The promise of spring is here. During this time we focus on the usual projects such as road construction, street sweeping and preparations for Community Days – but, this year, we’ve also begun a program to address vacant and abandoned properties. This program, which includes contracting with additional code enforcement personnel, seeks to increase accountability for the maintenance of derelict properties. This is done by taking a systematic approach to address the violations and the landlords. We have identified every vacant and abandoned building in the City, performed visual inspections, assessed the condition and, where necessary, posted notices. Returning vacant and tax-delinquent properties to productive use – or demolishing them, if necessary – will ultimately improve the quality of life for our residents and increase property values for our neighborhoods.

Many residents, municipalities, and other stakeholders have expressed concern over our schools. Please know that although the schools are a separate entity from the City, we are immensely concerned with the quality of our schools in North Chicago. The City will continue to work closely with residents, Naval Station Great Lakes, and other stakeholders to find the best solution that supports quality education for our residents. Because there are no easy answers to this issue, the City supports the review of all options available that will allow the students from North Chicago to receive the best education possible.

As many are aware, comprehensive planning is progressing and nearly completed. The experts from Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) led this effort in collaboration with the City. This plan studies existing conditions and presents a vision for the future. It includes information and guidance on land development, the protection of public investments, the appearance of the community, and economic development. Through public meetings, residents, businesses and stakeholders have expressed their ideas and a collective vision for our City. I thank everyone who participated.

The City is honored to have been named the 2nd best small city to start a business in America. The study, conducted by WalletHub, analyzed various traits including business costs, economic incentives and ease of working with the City. We are doing everything we can to attract and retain businesses in our community and we are grateful to have been recognized for doing so.

In order to ensure the highest quality of public safety possible, we’ve appointed Richard Wilson as our new chief of police. Chief Wilson replaces retiring Chief Jackson who has been a dedicated public servant to North Chicago. Chief Wilson joined the North Chicago Police Department in 1993 and has shown tremendous leadership during his time with the City serving as deputy chief for the past two years.

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

Metallic properties of balloons caused more than 200,000 power interruptions in the last four years.

While spring is in the air, outdoor celebrations are enjoyed by many. The City of North Chicago would like to remind you that foil balloons, also known as Mylar, in the air can lead to power outages when they come into contact with power lines.

When a foil balloon contacts a power line or a part of substation equipment, its metallic properties can cause a surge of electricity that can cause the equipment to short-circuit. And the spark could lead to a power outage or fire.

Help to reduce foil balloon-related power outages and ensure safety by keeping the following tips in mind:

- Keep balloons tethered at all times and attached to weights.
- Properly dispose of Mylar balloons by puncturing the balloon to release helium that otherwise could cause the balloon to float away.
- NEVER touch a power line. Do not attempt to retrieve a balloon or toy that is entangled in an overhead power line. For assistance, call ComEd at 1-800-EDISON-1 (800-334-7661).
- Always assume power lines are live and keep yourself, your belongings and anything you are carrying at least 10 feet away.

Should you bag or mulch grass clippings?

The answer is that most of the time you should mulch the grass when you mow. What are the facts and when should you bag vs mulch the clippings?

Fact #1: Grass clippings put nutrients back in the grass.

If mulched correctly, the clippings can provide your lawn with 25 percent of your lawn’s total nutritional needs for the year.

Fact #2: Nutrients are only returned if the grass is mulched correctly.

A rule of thumb is that you want to take off the top 1/3 of the grass blade when you cut it.

Fact #3: If your mower is clumping, it is best to bag the lawn clippings.

The grass clumps can do a lot of damage and disease by sitting in the lawn, rotting, and killing the live grass underneath it.

Other Fun Facts...

1. On average, yard waste jumps from 20% to 50% of all solid waste materials at the landfill March thru September, because of grass clippings.
2. It takes the average person 30 minutes less to mow a lawn that isn’t bagged.
3. Grass clippings make great compost.

Advanced Disposal will pick up properly bagged yard waste on your regularly scheduled collection day April 15th through October 15th.

Senior Citizen Discounts

The City offers a Senior Citizen Discount for refuse collection of 10% and provides the first 2,000 gallons of water for each billing period at no usage charge.

For more info, contact the Payment Center at 847-596-8635.
North Chicago Firefighters receive prestigious Valor Award

On April 26th, Firefighters Reid Mammoser and Juan Lopez received the prestigious Valor Award from the 100 Club of Chicago for their selfless and heroic actions.

The 100 Club of Chicago established the Valor Awards in 1980 to be presented annually to those police officers, firefighters and paramedics who, by their actions, performed above and beyond the call of duty. This marks the second consecutive year that North Chicago Firefighters have been awarded the Valor Award.

North Chicago Public Works accepting electronics

The City of North Chicago Public Works facility accepts old and unwanted electronics. Since the recent announcements by SWALCO that continuation of the electronics recycling program is uncertain, city officials have been working hard to find alternative programs that offer safe and environmentally friendly recycling programs.

Electronics can be dropped off at 1421 Renken Drive, Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. This service is free to all City of North Chicago residential customers.

Annual budget

The annual budget was drafted and approved by City Council for the fiscal year beginning on May 1, 2017. City elected officials and staff are diligent in monitoring costs and any corresponding revenue throughout the year. It will always be the goal of the City to offer the best possible service while maintaining taxes and fees at reasonable levels. Various financial documents including the entire budget document may be viewed on the City’s website under the main menu titled “City Departments” and then selecting “Comptroller.” Should you have any specific questions or concerns regarding the City’s budget, please do not hesitate to contact the Comptroller’s Office at (847) 596-8622.

Summer 2016 Construction

An aggressive construction program is planned for 2016 by the North Chicago Public Works staff. As a maturing community, a significant portion of the City’s infrastructure has reached or exceeded its useful life. This summer the roadwork and watermain projects shown on the exhibit below are planned. If you live on a street where work is planned, you will receive further detailed information regarding the work once it becomes available.

Residents are reminded that when driving through Work Zones, the use of cell phones is totally prohibited, and fines for all traffic violations are substantially increased.

Roads to be rehabilitated in 2016:

- Natoma Avenue-21st Street to 20th Street
- Natoma Avenue-20th Street to Argonne Drive
- Argonne Drive-Green Bay Rd to Dougdale Rd
- Dougdale Road-Argonne Drive to 18th Street
- 18th Place-Green Bay Road to Dougdale Road
- 18th Street-Green Bay Road to Dougdale Road
- 25th Street-Green Bay Road to Sherman Ave
- Sherman Avenue-25th Street to 24th Street
- Glenn Drive-Argonne Drive to 18th Street
- Glenn Drive-18th Street to 16th Street
- Park Avenue-Argonne Drive to 18th Street
- 17th Street-Sheridan Road to Lakeside Avenue
- Lakeside Avenue-17th Street Metra entrance
- 15th Street-Lincoln Avenue to Sheridan Road
The City of North Chicago requires that the owner of any multi-family residential building in the City, as well as the owner of any residential property that leases out individual rooms to tenants, obtain a landlord license by May 1, 2016. Moreover, the City requires that each individual dwelling unit registered under the Landlord Registration program be inspected by the City’s certified inspectors not less than once every two years, and at the time of re-occupancy, to ensure compliance with applicable property maintenance codes. Any property owner with questions concerning the landlord registration process is asked to call the Department of Economic and Community Development at 847.596.8650. Failure to register a property can result in issuance of a ticket and payment of a fine, along with payment of the required registration fee.

The Department of Economic and Community Development will be hosting a Landlord Training Workshop on Wednesday, May 25, 2016 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

The housing market in North Chicago has seen many challenges over the years, reflective of aging structures and changing market demands. In recent years, the City has become concerned over the number of vacant or abandoned properties in town. As a result, the City has taken a number of bold steps. It has hired a project manager whose responsibility includes identifying the owner(s) of the vacant or abandoned properties. Two Safebuilt inspectors have been assigned to the City. These inspectors, in vehicles identified with Safebuilt and City logos, will survey the City, verify the vacant or abandoned properties, notify owners, seek compliance with property maintenance regulations and, if necessary, pursue court action to obtain compliance or demolition of the structure. Should you have any questions concerning this program, please call the Department of Economic and Community Development at 847.596.8650.

Officers recommended for Life Saving Award

While en-route to a police Academy graduation ceremony in Schiller Park, North Chicago Police Sergeant Martin, Officer Geryol and Lieutenant Thies witnessed a serious accident which resulted in a vehicle overturned in a retention pond. “Without hesitation these officers administered help by protecting the scene, calming and extricating the victim from the upside-down vehicle and getting the victim to a place of safety,” said Chief Richard Wilson.

All of the police officers involved will be recognized during National Police Week at the City Council meeting on Monday, May 16, 2016.

Richard Wilson is sworn in as Chief of Police

Chief Wilson was sworn in on May 2, 2016. Wilson, a 23-year veteran of the department, has served as deputy chief for the past two years.
Discover

SPRING 2016

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North Chicago Police Department pilots Teen Court

In November of 2015, North Chicago Police Department, in partnership with NICASA, launched its Teen Court program. Teen Court is an alternative to the traditional court system for juvenile misdemeanor offenders ages 10-17 (18 if in high school). Teen Court uses a peer-based jury, comprised of nine North Chicago High School scholars, to determine a constructive sentence for the offender and, if successful, keeps the offender’s juvenile record clean. This approach not only involves law enforcement and the offender, but includes the victim and the community and measures success not by how much punishment is inflicted, but by how much harm is repaired and how much future harm is prevented. The community benefits from teen court by taking the burden off the court system and expediting the judicial system, lowering recidivism rates, developing a community of youth who pride themselves in giving back, and providing an opportunity for local youth to become a part of the solution.

Now accepting applications for volunteer boards

The City is always accepting applications for volunteer board positions. Current recruiting includes positions on the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners. All approved members are appointed for a 3 year period and meet approximately 10 times per year. For more information and to complete an application, please visit www.northchicago.org or contact 847-596-8610.

Open burning: answers to your burning questions

The City of North Chicago limits open burning for public health and safety reasons. When the air is stagnant, open burning can pose smoke and odor nuisances— and health risks—to nearby residents, particularly in densely populated areas. Open burning can also pose a safety risk when it is not adequately controlled. Burning that is offensive or objectionable because of smoke or odor emissions, or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous, are prohibited.

Any person desiring to conduct open burning of material not permitted may make an application to the City of North Chicago for a special permit no less than seven (7) days prior to the event to allow a supervised open burning event. No such permit shall be granted without the prior approval of the fire chief or designee. For more information and guidelines regarding the City’s open burning policy at http://www.northchicago.org or contact the Fire Department at 847.596-8792.

Overnight parking reminder

The Police Department has increased enforcement efforts to ensure overnight parking compliance. As a reminder, all city parking policies must be observed at all times. No vehicles shall be parked on any street for a period of time longer than thirty (30) minutes between the hours of two o’clock (2:00) a.m. and six o’clock (6:00) a.m. of any day.
Friday, August 5, 5-9pm
Uniting for Peace Rally
Food • Entertainment • 5K Registration
CONCERT ON THE LAWN

Saturday, August 6, 8am-10pm
Food • Entertainment • 5K Race
Parade • Vendors • Bingo • KidZONE
CONCERT ON THE LAWN and Fireworks

Sunday, August 7, Noon-8pm
Gospel Celebration • Food • Vendors
KidZONE
CONCERT ON THE LAWN

Contact Nicole Kneeland-Woods at nicolew@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 VENDOR, BUSINESS OR NON-PROFIT VENDOR, PARADE AND/OR 5K RACE PARTICIPANT TODAY!