

# NewSkokie

November 2008

The award-winning municipal information source

## FEMA Approves Federal Disaster Aid for Cook County

*Skokie Residents Impacted by Recent Storms Encouraged to Apply*

On Friday, October 3, 2008 the head of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced that federal disaster aid in the form of individual assistance is available for a number of Illinois counties, including Cook County, due to the severe storms and flooding of September 13 and September 14, 2008.

Skokie residents (homeowners and renters) and business owners who sustained losses from the storms may be eligible for disaster aid and can begin applying for assistance by registering online at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. Applications must be submitted by December 2, 2008.

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## www.skokie.org Gets A New Look and Enhanced Features

The Village of Skokie launched a new website at the Village Open House on October 26, 2008. The website has been many months in the making, taking into close consideration the suggestions of residents, business owners and village staff.

The new website still has the same address, [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org), but a visit to the site will bring users to an increased navigation system, enhanced search functions and a more modern design and color scheme.

The completely custom website should make accessing the information you need about the Village much easier and faster. Some new website functions include a comprehensive community calendar that shows all Village events and meeting dates; an easy and personalized subscriptions option to SkokieNews the Village's online email newsletter (see page seven for details) and a one-stop-shop for Village forms, permits and applications.



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## What is Section 8 Rental Housing?

Section 8 rental housing, technically known as the Housing Choice Voucher Program, is a federally funded program designed to subsidize the cost of rental housing for low- and moderate-income families and individuals. Section 8 subsidized housing was first authorized under the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 and the current program was reauthorized by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974.

Section 8 housing can be either "project based", where its use is limited to a specific development, or "tenant based", where the tenant is free to choose a privately owned housing unit. The only project-based Section 8 housing developments in Skokie are three buildings limited to elderly citizens. Under the Section 8 tenant-based program, a low-income family or individual is issued a housing rental voucher by a local public housing authority (PHA).

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## Skokie Swift Ridership Increases

The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) reports a 7.3% increase in weekday Skokie Swift Yellow Line ridership during July 2008, by comparison to a 4% ridership increase in the entire CTA rail system that month. For 2008 year-to-date, ridership on the Skokie Swift Yellow Line is up nearly 15%, with just over a 6% ridership increase across the entire CTA rail system.

In addition, the CTA announced that it will continue to offer weekend service on the Skokie Swift. Instituted earlier this year on a trial basis, weekend Skokie Swift ridership has been brisk. The CTA reports an average of 1,323 Saturday boardings and 1,135 Sunday boardings at the Dempster Street station in July. This represents the fifth highest weekend ridership out of CTA's 18 suburban stations.

The CTA statistics show a total of 70,675 Skokie Swift boardings in July at the Dempster Street station, a 27% increase over July 2007 boardings and the greatest ridership since the Skokie Swift reopened in 1991.

Mayor George Van Dusen commented that these statistics validate the need for increased public transportation and the need for additional stations along the Skokie Swift Yellow Line. Ground breaking for the Skokie Swift station just north of Oakton Street and west of Skokie Boulevard is expected in 2009.



## Are You Ready For Winter Weather?

The Village of Skokie would like to remind residents, business owners and visitors about the Village's Alternate Side Parking Program. When there is snow accumulation of 2 inches or more on the pavement, the Village's Alternate Side Parking Program will go in to effect from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week. The snow removal program is a minimum two-day operation.

- **On even-numbered days of the month, after a 2 inch or more snowfall, all vehicles must be moved to the side of the street with even-numbered addresses.**
- **On odd-numbered days of the month, after a 2 inch or more snowfall, all vehicles must be moved to the side of the street with odd-numbered addresses.**

The Village does have certain streets that are exempt from the Alternate Side Parking Program but only on Saturday, Sunday and some holidays. There also are streets in Skokie that are under the jurisdiction of the Illinois Department of Transportation or Cook County.

*To learn more about exempt streets or for more information on the Alternate Side Parking Program, please visit [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org).*

## Property Tax Information

Skokie residents recently received property tax bills, many of which were significantly higher than in previous years. According to an analysis conducted by the Village, the average property tax bill increased by 13%.

Village of Skokie property taxes have been frozen for 17 consecutive years. In 1990, the Village Board pledged to freeze property taxes for five years. Through conservative budgeting and strategic economic development, the Village Board has been able to extend the property tax freeze for an additional 12 years.

In 1990, Skokie received \$15.4 million in property tax revenue; in 2007, the Village received this exact same amount. In 2007, the percentage of Village of Skokie prop-

erty taxes on an average property tax bill was 7.7%, a decrease from 15.2% in 1990.

Of importance is that 2007 was a Cook County triennial reassessment year, and Skokie's assessed value as a whole increased 17%, with individual property assessed valuations increasing from 14.6% to as much as 64.7%. Also, Village of Skokie property taxes are among 15 taxing jurisdictions on a property tax bill. Other jurisdictions include Cook

County, elementary and high school districts, the Skokie Park District, Oakton Community College, etc. Elementary and high school districts account for nearly 67% of an average property tax bill, and tax caps do not apply to referendum-approved increases.

The Village has successfully kept its property taxes frozen since 1990. The Village has no control over other jurisdiction's taxes, the Cook County property tax assessment process or the impacts of tax and assessment appeals by homeowners and businesses, all of which combined will impact the total amount of property taxes paid by Skokie's residents and businesses.

Property owners should ensure that they receive any property tax exemptions for which they are eligible, such as a homeowner exemption, long-time home occupant exemption or senior citizen exemption. Please contact the Niles Township Assessor's Office at 847/673-9300 with any questions or visit [www.nilestownshipassessor.com](http://www.nilestownshipassessor.com).

*To learn more please visit [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org).*

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## FEMA Approved Federal Disaster Aid for Cook County

*Continued from page one*

The toll-free telephone numbers will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week, until further notice.

FEMA advises that when you apply for disaster assistance you have the following information available:

- Social Security number
- Daytime telephone number
- Current mailing address
- Address of damaged property
- Directions to the damaged home or property
- Private insurance information, if available

**For additional information, please visit [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)**

The level of assistance will be assessed and determined by FEMA; the most important thing is to apply, through FEMA, and start the process. Government disaster assistance covers basic needs only and will not normally compensate for the entire loss. If you have insurance, the government may help pay for needs not covered under your insurance policy. Some disaster aid does not have to be paid back, while other assistance may come in the form of loans.

If you submitted information to the Village regarding damage including completing the Damage Assessment Survey, thank you for assisting the region in collecting data necessary to achieve the federal disaster designation. Please note that in order to be considered for any assistance available due to the declaration, you must now apply directly to FEMA. The information supplied to date was important for assessing the level of damage to achieve the FEMA declaration, but is not part of the application process for individual assistance.

One frequently asked question is what specific items are covered by FEMA's "housing needs" assistance. "Housing needs" assistance is assistance from FEMA that may be used to repair structural components of the home; security aspects such as windows and doors; and essential utility components including electrical, plumbing, heating, ventilating, air conditioning and gas systems, subject to assessment by FEMA. If you have insurance, the government may help pay for needs not covered under your insurance policy. Some disaster aid does not have to be paid back, while other assistance may come in the form of loans.

*For additional information, please visit [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).* ∞

## We want to hear from you!

The Village welcomes comments and questions and a number of options are available for residents to share questions, thoughts and concerns with the Village:

- Complete and submit the Feedback form on the back page of this or any edition of *NewSkokie*.
- Email the Village at [info@skokie.org](mailto:info@skokie.org).

## What is Section 8 Rental Housing?

*Continued from page one*

The PHA for Skokie is the Cook County Housing Authority. The PHA pays a participating landlord who has accepted the Section 8 recipient the difference between 30% of the tenant's household income and the fair market rent for the area. The rent must be considered reasonable for the area and the rental unit must meet basic quality standards. Tenants must meet basic obligations in order to maintain the voucher. There are no time limits on participation in the program, but household income must be re-certified on a regular basis. Landlords are not forced to accept Section 8 vouchers; it is entirely their choice.

While households with up to 80% of the area median income are qualified for Section 8 approval, in reality most recipients are well below 50% of the area median income. The program has not grown nationally in recent years due to federal budget constraints, and most PHAs rarely accept new applicants due to long waiting lists. One of the unique provisions of the Section 8 program is that once you have a voucher, you can use the voucher anywhere in the country where a PHA is operating.

Many people believe that Section 8 housing has increased dramatically in Skokie in recent years. The statistics do not bear this out. There are 454 tenant-based vouchers currently in use in Skokie according to the Cook County Housing Authority. There were 457 in 2006, 430 in 2005 and 433 in 2004, so the overall number has not changed much in recent years. Given that there are over 6,000 rental units in Skokie, Section 8 does not constitute a significant portion of the local rental housing market. Also, over 200 of the local Section 8 tenant based vouchers are utilized by elderly renters throughout Skokie.

While Village officials are aware that Section 8 renters are dispersed throughout Skokie's multi-family neighborhoods, the Village is not given any information regarding specific addresses, family sizes or other personal data. Due to federal fair housing laws, the Cook County Housing Authority cannot reveal such information. There are no limitations on the amount of Section 8 housing in an individual community, and the Village has no control or approval authority over landlords' acceptance of vouchers. ∞

## Merchant of the Year

Which store, service or business in Skokie is outstanding? The Consumer Affairs Commission will recognize a business that has distinguished itself to consumers. The Merchant of the Year plaque will be awarded to the business receiving the highest number of votes. The two merchants receiving the next highest number of votes also will be honored. Please return signed ballots by December 31, 2008.

Name of Business

Address of Business

Your Comments

Your Name

Your Signature

Your Address

### Rules

- All ballots must be signed. One vote per person please.
- Merchant must be located in Skokie.
- Any Skokie business providing goods or services for at least one year is eligible.
- Merchant of the Year winners from the previous three years are not eligible.
- Photocopying of the ballot is acceptable. Additional ballots also are available at [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org).
- Ballots must be received by December 31, 2008.

#### Return ballots to:

**Consumer Affairs Commission  
Village of Skokie  
5127 Oakton Street  
Skokie, IL 60077**

## www.skokie.org Gets A New Look and Enhanced Features

### Continued from page one

The Village is planning for further web upgrades in the future, including improvements to the Village's online service request center and an enhanced online bill payment system, which is scheduled for 2009.

Please take a few minutes and visit the Village's new site, [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org). We encourage you to send the Village feedback by completing our online survey about the new site which can be found on the the Village's home page at [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org).

For more information, please free to contact the Village Manager's office at 847/933-8210. ∞

## 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. Childrens' activities will be available in the Youth Department for children ages 5 and above.*

Upcoming Sessions Include:

**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](mailto:info@skokie.org).**

*Funded by The Chicago Community Trust  
Immigrant Integration Initiative*

## Emergency Preparedness in Skokie

### Tip of the Month: How to Prepare an Emergency Supply Kit

One of the primary goals of the Village of Skokie is to provide a safe and secure Village. To meet this goal, the Village has an Emergency Management Plan; officers in fire, police and emergency medical response who are available at all times; professional staff who are trained in HazMat response and reciprocal agreements with other agencies to provide additional services during emergencies.

The Village of Skokie also has extensive experience dealing with major emergencies and disasters. Safety training and drills take place on a regular basis involving Village departments to assure that staff is prepared to use proper procedures in an emergency situation.

Skokie residents should begin learning about potential threats so that everyone is better prepared to react during an

emergency situation. While there is no way to predict what will happen, or what your personal circumstances will be at the time of an emergency, there are simple things you can do now to prepare yourself and your loved ones. When preparing for a possible emergency situation, it's best to think about the basics of survival: Fresh water, food, clean air and warmth.

Over the next several months the Village of Skokie will include in the *NewSkokie* newsletter information and tips for residents on emergency preparedness. The goal of these emergency preparedness articles is to educate and empower Skokie residents to take simple steps to prepare for and respond to potential emergencies.

### How to Prepare an Emergency Supply Kit

*The Village of Skokie recommends each household prepare a basic emergency supply kit with the following items. Use the check boxes as a guide to compile your supply kit:*

- Water.** At least one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation.
- Food.** At least a three-day supply of non-perishable food. If food comes in cans, don't forget to include a can opener in your supply kit. Don't forget your pet - if you have a pet, include food for them, as well.
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio.** Be sure to include extra batteries for your radio in your supply kit.
- Flashlight.** Be sure to include extra batteries for your flashlight.
- First aid kit.** Consider purchasing a pre-made first aid kit. Make sure it contains rubber gloves and anti-septic.
- Whistle to signal for help.**
- Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place.**
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation.**
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities.** Even a small tool box is a great addition for your supply kit.
- Local maps.** Download and print maps of Skokie by visiting the Village's website at [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org).
- Matches in a waterproof container.**
- Complete change of clothing.** Include a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes.
- Important family documents and cash or traveler's checks.** This may include copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records. Keep the copies in a waterproof, portable container. In addition, keep some extra cash or traveler's checks in this container.
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket.** You should have one or both of these for each person in your family.

*For additional emergency preparedness information, see future editions of NewSkokie or visit [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org). If you have questions about emergency preparedness, please call the Health Department at 847/933-8252. ∞*



*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:**  
November 3 and 17

**Plan Commission:**  
November 6 and 20

**Appearance Commission:**  
November 12

**Zoning Board of Appeals:**  
November 5 and 19



## Recent Village Board Action

The Village Board gave the Public Arts Advisory Committee approval to purchase and install a public art sculpture, by artist Richard Taylor, known as "The Glowing of Such Fire" on the Skokie Village Green between Village Hall and the Skokie Public Library on the south side of Oakton Street. The art purchase is funded from the Village of Skokie's Appearance and Arts Fee.

The Village Board authorized the sale at auction of seven surplus Village vehicles, which have recently been replaced. These vehicles will be auctioned through the Northwest Municipal Conference Auction, which has proven successful in the past.

The Board approved a contract to remove and replace sidewalk and intermittent curb and gutter in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) sectors. The work that will be performed under this contract includes the removal and replacement of sections of deteriorated, heaved and cracked sidewalk in accordance with the Village's established replacement criteria in various multi-family regions of the Village. The replacement of broken or missing curb and gutter also is included as part of this project in the same multi-family regions. Under the project scope, approximately 30,000 square feet of sidewalk will be replaced and, additionally, approximately 1,000 lineal feet of defective curb and gutter will be replaced.

## Skokie Fine Arts Commission Grants

**First-time grant applicants are invited to a grants presentation at the November 12, 2008 Fine Arts Commission Meeting at 7 p.m. in Conference Room A of Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street.**

### Cultural Arts Grants

The Village of Skokie Fine Arts Commission offers Cultural Arts Grants to Skokie schools for in-school performing arts programming. The maximum grant level is \$250 and schools may apply for more than one grant per year. All proposed programs/projects must take place between May 1, 2008 and April 30, 2009. *The deadline for applications is February 6, 2009.*

### Project Grants

The Skokie Fine Arts Commission also offers grants to organizations and sponsors of visual, audio and creative art projects, such as artist-in-residence programs. These grants are competitive and provide larger funding amounts than the Cultural Arts Grants. Village of Skokie not-for-profit arts organizations and institutions are encouraged to apply. To be eligible, all proposed programs/projects must take place between May 1, 2008 and April 30, 2009. *The deadline for applications is February 6, 2009.*

**Applications for both the Cultural Arts Grants and Project Grants are available online at [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org) or by contacting the Public Information Division at 847/933-8257.**

## 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.*

In their fall 2008 newsletter the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) reported that waste diversion rates are up. In other words, the numbers from the waste stream show that people are throwing away less garbage. The trend, reports SWANCC, is largely due to the success of curb-

side recycling programs, such as the weekly recycling program offered by the Village of Skokie.

Of the 23 area communities that belong to SWANCC, all offered some type of curbside recycling program by the early 1990s. The first programs were difficult to implement because the recycling bins were small and residents had to separate materials and peel labels off of jars and cans. Since then, many communities, including Skokie, have progressed to 65-gallon recy-

cling carts with lids allowing residents more space to collect recyclables and prevent exposure with the help of a lid. The best part is that residents no longer need to sort their own recycling items as sorting is done at the recycling center, allowing for increased efficiency for both residents and haulers.

In 2007, according to SWANCC, 978,000 pounds of garbage were landfilled in the SWANCC region, compared to over 1,130,000 pounds of garbage in 1990. This decrease in landfilled garbage has occurred, most likely, be-

cause of how easy recycling has become due to enhanced recycling programs in Skokie and in other SWANCC communities. In 2007, SWANCC communities collectively diverted over 451,122,000 pounds of material from the landfill, which equaled about 46% of the total waste stream.

*For more information on SWANCC, please visit [www.swancc.org](http://www.swancc.org) or call the Village Manager's Office at 847/933-8210.* ∞

## TeenLink Program: Uniting Residents & Seniors with Local Teens

The Village's TeenLink program provides residents with names of teens willing to do various tasks - such as yard mowing, pulling weeds, raking leaves and snow shoveling. Teenagers are needed year-round, but especially during heavy snowfalls.

Skokie residents often request assistance for snow shoveling during harsh winters and for lawn care in the summer. When a teen provides their contact information to the TeenLink list, Skokie residents can be provided with a complete list of available teens in their area. The resident is responsible for contacting the TeenLink teenager and for making financial/scheduling arrangements. The TeenLink teenager is responsible for completing the task or notifying the resident if they are unable to complete the work.

The Village TeenLink program has been connecting residents with Skokie teenagers for over 15 years. Many communities have implemented similar programs with limited success. The success of the Skokie TeenLink program is a testament to our community's spirit. Help out your community - become a member of TeenLink today!

*If you are a teen that would like to register or a senior that would like a list of available teens, please call 847/933-8257 or visit [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org)* ∞

## SkokieNews Makes it Easy to Stay Connected

Beginning this month, the Village of Skokie will begin using a new program to register subscribers to the monthly e-newsletter, SkokieNews.

The new program, part of an overall enhancement to the Village's website, will allow current and future subscribers to 'personalize' their e-newsletter through a registration process. By choosing a user name and password, subscribers can choose to subscribe, or un-subscribe, on their own at any time. Another benefit includes the ability for subscribers to choose what type of information they will receive in their SkokieNews - which in the future will include options such as economic development news..

If you are currently subscribed to SkokieNews, you'll be sent an email early this month asking you to 'personalize' your subscription by choosing a password. Your username will be your email address. If you are not currently subscribed to SkokieNews, you may do so at any time by clicking on the SkokieNews box located on the homepage of the Village's website, [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org).

If you have any comments or questions about the new SkokieNews or the Village's new and enhanced website, please send the Village feedback by completing the online survey about the new site, which can be found on the Village's home page at [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org). ∞

## 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 Monday Senior Group Programs please call 847/933-8208.*

### November 3 - Table Games

Gather your friends for a fun afternoon of table games of your choice. Bring treats to share.

### November 10 - Annual Men and Women Group Talk-a-Thon

Bring or send your ideas for subjects to discuss at our second annual Talk-a-Thon. Coffee and treats will be provided. Start getting your subject matters together for discussion!

### November 17 - Senior Wellcare and Bingo

Matt Smith, a Benefit Consultant from WellCare, will sponsor Bingo.

### November 24 - Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

NOTE: Lunch served at 12 p.m. Join the Smith Activities Center for their annual Thanksgiving feast with all the trimmings. Entertainment will feature the Savoy Trio at 1 p.m. The fee for lunch is \$12 and is due at time of registration.

## Village of Skokie Human Services

The social work staff of the Skokie Human Services Division provides information and referrals for such needs as:

- Community Resources
- Employment Resources
- Home Care Providers
- Housing Resources
- Financial Assistance Providers and Availability
- Legal Assistance Resources
- Retirement/Nursing Home Resources

The social workers provide advocacy and short-term counseling for personal difficulties, family problems and other life issues. Long-term counseling needs are referred to outside agencies. The experienced staff can make home visits if requested.

*To learn more about this program or to make an appointment please contact the Human Services Division at 847/933-8208.*



## Carbon Monoxide Testing Offered

As the winter heating season begins, it's time to have your gas furnace and water heater checked to make sure they are venting safely. Blocked chimneys or improperly functioning heating units can cause carbon monoxide to build up in your home. This colorless, odorless gas can cause illness and, if the levels are high enough, result in death. The Skokie Health Department offers free carbon monoxide testing for Skokie residents. The test is very simple and takes only a few minutes and if the test shows harmful levels of carbon monoxide, you will be urged to have your appliance serviced as soon as possible by a reputable contractor.

*For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact the Health Department's Environmental Health Division at 847/933-8484.* ☞

## 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 most neediest families who receive gift certificates for area businesses 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.* ☞

## Clean Air Counts

The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus recently gave Skokie the Gold Level designation as a Clean Air Counts Community. Clean Air Counts is a northeastern Illinois regional initiative to reduce ozone-causing emissions, thereby improving air quality and enhancing economic development. It is a collaborative effort between the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, City of Chicago, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. The multi-year initiative seeks to achieve specific and significant reductions in targeted smog-forming pollutants and major reductions in energy consumption.

Achieving Gold Level participation in the Community program exemplifies the Village's commitment to air quality. The Village of Skokie is one of only four communities to achieve Gold Level participation in the program.

To learn more about Clean Air Counts, please visit their website at [www.cleanaircounts.org](http://www.cleanaircounts.org).

## Thanksgiving Turkey Safety

As Thanksgiving approaches, cooking the traditional turkey dinner may give rise to anxieties and questions. The Skokie Health Department recommends these simple steps to ensure a delicious and safe meal.

### Plan Ahead

- **FRESH OR FROZEN:** To most consumers there is no appreciable difference between a fresh or frozen bird. It is just a personal preference.
- **WHEN TO PURCHASE:** If you choose to buy a frozen bird, make sure you have adequate storage space in your freezer. If you buy a fresh turkey, be sure you purchase it only one to two days before cooking. Do not buy a pre-stuffed fresh turkey.
- **THAWING IN REFRIGERATOR:** Place frozen bird in original wrapper in the refrigerator (40°F). Allow approximately 24 hours per five pounds of turkey. After thawing, keep turkey refrigerated for only one to two days.
- **THAWING IN COLD WATER:** If you forget to thaw the turkey or don't have room in the refrigerator for thawing, you can submerge the turkey in cold water and change the water every 30 minutes. Allow about 30 minutes defrosting time per pound of turkey.

- **THAWING IN MICROWAVE:** Microwave thawing is safe if the turkey is not too large. Check the manufacturer's instructions for the size turkey that will fit into your oven, the minutes per pound, and the power level to use for thawing. Cook immediately after thawing.

### Preparation of the Turkey

Make sure you have all the ingredients and equipment you will need to prepare your holiday meal, including a roasting pan large enough to hold your turkey and a meat thermometer.

Wet and dry stuffing ingredients can be prepared ahead of time and refrigerated separately. If you choose to stuff your turkey, stuff loosely – about 3/4 cup of stuffing per pound of turkey. The stuffing should be moist, not dry, since heat destroys bacteria more rapidly in a moist environment. Place stuffed turkey in the oven immediately.


Use a meat thermometer to check the internal temperature of the turkey. When the temperature of the poultry (as measured in the thigh) has reached 180°F, the entire bird rest of the bird should be at a safe temperature of 165°F. Check the temperature in several locations, being sure to include the wing joint. All turkey meat, including any that re-

mains pink, is safe to eat as soon as all parts reach at least 165°F for a minimum of 15 seconds. The stuffing should also reach 165°F for 15 seconds. Stuffing temperature is easier to control if it is cooked in a separate dish outside the bird.

When the turkey is removed from the oven, let it stand 20 minutes before carving. This allows the meat to reabsorb some of the moisture lost during the cooking process.

### Safely Storing Leftovers

Cut the turkey into small pieces; refrigerate stuffing and turkey separately in shallow containers within 2 hours of cooking. Use leftover turkey and stuffing within 3 to 4 days; gravy within 1 to 2 days; or freeze these foods. Reheat thoroughly to a temperature of 165°F.


For additional food safety information you can call the Skokie Health Department at 847/933-8484 or the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 800/535-4555. 

## Microwave Oven Testing Available

Today's microwave ovens have been designed with safety in mind. When used properly, there is little risk of radiation, but radiation leakage is more likely in older models that have seen a lot of use.

The Skokie Health Department can perform a simple test to determine whether your microwave oven is leaking radiation above acceptable limits. The test is performed by the Health Department's sanitarians and takes only a few minutes. Residents whose ovens do not fall within the safety guidelines will be instructed to have the microwave checked by a qualified service technician before using it again.



To schedule an appointment, call the Health Department's Environmental Health division at 847/933-8484. 

**November 2008**

**Refuse, Recycling and Yard Waste Collection**



**Thanksgiving Week Schedule**

**Refuse**

*Monday and Tuesday collections are unchanged with an attempt to make the week's second collections on Wednesday, November 26. No collections on Thursday, November 27 or Friday, November 28.*

**Recycling**

*Monday, Tuesday and Friday collections are unchanged. Thursday collections will take place on Wednesday, November 26.*

*To find out which day your recycling is collected and what items are recyclable, please visit [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org).*

**Leaf Collection**

*Leaf collection occurs every five to seven working days and weather permitting continues through mid-December. Visit [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org) for details.*

**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.*

*\*Note: Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the Skokie Health Department will not hold any Wednesday evening clinics on November 26. The normal Wednesday evening clinics will resume beginning December 3.*

**Blood Pressure Screening**

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3-4:45 p.m., Wednesdays from 9-10:30 a.m. and 5-8 p.m. (\*except November 26)

**Diabetes Screening\***

Thursday, November 20 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

**Nutrition Clinic\***

Thursday, November 13 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Hearing Screening\***

Friday, November 21 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

**Nicotine Addiction Seminar**

Wednesday, November 19 from 7-9 p.m.

**Body Composition Analysis\***

Mondays from 2-4:30 p.m., Wednesdays from 5-8 p.m. (\*except November 26) and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. \$4 fee.

**Lead Screening\***

Wednesdays from 5-8 p.m. (\*except November 26) and Wednesday, November 5 from 2-4 p.m. \$20 fee.

**Lipid Profile Screening\***

(Total Cholesterol, HDL, Triglycerides, LDL, Cholesterol/HDL Ratio) Mondays and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and Wednesdays from 5-8 p.m. (\*except November 26) \$12 fee.

**Simple Cholesterol Screening**

(Total cholesterol screening only) Mondays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Wednesdays from 5-8 p.m. (\*except November 26) 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. (\*except November 26) and Wednesdays, November 12 and 26 from 1:30-4 p.m.

**Nutrition Lecture**

Thursday, November 13 at 2 p.m. Topic: "The Dynamic Duo: Habits and Exercise".

**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, November 11 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, November 3 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.

**FOCUS (For Optically Challenged Upbeat Sorts)**

A low vision support group that meets in the evenings. Please call Juanita at 847/933-8208 for more information.

**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, November 11 from 1:30-3 p.m.

**Hearing Loss Support Group**

Thursday, November 13 from 1:30-3 p.m.

**Womens' Discussion Group**

Wednesdays, November 12 and 26 from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

**Stamp Club**

Wednesdays, November 5 and 19 at 1:30 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, November 18 and 25 at 1:30 p.m.

**Bright Ideas ESL Class**

*Registration required.* Mondays and Thursdays from 9:15-11:15 a.m.

**Conversational German**

Thursdays, November 6 and 20 at 1:30 p.m.

**Medicare Supplement Claims Assistance/ Senior Health Insurance Program**

*Appointments are necessary.* Wednesday, November 12 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**Skokie Senior Mens' Group Discussion**

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

**News and Views Discussion**

Fridays, 10 a.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.

## Mens' Discussion Group

Fridays at 1:30 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 November 18, 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](http://www.SkokieParkDistrict.org).

## Cinderella Ball

Attendees of this parent/child dance should wear their 'finest' attire and every child will receive their own special invitation in the mail. Includes dancing, hors d'oeuvres, fun and a visit from Cinderella herself. Advanced registration is required. Ages 3+. Fee: \$24-30. Saturday, No-

vember 8 from 6-8 p.m. Oakton Community Center, 4701 Oakton Street.

## Teen Dance

Join DJ Rich Ungos on the second Friday of every month. **Teens from grades 6-9 must have a valid Teen Program ID to enter.** Fee: \$7-9. Friday, November 14 from 7-10 p.m. Weber Leisure Center, 9300 Weber Park Place.

## Into the Woods, Jr.

This children's stage play is an engaging and funny musical comedy that remakes familiar fairy tales into a brand new story. November 14-16, 21-23. Call 847/674-1500, ext. 2400 for showtimes and ticket information. Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood Street.

## Unique Birthday Parties

Celebrate family and children's birthdays. Call 847/674-1500 for more information.

## Skokie Public Library

For more details on library activities and events, please visit [www.skokieliibrary.info](http://www.skokieliibrary.info) or call 847/673-7774.

## Young Steinway Concert

Andrea Jarrett plays violin and Magnus Vilanueva plays piano. Sunday, November 2 at 3 p.m.

## Turning 65: What You Need to Know about Medicare and Medicaid

Learn the basics of Medicare services and other programs to help with costs. Tuesday, November 4 at 1 p.m.

## Books Between Cultures: How Stories Help Kids Find Their Balance

Author Mitali Perkins presents for parents and educators. Wednesday, November 5 at 7 p.m.

## Let's Visit India

Family program with stories, food and fun. Friday, November 7 at 7 pm.

## Using Craigslist to Buy, Sell, Rent and More

Wednesday, November 12 at 7 p.m.

## Scrabble Open Play

Join other word lovers for some lively Scrabble games. Thursday, November 13 at 1 p.m.

## Young Steinway Alumni Concert

Soyoung Kee, piano and Edward Moore, cello. Sunday, November 16 at 3 p.m.

## Senior Wii Club

Play some exciting Wii sports at the Library. Tuesday, November 18 at 1:30 p.m.

## Hip Hop and Jazz Dance by Urban Beat

Performance groups from Urban Beat Dance studio. Friday, November 21 at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m.

## Village Hall Closed

The Village of Skokie will be closed on Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

## Holiday Open House

Drop in for holiday music, a craft demonstration and light refreshments. Sunday, November 30 from 1-4 p.m.

## 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](http://www.northshorecenter.org)

## Defending the Caveman

Centre East Theatre November 11 at 5 and 8 p.m.

## Skokie Valley

Symphony Orchestra Centre East Theatre November 2 at 3 p.m.

## A Jew Grows in Brooklyn

Centre East Theatre November 5-9. Call for showtimes.

## Grey Gardens

Northlight Theatre November 12-16, 18-23, 25-26 and 28-30. Call for showtimes.


## Susie Essman

Centre East Theatre November 15 at 8 p.m.

## Ars Viva: Passion & Power

Centre East Theatre November 23 at 4:30 p.m. and November 24 at 7:30 p.m.

## Skokie Art Guild Members' Fall Exhibit

Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton Street. October 18 through November 22. 

## Turn Back Time

It's time to reset your alarm clock! Daylight Saving Time officially ends on November 2. Time will revert back to standard time at 2 a.m. that Sunday.

In addition to setting back your clocks, the Fire Department reminds residents to change the batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and in all emergency kit accessories.



The Village of Skokie  
www.skokie.org  
Council/Manager Government  
Since 1957

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Van Dusen



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**NewSkokie**

Village of Skokie  
5127 Oakton Street  
Skokie, IL 60077

## Immigrant Information Series

*Sponsored by the Village of Skokie and paid for  
by a grant from The Chicago Community Trust  
Immigrant Integration Initiative*

### November 3: Emergency Services: Protection, Prevention and Preparedness

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 for children ages 5 and up in the Youth Department.

*For more information on the Immigrant Information Series  
please see page four or email [info@skokie.org](mailto:info@skokie.org).*

### Feedback

The Village is pleased to respond to your questions and concerns.  
If you have a suggestion for the Village web site or for a future  
NewSkokie article, or have a question, return this form to the Vil-  
lage Hall or e-mail [info@skokie.org](mailto:info@skokie.org). Please provide your address  
for a direct response.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Forward inquiries to:  
Village Manager's Office, 5127 Oakton Street, Skokie, Illinois 60077

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### Village Departments

**Animal Control**  
847/933-8484

**Building/Housing/Zoning**  
847/933-8223

**Citizens Assistance**  
847/933-8480

**Civil Engineering**  
847/933-8231

**Clerk's Office**  
847/933-8203

**Community Development**  
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**Health Department**  
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*Personal Health*  
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**Human Services**  
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**Public Works**  
*Forestry*  
847/933-8427

*Refuse and Recycling*  
847/933-8427

*Signs and Street Lights*  
847/933-8232

*Streets and Alleys*  
847/933-8427

*Water and Sewer*  
847/933-8427

*Traffic Engineering*  
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