

Discover

NEWS FROM NORTH CHICAGO

FALL 2017

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

From the desk of Mayor Leon Rockingham, Jr.



The holidays are a wonderful time to look back with gratitude and to celebrate the coming year with optimism and enthusiasm. Before we head into 2018, I'm happy to report on our accomplishments of 2017.

It has been an exciting year as we've all been a part of the substantial progress in our neighborhoods. For example, this fall hundreds of volunteers and residents participated in the Serve Your City initiative. Participants were painting, planting, plowing and doing all sorts of beautification projects throughout North Chicago. This is an initiative that complimented our abandoned building/blight reduction program. To date, 19 blighted structures have been razed and we are seeing property values increase. No doubt, the City of North Chicago is experiencing strong signs of economic turnaround.

Investment in our city has never been stronger. Major projects include the \$50 million Research and Innovation Park at Rosalind Franklin University and the 220-unit \$48.6 million housing development of Brookstone & Regency at Cole Park. We are also making significant progress with our Sheridan Crossing development. For the second year, the City of North Chicago was ranked by WalletHub as one of the top small cities in the country to start a business. We are proud of this distinction and we welcome O'Reilly Auto Parts and Paris Banquet Facility. Two recently completed projects.

We are seeing exciting construction and renovation throughout the entire city. At 14th and Lewis, Family Dollar is under construction and building permits are on the rise. The city issued a record number of over 1,000 building permits and we expect that number to increase in the coming year.

Inside city hall we've been working to improve the ease of doing business in North Chicago by streamlining processes and implementing best practices across all departments.

I would like to recognize and thank our dedicated city staff members who remain passionate and committed to our city. I especially want to recognize our retiring Police Chief Richard Wilson. Chief Wilson, who was named "Officer of Year" twice, served North Chicago for nearly 25-years. Please join me in thanking him and wishing him all the best.

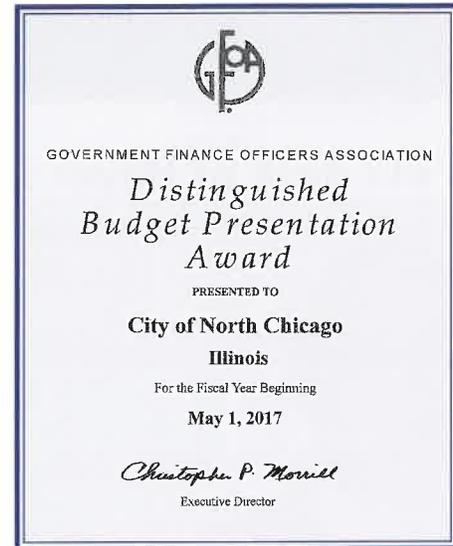
As we enter 2018, we are in the fortunate position of being in the midst of positive transformation and momentum. Our goal is to improve the opportunity index for our residents at every level and be a place where residents have easy access to and benefit from excellence in municipal service, excellence in public education, and excellent employment opportunities. I am proud to be the Mayor of the City of North Chicago. A place that is open, inclusive and diverse – and a place where any individual can make a home.

This Holiday season, please join me in the spirit of thankfulness, hope, opportunity, and optimism for our city, and may the spirit of this season bring you peace, joy and many blessings in the New Year.

Leon Rockingham, Jr.

City of North Chicago receives Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

For the first time, the City of North Chicago was awarded the prestigious Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. Less than 50 municipalities in Illinois have received this award so far for the 2017 fiscal year. The city's budget presentation was edited and improved in 2016 to maximize readability and follow best practices. It was then again improved in 2017. "The award represents the city's commitment to meeting the highest standards of governmental budgeting," said Mayor Rockingham. "It also represents the diligent team work by city staff in creating a document that meets the highest standards." To receive this award, the city had to satisfy nationally recognized budget presentation guidelines which are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications tool.



North Chicago continues to develop the next generation through summer youth employment

The City of North Chicago's Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) is unlike most summer job opportunities available to North Chicago teens. This past summer, the city operated separate tracks to provide paths for 26 North Chicago youth who self-selected summer jobs within municipal services. This year's program included training and hands-on experiences for future firefighters, street crew workers, human resource generalists, information technology specialists, communications specialists and water plant operators through its Operator in Training Program. "Our summer youth employment program is the most comprehensive program in all of Lake County and has been featured in county and national publications," said Mayor Rockingham.

The structured program offered both employment and professional and development skills. In addition to working 25 hours a week, SYEP participants attended weekly sessions that covered financial responsibility, soft skills, career opportunities in the field of science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) and field trips

to the Federal Reserve Bank and Fermilab.

The City of North Chicago worked closely with Lake County Workforce Development and collaborated with North Chicago Community High School, the Steans Family Foundation and Darrell King, founder of the Operator in Training Program. Applications for the 2018 SYEP will be available in February through the Lake County Workforce Development and Job Center.



Committee and Council Meetings:

1st and 3rd Mondays 6:00 p.m.

5th Ward Meeting:

December 2, 2017 10:00 a.m. at Nicasa

2nd Ward Meeting:

December 9, 2017 10:00 a.m. at Kukla Towers

3rd Ward Holiday Celebration:

December 19, 2017 5:00 p.m.
at Foss Park Golf Course

Neighborhood revitalization creates healthy neighborhoods and happy residents

The City of North Chicago is committed to neighborhood revitalization and development. The city has been working diligently to address blight throughout the community with the goal of stabilizing neighborhoods, raising property values, and encouraging reinvestment in our community. Since the program began, the city has identified 300 vacant properties and through the city's efforts, 60 have been occupied and are back on the property tax rolls. To date, 19 dangerous, abandoned and blighted properties have been demolished by the city. Others have been demolished voluntarily by property owners. "The city needed to find solutions and bring vacant and abandoned buildings into productive use and code compliance," said Alderman Kathy January, Building Committee Chairperson. "This initiative should bring about increases in property values and community pride." The target properties were identified as being in a deteriorating state beyond repair, had remained vacant for an extended period, and were determined to have been a nuisance to the city neighborhoods. The response to this effort has been extremely positive and North Chicago will continue to work on healthy neighborhoods and happy residents. To view the complete blight reduction map visit www.northchicagoprogress.org.



Did you know?

The North Chicago water plant consistently produces water that exceeds standards established by the EPA governing potable water.

The City takes great pride in our water plant, and is committed to ensuring that it operates properly, and is a sustainable source capable of producing what is arguably among the best drinking water available. Read our water quality report online at www.northchicagowater.org.



L to R. Ald. Markham 5th Ward Alderman, Terry Darraugh Shields Township Supervisor, Ald. Evans 3rd Ward Alderman.

North Chicago teams up with Shields Township to provide snow service for disabled and senior citizens

**To find out if you qualify call
847.234.0802**

North Chicago renews the School Resource Officer program

The City of North Chicago, in partnership with North Chicago Community Unit School District 187, renewed the School Resource Officer (SRO) program. This program places a full-time police officer in the school setting. Aside from serving as a role model and mentor, the SRO works alongside administrators, teachers and other school staff to provide a safe environment conducive to learning for each and every student within the district.

Officer James Perrin, a 10-year veteran with the police department, was selected to serve as the district's SRO. Officer Perrin is certified as a juvenile officer, and a graduate of the advanced school resource officer course. Officer Perrin is also a certified teacher in the State of Illinois.



Bearded heroes donate to annual Shop with a Cop event

Over the past 14 years, officers from the City of North Chicago Police Department have made it their personal commitment to ensure that less fortunate children in the community receive Christmas presents. In addition to donations from community and business members, the officers make donations in exchange for being allowed to grow a beard over the winter months.

Each year, between 25 and 30 local families are selected in partnership with North Chicago Community Unit School District 187. Every child receives a \$150 shopping trip with a police officer acting as the child's personal shopper. Following the holiday shopping trip, families return to a catered multicourse family style holiday meal and a visit by Santa.

Anyone wishing to donate to the Shop with a Cop Program is asked to contact Detective Harrold Rollins at (847) 596-8700.



In remembrance of Firefighter Mark Miller. June 28th 1945 - September 16th 2017. FF Miller served on the North Chicago Fire Department from October 1975 - February 2002. As the first African American Firefighter, he helped to organize various fundraisers, was involved in the Illinois Black Firefighters Association and led several community functions throughout his 26.5 years with the city.



Firefighters Thomas Dienken, Raul Jon Herrera and Kyle Martinelli were promoted to the rank of Lieutenant during a formal swearing in ceremony on October 20, 2017.

If you would like to receive a FREE 10-year lithium ion battery operated smoke detector installed in your home, contact the North Chicago Fire Department at 847.596.8780

Fair expands attractions and increases attendance for the fourth straight year



The annual Public Safety Fair builds on the city's commitment to maintaining a network of strong, sustainable neighborhoods, and brings families, local partners, and stakeholders together to keep our community safe.

This year's Public Safety Fair consisted of more

than 15 public safety information booths, interactive displays and activities including an obstacle course, police academy training scenarios, CPR demonstrations, free smoke detectors and more. The schedule of activities included keynote speaker, Lake County State's Attorney, Mike Nerheim.

The first ever Citizen Public Safety Award was presented to lifelong resident, Donna Kalinoski. Her volunteer service to the city and to public safety were recognized. Of her many contributions she is a founding member of Citizens Advisory Committee, a graduate of both North Chicago police and fire academies, is an active member of the Navy League and a volunteer for Lake County Honor Flight.

The fair concluded with a formal swearing in and promotion ceremony by the North Chicago Fire Department.



Donna Kalinoski (center) receives the Citizen Public Safety Award. (L to R) Fire Chief Dell Urban, Public Safety Chair Bonny Mayfield, Donna Kalinoski, Mayor Leon Rockingham, Jr. and Police Chief Richard Wilson

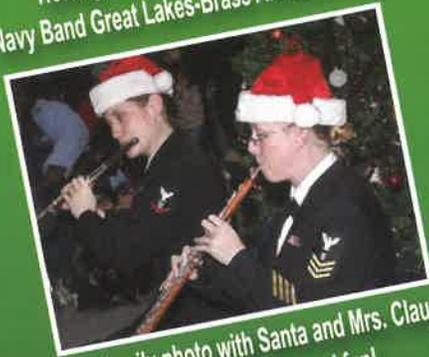
North Chicago Community Days

We had an amazing 12th annual Community Days weekend! Thank you to all of our sponsors: A+ Taxi, Allendale Association, Abbott Fund, AbbVie, Advanced Disposal, AirOn Inc, Ancel Glink, AT&T, ComEd, Consumers Credit Union, EMCO, First Midwest Bank, Foss Park District, Gorter Family Foundation, Great Lakes Credit Union, Jelly Belly, North Chicago Community Bank, The Mulch Center, Pace, P & G, Rosalind Franklin University, Trotter and Associates, Unique Towing, Walgreens.



Save the date! August 4-5, 2018

Holiday musical performance by:
Navy Band Great Lakes-Brass Ambassadors!



FREE family photo with Santa and Mrs. Claus,
kids activities, food and fun!



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

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The City of North Chicago TREE LIGHTING *Ceremony*

North Chicago Fire Department
1850 Lewis Avenue

MONDAY, NOV 27 6-8 PM

Lights, Music, SANTA

& celebration!

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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