Normal Fire Department said goodbye to its Fire Station #2, located at 604 N. Adelaide. Chief Humer rang the fire bell for the last time, and the station was decommissioned on December 26, 2017. It was the Town’s oldest fire station, providing services since 1976.

All personnel and apparatus from Fire Station #2 moved into their new headquarters located at 606 S. Main St. Old headquarters on College Avenue will now be known as Fire Station #2. The station at 1200 E. Raab is Fire Station #3.

Normal Under Construction

Engineering, Inspections, and Planning

Engineers, inspectors, and planners have moved into a new home. On December 4, the Inspections, Planning, and Engineering departments started conducting business from Uptown Normal’s newest building, 1 Uptown Circle.
The Children’s Discovery Museum started off the holiday season with Jammies & Jingles. Attendees were encouraged to wear their favorite PJs, and they were treated to live music, cookie decorating, and holiday games.

Santa’s Station was located in Gateway Plaza, a cozy Uptown Normal home for the big guy in red, Mrs. Claus, and their elves! They welcomed 3,122 visitors in December 2017 and collected $2,614.22 in donations benefitting local organizations like the Humane Society of Central IL, Special Olympics, ISU Childcare Center, and Bloomington-Normal Branch of the NAACP. A special thank you goes to the generosity of the Bloomington-Normal community.

The Normal Parks and Recreation Department proved that breakfast is the most important meal of the day, especially during the holiday season! Families enjoyed a breakfast buffet and, of course, an opportunity to visit Santa.

Breakfast with Santa

Jammies & Jingles

The Children’s Discovery Museum started off the holiday season with Jammies & Jingles. Attendees were encouraged to wear their favorite PJs, and they were treated to live music, cookie decorating, and holiday games.
Interview with retiring City Manager, Mark Peterson

*Newsline* caught up with retiring City Manager Mark Peterson for an “exit interview,” which is excerpted below. To read the entire interview, go to www.normal.org.

**Newsline:** First question, the obvious one, why would you want to retire?

Mark: That's not an easy answer because I still really enjoy my job. Maybe that's the answer. Maybe it's time to go out when you're still enjoying yourself, still providing value. The organization is in really good shape, despite some recent budget challenges. I feel very good about leaving my successor a very high functioning organization. It's time for fresh ideas and new energy and a new perspective in the leadership role.

**Newsline:** When you look at the Town, what projects are you still looking forward to seeing completed?

Mark: I would have loved to been around for a new public library. Also, I’m tickled that development of the northeast corner of Uptown Circle is starting to move forward; that was on my bucket list. Beyond that, the Underpass project.

**Newsline:** What projects do you say, “I am proud that I (or we) did that”?

Mark: The Town has accomplished many things during my tenure, but I certainly do not deserve all the credit for those achievements. It was very gratifying for me to have been able to play a role in many of those worthy initiatives.

One of my all-time favorite projects was the restoration of the Normal Theater. It remains an outstanding example of an urban redevelopment project. Certainly, the whole uptown redevelopment: the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center was a huge win for us. Uptown Station was also an incredible project. The Shoppes at College Hills was another very exciting project: the reinvention of a deceased indoor mall into a modern, thriving retail center. Oh, and I would say the trail system, the expansion of Constitution Trail. It’s been gratifying to watch that grow, now between the two cities it’s approaching 50 miles, which is amazing! I feel fortunate to have been part of a community that’s got the resolve and the resources to do some of these things that we’ve done.

**Newsline:** So, what are you doing in April?

Mark: I do plan to do some work, albeit part-time, if nothing else to get me out of the house occasionally and give my wife a break from me. (*laughs*) But, I want to just try to enjoy life and, again, spend more time with family.

**Newsline:** After 30 years, what do you have to say to the residents of Normal?

Mark: Thank you for this opportunity. The residents of the community have been extraordinarily supportive of me and the Town. Since I’ve announced my retirement, people come up to me, some people I know and some I don’t know, and thank me for my service. I think they recognize all the great things the Town has done, and I’ve been a part of that. Again, I don’t deserve the credit, no one person does, but it’s been gratifying to be a part of it.

Conducting the public’s business is a huge responsibility. It is truly an honor to have been given this opportunity. So, my message to the community would be thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve, to be involved in so many existing and challenging initiatives, and hopefully we’ve played a role in enhancing the quality of life for people in the community. So, when I move on some will say, “Job well done, and sayonara!”

Tesla Expands Charging Stations in Parking Garages

The Town of Normal is committed to environmental sustainability. From our energy efficient buildings, Bike Share 309 program, organic community gardens, and the Constitution Trail, it’s clear that a “green” community is a priority. Electric vehicle chargers in our parking decks and various other areas around town further demonstrate Normal’s commitment to reducing the use of fossil fuels. Normal was the first midsize city in the Midwest in which Tesla installed Superchargers.

This year, Tesla plans to double the number of Superchargers in the Uptown Station deck (from four to eight). This will include replacing the original Superchargers with a brand-new model. They all will be located on the third floor of the deck. Additional directional signage to the station will assist Tesla drivers searching for a charge.

Normal is a sustainable and environmentally friendly community and we appreciate Tesla’s participation and support.
‘Quiet Zone’ Established

The Town of Normal established a railroad Quiet Zone that went into effect January 8, 2018. A quiet zone is defined by the Federal Railroad Administration as a segment of rail crossing at which locomotive horns are not routinely sounded.

The Town worked closely with the US Department of Transportation, the Federal Railroad Administration, Illinois Commerce Commission, Illinois Department of Transportation, Union Pacific Railroad, and Amtrak to ensure adherence to the federal “Train Horn Rule.” Normal qualified for Quiet Zone designation due to safety equipment such as four-quadrant gates, installed as part of the Illinois High-Speed Rail project.

The Quiet Zone does not mean residents will never hear train horns; however, train crews will not regularly blow the horn as a warning of the train’s approach to the crossings. Horns may be sounded at the discretion of a train crew to prevent imminent injury, death, or property damage. Passenger trains will also sound the horn to alert passengers of departure from Uptown Station.

“The Quiet Zone does not mean residents will never hear train horns; however, train crews will not regularly blow the horn as a warning of the train’s approach...”
There have been a lot of changes happening at the Museum. One of the biggest is this award-winning, brand new logo. It received a Davey Award which honors the best in web, design, video, advertising, mobile, and social media from small agencies worldwide. This logo was designed by Business Builders, and we thank them for giving us a new look. Check us out!

Art Around You

Have your 7 to 10 year-olds visit the University Galleries on Saturday, March 17; Saturday, April 14; Saturday, May 12 to participate in a scavenger hunt to help them discover the style and media used to create works of art. Then they can return to the museum where they can explore these art styles and media by creating his or her own art.

Doctors in Concert

On April 7, join us at the Doubletree Hotel in Bloomington for a relaxing evening of music, sweets, and silent auction treats all while supporting the Museum. The Doctors in Concert event features the musical talents of local physicians playing classical and contemporary melodies on piano, violin, cello, guitar, or harmonica.

Did You Know?

The Children’s Discovery Museum offers programming for children ages 3 months through age 13. Visit our website, ChildrensDiscoveryMuseum.net for a complete listing of programs and events.
Children’s Discovery Museum Events

Potterpalooza
On April 6 from 6–8 pm, come to the Museum for an unforgettable evening of witchcraft and wizardry. Your little witches and wizards will get sorted into their Hogwarts House and start learning magic in some Hogwarts classes. Come dressed as your favorite Harry Potter character!

Did You Know?
The Children’s Discovery Museum PLUS and Grandparent Memberships provide you with FREE admission to more than 500 Science and Technology Centers across the country and the world?

Family Paint Night
On Thursday, May 3, 6–7:30 pm, enjoy a creative and unique family bonding night. Our instructors will help you create a family masterpiece!

Pushcart Derby
The Children’s Discovery Museum will be holding our second annual Pushcart Derby on Saturday, June 9. Teams of children grades 3–8 will enjoy a fun day with ISU and Museum educators using STEAM skills to create some hot rods and give them a road test.
The first year of the Town’s Bike Share 309 program ended on a high note with 1,001 unique users and 3,189 rides, burning 2.8 million calories and offsetting 43,090 lbs of CO₂ emissions.

Bike Share 309 is affordable, reliable, and convenient. With new pricing in 2018, riders may pay $2 per hour or sign up for a membership. A real bargain, the annual membership is just $30 per year, with a special $15 annual membership rate for university students, staff, and faculty, and members get the first hour of every ride free!

There are 45 bicycles and two adult tricycles across nine convenient bike station locations. As a bronze-level Bike Friendly Community, it has never been easier to transition from four wheels to two in Normal.

In the coming year the Town hopes to attract even more residents, visitors, and university students to this exciting program. The bikes are in hibernation until early March, with a planned 2018 debut at the St. Patrick’s Day Parade on March 17.

To learn more about Bike Share 309, please visit www.normal.org/bikeshare309.
Did You Know?
The State of Illinois will be turning 200 on December 3, 2018.

Did You Know?
Ash Park was renamed David S. Anderson Park in June 1998 to honor the retired City Manager and former Parks and Recreation Director. The park includes an aquatic center, two playgrounds, a ball diamond, tennis courts and the Born Learning Trail.

#BIKE309
Parks and Recreation

The Parks and Recreation Department is very excited to unveil new playgrounds at Fell and Underwood Parks in Spring 2018! Demolition of the existing structures will take place this winter. Underwood playground will have a much larger footprint, with new amenities not available in any other Town of Normal playground structure.

Tree Planting Seminar

Visit with your friendly neighborhood Town of Normal Forestry staff as they discuss how to choose, plant, and care for a tree on Saturday, April 28 at 9am at Maxwell Park Pavilion. FREE donuts and coffee.

Landscaping Seminar

The Town of Normal Horticulture staff will provide helpful information on landscape preparation and selection of plants to help you create a beautiful yard that will be the envy of all your neighbors. Learn all about landscaping Saturday, May 19 at 9am at the Fairview Park Pavilion. MORE FREE donuts and coffee.

Parks Events

Easter Egg Hunt

On Saturday, March 24 from 11am–noon there will be 30,000 Easter eggs, games, and prizes flooding the Corn Crib for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. All children need to bring is a basket for all their eggs!

Dress-Up Movies

Dress up as your favorite character or bring your favorite toy that relates to the free movie shown each month. Break out the blue face paint and get ready for *Smurfs: The Lost Village* on Saturday, March 10. It doesn’t matter if you are a soulful gorilla, an upbeat momma pig, or a producer koala. Come dressed as your favorite character from *Sing* on Saturday, April 14.
Hello, all,

This is Buddy the Newsline dog. Spring is on its way, and so is the pup in my step! Oops! I mean pep in my step.

Having such a ruff winter, we four-legged friends can’t wait to get out of the house and out on the Town. Luckily, in Normal, there’s no shortage of dog-friendly things to do!

Two dog parks in town, Maxwell Park and Shepard Park, provide so much space to run and play it might be hard to get us to leave. There are benches for you to sit, water fountains for us to hydrate, and plenty of friends to chase for hours! For smaller pups, Maxwell Park has a separate fenced area to keep us little guys from getting run over by the big dogs.

We also make your perfect running partner down Constitution Trail! We need to run off all those holiday treats, and regular exercise is just as important for us as it is for you.

Many of the restaurants in Uptown Normal have an outdoor seating area perfect for us to join you on those lunch breaks. Some include: The Rock, Coffee Hound, Jimmy Johns, Maggie Miley’s, Windy City Weiner’s and Coffee House. Don’t forget to treat us to a doggie sundae from Emack and Bolio’s when we’ve been good! I’ll sit, shake, AND speak for one of those sundaes!

Being a Normal dog is pretty good living because the pawsibilities are endless! If you and your fur-baby are wondering what to do with your day, visit www.Normal.org for more information on our dog parks and Uptown Normal businesses.

Love,
Buddy
Now Hiring!

Looking for a Summer Job?

Consider Normal Parks & Recreation

TAKING APPLICATIONS NOW FOR:

- Lifeguards
- Slide Dispatchers
- Tube Wranglers
- Swim Lesson Instructors
- Camp Counselors
- Youth Sports Coaches
- Park Maintenance
- Tournament Staff

For more information, visit www.normalparks.org

Did You Know?
The Town website has a page dedicated to addressing rumors? Check out Rumor vs. Fact at www.normal.org.

Visit www.normal.org for the most updated list of events.