

OCTOBER 10, 2020

Dear Property Owners, Business Owners, and Residents:

Since March 2020, the economic development staff at North River Commission and the Albany Park Chamber of Commerce have been busy supporting our small businesses and commercial corridors around the clock. Like you, we know how important our small businesses are to our diverse, vibrant community. We're proud to say that with the help of the Albany Park & Irving Park Special Service Area (SSA), we have provided critical funding and regular resources to small businesses and property owners during the pandemic.

2020 has been a challenging year for us all. The global effects of Covid-19 have also impacted our local communities and businesses, but we are determined to strengthen our commercial corridors and small businesses so they survive and thrive. The SSA has proven to be a reliable and resilient community resource, and we want you to be aware of how some funds have been pivoted during the pandemic via this update.

Thank you for all that you do to support and contribute to our local economy. We look forward to working together with you, our volunteer Commissioners, and the public in sustaining our business districts and strengthening our small business community. Please continue to spend your dollars as locally as possible.

Keep informed on our work; sign up for our weekly email updates at bit.ly/newsNRC.

Sincerely,



Thomas Applegate

NRC Executive Director



Alexa Schutz

NRC Economic Development
Coordinator & SSA Manager

GLOBAL
ROOTS
LOCAL
HEART



Albany Park
& Irving Park
SSA #60

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What is an SSA?

Special Service Areas (SSA) are local business districts that fund expanded services and programs through a localized property tax levy. The small percentage of additional taxes are retained in the district and reinvested into improvements. SSA-funded projects include: litter abatement and snow removal; landscaping and beautification; district marketing and advertising; business retention and attraction; special events and promotional activities; security enhancements; and façade improvement rebates for businesses and property owners.

For the Albany Park & Irving Park Special Service Area #60 boundaries view the map at bit.ly/ssa60map.

As the service provider for SSA#60, North River Commission (NRC) is committed to providing these economic development services and initiatives funded by the SSA to foster a vibrant, inviting, and safe community for all.



SSA FUNDS INVESTED IN OUR BUSINESS DISTRICTS

- 91** bike racks, parking meters, and trash cans painted and refreshed
- 76** trees treated to help retain our urban tree canopy and fight Emerald Ash Borer pest
- 2** public art installations at 3215 W Lawrence and 3142 W Lawrence, plus sidewalk stenciling
- 27+** small businesses participating in "virtual" Flavors of Albany Park Restaurant Crawl, now until 11/30
- 41** new sponsorships of lightpole banners
- 2** new rebate programs created for outdoor dining and emergency board ups
- 42+** Continuous marketing and promotions; creation of outdoor dining map listing 42+ patios / bit.ly/dineoutNRC
- +** Trash collection reduced in Q1 and Q2 due to Shelter in Place; increased back to 4 days in July



RESOURCES AND CAPITAL SECURED BY LOCAL BUSINESSES

14 BUSINESSES RECEIVED \$270,000
from State of Illinois' Business Interruption Grant

\$60,000 ISSUED TO 14 BUSINESSES
Funds raised by NRC and local donors for Bridge to Rebuilding \$5,000 grants

\$50,000+ SECURED
by small businesses from various private and public business grants

24 BUSINESSES RECEIVED \$44,000+
total increase of donations from NRC's weekly GoFundMe Challenge

100'S OF BUSINESSES
secured PPP funds and SBA Economic Disaster Injury Loan (EIDL)

DOZENS OF NEW OUTDOOR DINING AREAS
part of the City's Expanded Outdoor Dining program

3+ WEBSITES
dedicated to business pandemic resources and ways to support small businesses

RIBBON CUTTINGS & WELCOMING NEW BUSINESSES!

COMING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

- Winter landscaping in 29 district planter boxes
- Sidewalk snow removal services
- Winter Wonderland business bingo promotions for Small Business Saturday
- Neighborhood pride swag for purchase, plus free marketing items like buttons and stickers
- Neighborhood poster contests in 2021

