

Discover

NEWS FROM NORTH CHICAGO

2018 VOLUME 2

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

From the desk of Mayor Leon Rockingham, Jr.



The autumn season is upon us. It is the third season of the year, coming after summer and before winter. It is the time when leaves fall from the trees as they settle in for a winter rest. This fall season, however, is not a time for any of us to rest. With this fall, comes election season – a time when voters have the future of their communities in their hands. It is a time for

everyone to play an important role in choosing our leaders. But don't just vote; vote well. Make informed decisions based on sound evidence. Bad choices at the ballot box can result in unjust laws and destructive economic policies. The autumn season may represent the closing of the calendar year, but voting represents the beginning. I urge you to get out and vote well.

I also urge you to shop, dine and unwind locally as we enter into the holiday season and beyond. Supporting our local businesses strengthens them and gives the city an economic advantage. Let's all do our part to keep our money in our community. This will help us attract additional businesses and create a vibrant North Chicago.

Along with shopping locally, we also need to get counted. The city is currently working on the 2020 Census to ensure that everyone is counted. The Census is a snapshot of America that determines how congressional seats are apportioned and how state and federal dollars are allocated. The federal and state governments base a large amount of their spending decisions on census data including programs that serve lower-income families like Head Start,

Medicare, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Highway spending is also apportioned according to census data. More information will be coming on what you can do to help us get a complete count in the City of North Chicago.

The city held its 13th Annual Community Days Festival. I would like to thank all who participated. This year, we celebrated North Chicago Community Days recognizing the Illinois Bicentennial. Because of the support of many organizations, this family-filled event has achieved great success by bringing the entire community together. In addition to the traditional free activities that Community Days has become known for over the years, we infused new elements that embodied the true spirit of this event and brought back our 5K Family Fun Run/Walk. We have already begun planning for our next Community Days and hope to see you there. In the meantime, please come to our Public Safety Fair on October 27th and our Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on November 26th.

These events would not be possible without our dedicated staff members. I would like to recognize and thank them for their commitment to our community. With ongoing federal and state funding challenges, they have worked diligently to streamline processes and find cost-savings so that we can continue to provide excellent municipal service. We continually look for performance improvements, metrics, and best practices to improve our work.

I would also like to thank you for the privilege to serve as mayor of North Chicago. I am committed to this community, its people and to our economic prosperity. Should you have any comments or questions, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Leon Rockingham, Jr.



Mayor Leon Rockingham, Jr. was elected as First Vice-President of the Illinois Municipal League (IML). In 2019, Rockingham will serve as the first African American President of IML.

Schedule of events:

October

- October 25, 2018 • 6th Ward Meeting 6:00 p.m.
North Chicago City Hall
- October 27, 2018 • Public Safety Open House • 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
North Chicago Fire Department
- October 28, 2018 • Trick or Treat • 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.
- October 29, 2018 • 5th Monday Meeting • 6:00-8:00 p.m.
North Chicago City Hall

November

- November 12, 2018 • City Hall Closed - Veterans Day
- November 22 - 23, 2018 • City Hall Closed - Thanksgiving
- November 26, 2018 • Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony • 6:00 p.m.
North Chicago Fire Department

December

- December 1, 2018 • 5th Ward Meeting • 10:00 a.m. - Noon
Foss Park Community Center
- December 24 - 25, 2018 • City Hall Closed-Christmas
- January 1, 2019 • City Hall Closed - New Year's Day

North Chicago's "Earn, Learn and Return" summer program provides early work experience and fun

Since its inception in 2015, our summer youth employment program has provided jobs for nearly 100 young adults ages 14 to 18. The program, titled "Earn, Learn and Return", encourages summer workers to earn money, learn important and necessary life skills, and return to mentor and coach new workers. North Chicago's program includes job placements in every city department across a wide range of fields including public safety, information technology, water plant operations, clerical, finance and accounting. To enhance the experience, city staff members conduct weekly professional development workshops and educational field trips. Among the many activities, youth workers attended financial literacy workshops, leadership training, and culinary classes. "Investing in our youth is a priority for them to improve future employment opportunities and become engaged and committed to our community," said Mayor Rockingham. These positions are staffed by students residing in North Chicago in collaboration with Lake County Workforce Development. The Steans Family Foundation, AT&T and the Abbott Fund have made investments in our summer workers to fund various programs, workshops and field trips.



The Earn, Learn and Return students participating in professional development and enrichment activities.

City honors the late Lake County Commissioner Audrey Nixon with road dedication ceremony

North Chicago, Waukegan and Lake County officials held a ceremony this summer to honor the late Lake County Board member Audrey Nixon. Collaborative plans are in the works to rename 14th Street “Audrey Nixon Boulevard” after the road is reconstructed.

“She was not only the longest-serving member of the Lake County Board, she was a champion for civil liberties and civil rights. She made history by being the first African American woman to be elected to the county board,” said Mayor Rockingham, Jr. “Audrey Nixon indeed ranks among our most distinguished leaders.”

Commissioner Nixon, a North Chicago resident, passed away last year. She was 82.



Congratulations to North Chicago’s Queens



Elected officials recently congratulated the newly crowned North Chicago pageant queens. They were crowned on August 25th and immediately began their work as positive role models by serving the community through volunteerism.

Elected officials with the 2018-2019 pageant winners: Miss Brianna Pritchett, Teen Miss Jaslyn Hurt, Jr. Miss Taryn Wilson, Little Miss Audrey Palma

Economic growth seen throughout the city

Economic growth is continuing throughout the City of North Chicago as development projects gain momentum and move forward. The city has now seen nearly two years of sustained growth in equalized assessed value of property in town. These gains are indicative of the rise in our local market, which has led to many large-scale investments throughout town. These investments include the construction at Rosalind Franklin University to establish a new \$50 million Innovation and Research Park, a new child care facility scheduled to break ground this fall on Sherman Avenue, the renovation and

expansion of the BP gas station on the northwest corner of Green Bay Road and MLK Jr. Drive, and the \$40 million redevelopment of the former Marion Jones Townhomes. Other important achievements include the approval of a tax incentive agreement to help advance the development of the city’s 36 acre Sheridan Crossing site, the expansion of the Waukegan-North Chicago Enterprise Zone, and the establishment of a new Opportunity Zone. The city will continue to pursue opportunities to enhance its competitive position and create development projects essential to the economic well-being of the community.

What is an Opportunity Zone?

Opportunity Zones are a new community development tool to encourage long-term investments in certain census tracts. The program provides a tax incentive for investors to re-invest unrealized capital gains into Opportunity Funds. Opportunity Zones will remain in effect until December 31, 2028 and no additional zones can be created. North Chicago’s Opportunity Zone is census tract 17097862901 in the northeast corner of the city.

Drive carefully during the fall road construction season

The fall road construction season has begun. Please drive carefully through construction zones and be alert for posted parking restrictions and construction workers throughout the city. When driving through work zones, drivers must reduce speed and refrain from using cellular phones. There are increased fines for work zone traffic violations. Curbs, crosswalks, sidewalks and pavement work will be performed over the coming weeks on the following streets:

- 11th St., from Lenox Ave. west to Jackson St.
- Lincoln St., from 10th St., south to 14th St.
- Victoria Ave., from 10th St., south to 14th St.
- Glenn Dr., from 14th St., south to 16th St.
- Greenfield Ave., from 15th St., south to 18th St.
- Victoria Ave., from 18th St., south to Argonne Ave.
- Glenn Dr., from Argonne, south to Broadway
- Hervey Ave., from 20th St, south to 22nd St.
- Kristan Ave., from 21st St., south to 22nd St.
- Kemble Ave., from 20th St., south to 21st St.
- Atkinson Rd., to the railroad crossing

In addition to these streets, Argonne Drive from Broadway west to Dugdale Road will have the inside lane paved in each direction. Following the paving work, the outside lane on Argonne will be restriped for a “shared use” bike lane and parking.

Preventing basement flooding is as easy as one through six

Heavy rains have caused flooding throughout Lake County and in the City of North Chicago. Here are six simple tips that can greatly reduce the likelihood of flooding in your basement:

1. Make sure that rain water does not run towards the house. The dirt around your house needs to be higher than the yard. If you see puddled water near your foundation, chances are it is going to end up in your basement.
2. Clean and maintain gutters and downspouts. Make sure the gutters are clean, the downspouts are clear and hooked up, and that the downspouts have “extensions” on them that are at least four feet long.
3. Inspect and repair foundation cracks. Look for and seal any cracks in your foundation and waterproof your basement.
4. Keep drains clean. Do not wash grease down the drain because it can harden and clog the pipes or the main sewer line.
5. Install a standpipe. A standpipe is basically an ordinary pipe stuck in the floor drain surrounded by a watertight rubber seal. Any water that rises out of the drain goes into the pipe, not out on the floor.
6. Keep trash and debris out of the storm drains. Help keep the streets from flooding by making sure that the storm inlets are free of leaves and debris so the storm water flows freely into the drain.

Following these six easy tips will help keep your basement dry during times of significant rainfall.

Alderman Bob Runnels elected into Hall of Fame

Alderman Bob Runnels was inducted to the Omaha Press Club Hall of Fame. Runnels was recognized for his outstanding and exceptional career in journalism. He was a 20-year Navy journalist and editor of the Great Lakes Bulletin before working at KMTV-Channel 3 in Omaha. After KMTV, he taught journalism at Big Bend Community College in Washington State. Alderman Runnels continues to be an active community leader. He is currently serving his third term as City of North Chicago 6th Ward Alderman and also serves on the Board of Directors for the National Museum of the American Sailor Foundation.



Rose Ann Shannon of KETV, Omaha and 6th Ward Alderman, Bob Runnels receiving award.

Easier ways to pay

North Chicago offers convenient payment options to help make paying your water bill easier. Bills can be paid online or sign up for automatic payments which allows for electronic deductions from your checking or savings account. For more information contact the payment center at 847.596.8627.

Donna Kalinoski inducted into the North Chicago Senior Citizen Hall of Fame

Third Ward resident, Donna Kalinoski, was recently inducted into the North Chicago Senior Citizen Hall of Fame. Donna was recognized for her commitment to the community having volunteered and served on various boards including the Citizens Advisory Committee, Honor Flight and the Navy League.

To be nominated for this award, the nominee must be 70 years of age or older and must currently reside within the boundaries of the City of North Chicago for at least the past 60 years. Nomination forms are available at city hall.



Dogs get free vaccines at annual canine clinic

The City of North Chicago Police Department hosted its fourth annual Canine Clinic where over 300 dogs received vaccines and were micro-chipped. This service has been made available through funding and partnerships with the Bickell Foundation, Realtors to the Rescue and volunteers who contribute time and resources including dog food, collar and leashes. During the clinic, the city also has open registration allowing owners to register their pets outside of regular business hours.



“Sound the Alarm” campaign continues

The North Chicago Fire Department and the American Red Cross continue their mission of ensuring every home in North Chicago has a working smoke alarm.

The 2018 Sound the Alarm campaign proved to be another successful event with the focus on the 4th ward. In all, 69 smoke alarms were installed in 28 homes by over 40 volunteers from the North Chicago Fire Department,

American Red Cross, Boy Scouts, Christ Church and a local Eagle Scout.

Smoke alarms are still available. If you are a North Chicago Resident, or know someone in North Chicago that is in need of a FREE installed smoke detector, please call 847-596-8782 to schedule an appointment.

Thank you for another successful Community Days

Thank you to everyone who supported and participated in our annual Community Days weekend! This festival is made possible by the generous support of our sponsors:

Allendale Association, Abbott Fund, AbbVie, Advanced Disposal, Ancel Glink, Citgo/Graham C-Stores, ComEd, Consumers Credit Union, EMCO, First Midwest Bank, Fort2Base, Foss Park District, Gorter Family Foundation, Great Lakes Credit Union, Jelly Belly, LEARN, North Chicago Community Bank, Lake County Honor Flight, People’s Choice, The Mulch Center, Pace, P & G, Rosalind Franklin University, Trotter and Associates, Unique Towing, Walgreens.



Trick or Treating

Trick or Treating will take place on Sunday, October 28th from 2:00-5:00 p.m.



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NORTH CHICAGO PUBLIC SAFETY FAIR

**Presented by Alderman Bonny Mayfield
Public Safety Committee Chairman**

Saturday, October 27

**North Chicago Fire Department
1850 Lewis Avenue
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**



- Children's Activities •**
- Demonstrations • CPR Station •**
- New Squad Cars • K-9 Unit**
- New Ambulance • Public Safety Awareness Booths • Giveaways •**
- Free Blood Pressure Checks**



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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