavericks.

North Chicago native Shawn Marion received a "Key to the City" from Mayor Rockingham & the City Council and other awards and accolades from county and state representatives. The guest of honor attended North, A.J. Katzenmaier and Green Bay Elementary Schools in North Chicago.

The open-to-the public event featured performances tailored for Marion by the North Chicago High School Cheerleaders, Angel Drill Team, Jazz Steppers, Nuclear Reaction Drumline and other special guests. Miss Kayla Wilcoxon opened the show with a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem during the NJROTC's Presentation of Colors. Regarding "Shawn Marion Day," Marion tweeted, "What a day, kids had a blast, the rally was awesome, and got key to North Chicago, this day was declared the Matrix Day - that's what's up!"





### Rosalind Franklin University Opens New College of Pharmacy and Interprofessional Education Center

Mayor Rockingham spoke to more than 225 guests at the Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science ribbon-cutting ceremony that marked the opening of a new College of Pharmacy which will be housed in the Interprofessional Education Center, a 23,000 square-foot, three story addition to the campus. "It is an honor to be in the presence of future doctors, pharmacists and other healthcare professionals. North Chicago is proud to be home to such an esteemed university," Rockingham said at the ceremony.

The new wing provides small group learning space for medical and graduate health science students, clinical simulation suites, a case demonstration amphitheatre and educational facilities on the first two floors. The third floor houses the College of Pharmacy with a state-of-the-art laboratory space, conference room and faculty offices to serve 70 incoming students who will begin their studies in August 2011.

### New, no-cost Veteran Services

The Lake County Health Department office of Veterans and Family Services mission is to work through a network of local agencies to help military personnel, veterans, and their families overcome challenges that occur, before, during and after deployments. Please share this information with any veteran or military personnel that may be in need. To learn more about the Veterans and Family Services offered call 847-377-VET6.



### Mosquitoes

We are well into the mosquito season in North Chicago. As with previous years, the city has contracted with Clarke Mosquito control for mosquito surveillance and spraying. The contract calls for spraying once a month, however if the season extends for a longer period as it did last year, the city may opt for an additional spraying.

Residents can help with the mosquito effort by making sure that standing water is minimal on their property. Keeping grass and shrubs trimmed, cleaning house gutters so they flow freely and eliminating tires, buckets, or anything that will collect and hold water are simple ways to reduce mosquito infestation. Birdbaths should be emptied and replenished with fresh water weekly.

## City of North Chicago

**Leon Rockingham, Jr.** / Mayor

**Lori Collins** / City Clerk

**Kenneth Robinson** / Treasurer

**Ernest Fisher** / 1st Ward Alderman

**Bonny Mayfield** / 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

**Charles A. January, Jr.** / 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

# AUGUST 6 & 7

## 6th Annual North Chicago **COMMUNITY DAYS** MUSIC • FOOD • FUN



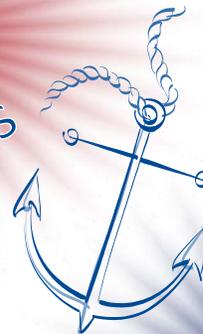
### SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

- 10:00 a.m. **Kick-off Parade**  
Featuring the Naval Station Great Lakes Marching Band
- 11:00 a.m. **Festival**  
Live Music & Entertainment  
Basketball & Soccer Tournaments  
Merchants & Food Vendors  
Children & Family Activities  
Raffles & Giveaways
- 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Lake County Fielders "Meet & Greet"
- 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Bingo
- 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Navy Themed Kid Zone – Face Painting, Crafts & Model Car Workshop
- 12:00 p.m. Nuclear Reaction Drumline Performance
- 12:30 p.m. Story Time – North Chicago Library Bookmobile
- 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Car Show – Hosted by Midwest Thunder Wheels
- 2:00 p.m. Angel Drill Team Alumni Performance
- 2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. GameTruck – Video Gaming
- 2:30 p.m. Story Time – North Chicago Library Bookmobile
- 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Family Show – Main Stage
- 4:30 p.m. Special Performances
- 6:00 p.m. **Concert on the Lawn**  
World Class Noise – "Chicago's Finest Soul Band"  
Frank Russell – Jazz Ensemble
- Nightfall Fireworks Display

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

- 2:00 p.m. Merchants & Food Vendors
- 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. **Concert on the Lawn**  
Infuzd  
Community Days Mass Choir  
Other Special Guests

Celebrating  
Naval Station  
Great Lakes  
100 Years



**Frank Russell**



**World Class Noise**



**Hosted by  
Horace HB Sanders**

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and Families of North Chicago

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