

# Quick Takes

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## *A Message from Village Mayor George Van Dusen*

### **Village Board Approves Weekly Recycling Collection**

Residential solid waste represents the most costly program that the Village provides to its residents, costing \$4.3 million annually, and subsidized with property tax revenue. This amount includes twice-per-week residential refuse collection, every-other-week residential recycling collection and weekly residential landscape collection. Some of these collections are provided contractually by Groot Recycling and Waste Services with the remaining collected by Village of Skokie Public Works staff.

At the March 17, 2008 Village Board Meeting, the Mayor and Village Trustees voted to increase recycling services from once every other week to weekly recycling collection. This increase to once weekly recycling collection will begin June 2, 2008

Costs for the service will be partially offset by a recycling initiative incentive credit from Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC). Additionally, it is estimated that over \$30,000 more in credit will be generated in subsequent years because of the extra recycling that will be generated by implementing the weekly recycling collection. Village of Skokie staff estimates that recycling volumes should increase 10% due to the more frequent recycling collection.

Compared to other municipalities, Skokie is unique in that the only solid waste service fee or user charge that has been used in the past to subsidize a portion of residential solid waste collection services costs has been the landscape waste sticker fee that was utilized through June 2003. In comparison, most neighboring municipalities assess some form of solid waste charge, a user fee or have implemented subscription-based fees for solid waste collection programs.

*The new recycling collection schedule will be available for download online at [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org) in early May.*

### **Architectural Contract Approved for New Police Facility**

The Village Board recently approved a contract for Architectural Services for the construction of a new Skokie Police Department Facility at 7330 Niles Center Road. The Architects, Sente Rubel Bosman Lee (SRBL) is the area's premier police facility architect and have successfully designed and assisted with the construction of police facilities in Highland Park, Glenview, Mundelein, Schaumburg, Streamwood, Round Lake and Orland Park.

SRBL was selected as the most highly qualified design services provider based on their expertise in the specific area of public facilities. Illinois statute requires public entities to select architects based on experience and capabilities, and subsequently enter into fee negotiations. The total project cost is expected to be in the range of \$21,734,778 and \$24,281,151, exclusive of land acquisition. SRBL's fee will include the following: architecture, structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing and fire protection engineering, civil engineering, landscape architecture, furnishings design and procurement, interior design, LEED/sustainability consulting and fees, telecommunications design and more.

*For more information on the new police facility please visit [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org).*

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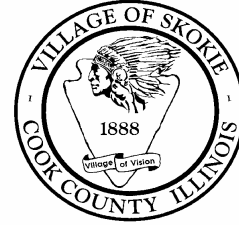
## *Village of Skokie Communicates*

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Village of Skokie

## Quick Takes



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### Council-Manager Government

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We're on the Web!  
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## Quick Bits

**West Dempster Street Development** - The Mayor and Village Board have adopted/implemented several programs to address the problems with the West Dempster Street Commercial District. Problems in this district, generally defined as Dempster Street from Kilpatrick Avenue on the east to Edens Expressway on the west, include excess vacancies, lack of private investment/development and building obsolescence and other aesthetic issues. First, a transit-oriented district zoning plan was adopted allowing additional height and density for properties along the corridor. The hope was that the new zoning would spur mixed-use development featuring commercial uses on the first floor and residential in the floors above. Second, the Skokie Swift property was completely renovated resulting in a better and more aesthetic Skokie Swift Parking Lot with Starbucks as a tenant in the Swift station historic structure. Third, the Village constructed a \$3.5 million streetscape and landscape enhancement. The project was funded 50% by the Village and 50% by the property owners. Despite these aggressive efforts by the Village, private sector revitalization in this area has not happened to the extent desired. There is new development at Dempster Street and Lockwood Avenue and at Dempster Street and Gross Point Road, and there also will soon be a façade improvement at northeast Dempster Street and Bronx Avenue. While this is a good start, the Village hopes for more substantial development at several other sites along the corridor. The Village has filed lawsuits against two properties (southeast Niles Center and Dempster Street and southwest Skokie Boulevard and Dempster Street) to acquire these parcels, combine them and then invite redevelopment proposals. The Village has met with a number of the property owners along the corridor to motivate them to develop their properties. The Village will continue to utilize all available economic development tools to invigorate this important commercial area.

**Immigrant Information Series** - The Village of Skokie will offer a monthly Immigrant Information Series focusing on issues that are important to immigrant residents. All workshops will be held at the Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton Street from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The workshops are free of charge and will be conducted in the English language. Children's activities will be available for children ages five and up. The workshop series began on April 7, 2008 and will continue to offer monthly sessions through January 2009 which cover a multitude of Immigrant Resources. **For a complete description of each workshop or to register for a workshop, please e-mail [info@skokie.org](mailto:info@skokie.org).** *This Immigrant Information Series is sponsored by the Village of Skokie and funded by a grant from The Chicago Community Trust/Immigrant Integration Initiative.*

**Illinois Department of Transportation Scheduled to Resume Work on Edens Expressway** - The next phase of the Edens Expressway (I-94) project began in early April 2008 and should continue through late September 2008. The scope of the work includes lane reductions from Lawrence Avenue to Lake Cook Road. Through mid-summer, lanes will be closed for bridge rehabilitation on six bridges along the expressway and pavement patching. Beginning mid-summer through the end of September, nightly closures will occur in order to complete asphalt paving. Drainage improvements also are scheduled for flood areas at Pratt and Foster Avenues and Willow and Winnetka Roads. To receive current updates on the progress of the project, visit IDOT's Edens Expressway website at [www.edens94.com](http://www.edens94.com). Also helpful is signing up for the Illinois Traffic Alert system which will send real-time traffic reports to your phone or e-mail. To subscribe to Illinois Traffic Alert visit [www.ILTrafficAlert.com](http://www.ILTrafficAlert.com).