

# Discover

NEWS FROM NORTH CHICAGO

SUMMER 2017

PARA OBTENER ESTE BOLETÍN EN ESPAÑOL, LLAME AL 847-596-8824

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



During this time of year flowers are blooming, road crews are working, and city hall is bustling with student workers. Our "learn, earn and return" program is also teaching our young workers to "listen, learn and lead." Over twenty North Chicago students are spending their summers in various city

departments as part of our summer youth employment program. In partnership with Lake County, we provide purposeful jobs and experiences to students and help fill the city's summer staffing needs. We also incorporate field trips so students learn about various occupations while touring workplaces. This year, the students traveled to Fermilab to learn about particle physics and the many occupations that make up the Fermilab workforce. Later this summer, students will visit the Federal Reserve Bank to learn about money and banking. We are proud to employ the largest number of student workers in all of Lake County, and we thank our corporate partners, stakeholders and supporters of this meaningful program.

While the student worker program is not new this summer, our ambitious blight reduction program is. The City has been working to stabilize and strengthen its financial position and revitalize its downtown. However, this year, we've also made a significant investment in the reduction of derelict properties. Nearly 20 derelict properties have been razed in an effort to stabilize our neighborhoods and improve the area's quality of life. This was a comprehensive effort where the City engaged in a systematic survey of all properties and created a process for getting vacant and abandoned buildings into productive use or, if

necessary, demolished. Derelict buildings erode a sense of community among residents and detract investment away from the City which can cripple or delay the redevelopment of our downtown. I'm proud of the swift, definitive action taken and all of the people who worked together to make it happen.

As we addressed vacant and abandoned buildings, we also brought down crime. The number of violent crimes and property crimes are down this year. Our police department is more engaged in the community than ever before and our citizens' police academy, ASK12, teen court and other initiatives continue to thrive.

For two consecutive years, the City of North Chicago was named by Wallet Hub as one of the best places in America to start a business. Our efforts are getting noticed. Moving forward, we are preparing for investments in our water infrastructure, an innovation and technology park at Rosalind Franklin University, new housing at Brookstone and Regency at Coles Park, the National Museum of the American Sailor and development at our Sheridan Crossing site. I want to thank the dedicated City staff members who are addicted to their work and make our progress possible. I know it is not easy.

And like our student workers, I, too, am listening, learning and leading. We are in this together. North Chicago is a place for everyone. No matter who you are, you are able to create a business, home and life here. We are home to the largest employers in the county, one of a handful of medical schools in the state and a wonderful, diverse constituency. You have given me the honor of serving as Mayor of the City I love. I am proud of what we've accomplished together during this time. I thank you for the opportunity to serve you and wish you a wonderful summer.

*Leon Rockingham, Jr.*

## City mobilizes “clean sweep task force”

Public Safety Chair, Bonny Mayfield, in partnership with Mayor Rockingham, mobilized the City’s “clean sweep task force” in the second ward this spring. “This task force was made up of City employees from all departments,” said Mayfield. “We are addressing everything from overgrown vegetation to abandoned vehicles and graffiti.”

“This ward-specific clean-up was part of a comprehensive approach for the entire City,” said Mayor Rockingham. “We are working diligently to improve the appearance and safety of our neighborhoods.”



## Public Works begins on neighborhood improvement projects

This summer will bring about several neighborhood improvement projects. Work to be completed throughout the summer includes an extensive sidewalk program which will replace deteriorated sidewalks and provide ADA compliant improvements at select intersections. In addition, “liners” will be added to sections of leaking sanitary sewer mains and the realignment and reconstruction of the intersection of Broadway/20th Street and Glenn Drive are projected to be completed in the fall.

Infrastructure improvement work planned for 2017 includes watermain replacement work on Sherman Avenue, from Martin Luther King, south to 24th Street, and on Dickey Avenue, from Argonne Drive, south to 24th Street. Additionally another small project is planned to replace the watermain on 24th Place, from Sherman west to the dead end.

## City welcomes future political leaders



On May 23rd, the City of North Chicago welcomed future political leaders from Southeast Asia as part of an exchange program with the American Council of Young Political Leaders initiative.

## State-of-the-Art Library celebrates its grand reopening in style



Hundreds of people showed up to tour the newly renovated North Chicago Public Library which reopened in July after being closed for several weeks. The renovation project was made possible by the AbbVie Foundation in collaboration with Heart of America, a non-profit organization who modernizes learning spaces, to design, build and transform the new library. Changes to the library include new paint, carpet and furniture, updated technology, a STEAM

lab and sound studio. Over the course of the past 10 months, library staff and board members worked with City staff, community leaders, the AbbVie Foundation and Heart of America to create this state-of-the-art design and new resource for the community. Guests were entertained throughout the afternoon by the Jesse White Tumblers, Elmo, and other performers during the grand opening "Library Extravaganza".

## Local businesses play crucial role in the community

At the most basic level, when you buy local, more money stays in the community. Furthermore, statistics show locally owned businesses contribute more to area charities and fundraisers than do their national counterparts. Most recently, Alderman Bobby Allen received support from local businesses in North Chicago. "These young boys were in need of adequate equipment and I went out and asked local North Chicago businesses to help support our youth," said Alderman Bobby Allen. "I am proud to say that every business I approached was positive and brought out their check books to support these youth!" Local organizations and non-profits have received overwhelming support from our businesses, often contributing to youth programs, fundraisers and community wide events such as North Chicago Community Days and the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony.



Alderman Bobby Allen gets support for North Chicago Flames football team.

## Landlord License Renewal- September, 2017

The Department of Economic and Community Development will be hosting a landlord training workshop on September 13, 2017 at 5:00 PM to update property owners on ordinance

and policy changes, gather suggestions and feedback from attendees, receive information on quality of life issues and educate landlords on best practices.

## Vacant Homes provide added training opportunity

The North Chicago Fire Department led training exercises in some of the homes that were demolished by the City. "Fires are not as common as in the past in the City of North Chicago, and although we have numerous opportunities to apply our skills



us the opportunity to use these properties before their demolition." The Fire Department practiced their skills on the proper mounting, dismounting, and operating on and around fire apparatus', identifying the purpose and components of a size-up, demonstrating primary and secondary search techniques, deployment of the hose loads, identifying techniques of moving hoses into position, demonstrating fire extinguishment of an upper level fire via a stairwell, performing a risk / benefit analysis for victim survivability and firefighter risk in a fire building, demonstrating proper procedure for making hydrant connections, working off a ladder using appropriate safety devices and methods, raising and placement of a ladder for window ventilation operations and rescue operations from a window and carrying hand tools while ascending and descending a ladder- which otherwise could not have been done without the use of these structures. "This training will help our award-winning fire department continue to meet the true demands of the modern fire service," said Mayor Rockingham.

as paramedics, the occasions for our members to receive an actual residence that is structurally sound, environmentally safe and tenable is rare," said Chief Dell Urban. "We are grateful the City gave

## Safesitter program teaches life skills

Do you feel ready to stay home alone, watch your brothers and sisters while your parents are gone, or babysit for younger children? Safe Sitter is for young teens in grades 6-8 who are ready to learn the skills they need to care for themselves and

younger children. Safe Sitter teaches young teens life and business skills, so that they know how to be prepared, be responsible, and be considerate whether they are babysitting or doing odd jobs for family, friends, or neighbors.

## Extreme heat dangerous for people and pets

The summer months can be uncomfortable, even dangerous for people as well as your pets. Never leave your children or pets in a parked car. On a warm day, temperatures inside a vehicle can rise rapidly to dangerous levels. On an 85-degree day, for example,

the temperature inside a car with the windows opened slightly can reach 102 degrees within 10 minutes. After 30 minutes, the temperature will reach 120 degrees. Your children or pets may suffer irreversible organ damage or die.

## Canine Health Clinic

### Free Canine Health Clinic

Saturday, September 16, 2017 • 9:00 AM-100 PM • Novak King School, 1500 Kemble Ave, North Chicago

## Police Department reaching new heights for Special Olympics of Illinois



North Chicago Police Department (NCPD) joined law enforcement officers throughout the state to support Special Olympics Illinois. Officers raised money and donations for the Law Enforcement Torch

Run to benefit Special Olympics Illinois by standing on the roof at Dunkin Donuts for the annual "Cop on Rooftop" event. In total, \$2,852.77 was raised by NCPD to benefit this great cause.

## North Chicago Police begin using body cameras:

The North Chicago Police Department began using body cameras on officers during the course of their duties. This decision came after a year of research and successful field testing which was conducted this past winter. Prior to the issuance of the body cameras, officers received classroom and practical application training which consisted of law updates,

maintenance, and evidence storage. "We believe that the use of body-worn cameras is a major step in enhancing police/community relations," said Chief Richard Wilson. "They can help us to diffuse conflict and can help us explain instances where police actions are questioned. Total transparency and professionalism is our goal."



On June 10th, The North Chicago Police Department and members of the youth organization, ASK12, hosted the North Chicago Day of Play. ASK12 was founded by the late Lake County Board Commissioner, Audrey Nixon, to help improve relations between the community, particularly youth, and the police.

**NIGHT OUT**  
POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The North Chicago Police Department invites you to join forces with thousands of communities nationwide for the annual

**COMMUNITY PICNIC AND WALK**

**Tuesday, August 1, 2017**  
**2:00 – 7:00 pm**  
**Foss Park Community Center**  
**1730 Lewis Ave.**

**Inflatables • Games • Dunk a Cop • Food**

Organizations invited and community groups including the Lake County Board Commissioners, Mayor Steven Brook Lukas, North Chicago Police Officers and North Chicago Board Members



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## OVER 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

**Friday August 4, 8 pm - 10 pm**  
**Pre-Event Fun!**

**Sponsored by Foss Park District**  
**Movie in the Park "SING"**



**Saturday August 5, 8 am - 10 pm**  
**Parade • 3 on 3 Basketball**  
**Car Show • Food**

**Kid Zone • Giveaways • Bingo**  
**Health Checks • Concert on the Lawn**  
**The Moe Fitz Project • Fireworks Showcase**



**Sunday August 6, Noon - 7 pm**  
**Food • Vendors • Kid Zone**

**Live Entertainment**  
**Concert on the Lawn**  
**The Chicago Mass Choir**



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**Thank You Sponsors!**

HOSTED BY CITY OF NORTH CHICAGO, SCHOOL DISTRICT 187 AND FOSS PARK DISTRICT  
For additional information, please contact Amy Whitis at 847.598.8540 or [amywh@northchicago.org](mailto:amywh@northchicago.org)  
[www.60064.org](http://www.60064.org) [Facebook.com/CommunityDays](https://Facebook.com/CommunityDays) 1700 Block of Lewis Ave



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## 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**

**Carl Evans / 3rd Ward Alderman**

**Bobby Allen / 4th Ward Alderman**

**Torrance A. Markham, Sr. / 5th Ward Alderman**

**Bob Runnels / 6th Ward Alderman**

**Kathy January / 7th Ward Alderman**

<b>Emergency</b>	911
<b>General</b>	847-596-8600
<b>Mayor's Office</b>	847-596-8610
<b>Clerk</b>	847-596-8682
<b>Police Department</b>	847-596-8700
<b>Payment Center</b>	847-596-8635
<b>Economic and Community Development</b>	847-596-8650
<b>Human Resources</b>	847-596-8645
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