

Save the Date!
Village Open House
October 26, 2008
2 to 4 p.m.

NewSkokie



August 2008

The award-winning municipal information source

Attention Skokie Residents: Get To Know Your Neighbors!

Know Your Neighbor Week is October 18 through October 26, 2008.

Sponsored by the Village of Skokie and funded by The Chicago Community Trust Immigrant Integration Initiative, *Know Your Neighbor Week* is a program to encourage residents in Skokie's multicultural community to get to know one another and to celebrate each others similarities and differences.

- **Host a coffee:** a coffee is an informal gathering of neighbors and friends.
- **Who to invite:** neighbors new and old, new people from your church, school and any other friends or acquaintances new to the community. A mix of new and established residents is ideal.
- **The Village can help:** The Village of Skokie will provide all registered hosts with a coffee kit (including invitations, name tags, conversation starters/ideas, etc.) and a certificate for a free coffee cake to serve at the coffee.

More information on this program and how to register to be a host will be published in the September edition of *NewSkokie* or can be obtained by emailing info@skokie.org.

Skokie Farmers' Market

Have you visited the Skokie Farmers' Market?

Skokie's "Best on the North Shore" Farmers' Market, celebrating more than 30 years of operation, presents farmers and vendors from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin.

The Skokie Farmers' Market is open on Sundays from 7:30 a.m. until 12:45 p.m. through the end of October. For the best selection, arrive early when the market opens.

The market is located near the Village Green between the Skokie Public Library and Skokie Village Hall.

For questions about the Farmers' Market, please contact Market Master Terry Oline at 847/933-8224.



Second Annual Downtown Skokie Backlot Bash

The second annual Backlot Bash, a collaboration between the Independent Merchants of Downtown Skokie (IMODS), the Skokie Park District, the Skokie Chamber of Commerce and the Village of Skokie, will be held on Friday, August 22 through Sunday, August 24, 2008.

The event will kickoff in the middle of Oakton Street in front of Village Hall (5127 Oakton Street). The Bash will feature live music on a main stage and also feature an amusement park/carnival, a 5K run (at Devonshire Park), a classic auto show, a business expo and sidewalk sale, children's activities, silent movies at the Skokie Theatre and food and beverages - including a beer tent.

Headlining the three-day event will be The Romantics, the Lonnie Brooks Blues Band, and Tributosaurus as Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young.

Oakton Street will be closed between Lincoln and Laramie Avenues from 10 a.m. on Friday, August 22 through 2 a.m. on Monday, August 25.

The Skokie Farmers' Market will remain open on Sunday, August 24, 2008. Please be aware that parking will be restricted on this day due to the Backlot Bash. Farmers' Market patrons are asked to pay attention to detour signage and alternate parking locations.

For more information on the Backlot Bash, please visit www.backlotbash.com or call the Skokie Park District at 847/674-1500, ext. 2274 (BASH).

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Immigrant Information Series

Sponsored by the Village of Skokie

All sessions are held at the Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton Street from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

All sessions are free and are conducted in the English language. Light refreshments will be served. Children's activities will be available in the Youth Department for children ages 5 and above.

Upcoming Sessions Include:

August 4:

Finding Employment and Enhancing Job Skills

September 8:

Special Education and Services for Children with Disabilities

October 6:

Insuring Your Home, Your Property, and Yourself

November 3:

Emergency Services: Protection, Prevention, and Preparedness

December 1:

Getting Around: Buses, Trains, and Automobiles

January 5:

Health and Wellness: Skokie Health Department

February 9:

Health and Wellness: Rush North Shore Medical Center

For a complete description of each workshop or to register for a workshop please e-mail info@skokie.org.

Funded by The Chicago Community Trust Immigrant Integration Initiative

Real Estate Signs

The Village of Skokie has regulations regarding real estate sign postings to maintain consistent aesthetics in the community. These signs include rental and 'for sale' signs.

No more than one real estate sign per street frontage may be posted on any private property. Two signs are allowed for a corner lot. Additionally, no real estate sign can exceed four square feet in size.

Open house signs may be temporarily erected on or above a residential real estate sign on the subject private property. Open House directional signs are allowed subject to the following conditions:

- Only one directional sign is permitted.
- The sign must indicate the responsible agency or individual(s).
- A directional sign may be placed off the premise on private property or the public parkway, for example, a directional sign may be placed on the grass off private property between the curb and public sidewalk and not exceeding a 30 inch maximum height from grade.
- A directional sign may not be placed in the median.
- A directional sign may only be in place Sundays from 12 to 5 p.m. and Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information please call the Building and Zoning Division at 847/933-8223 or visit www.skokie.org.

Back-to-School Supply Drive

The Village of Skokie Human Services Division is seeking donors to help struggling families in the community with the purchase of school supplies for the coming school year. The average cost of supplies for kids in the primary grades 1-8 is between \$45.00 to \$60.00 per child.

If you would like to purchase supplies, please contact either Terri Williams or Meryl Riverson at (847) 933-8208. The Human Services Division will have school supply lists available sometime in August.

If you are part of a group that would like to sponsor a drive to collect supplies, or if you have another way you'd like to participate, please call. All donated supplies must be dropped off by the end of August 2008.

If you would prefer to send a check, please make it payable to: Village of Skokie and send it to the Village of Skokie Human Services Division, 5120 Galitz, Skokie, Illinois 60077.

From the Fire Department Citizens' Fire Academy

The Skokie Fire Department will host the Citizens' Fire Academy beginning Tuesday, September 9, 2008. The Academy is a ten-week program for Village of Skokie residents and employees.



The program is designed to provide participants with working and hands-on knowledge of Fire Department operations. The Academy will provide an overview of several areas of the fire service. Through education, demonstration and participation, Academy students will gain an understanding of who, what, where, how and why the Fire Department operates the way it does. The classes are held from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Skokie Fire Station 17, 8157 Central Park Avenue.

Applications are available online at www.skokie.org or at the Fire Department Headquarters located at 7424 Niles Center Road. If you have any questions about the Academy please call 847/982-5344. ∞

From the Police Department International Citizens' Police Academy

The Skokie Police Department is proud to offer the fall 2008 International Citizens' Police Academy beginning Tuesday, September 2, 2008.

Classes are held from 7 to 10 p.m. every Tuesday for 12 weeks at the Skokie Police Department located on the corner of Main Street at Laramie Avenue. This session marks the 26th session in which the Citizens' Police Academy has been in place.



The Academy provides insight into law enforcement techniques and is geared to assist immigrant citizens in understanding police practices and programs. Curricula includes: canine unit, criminal law, crime prevention, juvenile law, evidence, traffic stops, 9-1-1 telecommunication, use of force, investigations, gangs and drugs and scams.

There is no charge to attend the International Citizens' Police Academy and materials are provided by the Skokie Police Department. To be eligible to participate in the Academy, individuals must be at least 18 years of age, live or work in the Village of Skokie and pass a criminal background check. Registration is limited to 30 participants so register early. The International Citizens' Police Academy is funded through a grant from The Chicago Community Trust Immigrant Integration Initiative.

To sign up for the program, or if you would like further information, please call the Crime Prevention/Community Relations Unit at 847/982-5919. ∞

A Message from Mayor Van Dusen

As everyone is aware last winter was one of the longest and snowiest that we've experienced in several years. Because of these weather conditions and the extended plowing and salting, the Village's roadways took a beating.

Due to the need to address the condition of the Village's roads, the Board of Trustees and I increased the road repair budget this year by 40%. Historically we budget approximately \$1.25 million each year for road work. For fiscal year 2008-2009 we've increased the budget by \$600,000 for the High Priority Street Patching Program '08. This increase is being used to patch and repair the Village-owned roads by contracting with a company utilizing state-of-the-art "hot patching" equipment. We're also utilizing funds for an expanded street resurfacing program.

Please know that these programs will only address Village-owned roads. Many of the major streets in Skokie, such as Oakton Street, Crawford Avenue, Dempster Street, McCormick Boulevard, Gross Point Road and Skokie Boulevard, are under the jurisdiction of the State of Illinois or Cook County. Only these units of government have the authority to repair them. The Village has been urging the Illinois Department of Transportation and the County to repair them.

The Village is grateful for the patience of our residents as we go about repairing the roadways. Thank you. ∞

Village Vehicle Stickers

All vehicles registered with the State of Illinois to a Village of Skokie address must display a valid Village vehicle sticker. Even if the vehicle is not physically in Skokie it must display a Village sticker. The address appearing in the Illinois Secretary of State's records for the vehicle is the criterion. Households with vehicles that are currently registered with the Village began receiving renewal notices in June.

Passenger vehicle stickers are currently on sale at Village Hall. The Collections Division is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturdays from May through October.

Vehicle stickers must be displayed on automobile windshields by August 31. Passenger vehicle stickers purchased through August 31 of each year cost \$20. After that date, the cost increases to \$30 per sticker.

For more information please visit www.skokie.org or call the Finance Department at 847/933-8423. ∞

Skokie Receives Chicago Community Trust Immigrant Integration Grant Renewal of \$50,000

In 2007 the Village of Skokie received a \$50,000 grant from The Chicago Community Trust as part of the Trust's \$1.5 million immigrant integration initiative. In spring 2008, the Village applied to renew the grant for the 2008-2009 granting year and was recently informed that it will receive an additional grant in the amount of \$50,000.

Skokie's grant proposal was one of less than a dozen funded out of a total of over 50 applicants. The grant proposal was initially developed with advice from an Immigrant Integration Grant Advisory Committee comprised of Festival of Cultures executive committee members and others from Skokie's international community.

The Village Manager's Office, Human Services Division and Police Department are collaborating on grant-funded initiatives designed to provide services or training to immigrant residents. Specific grant-funded initiatives planned for the 2008-2009 granting year include:

- **International Citizens' Police Academy** (see page three for details)
- **International Youth Police Academy**
- **Immigrant Leadership Academy**
- **Immigrant Services Directory**
- **Immigrant Information Series** (see page two for details)

- **English Language Learners Center**
- **Housing Information Series**
- **Regional Immigrant Integration Symposium**
- **Know Your Neighbor Week** (see page one for details, with more information to come in the September NewSkokie)

More information on the Village's Immigrant Integration programs is available online at www.skokie.org and further details on specific programs will be highlighted in the September edition of NewSkokie. ∞

2007 Block Party Winners

The winning block parties for 2007 were honored by the Human Relations Commission at the June 16, 2008 Village Board Meeting.

Winning blocks will have a plaque installed on their block to indicate that they won this year's contest.

The winners of the 2007 block parties are:

- **Pottawattami Drive (8900-9100 block):** Organizers included Renee Rosenberg, Paula Lustig, Shari Abrams and neighbors.
- **8300 Tripp:** Organizers included Susan Maivald, Celeste Roy, Jane Dothko and neighbors.
- **5000 Brummel Street:** Organizers included Gorgonia Gonzales, Viador Gonzales and neighbors.
- **Kirk & East Prairie:** Organizers include Beth Mertz, Karen Abram and neighbors.
- **7800 Kildare Avenue:** Organizers included Doris Taerbaum, Linda Granato and neighbors. ∞

Skokie Fire Department Retains Prestigious ISO One Designation

The Skokie Fire Department has once again achieved the prestigious Class 1 rating from the Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO). Skokie first received this designation of exemplary public protection in 1995 that includes rigorous evaluation of staffing, equipment, training, dispatch staffing and equipment and the water supply and system. This rating renewal is effective September 1, 2008 and based on ISO current practice, it will be evaluated every two years through a community outreach survey.

The Skokie Fire Department is one of only 57 fire departments in the country with an ISO Class

1 rating. The Skokie Fire Department also is accredited by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International, and is one of only seven agencies in the nation that have this accreditation and an ISO Class 1 designation.

ISO is the leading supplier of statistical, underwriting and actuarial information for the property/casualty insurance industry. Most insurers use ISO and therefore their Public Protection Classification (PPC) for underwriting and calculating premiums for residential, commercial, and industrial property insurance rates. ISO has evaluated and classified over 44,000

fire protection areas across the United States. Fire Departments can receive any rating from 1, being the best, through 10, being the lowest. Ninety percent (90%) of the standards must be met to achieve a Class 1 rating.

To determine a community's rating, ISO conducts a field survey. Highly qualified ISO staff visit the community and observe and evaluate features of the fire protection systems, including water supply/distribution, fire alarm and communications systems and fire department operations. The ISO staff conducted the Skokie Fire Department evaluation in August 2007. ∞

2008 Community Video Award Winners

The Skokie Cable Television Advisory Commission is pleased to announce the winners of the 2008 Community Video Programming Awards.

The awards recognize the programming efforts of Skokie-area public access producers.

The 2008 winners are:

- **Adult Winners:**
Josh Pfluger, *Montage*,
Roberta Markbreit, *Con-
tempo* and Mitchell
Messer, *Anger Letters*.
- **High School Winners:**
Skokie Net Teen Volun-
teers, *Holocaust Museum*
- **Junior High School Win-
ners:** Lopas & Dubose,
Where We Are

An awards ceremony was held at the Comcast Cable Studio on Tuesday, June 3, 2008. Awards were presented by Mayor George Van Dusen and members of the Skokie Cable Television Advisory Commission.

For information on partici-
pating in next year's program
please visit www.skokie.org or
contact the Village of Skokie
Public Information Division
at 847/933-8257. ∞

Traffic Laws for Vehicles, Pedestrians and Bicycles

Vehicles

While they may be an easy way to decorate your car, license plate covers are illegal in Illinois. License plate covers of any kind - tinted, colored, painted, marked, illuminated, and even clear - are not allowed within Illinois. Law enforcement can more easily identify the registration plate on the vehicle without the obstruction of a cover. Many of the plastic covers including the clear ones become scratched and discolored over time obstructing the view. Even the glare from the sun during the day and headlights at night distort the view of the plate and make it harder to read.

This detailed law has only been around since 2006. Unfortunately, many retailers either are not knowledgeable of the ever-changing laws within the state or they choose to ignore them. It is up to the consumer and vehicle owner to stay aware of the legislation.

With many people trying to reduce the amount of miles they drive, walking around town is becoming more popular. Walking around an urban environment is no easy task. Both motor vehicle drivers operating on the street and the pedestrians walking adjacent to them have to be vigilant at all times in order to maintain safety.

Pedestrians

Pedestrians are only allowed to cross a street at an intersection or a designated, marked crosswalk. Rules at signalized intersections are the same for pedestrians as they are for vehicles. This means that pedestrians must obey all traffic signals - green, yellow or red - unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian control signal, just as a car would. Pedestrians facing a green light, not a green arrow, may cross the road within any marked or unmarked crosswalk. Pedestrians facing a yellow light are advised there is insufficient time to cross and may not enter the roadway. Red lights are simple: do not cross. Traffic on the adjacent roadway must yield the right of way to those lawfully in the crosswalk whether the intersection is signalized or not. Remember those pedestrians who suddenly leave the curb and walk into the path of a moving vehicle are unprotected by the law. This is akin to a car suddenly ignoring the red light and moving into traffic.

Bicycles

Riding a bicycle is a great way to exercise and save gas money. As you ride your bike on the road, please remember that not only are bicycles granted all of the rights afforded to motor vehicles but they also are subject to all of

the same rules as motor vehicle drivers. Bicycles are only allowed to carry the same number of people as they have fixed seats. Unless preparing to turn left or trying to avoid a collision, all bicycles must be on the right side of the road.

Riding a bike with a friend is a great way to spend a day, but don't forget that bicycles cannot ride more than two across and can't impede the normal movement of traffic. If you plan on riding your bike to run errands, you might want to have a basket or wear a backpack. Bike riders must not carry any item that prevents the use of both hands to operate the bike. If you are riding your bike on the sidewalk, you must yield to all pedestrians. At a crosswalk, bike riders have the same rights and responsibilities as pedestrians. While bicycling is fun and economical, it also can be unpredictable. While helmets are required for those bike riders under 17, it just makes sense for all bike riders.

Whether you are out walking around town or riding your bike, remember that you are subject to almost the same rules as those who drive a car. If you would not ignore a red light when you are driving, why would you do so when you are on a bike? Please make sure to enjoy these wonderful activities safely this summer and always. ∞



The Skokie Village Board meets the first and third Mondays of each month, except in the case of a holiday. Meetings begin at 8 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street.

Watch Village Board Meetings on SkokieVision Cable Television (Channel 25 on RCN systems, Channel 17 on Comcast systems). The Board Meetings are broadcast at noon and 8 p.m. on the Thursday, Saturday and Tuesday following a Board Meeting.

Upcoming Public Meetings

All meetings are held at Village Hall (5127 Oakton Street).

Board of Trustees:
August 4 and 18

Plan Commission:
August 7 and 21

Appearance Commission:
August 13 and 27

Zoning Board of Appeals:
August 6 and 20



Recent Village Board Action

The Village Board approved the Fiscal Year 2009 (FY09) budget with an additional \$600,000 allocated for street resurfacing and patching. In summary, the General Fund for FY09 equates to \$48,561,640. All funds, including the following: Water, Pension, Economic Development, Motor Fuel Tax, Performing Arts Center, Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Capital Improvement Program, total \$103,987,708.

The Village Board approved a three-year agreement with the Chicago's North Shore Convention & Visitors Bureau. Skokie, Evanston, Northbrook and Glenview are current bureau members. Skokie has been a Bureau member since 2002.

The Village Board approved a radio advertising campaign on WBBM-AM for the 2008-2009 year. The advertising campaign will consist of about 146 30-second commercials over a 26-week period and will focus on economic development.

The Village Board approved the establishment of an AM radio station to use for emergency communications, particularly during power outages. During non-emergency times the station will run public service announcements. The Federal Communications Commission has issued Skokie the 1660 AM channel and the station should be functioning by fall 2008.

The Village Board approved several bids for new computer and 9-1-1 equipment for the Police Department. The replacements are funded through monies awarded to the Village as a result of the PrimeCo litigation.

The Village Board approved a water rate increase of 9.32%. The monthly increase to the average residential water customer is anticipated to be \$2.43. The rate is based on the 2% annual rate increase for water the Village purchases from the City of Evanston, the expenses associated with investing in the aging water system infrastructure and the adjustment in the expected water consumption. Even with this increase, Skokie will continue to have the second lowest water rate among recently surveyed municipalities.

Board and Commission Members Needed

The Village's many fine programs and services rely on community volunteers. More than 250 of your neighbors volunteer their time and expertise to ensure that Skokie is a great place to call home.

Commissioners are appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Village Board. Skokie Boards and Commissions include: Advisory Commission on Disabilities, Advisory Commission on Human Services, Beautification and Improvement Commission, Board of Fire and Police Commissioners, Board of Health, Board of Local Improvement, Cable Television Advisory Commission, Consumer Affairs Commission, Fine Arts Commission, Human Relations Commission, Plan Commission, Traffic Safety Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and Zoning Commission.

If you would like further information on how to become an active member of the Skokie community by joining a Skokie Board or Commission, or for more information about volunteer opportunities, please contact Mayor George Van Dusen at (847) 933-8269.

Skokie's Going 'Green'

Skokie's Going 'Green' article communicates the Village's environmentally friendly practices and initiatives and features 'green' tips for residents and business owners.

Did you know that in 2006, over 69 million gallons of latex paint was dumped into our country's landfills?

Improper disposal of latex paint can be very harmful to the environment. To assist in keeping latex paint out of landfills, Ace Hardware, 5035 Oakton Street accepts latex paint as part of a latex paint recycling program.

For a small fee, the paint will be properly recycled into new, useable latex paint. Any latex

paint that cannot be processed for reuse will be turned into a filler product for the manufacturing of concrete.

The recycling fee for latex paint containers are:

- \$1.50 per quart container
- \$2.50 per gallon container
- \$8.00 per five-gallon bucket

For more details on this program, please call Ace Hardware in Skokie at 847/673-0700.

For more information on Skokie's 'green' initiatives please call the Village Manager's Office at 847/933-8210.

Yard Waste Collection

Village crews collect yard waste once per week on Wednesdays through October 15.

The Village of Skokie transports all refuse and yard waste to the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County's (SWANCC) Transfer Station in Glenview. If a load of refuse includes improperly packaged yard waste and/or regulated material, SWANCC may decline the entire load. Residents cannot mix yard waste with their household refuse.

Yard Waste Guidelines

- **Grass, Plant Material and Small Brush:** Leaves, lawn and shrub clippings must be containerized in a paper yard waste bag and shall not exceed 50 pounds.
- **Large Brush:** Bundles must be tied with string, twine or rope, and bundled small enough to be lifted by a single waste collector. Each branch cannot exceed three inches in diameter, and cannot extend longer than five feet in length and shall not exceed 50 pounds.

Place bundles in the alley or at the front curb for collection (in the same area as refuse collection). The use of wire, nylon, or plastic ties is prohibited.

- Residents must make arrangements with a private landscaper or tree service for collection of brush, branches

or logs exceeding three inches in diameter and five feet in length.

Residents requesting yard waste disposal after October 15 should call Public Works in advance at 847 933-8427 to schedule a special pickup.

Parkway Tree Planting

Residents with an open planting space on their parkway are invited to contribute to the Village's urban forest by planting a new tree in their parkway. The Village will pay 50% of both the cost and planting of the new tree.

Homeowners may select a tree from a list of suitable parkway trees. Please contact the Village Forester for the most current listing of trees. Resident costs range from \$120 to \$175 depending on the species.

This program is offered for both the fall and spring planting seasons.

The Forestry Division also plants trees to replace those removed through its reforestation/replacement program. Trees are removed from parkways only if they are diseased, dead or deemed a public safety hazard.

For more information, please call the Village Forester at 847/933-8427.

The Skokie Teens Help Seniors through Skokie TeenLink Program

The Village of Skokie's TeenLink program unites residents who are in need of outside seasonal yard work with teens who are available for hire to do the work. This program is only available to Skokie residents.

The TeenLink program is a compilation of contact information of Skokie teens available to do seasonal yard work. The list includes the name and address of the teen, days available, type of work they are willing to do and their expected rate of pay. Residents can receive the list by mail or email. The resident is responsible for contacting the teen and for making financial and scheduling arrangements.

If you would like the TeenLink contact list please call the Village Manager's Office at 847/933-8210. Skokie teens can also complete an application to be added to the TeenLink program by contacting the Manager's Office or visiting www.skokie.org to download an application.

Monday Senior Group

All programs take place at the Smith Activities Center located at 5120 Galitz Street. Programs begin at 1:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. For more information on a Monday Senior Group Program please call 847/933-8208.

AUGUST 4 - TABLE GAMES

Reserve your table to play a game of your choice. Bring treats for your table and enjoy a fun afternoon with your friends.

AUGUST 11 - MEDICARE BINGO

We invite you to join us for an afternoon of Bingo, sponsored by Blue Cross/Blue Shield. We are limited to 30 people and prizes will be awarded for the winners.

AUGUST 18 - ESTATE PLANNING

Attorney Tom Wendt will present an overview of the Center for Disability and Elder Law. This center is dedicated to serving the needs of low-income seniors in need of legal services. Join us for this very informative program to find out what assistance they offer.

AUGUST 25 - TO BE ANNOUNCED

Assist-A-Family Program

Help make the season brighter for Skokie families in need. The Village's Assist-A-Family program asks businesses, individuals and groups to contribute to the effort. Human Services Division staff screens each applicant family to ensure that donations go to help Skokie's neediest families. Families receive gift certificates for area businesses which they use to purchase holiday food and to buy items specific to each child's needs and wants. Monetary contributions and/or certificates are gratefully accepted by the Human Services Division staff.

If you would like to participate in this program, please contact either Meryl Rivenson or Terri Williams at 847/933-8208.

Skokie families who believe they may qualify for the Assist-A-Family program must contact Beth Lindley or Cynthia Benton at 847/933-8208 before October 10, 2008 to schedule an interview. Only families with extremely low income are eligible. ☞

Skokie Fine Arts Commission

The Skokie Fine Arts Commission is now accepting applications for the 2008-2009 granting year. To be eligible for a grant, all projects and programs must take place between May 1, 2008 and April 30, 2009.

Schools and arts organizations are invited to submit arts-related projects and programs for grants of either \$250 for Skokie schools or varying amounts for arts organizations.

If you are a first-time grant applicant, please consider attending the Fine Arts Commission Grant Workshop on Wednesday, November 12 at 7:30 p.m. at Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street.

For more information or to download a copy of the grant application, please visit www.skokie.org. ☞

U.S. Citizenship Class

Anyone interested in studying to take the U.S. citizenship test is welcome to join this group which meets at the Smith Activities Center on Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. Please call 847/933-8208 to sign up for this class. ☞

Cook County Treasurer's Website

The Cook County Treasurer's Office website gives taxpayers the ability to make online payments, learn about exemptions and savings, apply or search for refunds as well as learn about services for seniors. In addition, the site offers information about the property tax system in 21 languages and about individual properties.

To access the Cook County Treasurer's website please visit www.cookcountytreasurer.com. ☞

Skokie Communicates

Visit the Village online at www.skokie.org
Subscribe to **SkokieNews** newsletter
Call **847/675-INFO**
Read **NewSkokie**
Watch **SkokieVision** Cable

School Immunizations

As the school year approaches it is time to make sure your child's immunizations are up to date. The Skokie Health Department would like to offer some facts about vaccines.

Unfortunately, misinformation about vaccines may lead some parents to decide not to immunize their child, and this may put the child and others at a greater risk for illness. It is impossible to get a disease from any vaccine made with dead bacteria or viruses, or just part of the bacteria or virus. Only those immunizations made from weakened live viruses - like the chicken pox (Varicella) or measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine - could lead to a mild form of the disease. Fortunately these instances are rare and are almost always much less severe than when a person is infected with the disease-causing virus itself. The risk of disease from vaccination is extremely low.

Some parents think it is acceptable to skip vaccinations because all other children are vaccinated. The fact remains that each child who is not immunized gives highly contagious diseases another chance to spread. An occurrence of this actually happened between 1989 and 1991 when an epidemic of measles broke out in the United States. There is no reliable way of knowing if everyone your child comes into contact with has been vaccinated, particularly now that so many people travel to and from other countries.

Some people fear their child will have a reaction to an immunization shot. The most common reactions to vaccines are minor, including redness, fever, and rash and swelling where the shot was given. Although in rare cases immunizations can trigger seizures or severe allergic reactions, the risk of these is much lower than that of a non-immunized child catching the disease. Every year millions of children are safely vaccinated and very few experience any significant side effects.

Another misconception is vaccinations aren't needed because the diseases don't exist here.

West Nile Virus

The Skokie Health Department staff works diligently each summer to monitor mosquito activity in the Village and to eliminate potential mosquito breeding sites to lower the risk of West Nile Virus (WNV). At the time of publication, no positive mosquito pools have been detected and no human cases of WNV have been reported in Skokie. Based on WNV history, this is likely to change by August. We cannot predict the future but we all can help to minimize the risk of mosquito-borne disease in our community.

Prevention is the key to preventing WNV. This must be a collaborative effort between governmental agencies such as the Skokie Health Department and the North Shore Mosquito Abatement District and you as an individual and a property

Diseases that are rare or non-existent in the United States still flourish in other parts of the world. Doctors continue to vaccinate against diseases because it is easy to come into contact with illnesses when traveling. This includes anyone who may not be properly immunized coming into the United States, as well as Americans traveling overseas.

There also are some people who think that once a child has had their initial series of vaccinations no more are needed.

There are a few vaccines, like the one for measles or the series for hepatitis B, that may provide

lifetime immunity. Others, like tetanus, last for many years but require periodic shots (boosters) for continued protection against the disease. It is important to keep a record of your child's shots so you will know when they are due for a booster.

For additional information about immunizations, including which ones your child needs, contacting your child's doctor or the Skokie Health Department at 847/933-8252.




owner. Measures you can take to reduce your risk of being bitten by a mosquito include: staying indoors at dawn, dusk or early evening; wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants whenever you are outdoors; if entering a heavily wooded area, consider spraying your clothing with repellents; wearing protective clothing including hiking boots and gloves and applying insect repellent sparingly to exposed skin. The most effective repellents usually contain DEET. Property owners can eliminate mosquito breeding areas in the following manner:

- Remove standing water where mosquitoes can breed.
- Clean and maintain any catch basins that may be on your property. The North Shore Mosquito Abatement District will treat your catch basin for

mosquito larvae if you call them at 847/446-9434.

- Change the water in birdbaths and plant pots at least once a week.
- Empty plastic pools at the end of each day and store indoors.
- Keep grass and shrubbery cut short. Adult mosquitoes accumulate in shady cool areas.
- Keep gutters clean and free-flowing. Eliminate dips and low areas that collect water.
- Don't let water stand on flat roofs.

If you have any questions regarding WNV or would like to report potential mosquito breeding sites, contact the Skokie Health Department at 847/933-8484 or the North Shore Mosquito Abatement District at 847/446-9434. 

August 2008

Refuse, Recycling and Yard Waste Collection



Refuse

Refuse is collected twice per week on Mondays and Thursdays or Tuesdays and Fridays. To find out which days your refuse is collected please visit www.skokie.org.

Recycling

Recycling is collected weekly on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays or Fridays. To find out which day your recycling is collected and what items are recyclable, please visit www.skokie.org.

Yard Waste

Yard waste is collected every Wednesday through mid-October. For details on this program and how to bundle your yard waste for collection please visit www.skokie.org.

Health Happenings

Unless otherwise noted, all clinics are held at the Health Department, 5127 Oakton Street. Clinics marked with an () require advance registration. For more information or to register for a clinic, call 847/933-8252.*

Blood Drive

Wednesday, August 13 from 2-7:30 p.m. at Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street.

Blood Pressure Screening

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3-4:45 p.m., Wednesdays from 9-10:30 a.m. and 5-8 p.m.

Diabetes Screening*

Tuesday, August 19 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Nutrition Clinic*

Thursday, August 21 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Hearing Screening*

Friday, August 15 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Body Composition Analysis*

Mondays from 2-4:30 p.m., Wednesdays from 5-8 p.m. and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. \$4 fee.

Lead Screening*

Wednesdays from 5-8 p.m. and Wednesday, August 6 from from 2-4 p.m. \$18 fee.

Lipid Profile Screening*

(Total Cholesterol, HDL, Triglycerides, LDL, Cholesterol/HDL Ratio) Mondays and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. \$12 fee.

Simple Cholesterol Screening

(Total cholesterol screening only) Mondays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Wednesdays from 5-8 p.m. and Thursdays from 1-4 p.m., \$5 fee.

Immunization Clinics*

Tuesdays and Thursday from 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Wednesdays from 5-8 p.m. and Wednesdays, August 13 and 27 from 1:30-4 p.m.

Nutrition Lecture

Thursday, August 21 at 2 p.m. Topic: "Diabetes in the News".

TB Skin Testing*

Mondays and Fridays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and Tuesdays from 1-4:45 p.m.

Well Child Clinic*

Tuesday, August 12 from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Smith Center Activities

Located at 5120 Galitz Street. Please call 847/933-8208 for more information or to register.

Rules of the Road

Review for driver's exam. Monday, August 4 from 9:15 a.m.-12 p.m.

Needlework

Socialization and needlework. Mondays at 10 a.m.

Chess

Wednesdays and Fridays from 12-4:30 p.m.

Woodcarving

Fee required. Tuesdays from 9-11:30 a.m. Instructor: Irv Marion

Monday Group

See page eight for details. Mondays at 1:30 p.m.

Low Vision Support Group

Everyone is welcome. Tuesday, August 12 from 1:30-3 p.m.

Womens' Discussion Group

Wednesdays, August 13 and 27 from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Stamp Club

Wednesdays, August 6 and 20 from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Illinois Cares RX and RX Plus

(Formally known as Circuit Breaker) *Appointments are necessary. Monday mornings.*

Conversational Yiddish

No fee or registration required. Everyone is welcome. Tuesdays, August 19 and 26 at 1:30 p.m.

Medicare Supplement Claims Assistance/Senior Health Insurance Program

Appointments are necessary. Wednesday, August 13 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Simple Will/Durable Power of Attorney/Living Will Program

Program for low-income seniors who meet requirements. Fee charged by attorney. Call for program details. Must have at least seven to eight people registered in order for program to occur.

Skokie Senior Mens Group Discussion

Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m., Weber Park, 9300 Weber Park Place.

Conversational German

Thursdays, August 7 and 21 at 1:30 p.m.

News and Views Discussion

Fridays, 10 a.m.

Mens' Discussion Group

Fridays at 1:30 p.m.

Hearing Loss Support Group

Thursday, August 14 from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

U.S. Citizenship Class

Meets Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. at the Smith Activities Center. Please call 847/933-8208 to register for the class.

CPR Schedule

Please call the Skokie Fire Department at 847/982-5340 for August 19, 2008 program information.

Residents:

\$15 refundable fee.

Non-residents:

\$20 non-refundable fee.

Skokie Park District

For more information on Park District programs, call 847/674-1500 or visit www.SkokieParkDistrict.org.

Concert: Waterhouse: Sounds of Jamaica

Sunday, August 3, 7 p.m., Devonshire Park, 4400 Greenwood.

Children's Concert: Carole Peterson

Wednesday, August 6, 7 p.m., Oakton Park, 4701 Oakton Street.

Parent-Child Golf Tourney

Sunday, August 10, 7:15 a.m., Weber Park Golf Course, 9300 Weber Park Place.

Sun-dae Picnic & Ice Cream Social

Sunday, August 10, 12-4 p.m., Devonshire Aquatic Center, 4400 Greenwood.

Concert: 1969

Sunday, August 10, 7 p.m., Devonshire Park, 4400 Greenwood.

Children's Concert: Gary Kantor

Wednesday, August 13, 7 p.m., Schack Park, 6940 Laramie.

Skokie Park District - Resident Registration

Friday, August 15. Register for classes or programs at any district facility or online at www.skokieparkdistrict.org or by calling 847/674-1500.

Concert: The Saturday June Band

Sunday, August 17 at 7 p.m., Devonshire Park, 4400 Greenwood.

'So Long Summer' Campfire for Kids

Wednesday, August 20 from 7-8:30 p.m., Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel.

Skokie Park District - Non-Resident Registration

Friday, August 22. Register for classes or programs at any district facility or online at www.skokieparkdistrict.org or by calling 847/674-1500.

Second Annual Downtown Skokie Backlot Bash

Friday through Sunday, August 22 to 24. Please see page one for details.

Skokie Public Library

For more details on library activities and events, please visit www.skokieliibrary.info or call 847/673-7774.

Basics of Buying on eBay

Tuesday, August 5 from 7-8:30 p.m. eBay experts present the basics for successfully saving money using eBay, along with lots of tips and hints to improve your experience. Sign up online or call 847/673-3733.

iTunes and Digital Music

Tuesday, August 12 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Learn several methods for importing, organizing and sharing music and find out about online resources for downloading music and popular music players. Sign up online or call 847/673-3733.

Dancin' Under the Stars

Wednesday, August 13 from 6:30-8 p.m. A DJ will lead limbo and twist contests and other fun dance activities for all ages on the Village Green.

Get Ready, Set...Kindergarten!

Thursday, August 14 from 3-4 p.m. Special stories and games for kids who are starting kindergarten this fall. Sign up online or call 847/324-3149.

Career Support Group

Monday, August 18 from 9:30-11 a.m. Network and share career search tools and strategies with other job searchers. Group meets monthly. To sign up, please call 847/324-3176.

Stay Connected with Skype

Wednesday, August 27 from 7-8:30 p.m. Learn how to make cheap phone calls over the Internet, contact other Skype users for free, and use the videoconferencing option to see people all over the world. Sign up online or call 847/673-3733.

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie

Located at 9501 Skokie Blvd. For 2008-2009 performance dates and information please call the box office at 847/673-6300 or visit www.northshorecenter.org.

Skokie Art Guild

Programs are held from 7-9 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month in the Mary Radmacher Room at the Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton Street.





SKOKIELINK WiFi

Free Municipal Wireless Access

Did you know you have free access to the Internet in Downtown Skokie? The four public spaces that have free Wi-Fi Internet access are:

- Memorial Park at Krier Plaza (Lincoln Avenue at Oakton Street)
- Veteran's Park (Cleveland Street and Lincoln Avenue)
- Village Green (Between Village Hall and the Skokie Public Library)
- Oakton Community Center (Oakton Street at Skokie Boulevard)

For more information, please visit www.skokielinek.org or call 847/933-8210.

