



CITY OF

McHenry

HEART OF THE FOX RIVER

Illinois

FALL/WINTER

NEWSLETTER 2026



From the MAYOR'S DESK

McHenry had a busy and exciting spring and summer season! We celebrated another successful ShamROCKs the Fox weekend bringing visitors from both near and far to our community to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. We welcomed back the Soap Box Derby, a beloved McHenry tradition dating back to 1939. McHenry also received exciting recognition beyond our community. FOX 32 Chicago featured McHenry's Riverwalk District in their America 250 segment highlighting the patriotic community mural created through the McHenry Riverwalk Foundation. Then a week later, WGN Radio put McHenry in the spotlight as its July Hometown Takeover, giving listeners and viewers across the region an opportunity to discover all that our community has to offer! (Check out the details on page 9.)

The excitement continues! This year's McHenry Music Festival on September 10–12 will bring another weekend of live music, community, and fun to McHenry with headliners Shinedown, Kane Brown, Hardy, and many more!

Light the Night returns on September 26. Miller Point will come alive with food, vendors, live music and the glow of fire globes at dusk. Before we know it, the holiday season will be here with so many ways to get into the holiday spirit and experience the magic like the Downtown Christmas Walk November 20–22.

Check out the calendar on page 3 for information on all community events. Thank you for continuing to make McHenry a community we are proud to call home. I hope to see you out there!

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City DIRECTORY



City Offices

Mayor's Office

Wayne S. Jett 815-363-2108

City Administrator - Interim

John Birk 815-363-2200

Deputy City Clerk/Assistant to City Admin

Monte Johnson 815-363-2108

Community Development Director

Ross Polerecky 815-363-2170

Economic Development Director

Douglas Martin 815-363-2110

Finance Director

Carolyn Lynch 815-363-2100

Parks & Recreation Director

Bill Hobson 815-363-2160

Public Works Director

Russ Adams 815-363-2100

Police Chief

John Birk 815-363-2200

Police Non-Emergency

815-363-2200

Emergency

Municipal Center

333 S. Green Street 815-363-2100
Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Public Works

1415 Industrial Drive 815-363-2100
Monday - Friday, 6:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Parks & Recreation

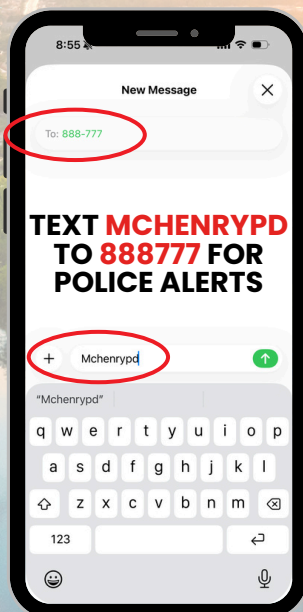
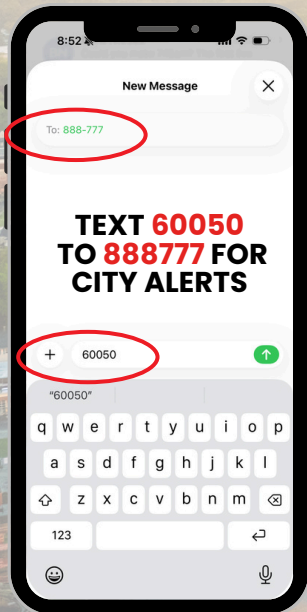
3636 Municipal Drive 815-363-2160

Community Communications

GET CITY AND POLICE ALERTS STRAIGHT TO YOUR PHONE!

RECEIVE ALERTS FOR:

- Severe Weather
- Service Updates
- Road Closures
- Criminal Activity
- Missing Persons
- Severe Traffic
- Public Safety Updates



KEEP YOUR FINGER ON THE PULSE OF MCHENRY!

RECEIVE EMAILS FOR:

- Community Events
- City News
- Upcoming Programs
- Project Updates
- Announcements
- Development News
- Newsletter Publications



SCAN

OR SIGN UP AT
CITYOFMCHENRY.ORG
FOR MONTHLY UPDATES



Stay
Connected:



Facebook: [@CityofMcHenry](https://www.facebook.com/CityofMcHenry)



YouTube: [@CityofMcHenry](https://www.youtube.com/@CityofMcHenry)



Website: cityofmchenry.org

Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER

THU 3 **PEARL STREET MARKET**
5 - 8 PM | Veterans Memorial Park
2026 Season Finale

FRI 4 **FIRST FRIDAYS DOWNTOWN**
Shop Local Until 7 PM
*At Participating Businesses

SAT 5 **DOWNTOWN UNCORKED**
1 - 5 PM | Veterans Memorial Park
Hosted by McHenry Area Chamber

SUN 6 **SUMMER MUSIC SERIES**
1 - 4 PM | Miller Point
Music by Despina

THU 10 **MCHEHRY MUSIC FESTIVAL**
2 - 11 PM | Petersen Park
Headliner: Shinedown

FRI 11 **9/11 MEMORIAL CEREMONY**
9 AM | Veterans Memorial Park
Honor and Remember

FRI 11 **MCHEHRY MUSIC FESTIVAL**
2 - 11 PM | Petersen Park
Headliner: Kane Brown

SAT 12 **MCHEHRY MUSIC FESTIVAL**
2 - 11 PM | Petersen Park
Headliner: Hardy

SUN 13 **SUMMER MUSIC SERIES**
1 - 4 PM | Miller Point
Music by Despina

SUN 20 **SUMMER MUSIC SERIES**
1 - 4 PM | Miller Point
Music by Jason Thomas Band

FRI 25 **SUMMER MUSIC SERIES**
1 - 4 PM | Miller Point
Music by Jason Thomas Band

SAT 26 **LIGHT THE NIGHT**
4:30 - 9:30 PM | Miller Point
Music, Food, Fire Globes, & Fireworks!

SUN 27 **SUMMER MUSIC SERIES**
1 - 4 PM | Miller Point
Music by Amy Yore

OCTOBER

FRI 2 **FIRST FRIDAYS DOWNTOWN**
Shop Local Until 7 PM
*At Participating Businesses

SAT 3 **SUMMER MUSIC SERIES**
6 - 9 PM | Miller Point | Season Finale
Music by Craig Colson and Terry Tanaka

SAT 10 **NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET**
11 AM - 6 PM | Downtown McHenry
Take a Spooky Stroll Through Shops

WED 14 **MTI CAREER EXPO**
6 - 8 PM | MCHS Upper Campus
Inspiring Passion and Purpose in Learning

SAT 17 **BREMER TEAM TRUNK OR TREAT**
11 AM - 1 PM | McHenry Outdoor Theater
FREE Fun-Filled Family-Friendly Event

SAT 17 **FOXTOBER FALL FESTIVAL**
11 AM - 4 PM | Riverwalk Shoppes
Celebrate All Things Fall!

SAT 31 **HALLOWEEN**
4 - 8 PM | Citywide Trick-or-Treating
Have a Safe and Spooky Fun Holiday!

NOVEMBER

FRI 6 **FIRST FRIDAYS DOWNTOWN**
Shop Local Until 7 PM
*At Participating Businesses

SAT 14 **HOLIDAY MARKET**
10 AM - 6 PM | Riverwalk Shoppes
Enjoy food, music, and shopping!

FRI 20 **DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY WALK**
AteaCo Coffee & Tea
4:30 - 7:30 PM:
Living Windows and Cocoa Crawl
4 - 8 PM:
Free Trolley Rides

SAT 21 **DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY WALK**
Veterans Memorial Park
12 - 4 PM:
Free Sleigh Rides & Visit with Santa
3 - 8 PM:
Free Trolley Rides

SAT 21 **HOLIDAY WALK CONT'D**
4:30 PM:
Carols with MCHS Vocal Warriors

5 PM:
Watch Downlight Light Up

6 - 10:30 PM:
Polar Express Pub Crawl

SAT 21 **HOLIDAY MARKET**
10 AM - 6 PM | Riverwalk Shoppes
Enjoy food, music, and shopping!

SUN 22 **TOYS FOR TOTS PARADE**
1 PM | Green Street to Riverside Drive
Bring an unwrapped toy to donate!

SAT 28 **HOLIDAY MARKET**
10 AM - 6 PM | Riverwalk Shoppes
Enjoy food, music, and shopping!

NOV 20 - DEC 12

LETTERS TO SANTA
Neuman Park | 1246 N Green Street

Drop your letters to Santa in our magical mailbox that brings them to the North Pole.

Include a self-addressed stamped envelope and Santa will write you back! Sponsored by Northwest Herald



NOV 20 - DEC 27

FESTIVALS OF TREES
McHenry Recreation Center

Beautifully decorated trees will be on display during normal business hours. Each tree is sponsored by a local business or civic organization and is decorated in a theme.

Visitors can bring canned non-perishable food or toiletries to place beneath the trees to vote for their favorite during normal business hours. All donations will be given to Veteran's Path to Hope.



2026-27 CITY OFFICES HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

November 11
Veterans Day

January 1
New Year's Day

November 26 & 27
Thanksgiving

January 18
Martin Luther King Day

December 24 & 25
Christmas

February 15
President's Day

FOR MORE COMMUNITY EVENTS, VISIT:

McHenry Area Chamber of Commerce
mchenrychamber.com | @mchenryareachamber

McHenry Riverwalk Foundation
mchenryriverwalk.org | @mchenryriverwalk

Naturally McHenry County
naturallymchenrycounty.com | @naturallymchenrycounty

Your **GOVERNMENT**

MCHENRY CITY COUNCIL



Pictured from left to right: Chris Bassi, Sue Miller, Stephen Doherty, Andrew Glab, Wayne Jett, Michael Koch, Trisha Ramel, Andy Davis, Bobbi Baehne

McHenry City Council meetings are scheduled on the first and third Mondays of the month and begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. Meetings that fall on a holiday will be held on the Tuesday after the holiday. The 2026 City Council Meeting Schedule is posted on the City [website](#).

If you can't attend a council meeting in person, you can watch online! Meetings are streamed live on the City's [YouTube channel](#) and are automatically saved for residents to view after the meeting.

MAYOR	Wayne S. Jett
CITY CLERK	Trisha Ramel
WARD 1 ALDERWOMAN	Bobbi Baehne
WARD 2 ALDERMAN	Andrew Glab
WARD 3 ALDERMAN	Stephen Doherty
WARD 4 ALDERWOMAN	Chris Bassi
WARD 5 ALDERMAN	Andy Davis
WARD 6 ALDERMAN	Michael Koch
WARD 7 ALDERWOMAN	Sue Miller

WHO'S MY ALDERPERSON?

Find your representative by using the ward map on the City's website:
cityofmchenry.org/wardmap

HOW DO I CONTACT COUNCIL MEMBERS?

Residents can fill out the City Council contact form on the City's website:
cityofmchenry.org/contactcitycouncil



CITY OF MCHENRY

CONSOLIDATED ELECTION INFORMATION

Beginning Tuesday, August 25, 2026, prospective independent candidates for the offices of Alderperson Ward 2, Alderperson Ward 4, Alderperson Ward 6, and Alderperson Ward 7 for the McHenry City Council may pick up an information packet at the McHenry Municipal Center. This information can also be received in digital format by emailing Monte Johnson at mjohnson@cityofmchenry.org.

Petitions for independent candidates may not be circulated prior to August 25, 2026. The filing date will be November 16 through November 23, 2026, for placement on the ballot of the Consolidated Election on April 6, 2027.

Information packets can be picked up at the McHenry Municipal Center located at 333 South Green Street in McHenry on Monday - Friday from 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM.



VOTER REGISTRATION

What you need to know!

The County Clerk is the chief election authority administering elections throughout McHenry County. Residents **cannot** register to vote at the City of McHenry Municipal Center.

For more information on voter registration, please visit the McHenry County Clerk's Voter Registration webpage:

mchenrycountyil.gov/departments/county-clerk/elections/voter-registration

REMINDER

Only properly registered electors may vote in an Election as provided by the Permanent Registration of Electors Law of Illinois. The law requires Registered Voters to keep their name and address current. You CANNOT VOTE for Local Candidates if you are not properly registered. Please contact the County Clerk's office at (815) 334-4242 if you have changed your name and/or address and have not yet notified the County Clerk's office.

VOTE!

MCHENRY

MUSIC FESTIVAL

THURSDAY
SEPT. 10

FRIDAY
SEPT. 11

SATURDAY
SEPT. 12



PETERSEN PARK
4300 PETERSEN PARK ROAD
MCHENRY, IL 60050

GET YOUR TICKETS AT:
MCHENRYMUSICFEST.COM



Community Development

WHAT WE DO

Community Development plays an important role in shaping a safe, vibrant and growing community. From building services and permits to planning, zoning and code enforcement, the department helps guide development, maintain community standards and ensure projects meet local regulations.

Many projects require building permits. Permits and inspections ensure each project meets the minimum requirements of the adopted building, electric and plumbing codes. These processes help the City protect the public from potential hazards and unsafe construction.

BUILDING SERVICES

- Plans examination
- Building permits and inspections

PLANNING DIVISION

- Zoning ordinance enforcement
- Review of land use applications
- Prepares zoning code and municipal code amendments
- Coordinates studies surrounding growth and development in the city

CODE ENFORCEMENT

- Responds to complaints filed by Citizens, City Council, or other City Officials
- Initiate enforcement action on violations

APPLYING FOR PERMITS:

ONSITE AT CITY HALL

McHenry Municipal Center
333 South Green Street

Monday - Friday | 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

ONLINE VIA PERMIT PORTAL

Visit our website at cityofmchenry.org/permits

COMMON PROJECTS THAT REQUIRE A BUILDING PERMIT:

Please note this is NOT an all-inclusive list.

- Additions
- Alterations/Remodels
- Accessory Structures (sheds, etc.)
- AC/Furnace
- Decks
- Demolition
- Driveways
- Fences
- Generators
- Sewer/Water Repairs
- Lawn Irrigation
- Patios
- Pools/Hot Tubs
- Electric Upgrades
- Roofing
- Siding
- Sidewalks/Stairs
- Solar Panels
- Windows/Doors

Landmark Commission

HISTORIC INFORMATION

Did you know that the City of McHenry is home to 22 locally designated historic landmark properties? The City has also produced documentaries highlighting McHenry's rich history, covering topics such as agriculture, Prohibition, and the Fox River.

You can explore these documentaries, learn more about the City's historic landmarks, and discover other historic resources by visiting the City's Landmark Page at cityofmchenry.org/landmark.

Interested in recognizing your historic property with a landmark plaque? Visit the City's Landmark Page or contact Cody Sheriff, City Planner, at 815-363-2181 for more information.

Questions?

Call us at 815-363-2170 or email CED@cityofmchenry.org today!

New Development AND PROPERTY REMINDERS

LENNAR

The McHenry City Council recently approved preliminary plans for a 596-unit single-family residential subdivision on approximately 300 acres located at the northeast and northwest corners of Bull Valley Road and Curran Road. Site development and infrastructure work is anticipated to begin in fall 2026, with construction of the first homes expected to begin in spring 2027.

RYAN HOMES

Ryan Homes is currently constructing single-family homes on the remaining 67 vacant lots within the Oaks at Irish Prairie subdivision, originally approved in 2005. The developer has also presented a conceptual plan for a 335-unit residential development consisting of 181 single-family homes and 154 townhomes on approximately 78.3 acres at the northwest corner of Veterans Parkway and Barreville Road. A formal subdivision application is anticipated to be submitted this fall.

UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE

NEW

The City of McHenry is updating its development rules and regulations through the creation of a new Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). The update will align the City's regulations with the Vision 2050 Comprehensive Plan and Downtown Plan, both adopted in 2024.

Visit cityofmchenry.org/udo for more information and to stay up to date on the project.

FALL REMINDERS

LEAF MULCHING

What is it? Leaf mulching is the practice of shredding fallen leaves into small pieces and spreading them across your lawn or garden. These finely chopped leaves can be left in place to decompose naturally, acting as a nutrient-rich organic matter that improves soil quality and supports healthy plant growth.

LEAF MULCHING BENEFITS

NATURAL FERTILIZER FOR SOIL

As mulched leaves decompose, they release nutrients back into the soil. These nutrients support root growth, improve soil structure and create a healthy environment for your lawn and plants.

PREVENTS WEED GROWTH

A layer of mulch can help suppress weed growth by blocking sunlight from reaching weed seeds.

COST-EFFECTIVE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY

Using fallen leaves as mulch eliminates the need to purchase expensive mulch or synthetic fertilizers. It's a cost-effective solution that also reduces waste. Instead of leaves going to landfills, where they contribute to environmental problems, you can recycle them right back to your landscape.

RECREATIONAL BURNING

Backyard firepits and outdoor fireplaces are popular in the cooler months. Make sure you are doing all you can to burn cleanly, safely and responsibly for your family, neighbors and community. **The City's burning ordinance prohibits the burning of leaves in Ordinance No. MC-18-1175.**

BURNING WITHIN CITY LIMITS

The City of McHenry allows a fire kindled for outdoor cooking, recreational burning, and controlled burning for prairie or forest ecology management purposes, subject to conditions and limitations described in **Ordinance No. MC-18-1175**.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE FOR HOMEOWNERS & RENTERS

The U.S. Small Business Administration offers long-term and low-interest disaster loans designed to help businesses of all sizes, homeowners, renters, and private nonprofit organizations recover from declared disasters. Repair existing damage, reduce future risks, or get help with financial obligations when essential employees are called to serve. **Click here** for more information!

Community Spotlight

FROM VISITORS TO RESIDENTS

WGN - HOMETOWN SERIES

**BREAKING
NEWS**

In July, the City of McHenry proudly took center stage on **WGN Radio 720's Your Hometown Series!** This exciting opportunity showcased the people, places, businesses and experiences that make McHenry such a special place to live, work and visit.

WGN produced a promotional video highlighting our community's many attractions and things to do, while seven local voices including Mayor Jett, a local historian and area business owners, who shared their stories during live interviews on WGN Radio. It was a wonderful celebration of McHenry and the vibrant community we are proud to call home. [[Watch the video here.](#)]

FROM VISITOR TO RESIDENT: THE LINK BETWEEN TOURISM AND COMMUNITY GROWTH

The City of McHenry has published its first blog on [Think McHenry](#), the City of McHenry's Economic Development website. The blog talks about the strong interconnection between tourism and economic development and community growth. It highlights how a visit to McHenry can be so much more!

Read the full blog here: www.thinkmchenry.com/blog/

CITY OF MCHENRY PARKING SIGNAGE PLAN

The City is working with Kimley-Horn on a comprehensive wayfinding, entryway and downtown parking signage plan. The plan is more than 50% complete and will improve signage directing residents and visitors to key destinations, local businesses and public parking.

The City is also exploring additional gateway signs along South and North Routes 31 and West Illinois 120 and South Crystal Lake Road to create a more welcoming entry into McHenry.

815 MCHENRY DAY: COMMUNITY-WIDE CELEBRATION

McHenry came together on Saturday, August 15 from 8:15 AM - 8:15 PM to celebrate everything that makes our community special during 815 McHenry Day!

From local businesses and restaurants to community organizations, recreation and family-friendly activities, the day highlighted the many ways to eat, play, shop, explore, live and work in McHenry.

Thank you to everyone who participated, supported local businesses and helped make this community-wide celebration such a success!



STAY CONNECTED WITH ALL THINGS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT!



Welcome Local Businesses



NEW BUSINESSES

A Stone of Your Own.....	1118 Green Street
AteaCo Coffee & Tea.....	1323 Riverside Drive
Clubs Indoor Golf McHenry.....	3315 Pearl Street
Community Youth Network Counseling Center.....	4302 West Crystal Lake Road - Unit J
CrossFit CXX.....	1205 Adams Drive
Crown Cards.....	5000 Elm Street - Unit 1 & 2
DSKI Monarch Group/Home Smart Connect.....	1308 Park Street
Friends for Karen Battaglia.....	810 Front Street - Unit D
Interstellar Kreation LLC.....	613 Front Street
Kest Jewelry.....	1211 Riverside Drive
Oak & Mane Salon.....	1224 - 1226 Green Street
RDC Liberation.....	620 IL Route 31 - Unit 4
Red Rose Banquets.....	1501 IL Route 31
Roast 2 Order.....	1615 Schroeder Lane - Unit A
Sacred Vision Tattoo Studio.....	3817 Elm Street
Stonemason Financial.....	3425 Elm Street
T Luxe Nail Spa.....	4109 Shamrock Lane
That Bar on 31.....	404 S IL Route 31
The Buzz.....	1250 Green Street
The Thresholds.....	616 IL Route 31
Vintage One-5.....	3433 West Elm Street
Vitality Chiropractic.....	620 Route 31 - Unit 7
Yummy Bowl.....	1700 Richmond Road

IN PROGRESS

7-Brew.....	1700 Richmond Road
Burlington.....	2221 North Richmond Road
Castle Subaru.....	2040 Richmond Road
Dutch Bros.....	1315 South IL Route 31
Hangry Brunch.....	3343 Shoppers Drive
Niko's on the Fox.....	1211 North River Road
Performance Venue.....	3421 Pearl Street
RGD Illinois Grocer.....	1762 Richmond Road
Riverside Bakery.....	1309 Riverside Drive
Upscale Bar and Cigars.....	522 South IL Route 31
Preserves at Boone Creek.....	Bull Valley Road & Curran Road
Rivercrest Subdivision.....	Barreville Road & Veterans Parkway
Redwood Senior Apartments.....	Route 120 & Chapel Hill Road

WE'VE MOVED

FJ Psychological Services.....	From 707 Ridgeview Road to 4506 West Prime Parkway
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SHOP LOCAL – GET REWARDED!

While shopping local, take advantage of the City's seasonal Shop & Dine Rewards Program through the Open Rewards App. Earn up to 10% rewards for every purchase and redeem your awards at specified McHenry businesses. **Watch for a new rewards promotion this September - December!**

Look for an updated Open Rewards app experience this fall, designed to make earning and redeeming rewards even easier! Visit shopndinemchenry.com for more information.



McHenry Recreation Center

FITNESS MEMBERSHIP & CLASSES

BENEFITS

- The McHenry Recreation Center features a 4,500 square foot fitness center
- 50+ weekly group exercise classes for members, including Les Mills classes, TRX suspension training and cycling
- Individual, senior, teen and military annual passes receive 5 guest passes each year
- Convenient monthly payment plans
- Available childcare while you exercise (additional fee)
- Locker rooms and showers
- Cardio equipment with touch screen technology, internet capability and television screens
- Treadmills, incline trainers, ellipticals, ARC trainers, stepmill, recumbent and upright bikes
- Rig functional training system, weight machines, free weights



View Group fitness schedule:
cityofmchenry.org/parks&rec

Get your membership today!

Membership Type	Monthly Rate	Enrollment Fee
Individual (18-61)	\$38	\$30/R - \$50/NR
Add'l Family Member (12+)	\$23	\$20/R - \$30/NR
Individual Senior (62+)	\$30	\$30/R - \$50/NR
Individual Teen (14-17)	\$30	\$30/R - \$50/NR
Military/Police/Fire (Act/Ret)	\$33	Waived
Monthly	\$48	N/A
10-Punch Pass	\$80	N/A
20-Punch Pass	\$150	N/A
Individual Daily	\$10 Daily	N/A

CONTACT US

McHenry Recreation Center

3636 Municipal Drive | McHenry, IL

PHONE: 815-363-2160

EMAIL: recinfo@cityofmchenry.org

WEB: cityofmchenry.org/parks&rec

HOURS

Monday - Thursday 5:00 AM - 9:00 PM

Friday 5:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Saturday & Sunday 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Holiday Hours 7:00 AM - 1:00 PM

STAY CONNECTED!

 [@mchenryparksandrecreation](https://www.facebook.com/mchenryparksandrecreation)

 [@mchenryparksandrecreation](https://www.instagram.com/mchenryparksandrecreation)



Parks & Recreation

SPECIAL EVENTS

Mom & Me Tea Party

Saturday, September 19

10:00 – 11:30 AM | McHenry Rec Center

\$30/couple + \$10 each additional person

Treat yourself and your child to a delightful morning of tea, treats, and creativity! Enjoy a guided tea tasting featuring a selection of teas for both adults and children, indulge in a delicious assortment of pastries, and participate in a hands-on tea blending workshop where you'll create your own custom tea blend to take home.

This special event is co-hosted by AteaCo.



WWW.SHOPATEACo.COM

Fall Family Gathering

Saturday, October 10

3:00 – 4:30 PM | McHenry Rec Center

\$5/person (children and adults)

Celebrate the beauty of fall with an afternoon of family fun around the campfire! Search for a mini pumpkin in our pumpkin patch, enjoy delicious s'mores by the fire, and participate in festive activities for all ages. Gather with family and friends to make warm memories and celebrate the season at this cozy autumn event.

Register for all special events here:



mchenryrec.recdesk.com

Police Department

SEASONAL SAFETY

- Drive safely in rain, snow, ice, and reduced visibility
- Allow extra travel time and increasing following distance
- Watch for pedestrians during darker morning and evening hours
- Prepare vehicles with a winter emergency kit
- Lock vehicles and removing valuables
- Check on older adults and neighbors during severe weather



STAY CONNECTED!

[f @mchenrypd](#) [@mchenrypd](#)



HOLIDAY SAFETY

- Keep doors, windows, and vehicles locked while traveling
- Avoid posting vacation plans publicly until returning home
- Watch for package theft and bring deliveries inside promptly
- Use caution when purchasing items through online marketplaces
- Plan ahead for a sober ride during holiday celebrations

SEASONAL SCAM ALERT

As we head into the fall and winter months, scammers often take advantage of the busy holiday season and the generosity of our community. The McHenry Police Department encourages residents to stay informed, remain cautious and think twice before responding to unexpected requests for money or personal information.

COMMON SEASONAL SCAMS TO WATCH FOR:

- **Fake Charity Requests:** Be cautious of unsolicited requests for donations, especially from unfamiliar organizations or individuals.
- **Holiday Shopping Scams:** Watch for deals that seem too good to be true, especially from unfamiliar websites or sellers.
- **Package Delivery Scams:** Be wary of unexpected texts or emails asking you to click a link or provide payment information to track a package.
- **Online Marketplace Scams:** Use caution when buying or selling items online, particularly when a buyer or seller requests unusual payment methods.
- **Utility & Heating Scams:** Be cautious of callers threatening to disconnect your service unless immediate payment is made.
- **Romance & "Grandparent" Scams:** Never send money or personal information to someone who contacts you unexpectedly and claims to be a loved one or romantic interest.

Winter Weather

PREPARED TOGETHER

ON-STREET PARKING PROHIBITED

To avoid being ticketed or towed, please obey the no parking restrictions when it snows. McHenry's parking ordinance does not allow any parking between the hours of 2:00 AM and 6:00 AM.

(Ordinance No. MC-17-1157).

It is unlawful to park any vehicle for a period of time longer than three minutes for loading or unloading of passengers or thirty minutes for loading or unloading of property on the paved portion of any roadway at any time after snow begins to fall and for a period of eight hours after snow stops falling, if the snow on the street exceeds two inches in depth.

Eight hour parking restrictions shall continue during snow removal operations until completed. **(Ordinance No. MC-98-714).**

DEPOSITING OF SNOW

When shoveling snow or ice on driveways and sidewalks, please remember it is unlawful to place the snow and/or ice from private property on or against a fire hydrant or on any public sidewalk, public roadway, curbs, and loading/unloading areas of a public transportation system.

(Ordinance No. MC-16-1134).

Children getting to and from school, people with disabilities, the elderly, and mail and package carriers all need your help to keep the sidewalks clear of snow and ice this winter.

Please be a good neighbor by shoveling the sidewalks in your neighborhood!

HOMEOWNER MAILBOX INSPECTION

As the snow season approaches, the City of McHenry encourages residents to do a mailbox inspection to check for post rotting and stability. Residents should also inspect the location of the mailbox to ensure that it is installed within but no closer than six to eight inches from the edge of the street pavement or the back of the street curb if a curb exists. This inspection will help to prevent mailbox damage during the winter months.

(Ordinance No. MC-16-1133).

MAILBOX DAMAGE ORDINANCE

The homeowner will be responsible for the repair and replacement of the mailbox and post if it is damaged or knocked down by the snow coming off of a City plow (the windrow) and not a direct hit from a plow **(Ordinance No. MC-16-1133** and City of McHenry Code of Ordinance, Chapter 8-8-6: Damaged Mailboxes.)

Therefore, the City will only replace mailboxes/posts if hit directly by a City plow truck.

If damage has occurred to your mailbox, please call City Hall at 815-363-2100, and a Public Works supervisor will assess the mailbox to determine if it was damaged by a direct hit from the City plow truck:

- Mailboxes will be replaced or repaired with a standard rural steel mailbox unit, and posts will be replaced with a 4x4 wooden post.
- The City is not responsible for any costs of repair or replacement in excess of \$250.00 for damage to any mailbox. All cost reimbursements of a damaged mailbox will be made only with the presentation of sales receipts for materials used in such repair and replacement. A Check Request Form must be completed. All labor or cost of labor to install the mailbox will be the responsibility of the owner of the mailbox.

Public Works

KEEPING MCHENRY MOVING



1415 INDUSTRIAL DRIVE MCHENRY, IL | MONDAY – FRIDAY 6:30 AM – 3:00 PM

BRUSH PICK-UP

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5 AT 7:00 AM

The Public Works Department will begin its fall brush pick-up program on Monday, October 5 at 7:00 AM for the entire City. All residents must have their brush out to the curb by 7:00 AM on October 5. Crews will visit each street once and continue until they have gone through the entire City. No callbacks will be made.

This program is for tree material only; yard waste belongs in the Yard Waste Collection Program provided by Flood Brothers. This program is intended for larger tree branches resulting from trimming or storm damage and is for residential properties only. No stumps or roots will be taken. Branches should be as long as possible and no more than 5 inches in diameter. Residents are advised to place brush on the parkway parallel to the street but not in the street.

HYDRANT FLUSHING

SEPTEMBER 14 – OCTOBER 2

The Public Works Department will begin its fall hydrant flushing operation throughout the City on **September 14 for a three-week period ending October 2.**

Hydrant flushing is necessary to clean and maintain the water distribution system. During the flushing period, water can become discolored. If this occurs, run your cold water tap for a few minutes until the water clears. If this does not correct the problem, wait approximately one (1) hour and flush the cold water again.

Do not run your hot water until the cold water tap has cleared. This discoloration is not hazardous for human consumption; however, clothing can become stained during laundering.

ADOPT-A-HYDRANT

The City of McHenry with the McHenry Township Fire Protection District launched a safety program and needs your help! In the winter months, heavy snowfall often buries fire hydrants, making it difficult for firefighters to locate and access them during an emergency, when every second counts!

The City and Fire Protection District are asking residents and other community members to sign up and Adopt-A-Hydrant to help keep McHenry safe.

Participation in the Adopt-A-Hydrant program involves:

- Ensuring the adopted fire hydrant is clearly visible from the street
- Keeping the fire hydrant free of snow and ice with clearances of at least 3 feet all around the hydrant
- Keeping the hydrant free of grass, weeds and debris with clearances of at least 3 feet all around the hydrant

To become a Hydrant Hero, go to:
cityofmchenry.org/adoptahydrant



PARKWAY TREE PLANTING REQUEST

Looking to add some greenery to your parkway or public right-of-way? The Public Works Department plants trees to help keep our air clean and improve our quality of life!

If you'd like to request the City plant a tree in the parkway, homeowners can complete the City Parkway Tree Request form, and the address will be added to the list. The list for Fall 2026 plantings is full, but 2027 is right around the corner! Learn more at cityofmchenry.org/tree-request.

[TREE REQUEST FORM](#)



Public Works

BRIEFS

POOL DRAINING TIPS

With fall right around the corner, numerous McHenry residents will be preparing their swimming pools for the winter by draining the water from them. When winterizing or draining pools for repairs, the water must be checked for chemicals and additives before draining. The following tips are provided for you to properly drain pool water in order to protect the water resources in the community:

- Whenever possible, it is best to allow the water to drain onto your landscape. This recycles your pool water, conserves irrigation water, and avoids the environmental risks associated with draining your pool to the street. When pool water is drained to the street, it can carry pollutants such as grease, sediment, trash, harmful additives and chemicals into the storm sewer, nearest creek, pond or the Fox River. If the water is not properly treated to remove these chemical pollutants prior to draining, they can cause further damage to the health of our waterways and to the plants and animals that live there.
- For chlorine pools, chlorine levels must be lowered to less than one part per million prior to draining. This can be done naturally, by simply allowing the pool water to sit in the sun for a minimum of three days. Alternatively, de-chlorination kits can be purchased at pool supply stores. These kits include the tools necessary to reach the appropriate chlorine levels before draining your pool.
- Prior to draining any water to the street, residents are asked to sweep the curb and gutter between the discharge point from their yard to the storm drain downhill from their home. This will remove any pollutants from the gutter that may be carried into the storm sewer.

STORM DAMAGE PICK-UP CRITERIA

The City may provide a storm damage pick-up following a major storm event that has **impacted large areas of the community**. This service is intended to assist in the clean-up of severe damage and not the result of tree trimming. The City uses the Weather Command Weather Service to help determine if weather events meet the criteria and are severe enough to warrant a storm damage pick-up.

If the need for a storm damage pick-up has been determined by the City, notification of the storm damage pick-up will be communicated via Nixle, the City website, and the City Facebook page. Residents should place branches on the parkway parallel to the street but not in the street, making sure that the branches are as long as possible and not more than five inches in diameter. No stumps, roots, or root balls will be taken.

STORM DAMAGE PICK-UP CRITERIA

- *Sustained wind speeds of 40 mph or greater*
- *Wind gust speeds of 58 mph or greater*

EXPERIENCE A SEWER BACKUP?

If you are experiencing a sewer backup during the hours of 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, contact City Hall at 815-363-2100 before calling a plumber. After 4:30 PM, call the non-emergency police phone number at 815-363-2200. Public Works personnel will be sent to your location to assess the problem.

If the blockage is in the City's sewer main line, the City will take corrective action as quickly as possible. If the blockage is in your private sewer line (the portion from the building to the sewer main line), you will be requested to call a plumber to clear your building's service. In this instance, all necessary repairs and restoration are the responsibility of the homeowner.

TEST YOUR TANK

Leaking toilet tanks are sometimes called the "sneaky leak." Unlike a dripping faucet, you cannot usually see or hear a leaking toilet tank. When the flapper valve in the bottom of your toilet tank begins to wear out and does not seal properly, water from the toilet tank can leak into the toilet bowl. Sometimes this is just a drip or trickle that cannot be seen without some help.

If you would like to test your toilet tank to see if you are flushing money down the drain, simply remove the cover on the toilet tank and put a few drops of dark food coloring in the toilet tank. Red, green, or blue food coloring work the best. Wait 25 minutes and DO NOT flush the toilet. If the water in the toilet bowl becomes colored, you are losing water and your flapper valve needs to be replaced.



Programs



CONTACT INFORMATION

WEB: floodbrothersdisposal.com

PHONE: 630-261-0400

EMAIL: mchenry@floodbrothersdisposal.com

FLOOD BROTHERS 2026-27 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Monday, September 7
Labor Day

Thursday, November 26
Thanksgiving

Friday, December 25
Christmas

Friday, January 1, 2027
New Year's Day

Monday, May 31, 2027
Memorial Day

E-WASTE COLLECTION

SEPTEMBER 14 -18

Flood Brothers will remove e-waste at the curb **on the resident's regular refuse pick-up day beginning September 14 through 18, 2026.**

Residents are limited to five electronic items per pick-up. Out of those five items, only one may be a television or one 1 computer monitor.

ACCEPTABLE ELECTRONIC ITEMS:

- 1 television **or** 1 computer monitor
- Any type of telephone
- Cameras
- CD players, MP3 players, stereos
- Computer drives, mice, keyboards
- Fax machines
- Holiday lights
- Paper shredders
- Printers without ink
- VCRs
- Video games and players
- Microwave ovens
- Small household appliances

HOLIDAY LIGHTS RECYCLING

NOVEMBER 30 - JANUARY 29, 2027

Flood Brothers' holiday lights recycling program will begin on Monday, November 30, and will end on Friday, January 29, 2027. There will be two locations open for drop-offs.

PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY

1415 Industrial Drive
Monday - Friday
6:30 AM - 3:00 PM

MUNICIPAL CENTER

333 S. Green Street
Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Acceptable lights are mini-lights (Italian lights), C7 lights, C9 lights, rope lights, LED lights, extension cords, etc. All colors and lengths will be accepted. Garland, live greens, wreaths or other non-recyclables are not accepted in the program.

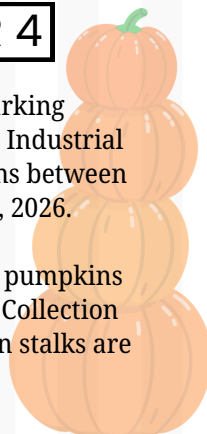


PUMPKIN DROP-OFF

NOVEMBER 2 - DECEMBER 4

Flood Brothers will place a dumpster in the parking lot of the Public Works Facility located at 1415 Industrial Drive for residents to dispose of their pumpkins between Monday, November 2 and Friday, December 4, 2026.

City of McHenry residents may also dispose of pumpkins through Flood Brothers' Yard Waste Curbside Collection Program. Pumpkins, mums, hay bales and corn stalks are acceptable yard waste items.



CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

JANUARY 4 - 15, 2027

Flood Brothers will begin its annual Christmas tree recycling program on Monday, January 4 and will conclude on Friday, January 15, 2027. Trees must be placed at the curb and will generally be removed on the resident's regular refuse pick-up day.

Trees will be recycled into wood chips, so the trees must be free of decorations, wires, and lights and may not be placed in plastic bags. Wreaths and evergreen garland will not be accepted.



Programs



UNLIMITED YARD WASTE COLLECTION

ENDS DECEMBER 11

Flood Brothers Disposal's unlimited yard waste curbside collection program concludes for 2026 on Friday, December 11. This program includes free weekly pickup of yard waste bags, properly sized bundles, or acceptable containers for every residential refuse account in the City on the resident's regular refuse pickup day. Residents may use either 2-ply, 50-pound weight disposable kraft paper bags or plastic/metal containers with a tight cover which do not exceed 35 gallons in size and 50 pounds in weight. No plastic bags are allowed.

Personal containers for yard waste must be marked with an X, Y, or YW. Branches must be bundled/tied together: each bundle cannot exceed five feet in length, cannot exceed two feet in diameter, cannot exceed more than 50 pounds, and cannot contain limbs greater than three inches in diameter.



ACCEPTABLE MATERIALS:

Grass clippings, leaves, branches 3 inches in diameter or less and no more than 5 feet in length, brush, garden plants, flowers, weeds, bark pieces, pine cones, pumpkins, mums, hay bales and corn stalks. Food scraps are acceptable too!



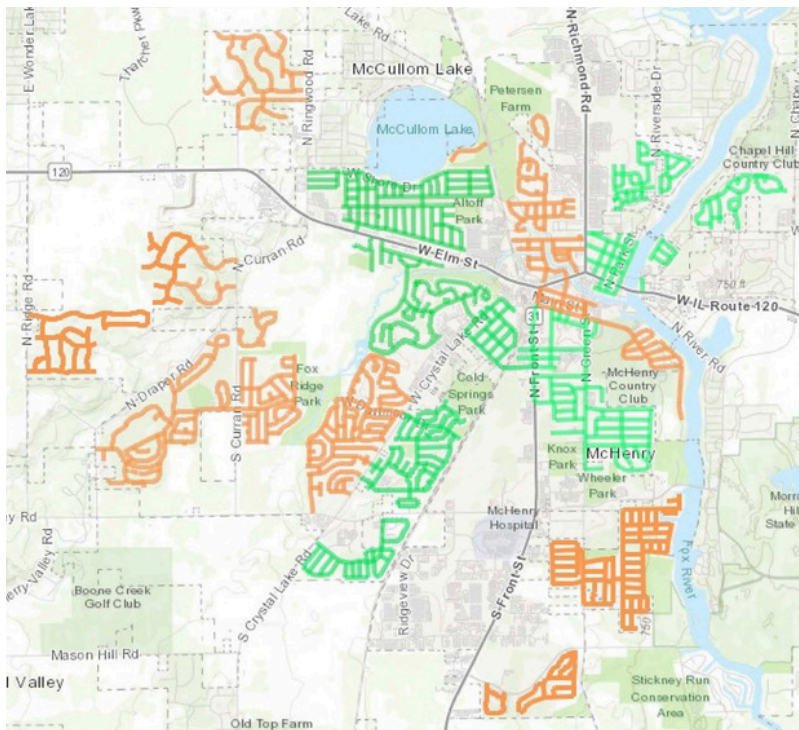
MATERIALS NOT ALLOWED:

Tree trunks and stumps, branches larger than 3 inches in diameter and longer than 5 feet, fence posts, railroad ties, firewood, rocks, sod or dirt.

ZONED LEAF COLLECTION

OCTOBER 5 - DECEMBER 11

Flood Brothers' curbside loose-leaf collection is on a bi-weekly zoned pick-up schedule. The City is divided into two (2) pick-up zones: **Zone 1 (orange)** & **Zone 2 (green)**. See the map and dates below to determine your zone. All leaf piles must be placed within 4 feet of the roadway edge or curbing by **7:00 AM on the Monday of each zone collection week**. Flood Brothers will collect leaves from every residential property in each 1-week period, with a total of five pickups per zone.



This service is performed utilizing trucks with specially designed vacuum equipment. Leaf piles must be within 4 feet of the roadway edge or curbing and must be free of brush, branches, and/or rocks as this damages the equipment. Do not place leaf piles on the pavement or in drainage ditches. Cars cannot be parked in the roadway when these collections are being made. Clear access to the curb line or roadside must be maintained in order to properly collect the leaves. Pickups may be delayed due to heavy leaf falls and/or heavy rainfalls.

Zone 1 ORANGE

Week 1: October 5
Week 3: October 19
Week 5: November 2
Week 7: November 16
Week 9: November 30

Zone 2 GREEN

Week 2: October 12
Week 4: October 26
Week 6: November 9
Week 8: November 23
Week 10: December 7

Financial Report



PROPERTY TAX INFORMATION

While property taxes are a major source of revenue for all Illinois municipalities, including McHenry, only 15.7% of the City's total general fund revenues are derived from the collection of property taxes. Furthermore, of a typical homeowner's tax bill, only 5.4% goes to the City of McHenry. Property taxes are used to fund many services provided by the City including but not limited to police protection, recreation programs, street maintenance, snow plowing, and parks maintenance.

The City's property tax rate will be \$0.434093 per \$100 assessed value in 2025. On a \$300,000 home, the total tax bill from the City will be \$434.09 or around \$36.17 per month. On a \$350,000 home, the total tax bill from the City will be \$506.44 or around \$42.20 per month.

The following table includes a property tax comparison by taxing district.

MCHENRY ASSESSED VALUES

PROPERTY TAX COMPARISON 2025 PROPERTY TAXES*

TAX LEVY YEAR	TOTAL VALUE
2025	\$ 1,136,427,063
2024	1,035,912,332
2023	918,922,607
2022	852,593,954
2021	782,126,233
2020	743,912,520
2019	701,420,237
2018	659,844,715
2017	624,662,787
2016	591,743,368

	\$300,000 Fair Market Value	\$350,000 Fair Market Value
City of McHenry	\$ 434.09	\$ 506.44
McHenry Township Road & Bridge	189.02	220.52
McHenry Township	89.46	104.37
McHenry Library	236.68	276.12
McHenry Fire District	433.32	504.54
School District 156	1,878.21	2,191.24
School District 15	3,823.50	4,460.75
McHenry County College	244.63	285.40
McHenry County Conservation District	176.88	206.36
McHenry County	498.67	581.80
TOTAL PROPERTY TAXES	\$ 8,004.46	\$ 9,338.54

*Please note: The property tax comparison in this report is based on the tax rate imposed by McHenry Township. A majority of the City is within McHenry Township, a small portion is in Nunda Township.

Revenues & Expenses

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

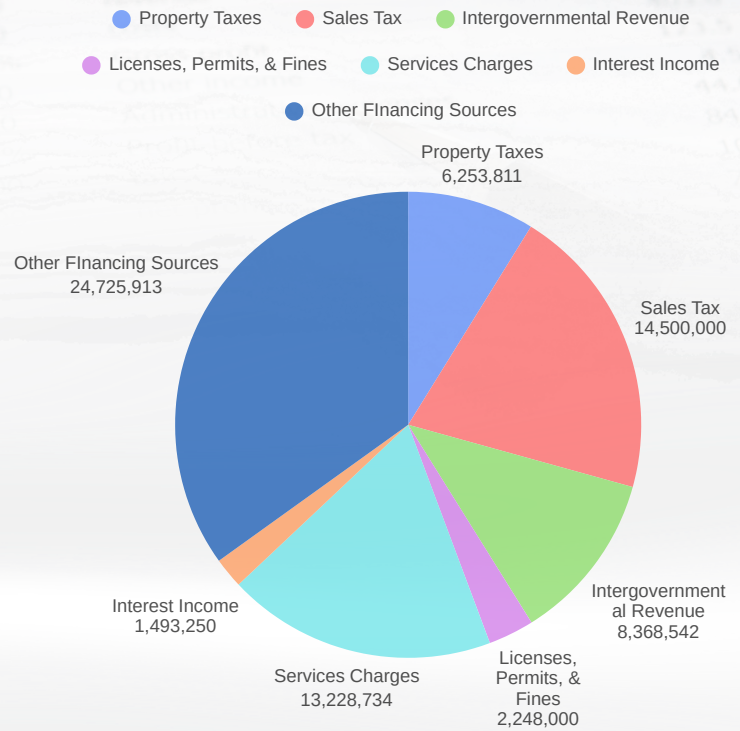
Revenues for all funds are expected to increase by approximately \$7,200,497, or 11.3%, totaling \$70,818,250 in FY26/27.

Budgeted revenues within the General Fund are \$32,792,863, an increase of \$832,442 (2.6%) from the prior year. Sales tax and Home Rule Sales tax receipts, which make up 44.2% of fund revenues, are budgeted at \$14,500,000, reflecting an increase of \$880,044 (6.5%) from FY25/26. A second major source of intergovernmental revenues is income tax receipts, budgeted at \$4,911,435, an increase of 1.5% from the FY25/26 Budget.

The property tax levy, which is approximately 15.7% of fund revenues, is at \$5,153,757, which is an increase of 3.7% from the amount in the FY25/26 Budget and reflects the continued commitment by the City Council to acknowledge the tax burden placed on property owners. FY26/27 is only the third year in sixteen years that the City Council has chosen to increase the property tax levy.

The chart to the right provides a comparison of the City's major sources of revenue.

2026-27 BUDGETED REVENUES BY SOURCE



AND WHERE THE MONEY IS SPENT

The FY26/27 Budget includes total expenditures for all funds of \$83,158,552, an increase of \$15,393,077 (22.7%) over FY25/26. General Fund expenditures are budgeted at \$38,103,972, an increase of \$2,743,290 or 7.76%.

The General Fund expenditures includes a transfer to the Capital Asset Maintenance & Replacement Fund in the amount of \$2,901,272.

These funds along with Electricity Use Taxes are to be used for maintenance and replacement of existing capital assets including buildings, parks upgrades/repairs, vehicles, street lighting, etc.

2026-27 BUDGETED EXPENSES BY FUND

