

Discover

NEWS FROM NORTH CHICAGO

2019 VOLUME 1

PARA OBTENER ESTE BOLETÍN EN ESPAÑOL, LLAME AL 847-596-8624

From the desk of Mayor Leon Rockingham, Jr.



Summer is in full swing and we can enjoy all the warmth that the season brings, warm sunshine, the scent of flowers, and longer days. During this time we focus on the usual projects such as road construction, street sweeping, summer youth employment program and preparations for Community

Days – but, this year, we’re also working on another important project, the 2020 Census. On April 1, 2020 everyone will be asked to complete the census. New to this census will be the option to complete the form online, over the phone or via mail-in response. It is important to the City that everyone participate. State and federal funding is dependent on census data, not only for our local government but for school districts, park districts, and non-profit organizations. To stay informed about the census and learn what to expect in 2020, take the “Pledge to Participate” on our website.

With warmer weather also comes the beginning of a new fiscal year. We continue to strive to be a City of best practices and have submitted a balanced budget. For three straight years now, the City of North Chicago has seen our property values rise and continued residential and commercial investment occurs within our community. Whether it be new small businesses such as Santana Equipment or Little Minds Learning Center moving to our community, or large existing institutions such as Rosalind

Franklin University or EMCO Chemical Distributors expanding their footprint, the growth experienced is undeniable. It is of importance to note that EMCO’s recent \$16 million purchase of 3601 Skokie Highway was not made to move their current operations from Martin Luther King Junior Drive, but rather to grow their production, warehousing and distribution capacity within our City.

To accompany all of these significant private ventures, the City has been hard at work planning for public improvements. Two such projects starting this year are the reconstruction of 14th Street and the plans for exterior improvements to the North Chicago Train Station. These important projects compliment the ongoing \$40-million dollar Brookstone & Regency at Coles Park housing development and AbbVie lakefront campus improvements.

Last but not least, in recent months we have seen emergency situations occur throughout Lake County. The City offers Blackboard Connect, an emergency notification system, free to all residents. Enrollment in this service is simple and will allow us to notify you should an emergency arise in the immediate area. In order to ensure the highest quality of public safety possible, I encourage everyone to enroll through the link on our website or by contacting the Fire Department at 847.596.8782.

It is a privilege to be your Mayor. Should you have any comments or questions, feel free to contact our staff or me. We are all truly dedicated public servants working to make North Chicago a great place for all.

Leon Rockingham, Jr.

Be Counted in 2020

On April 1, 2020, a census will be taken of all persons living in the United States. While many Illinoisans will answer the census questionnaire when it arrives, some demographics are consistently undercounted due to low participation. Among the groups historically undercounted in the census are Veterans, minority communities, college students, foreign born Illinois residents (documented and undocumented), persons living in large housing units or apartment complexes, children under age 5, and the homeless.

The importance of participating in the census cannot be understated. Census data, collected once a decade, determines the distribution of hundreds of billions of dollars in federal monies a year. Illinois stands to lose at least \$1,800 per year for each person who goes uncounted. Census data is also used to draw both state legislative and congressional district lines, affecting not just an entire state's political influence, but the power of certain communities. Illinois has lost a congressional seat every census since 1950, in 2020 the state is at risk of losing two seats.

You can get involved in the effort. For ways to stay informed about the census or find out how you can help, please visit www.northchicago.org and complete the pledge to participate or join our Complete Count Committee.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to respond to the census survey? Yes. You are legally obligated to answer all the questions, as accurately as you can.

Will my census information be shared with other agencies? Responses to the census survey are kept confidential by the U.S. Census Bureau. The information is not shared with other federal or state government agencies.

Is it safe to provide my ACS information over the Internet? Yes. American Community Survey information is encrypted at all times. In addition to data being encrypted during transmission, all data is encrypted for protection when stored on the Census Bureau servers.

Someone came to my home to interview me for the ACS. Is this legitimate? If someone has contacted you about the census and you would like to verify that the visit or phone call you received was legitimate, you may call your Census Regional office. You can find contact information for your Regional office at <http://www.census.gov/regions/>.

If I cannot use the Internet to complete the survey, are there other ways to complete the census questionnaire? If you cannot complete the survey online, the Census Bureau will also send you a paper questionnaire.

Summer Youth Employment program recognized for innovation

The 2019 cohort of the summer youth employment program "Learn, Earn, and Return" began on June 19. In 2018, The City of North Chicago received a first place Innovation Award from the Lake County Municipal League. This award acknowledges municipalities that developed strategic programs to solve municipal challenges and increase the effectiveness of local government. This is the second consecutive year the city has been honored with an innovation award. Last year, North Chicago's neighborhood revitalization and blight busting program was recognized.

Every summer, through public and private partnerships, the City takes up to 25 summer interns, ages 14 to 18, for seven weeks of work alongside City staff across all departments. The City of North Chicago works in collaboration with Lake County Workforce Development and others to provide wages and professional development opportunities for the student workers.

In the four years since it began, the program has served over 100 local youth by providing an opportunity to earn an income while learning job and life skills and allowing them the option to return in a leadership role in subsequent years.

Along with this, the City strives to improve opportunities for low income youth in the workforce, to provide them with access to quality training and skills that are purposeful and relevant, and to inspire their civic engagement while building a talent pool of employees.

New permit fee structure in effect

As part of a comprehensive review of the policies within the Department of Economic & Community Development (ECD), an amendment to the City's building permit and related development fees was recently proposed. The amendment was presented to and adopted by City Council earlier this year, with the new rates introduced effective April 1, 2019. The goal of this change is to look out for the best interest of our taxpayers by helping ensure the revenues we collect appropriately cover all expenses related to both the plan review and inspection process. In doing so, we hope to follow the best practices as well as become more fiscally accountable to our constituents. To learn more about these changes, please contact the ECD office.

Business license renewal season has arrived

Renewal applications for business are available online at www.northchicago.org. Applications are also available for pick up at City Hall during business hours Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Consulting services for small business and entrepreneurs are available through SCORE at North Chicago City Hall through September 2019. SCORE is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and a resource partner of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) dedicated to helping small businesses get off the ground, grow and achieve their goals. Appointments can be scheduled at <https://northchicago.score.org/north-chicago-city-hall-branch>.



Congratulations to 1st Ward Alderman, Ernest Fisher and 6th Ward Alderman, Bob Runnels, Sr., who received the Most Influential African American Award for Community Service in Lake County.

Long awaited reconstruction begins

The 14th Street Reconstruction Project is underway! The project consists of reconstructing the 14th Street right-of-way from Green Bay Road to Jackson Street, with a new round-about replacing the stop signs at the intersection of Dugdale Road and 14th Street. Details include a reconfiguration of 14th Street to a 3-lane cross-section, installing new storm sewers along the corridor, installing a 12-inch water main from Lewis Avenue to Green Bay Road, and replacing an aging water main and street resurfacing from Jackson to Sheridan. This work will be accompanied by the installation of a new multi-use path connecting the Robert McClory Bike Path to the Greenbelt Cultural Center, as well as new concrete sidewalks, street lighting and landscaping.

The overall project is anticipated to be completed in the fall of 2020.

City Council Meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of every month. Council meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. immediately followed by Committee Meetings. The new schedule allows for public comments to be heard at the beginning rather than the end of the session.

Bright future for LED Street Lights

LED street lights are now rapidly becoming the “norm” for street lights as cities large and small are replacing their existing street lights with new, energy efficient LEDs. Not only are they less expensive to purchase, but they are brighter and more energy efficient than the old ones. The City hopes to convert all of its lighting over the next few years to new LED street lights.

Protecting your investment

Residents should notify Code Enforcement regarding any vacant homes/buildings that they may be aware of in their neighborhoods. Being aware of vacant homes can help minimize damage to the property. Residents who intend to be away from home for any extended period are reminded to have your home checked regularly by a family member, friend, or neighbor. Periodic checks, especially following a storm, could mean far less damage if an issue were to arise while you are away. Please adhere to this regulation. Please contact the Community and Economic Development Department at 847-596-8650 with any questions or concerns you may have.



The Shields Township Food Pantry is open 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Transportation to the pantry can be arranged by contacting Alderman Carl Evans at 224.717.0909.

North Chicago Train Station to get new look

Renovations to the exterior of the North Chicago Metra Station are scheduled to be complete by the end of this year. Among the planned updates are new siding, energy efficient windows, enhanced lighting, and a new roof. The City of North Chicago will front \$365,000 for the renovations but will be completely reimbursed by Metra once the work is complete.

Sowing the seeds for a healthier community

The City of North Chicago has dedicated space for a North Chicago Community Garden Program to provide residents the opportunity to grow fresh fruit and vegetables in their own community.

The City’s current garden is conveniently located at the crossroads of Broadway Avenue, Greenfield Avenue, 20th Street and Glenn Drive, just adjacent to the Robert McClory Bike Path. There is no fee to obtain a garden plot; however, each participant is responsible for the upkeep of his/her assigned section. Applications to request a plot are available in the Department of Economic and Community Development or call 847-596-8650 for more information.

Please place the green and blue totes at the curb before your scheduled trash pick up day. Per City Code, you may place your trash receptacles at the pickup location the evening before your scheduled collection day. As a reminder, lawn debris service runs March 15 through December 15.

North Chicago Fire Department members receive Valor Awards

North Chicago Fire Department members received the 2018 Valor Award for reviving a woman who had stopped breathing and had no pulse following a medical event in May of last year. Battalion Chief Kimberly Schaefer, firefighter/paramedics Brian Henderson, Leonard Cooksey, William Matos and Sterling Ricketts, and retired Battalion Chief Joshua Rickabaugh were recognized for the “courageous efforts of first responders” at the 100 Club of Chicago’s annual awards program in April of this year.

Lifesaving Technology installed in Advanced Life Support vehicles

North Chicago Fire Department’s Advanced Life Support vehicles are now equipped with a King Vision laryngoscope. These devices allow paramedics to visualize/intubate patients in need of advanced respiratory assistance producing substantially improved success rates. Funding to provide King Vision was awarded to the department by the 2018 EMS Grant through The Illinois Department of Public Health.



The North Chicago Fire Department collected over 2,000 which were donated to Bernie’s Book Bank for redistribution to kids in need throughout the Chicagoland area.

Police Department joins forces to raise money for Special Olympics

On May 17, patrons of the North Chicago Dunkin’ Donuts were greeted by North Chicago Police officers waving from the roof in order to raise money and awareness for a great cause — the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. In 2018, 310 locations statewide raised more than \$871,000.00.

On June 2, members of the police department ran through North Chicago in the Torch Run for the Special Olympics. The Law Enforcement Torch Run is the single largest year-round fundraising movement benefiting Special Olympics Illinois.



North Chicago Police Department Officer Wendy Lee and Lieutenant Fred Diez supporting literacy by reading to children at Lake County Baptist School as part of the schools read-a-thon.

north chicago COMMUNITY DAYS

MUSIC • FOOD • FUN

August 2-4, 2019



City of North Chicago
1850 Lewis Avenue
North Chicago, IL 60064

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
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PERMIT NO. 502

ECRWSEDDM
POSTAL CUSTOMER
LOCAL

Friday, August 2, 6pm - 10pm

Family Night

Family Fun Run 5K/1 mile walk

Movie in the Park

Saturday, August 3, 10am - 10pm

CommUNITY Celebration

Food and Booth Vendors • Parade

Car Show • Basketball

FREE ENTERTAINMENT

KidZone • Concerts • Fireworks

Sunday, August 4, Noon - 7pm

Gospel Day

Concert on the Lawn • Food and Booth Vendors • KidZone



Contact Amy Whittis at amywhi@northchicago.org or visit www.60064.org for forms.
Hosted by City of North Chicago, North Chicago School District 187 and Foss Park District



PARTICIPATE AS AN EVENT SPONSOR, FOOD, BUSINESS OR NON-PROFIT VENDOR, AND/OR PARADE PARTICIPANT TODAY!

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

Emergency	911
General	847-596-8600
Mayor's Office	847-596-8610
Clerk	847-596-8682
Police Department	847-596-8700
Payment Center	847-596-8635
Economic and Community Development	847-596-8650
Human Resources	847-596-8645
Engineer	847-596-8676
Treasurer	847-596-8628
Fire Department	847-596-8780
Water Billing	847-596-8626
Public Works	847-596-8870

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