



The City of Northlake Northlake News

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2026

Jeffrey T. Sherwin
Mayor
Nancy Pauletto
City Clerk

Aldermen
Paul Straube, 1st Ward
Penny Feldmann, 1st Ward
Alex Sosa 2nd Ward
Jaime S. Contreras, 2nd Ward
Juan Urbina, 3rd Ward
Norman Johnson, 3rd Ward
Francine Patti, 4th Ward
Rich Grochowski, 4th Ward

55 E. North Avenue
Northlake, IL 60164
708-343-8700

www.northlakecity.com
or like us on
[facebook](https://www.facebook.com/northlakecity)

City Desk

57 Year Old Dream Comes True

Last month the long awaited exit ramp off of the southbound TriState Tollway to east bound North Avenue was opened.

Some of you may remember that the Concord Place Senior Building was originally built as the O'Hareport Hotel in 1968 on the promise that this ramp would soon be built which would provide easy access to the hotel. The ramp was not built at that time, the hotel went bankrupt and the building was converted into senior housing in 1972.

The new ramp exits on County Line Road where drivers have the choice of either going north or south on County Line Road. If you proceed south on County Line Road, when you arrive at the frontage road you have the choice of either proceeding down the frontage road to Northwest Avenue, or going over North Avenue on the newly widened bridge where a new ramp will take you to the east bound lanes of North Avenue, avoiding the intersection of North Avenue and Northwest Avenue altogether.

This new configuration will improve the flow of traffic in this area. Areas along Grand Avenue will benefit with the new access from County Line Road. While the City of Northlake is the prime beneficiary of this new ramp, the surrounding communities of Elmhurst, Melrose Park, Bensenville and Franklin Park will also benefit. This new access will help to keep our area's economic and industrial base vital.

I wish all of you a safe, happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

Building Codes

The City of Northlake has officially adopted the 2021 International Building Code (IBS). This will improve the overall quality of construction within the City. It will also help strengthen safety, sustainability, responsible development and support modernization.

NEW DATES FOR COMMUNITY DAYS

July 24, 25 and 26 , 2026

Northlake Police Pension Fund Best Funded in Area

Recently WTTW (Ch 11) did a story on the results of the consolidation of the investments for local Police and Fire Pension Funds. By and large, by combining the assets for investment purposes, a higher return was realized than what the individual funds could do on their own, plus the cost savings of not having to pay fees to investment advisers for each individual fund. An interesting part of the online story was a search button where each individual town's funding ratio could be viewed. It turned out that of the 16 towns immediately surrounding Northlake, Northlake had the best funded police pension with a funding ratio of 73%. State law requires that these pension funds must be at the 90% funding level by 2040. Northlake is well positioned to meet this target before 2040.

Please note that the WTTW story was using data from 2021. The latest audit of the Police Pension fund shows a funding rate of just over 76%.

Meetings for 2026

Finance Committee: 6:30 p.m. in Council Chamber (55 E. North Avenue)

January 12, February 9, March 2, March 6, April 6, April 20, May 4, May 18, June 15, July 13, August 17, September 14, October 5, October 19, November 2, November 16, December 7, December 21

City Council: 7:00 p.m. in Council Chamber

January 12, February 9, March 2, March 6, April 6, April 20, May 4, May 18, June 15, July 13, August 17, September 14, October 5, October 19, November 2, November 16, December 7, December 21

Board of Police Commission: 6:00 p.m. in Police Department

January 27, February 24, March 24, April 28, May 26, June 23, July 28, August 25, September 22, October 27, November 24, December 22

Community Events and Affairs Commission: 6:30 p.m. in Council Chamber

January 13, February 10, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9, July 14, August 11, September 8, October 13, November 10, December 8

Senior Citizens Commission: 10:00 a.m. at Sandy Vasquez Community Center (316 N. LaPorte)

January 26, February 23, March 16, April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21, October 19, November 16, December 21

Youth Commission: 4:30 p.m. at Sandy Vasquez Community Center

January 8, February 12, March 12, April 9, May 14, June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, October 8, November 12, December 10, 2025

Zoning Board of Commission: 6:30 p.m. Council Chambers As needed.

Leyden Community Food Pantry

Leyden Community Food Pantry is collecting donations for the food pantry. Canned goods, dry goods and non-perishable food items as well as toiletries are being accepted. You can also get a gift certificate from your favorite grocery store in the name of Leyden Community Food Pantry. Donations may be dropped off during business hours at 2501 N. Mannheim Park, Franklin Park.

To make monetary donations, please make donations payable to "Leyden Community Food Pantry". Donations may be dropped off or mailed. Business hours are Monday and Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Friday, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information and a list of what is needed call 847-455-8616. Northlake City Hall has a collection box in the lobby where you can drop off items.

Examples:

Foods: cereal, oatmeal, pancake mix, syrup, coffee, crackers, macaroni & cheese, pudding/Jello, rice, pasta.

Canned foods: chili, fruit, ravioli/spaghetti O's, tuna, soup

Jarred Foods: condiments, peanut butter/jelly, cooking oil

Toiletries: toothpaste/brushes, toilet paper, paper towels, laundry soap, deodorant, feminine products, shampoo, body wash/soap, dental floss,

We appreciate all donations, however, we cannot distribute expired food products. Please check dates before donating.

The Leyden Food Pantry Serves all of Northlake.

New E-Bike and E-Scooter Rules Approved by City Council

In November, the City Council approved new rules for e-bikes and e-scooters. The new rules state that operators of these devices must follow all rules of the road, including stop signs and stop lights, and they can not be ridden on sidewalks. Helmets are required, and persons under age 16 can not operate them unless they are accompanied by an adult. E-bikes are also placed in different classes, with different rules for each. To see the complete version of the rules and regulations for e-bikes and e-scooters, go to NorthlakeCity.com.

E-Bike Injury Prevention

According to the American College of Surgeons, more than 1 million electric bicycles were sold in the United State in 2022 with a projected annual growth rate of 10%. These increasing sales have driven an increase in injuries among riders.

Annually, over 20,000 people are injured while riding e-bikes, with about 3,000 requiring hospitalizations. The number of actual injuries is likely underreported. Injuries tend to be more severe than when riding a manual bicycle.

Head injuries occur most frequently with only 1/3 of injured patients using helmets. Helmets, certified by the Consumer Product Safety Committee, are intended for bicycle speeds 20 miles per hour and under. The Department of Transportation certified helmets for speeds above 20 miles per hour.

RIDE	TIPS TO KEEP YOU SAFE
S	Secure your helmet
A	Allow extra time to stop. And watch your speed.
F	Follow the rules of the road
E	Eyes up. Distractions down.



SIP & PAINT FOR KIDS

Thursday, February 12, 2026

5 PM to 6:30 PM

Sandy VaSquez Community Center
316 La Porte
(between La Porte & Wolf Roads)
Millennium Park

FREE*FREE*FREE*FREE*FREE

Sponsored by the Northlake
Youth Commission



Come in out of the rain
and join us for an
evening of

KIDS' BINGO

Thursday, March 12, 2026

5 PM to 6:30 PM

(or until the prizes run out)
Sandy VaSquez Community Center
316 La Porte
(between La Porte & Wolf Roads)
Millennium Park

FREE*FREE*FREE*FREE*FREE

Sponsored by the Northlake
Youth Commission

2025 Fall Tree Planting Completed

The City's 2025 tree program has been completed with the planting of new trees throughout the City. The City plants 150 trees every year, half in the spring and half in the fall. Since 1997, over 4,000 trees have been planted by the City.

Trees are an essential part of the environment, providing shade to help reduce the urban "heat island" effect caused by heat being absorbed by concrete and asphalt. Trees also help with reducing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere by taking it in and producing oxygen, sequestering the carbon in its trunk and root system. Trees also help with storm run off by absorbing water and also increasing property values.

Please remember that trees in the parkway can not be cut without the City's permission. The parkway is generally the area 20 feet behind the curb. If you have a question about a tree in this area, or would like to reserve a tree for the 2026 planting season, call Public Works at 708-562-0940.

New Branch Pick up Regulations

- Branch pickup begins April 1st through November 7th
- Branches are picked up on the first Monday of each month
- Branches must be out at curb no more than 1 week prior to pickup
- Individual branches must be **NO MORE** than 6" inches in diameter and a maximum of 8 feet in length.
- Branches must be neatly stacked with the cut ends towards the street. Unorganized piles will **NOT BE** picked up.
- Stumps, trunks and branches in excess of 6 inches in diameter will not be picked up.

Duty to Remove Debris and Stumps

If the property owner hires a private contractor to remove tree(s) from the owner's property, it shall be the responsibility of the private contractor to remove **ALL** branches and debris generated by their service.

Materials such as construction wood, fencing, door, and branches with nails or spikes will not be taken and must be disposed of by the resident through other means.

2026 Branch Pick Up Schedule

April 6, May 4, June 1, July 6, August 3,
September 7, October 5, November 2

Holiday Week Garbage Collection Schedule

Holiday	Normal Service Date	Holiday Service Date
Memorial	Friday, May 30	Saturday, May 31
Independence Day	Friday, July 4	Saturday, July 5
Labor Day	Friday, September 5	Saturday, September 6
Thanksgiving Day	Friday, November 28	Saturday, November 29
Christmas Day	Friday, December 26	Saturday, December 27

Dial A Ride Program Serving Leyden Township

For Residents North of North Avenue

Service Area: Service is provided to any location in Leyden Township. Scheduled service is also provided to Gottlieb Memorial Hospital, Resurrection Medical Center and West Lake Community Hospital. You will be picked up at your door and receive service to shopping centers, your doctor's office or anywhere else you want to go in Leyden Township. If you need to travel outside the Township, you can transfer to a regular Pace or CTA bus. For more information, call 888-699-6999.

Service Hours

Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Service is not provided on the following holidays: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

Fares: Adults: \$2.50, Pace transfer .30. Reduced: \$1.25, Pace transfer .15.

Proviso Township Transportation Department

For Residents South of North Avenue

Complimentary Rides for Recreation and Shopping

We provide free rides to: Target, Wal-Mart, Beauty/Barber Shops, Senior Clubs, Post Office, Banks, Grocery Stores, North Riverside Mall

Ride reservations can be made for Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (except holidays and when the Township offices are closed).

Due to traffic inconsistencies, clients are required to be ready 15 minutes prior to their scheduled pick-up time and to watch for the Township car. The driver will stop at the designated address and wait briefly (5 minutes). If there is no response, the driver will leave. Our drivers are not allowed to go inside a client's home.

Scheduling Procedures:

Call 708-344-8801 for reservations. Multiple stops are not allowed.

You must call by 12:00 noon, the previous day, to reserve your appointment.

If you are going shopping, you are allowed no more than two (2) packages.

The rider cannot reserve travel to one location and change it with the driver.

Each rider can have one (1) round trip per day – two (2) times per week.

Free car transportation is provided for Proviso Township residents who are:

- 60 years of age and older
- Mentally challenged, who can't operate a motorized vehicle.

Due to Insurance Regulations:

Individuals who are not physically and/or mentally able to get from their house to the car and destination by themselves will not be transported unless accompanied by another individual who can assist them.

- Smoking is prohibited in all Township cars.
- Passengers MUST wear seatbelts at all times in Township vehicles; **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Those who cannot will forfeit their free ride.

American Association of University Women Scholarship

AAUW is offering a \$3500 scholarship to returning students who live in Northlake. To be eligible you must: be a resident of Northlake, age 23 or older, have completed at least 12 credit hours at an accredited college or university and be a full or part time student.

For more information and an application go to: <https://elmhurstarea-il.aauw.net/scholarship/apply/> or call 630-207-4851. Deadline is April 3, 2026.

February is National Spay/Neuter Month

The Department of Animal & Rabies Control will be offering a rebate for spay/neuter costs in the month of February.

The Cook County Department of Animal & Rabies Control are doing their part to help solve our country's pet overpopulation problem. Cook County residents can have their dogs, cats, or ferrets spayed/neutered during the month of February and save \$40 through their veterinarian.

How the rebate program works:

1. You must be a Cook County resident.
2. Call your veterinarian to ask if she/he is participating in the Cook County spay/neuter rebate program.
3. Schedule an appointment in February with a participating veterinarian.
4. Bring your cat, dog or ferret in for spay/neuter surgery. Limit is two pets per household.
6. All pets must either receive a rabies vaccination and tag the day of surgery or have a current rabies vaccination and tag to qualify for the program.

Contact your local veterinarian for more information. Or you can go to the County site at CookCountyIL.gov/service/spay-and-neuter-program-0.

In addition, for Northlake residents only, bring your cat or dog in to a participating veterinarian to be spayed or neutered, anytime during the year, and you will receive a \$20 rebate from the City of Northlake. To participate in the program, your pet must be inoculated with the rabies vaccine. To receive your \$20 rebate from Northlake City Hall, you must bring in proof of residency and proof of the procedure from your veterinarian.

Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



City Hall will be closed on
February 16, 2026
for
Presidents Day

Coyote Sightings

Ordinance O-14-2003 prohibits ground feeding wildlife such as (but not limited to) cats, squirrels, rats, mice, rabbits, skunk, ducks and geese. By feeding feral animals, you are attracting coyotes to the neighborhood. This is very dangerous to humans and family pets. Please keep our neighborhood safe by not feeding wildlife. Above ground bird feeders will be permitted as long as all feed is placed in a container or feeder designated for the specific purpose of feeding birds. If ground feeding is witnessed, it can result in a fine of \$25 to \$500. Thank you for your cooperation.

Cook County to Help Fund Infrastructure

The City of Northlake recently received the go ahead from Cook County to use funds awarded to the City for the Victoria Avenue resurfacing and water main replacement project. The City will receive a total of \$365,000 toward the \$1million project from Cook County under the County's Community Development Block Grant and Invest in Cook Programs.

We would like to thank Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle for the County's assistance with this project which will replace the water main and resurface the roadway on Victoria Avenue from Roy Avenue west to Riley School.

Pictured: Mayor Jeffrey T. Sherwin and Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle



City of Northlake to Receive \$425,520 State Grant

The City of Northlake has been selected to receive a \$425,520 Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant from the State of Illinois for Phase II of the Ful-Roy Park redevelopment project.

The City would like to thank Governor J.B. Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for this opportunity. Northlake's one of 67 communities statewide to share in this year's \$36 million OSLAD program. The grant from IDNR will cover 50% of the cost of Phase II of Ful-Roy Park. Phase I of this project took place last year with the replacement of the playground.

It is expected that the work will be completed by fall of 2026 and will include an updated water feature.

Make a Fire Escape Plan

In the event of a fire, remember, time is the biggest enemy and every second counts. Escape plans help you get out of your home quickly. In less than 30 seconds, a small flame can get completely out of control and turn into a major fire. It only takes minutes for a house to fill with thick black smoke and become engulfed in flames.

- Practice escape plans every month.
- Plan two ways out of each room.
- Immediately leave your home when a fire occurs.
- Never open doors that are hot to the touch.
- Designate a meeting location away from your home.
- Once you're out, stay out!

Having working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home dramatically increases your chances of survival. Smoke alarm batteries need to be tested every month and changed with new ones at least once a year. Also, consider replacing the entire smoke alarm every ten years, or as the manufacturer guidelines recommend

Heating Safety Tips

Heating equipment is one of the leading cause of home fire deaths. Half of home heating equipment fires are reported during the winter months. Some simple steps can prevent most heating related fires from occurring.

- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove or space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat the home.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel for fuel burning space heaters.
- Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your furnace and fireplace very year.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a week.

Calendar of Events – 2026

February 9 – Finance Meeting – 6:30 City Council Meeting – 7:00	March 2– Finance Meeting – 6:30 City Council Meeting – 7:00
February 9 – Senior Citizens Commission Mtg. – 10:00 Community Center	March 10 – Community Events and Affairs Mtg – 6:30
February 10 – Community Events & Affairs Mtg.– 6:30	March 12– Youth Commission Mtg. – 6:30
February 12 – Youth Commission Mtg. – 6:30	March 16 – Senior Citizens Commission Mtg. – 10:00 Sandra Vasquez Community Center
February 16 – City Hall Closed –President’s Day	March 16 – Finance Meeting – 6:30 City Council Meeting – 7:00
February 17 - Court	March 17 – Court
February 24 – Police Commission at P.D.– 6:00	March 24 – Police Commission at P.D. – 6:00

SENIOR & HANDICAPPED GRASS CUTTING 2026 APPLICATION FORM
Grass Cutting Program now includes gutter cleaning
(once in the spring, once in the fall)

The City of Northlake offers Grass Cutting Services to property owners who are over 65, disabled, handicapped and/or have severe health problems and have no one else in the household who can mow the lawn. We anticipate that the grass will be cut every 10 days. The charge will be \$175 for the whole season, payable at the time of application. Those interested in Grass Cutting must use this form. **Grass clippings will not be raked up.**

ATTENTION: April 11th IS THE DEADLINE.

Please mail or bring this form, along with a copy of your Illinois photo ID (with date of birth) to: Northlake City Hall, Attention: Grass Cutting Program, 55 E. North Avenue, Northlake, IL 60164

**Please note: Even though you may have been on this program in the past,
you must reapply each year.**

The grass cutting program is in operation from April 1 until the end of October.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

- I am 65 years of age or older and neither myself, a family member, a relative, or a neighbor are able to cut grass. Include a copy of your driver’s license or picture ID that has date of birth.
- I am disabled, and under 65. I will present a current medical verification from doctor or a Secretary of State license Disability Placard, or registration of disability through Social Security, along with a State of Illinois photo ID.

NOTE: GRASS CUTTING AND GUTTER CLEANING ONLY. EDGING AND TRIMMING ARE NOT INCLUDED.

**Arrange for snow plowing and lawn mowing bills from 2024-2025 to be paid in full so you can be added to the list for 2026.

By submitting this documentation, I hereby voluntarily release protected health information to the City of Northlake that is otherwise protected by law, including but not limited to the Health Insurance Probability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPPA).