

# NewSkokie



August/September 2009


The award-winning municipal information source

## Skokie Health Department to Hold Flu Presentations

Do you know the difference between avian flu, pandemic flu, seasonal flu and novel influenza A (H1N1)? Better prepare yourself and your family for the flu season by attending one of three presentations by the Skokie Health Department. You will receive tips on how to protect yourself and your loved ones, as well as receive the most up-to-date information on the H1N1 flu.

The three free presentations will be from 7 to 8 p.m. on the following dates at the following locations:

- **Thursday, September 3, 2009 at Devonshire Park, Greenwood and Kostner Avenues.**
- **Wednesday, September 9, 2009 at the Skokie Public Library, Mary Radmacher Room, 5215 Oakton Street.**
- **Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at the Oakton Park Community Center, 4701 Oakton Street.**

For more information please visit [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org). 

## Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Approved

Despite the challenging economy and subsequent loss of revenue, the Village of Skokie's Fiscal Year 2010 (FY10) budget continues the Village's tradition of careful financial planning and excellent service provision. The Village's FY10 began on May 1, 2009 and ends on April 30, 2010.

### Operating Budget

The Village's operating budget is \$48,132,674 and represents a decrease of \$554,238 from the prior year. In preparing the budget, the Village conducted an extensive operations review, striving for cost savings and efficiencies. A hiring freeze was implemented, and frozen vacant positions were not included in the budget.

Despite these cost control measures, the Village's revenue sources will not be sufficient to fund the FY10 budget. The budget is \$769,822 more than projected revenues and the Village's fund balance, or reserve, is being utilized as intended for this short-term economic downturn. If negative economic conditions are sustained longer than the current fiscal year, then the fund balance may no longer be sufficient. This is the first calculated and controlled deficit spending budget in the Village's history. The previous fiscal budget that ended April 30, 2009 was a deficit; however, it was due to the economic downturn and reduced revenue.

### Revenue

Tax revenues from sources other than property taxes are projected to decrease 7.6% in FY10. Sales taxes, the Village's largest source of revenue, are projected to be \$21.9 million, a decline of \$2.3 million since the level prior to the recent national economic downturn. The Village has historically collected \$15.4 million annually in property taxes.


### Capital Improvements

The Village's FY10 budget also continues investing in infrastructure such as street and sidewalk repairs, etc. A number of capital projects are supplemented with federal, state and county funding.

*Continued on page two*

## Triennial Citizen Survey

In fall 2009, the Village will once again contract with National Research Center, Inc. (NRC), Boulder, Colorado, to develop and administer a professional citizen survey. Offered through the International City Management Association and the NRC, the survey program provides communities with a professional, affordable survey instrument to accurately assess residents' opinions about community programs, issues and services. The Village participated in the National Citizen Survey project in 2003 and 2006. Participating households are selected at random. If your household is selected please assist your community by responding.

For more information please contact the Village Manager's Office at 847/933-8257. 

### Save the Date for the Skokie Fire Department Open House

**Sunday, October 18, 2009  
1 to 4 p.m.  
Fire Station #17  
8157 Central Park Avenue**

*Learn more about this great event in the next edition of NewSkokie.*

## Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Approved

*Continued from page one*

Three highlights of the capital projects include:

- Street resurfacing and improvements continue as a priority with over \$1.7 million being allocated this year. Because of the reduced Motor Fuel Tax revenue from the state, the Village implemented a Local Fuel Tax that is used exclusively for the repair and maintenance of Village residential streets. The Local Fuel Tax enables the Village to resurface three times the amount of streets as would have been resurfaced without the tax. In addition, the Village has been instrumental in persuading the state to complete significant road improvements to state roadways throughout Skokie with a majority of the improvements utilizing federal economic stimulus funding. The state roadway improvements include: Dempster Street, Skokie Boulevard, Golf Road and Gross Point Road.
- The new Police Department Facility is under construction at 7300 Niles Center Road and is being constructed as a “green,” energy efficient structure capable of certification at the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) silver level or greater. In addition, the Village has received over \$1 million in federal funds for Police station construction.
- During the coming year the downtown Skokie Swift Station will be constructed.

Over \$14 million in federal funding has been awarded to the downtown Skokie Swift Station project.

### Pensions

The pension and retirement funds, inclusive of the Fire Pension, Police Pension, and Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF), total \$12.8 million. This is a \$345,738 increase or 2.8% over FY09. For the Fire and Police Pension Funds, the increase reflects annual increases required by law and projected additional retirements of Fire and Police personnel. IMRF increased as the result of the required Village contributions increasing.

The Village is conducting an actuarial valuation to assess the funding levels of the Fire and Police Pension Funds. It is likely that the public safety pensions will continue to be under-funded and this is due to a number of reasons, primarily the public safety pension enhancements approved by the Illinois legislature. The Illinois General Assembly determines the public safety pension benefit levels, and local government pays the benefits. Specifically, in 1999 the Fire Pension was 114.8% funded and in 2007 was 76.4% funded. The Police Pension was funded at 110.7% in 1999 and was 90.1% funded in 2007. Considering these funding levels were prior to the economic downturn, it is likely that additional funding will be required to achieve acceptable pension funding levels that the Village has traditionally maintained.

### Water Fund

The Village’s water and sewer operations and capital budgets total \$10.5 million. A water rate increase funds an increase in the cost of water and continued investment in the Village’s aging water system infrastructure. The average quarterly water bill of \$93.42 will increase to \$102.52 (or \$34.17 per month) which equates to an increase of \$3.03 per month. Even after consideration of the rate

adjustment, Skokie will continue to have the second lowest water rate among fifteen comparable area communities.

In summary, the FY10 budget continues the sound financial tradition that has been characteristic of the Village for years, despite the down economy. For more detailed information on the Village’s FY10 budget, please visit [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org).

## Third Annual Downtown Skokie Backlot Bash

The third 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 Friday, August 28 through Sunday, August 30, 2009. 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, Bingo, a 5K run, 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 and wine tent. Headlining the three-day event are Tributosaurus becomes Led Zeppelin, Cracker and The Dynamites featuring Charles Walker.

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

### Outdoor Sales: August 28 to 30, 2009

The Village Manager approved August 28 to 30, 2009 for Skokie businesses to conduct outdoor sales. Downtown Skokie businesses will display and sell their products on the sidewalk in front of their storefronts as part of the Backlot Bash. The event is Village-wide and many other Skokie businesses will be participating. Shopping in Skokie is an investment in your neighborhood and community. For more information, please visit the Village of Skokie at [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org); the Skokie Chamber of Commerce at [www.skokiechamber.org](http://www.skokiechamber.org); and the Chicago’s North Shore Convention and Visitor’s Bureau at [www.cnsccb.com](http://www.cnsccb.com).

## Stormwater Runoff Information

Heavy rains can challenge the Village's sewer systems. The Village has a comprehensive stormwater runoff control program designed to mitigate basement flooding and sewer backups. The following provides answers to common questions about the program:

### Why do my streets flood after a heavy rainfall?

**Answer:** Runoff control intentionally ponds water on Village streets. Without ponding, the water would flow into sewers at a greater rate than the sewers can handle. This can cause a surcharge into basements.

Water levels in the streets should abate within a few hours after a heavy storm. If the street is still flooded after this period, contact the Public Works Department at 847/933-8427. Public Works staff will check to see if a sewer inlet is clogged.

### Does this program eliminate seepage into my house?

**Answer:** No. The program is designed to mitigate problems with sewer backup into basements, not to address seepage problems. Seepage is clear stormwater that enters basements through cracks in the foundation or through window wells. A private licensed plumber, flood control contractor or water proofer can assist with seepage problems. Some of the things a contractor may suggest are waterproofing basement walls, installing new foundation drains, placing glass blocks in basement windows and sealing around window wells.

### Why do certain streets flood more than others?

**Answer:** The topography, sewers and other equipment are unique to each street. A topographic survey conducted by the Village showed that

each street's water holding capacity varies. The system of berms and detention areas is designed to work with each street's unique topography.

### Is the program a guaranteed solution to basement flooding?

**Answer:** The program has substantially decreased the number of sewer surcharges into homeowners' basements. Heavy rainstorms that exceed the design capacity of the storm water program (2.1 inches in one hour) may still cause problems for some homeowners.

If frequent sewer back ups are a problem, contact a private licensed plumbing company and review private flood control options. These options may include installation of overhead sewers or other types of stormwater control. Before selecting a contractor carefully check references. In addition, remember that a permit and inspections are required by the Village.



**Shown above:** Gabion Pond on Oakton Street in Downtown Skokie. Depressed landscaped areas like Gabion Pond are used to detain stormwater runoff during heavy rainstorms. The ponds fill with excess water and drain into the combined sewer system at a rate that reduces the chance of sewer surcharge.

### Helpful Hints:

- Disconnect downspouts from the sewer system.
- Never dump anything into the street sewers!
- Regularly clear curbside gutters of leaves, paper and other debris.
- Have private house drains and catch basins cleaned regularly by a licensed plumber.
- Regularly service and maintain private stormwater control devices.

Visit [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org) for detailed information on the stormwater runoff control program. ∞

## Skokie Farmers' Market

Skokie's "Best on the North Shore" Farmers' Market, celebrating over 30 years of operation, presents farmers and vendors from five Midwestern states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan and Wisconsin. The Skokie Farmers' Market is open from 7:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. beginning the last Sunday in June through the last Sunday in October. For the best selection, arrive when the market opens. The market is located near Village Green between the Skokie Public Library and Skokie Village Hall.

For questions about the Farmers' Market, please contact Market Master Terry Oline at 847/933-8223 or visit [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org).



## 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 with openings include:

- Beautification and Improvement Commission
- Board of Health
- Cable Television Advisory Commission
- Consumer Affairs Commission
- Fine Arts Commission
- Human Relations Commission
- Traffic Safety Commission

*For more 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.* ∞

## Forestry Corner

### 50/50 Cost Share Planting

Did you know that the right tree in the right place can increase property values and add curb appeal? Skokie's Foresters can help you evaluate your parkway to see if there is room for a tree and provide a list of appropriate species for your location. The average property owner investment of a cost share tree is about \$150. For the best tree selection, please submit your request by October 1, 2009. For more information on 50/50 Cost Share Tree Planting Program, please call the Forestry Division at 847/933-8427 or visit [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org).

### New Tree Watering

The biggest reason why new trees die is watering issues. If you have a new parkway tree, please water it when it gets dry. Simply place a hose at the base of the tree and let it trickle slowly for about one hour, one to two times a week. If a hose does not reach, a good method is to drill several small holes in a 5 gallon bucket, fill the bucket with water, and place it over the root ball until it drains, then repeat on the opposite side of the root ball. Tree watering bags serve the same purpose and are available for purchase at the local hardware store. Please don't leave the watering hose on too long or water during periods of high rainfall, as this can kill the tree. ∞

## Next Session of the Citizens Fire Academy Begins in September

The Skokie Fire Department will host the next session of the Citizens Fire Academy beginning on Wednesday, September 2, 2009 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Skokie Fire Station 17, 8157 Central Park Avenue. The Academy is a 10-week program for residents and employees of the Village of Skokie and is designed to provide participants with a working and hands-on knowledge of the fire department. Through education, demonstration and participation, Academy students will gain knowledge about fire service and what the Skokie Fire Department does every day.



Applications are available online at [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org) or at the Fire Department Headquarters, 7424 Niles Center Road. For more information, please contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at 847/982-5344. ∞

## September 11 Remembrance

On Friday, September 11, 2009, the Village of Skokie Fire Department will dedicate a moment of silence with a bell ceremony beginning at 8:58 a.m. at the flagpole of each of its Fire Stations. At 8:59 a.m. a "last alarm" bell ceremony will take place followed by a minute of silence at 9 a.m. The public is invited to attend.

Station locations include:

- Fire Station 16: (Headquarters) 7424 Niles Center Road.
- Fire Station 17: 8157 Central Park Avenue.
- Fire Station 18: 9024 Gross Point Road.

*For more information, please contact the Skokie Fire Department at 847/933-5320.* ∞



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 3, 17

September 8\* and 21 (\*Tuesday due to Labor Day Holiday)

### **Plan Commission:**

August 6, 20

September 3, 17

### **Appearance Commission:**

August 12

September 9

### **Zoning Board of Appeals:**

August 5, 19

September 2, 16



## Village Board Action

The Village Board approved an amendment to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Action Plan. Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, also referred to as the Stimulus Plan, the Village of Skokie is eligible to receive \$132,863 in additional CDBG funding. The new funds required an Amendment to the 2008 Action Plan. The additional funds will be used for a streetscape project for Lamont Avenue between Oakton Street and Mulford Street.

The Village Board approved an Interior Rehab Program Grant in the amount of \$50,000 for 4949 Oakton Street. The grant is part of the Downtown Incentives Program created to attract more retail and restaurant business to Downtown Skokie. The owner and tenant of the property at 4949 Oakton Street applied for financial assistance to open a new restaurant, Baba's Market and Café. The location is at the southwest corner of Oakton Street and Niles Avenue. *To learn more about the Downtown Incentives Program, please visit [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org).*

The Village Board approved the Fiscal Year 2010 budget. The Board also reviewed other funds including: water, pension, economic development, motor fuel and local fuel tax, self-insurance, general obligation bonded debt, tax increment financing, federal aid, performing arts center, convention and visitors bureau and capital improvement programs.

The Village Board authorized the use of Blair & Company as financial advisor/underwriter for the bond issue for the new police station. The Village Board also authorized the Village's Corporation Counsel to work with Chapman and Cutler as bond counsel. A financial advisor, bond counsel and bond rating review are necessary in order to issue the General Obligation debt. A \$25,000,000 20-year bond issue for the Police Station is proposed and the revenue source for the principal and interest for this debt is the increase in the Telecommunications Tax which was approved by the Village Board in 2008. *To learn more about the new police station, please visit [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org).*

The Village Board approved a resolution authorizing the Village Manager to apply for and receive Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant funds. These grants are made available by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, also known as the stimulus bill. Through a population-based formula the U.S. DOE has allocated \$654,200 to the Village of Skokie, to fund various energy efficiency and improvement projects.

## Skokie Holiday Giving Program

For 15 years the Skokie Office of Human Services has coordinated a holiday giving program designed to assist Skokie families with limited financial resources that might not otherwise be able to celebrate winter holidays with their children. 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. For further information or to make a donation please contact the Skokie Human Services Division at 847/933-8208. Those interested in making a donation are asked to do so by December 11, 2009.





# Village of Skokie

*In 1957 Skokie residents voted overwhelmingly to adopt the council-manager form of municipal government that remains in effect today. A council-manager government system combines the strong political and policy making leadership of elected officials, such as the Mayor and Board of Trustees, with the strong managerial experience of an appointed Village Manager. Skokie's elected officials include the Mayor,*

## **Mayor George Van Dusen**

George Van Dusen has lived in Skokie with his wife Susan and their two children for nearly 35 years. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Detroit and both a Master of Arts and a Ph.D. from Loyola University. He served as a Trustee in the Village of Skokie from 1984 until he was appointed Mayor in January 1999. While a Trustee, he served as the Village's delegate to the Northwest Municipal Conference (NWMC) and, in 2007, served as NWMC President. He is currently Chairman of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County. Mayor Van Dusen was the Director of Suburban Operations for U. S. Congressman Sidney Yates from 1973 until the Congressman's retirement in 1999. He is an adjunct faculty member of Oakton Community College teaching U.S. History and Government. Mayor Van Dusen is an active member of Temple Judea Mizpah, having served as a member of the Board and as Secretary. His grandson Anthony attends grammar school in Skokie.

## **Village Clerk Marlene Williams**

Marlene Williams has served as Village Clerk since 1981. She has been a Skokie resident for over 40 years. Ms. Williams was honored in October 1996 as the Clerk of the Year by the Municipal Clerks of Illinois and recognized by the Village of Skokie with a Proclamation declaring November 5, 1996, as "Marlene Williams Day" in the Village. The Life newspaper honored her in 1974 as the Woman of the Year. She also is a Ten Plus Gallon blood donor. Ms. Williams currently serves as Membership Chairman of the Municipal Clerks of Illinois, is a past President of the Municipal Clerks of North and Northwest Cook County and past Chairman of Municipal Clerks of Illinois Institute Training Committee (appointed by the governor). In 1998, Ms. Williams received the Quill Award honoring her as member of the year from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. She is a past President of School District 73.5, past President of the Skokie Valley Kiwanis Club and a current Board Member, a member of the NorthShore University HealthSystem Women's Board, a charter member of the Athenian Leadership Society. Ms. Williams has two children, three grandchildren and a great granddaughter.

## **Michele Bromberg**

Michele Bromberg was elected to the Village Board in 2001 and is the liaison to the Advisory Commissions on Disabilities and Human Services. She received a B.S. in Nursing from Loyola University Niehoff School of Nursing in Chicago and holds a Master of Science



**Shown above, clockwise:** Trustees Michael Lorge, Michele Bromberg, Edie Sue Sutker, Donald Perille, Pramod Shah, Randall Roberts, Mayor George Van Dusen and Clerk Marlene Williams.

in Nursing from Rush University. Ms. Bromberg currently is the Nursing Coordinator for the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation and the Chairperson of the Advisory Board – Illinois Center for Nursing. Previously, Ms. Bromberg was a Clinical Instructor at Loyola University and North Park University. She is a founding member and past president of Hadassah Nurses Council of Chicago and is a member of Sigma Theta Tau National Honor Society of Nurses. Ms. Bromberg belongs to the PTA, assists with Boy Scout activities and is a member of Or Torah Congregation. She has lived in Skokie with her husband Leo since 1993 and is the mother to five children and grandmother to twin girls and a boy.

## **Michael Lorge**

Michael Lorge was elected to the Village Board in 2009. He was born in Chicago and has practiced law since 1978. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors from the University of Illinois and was designated as a James Scholar. He received his Juris Doctor from the University of Cincinnati in 1973. Mr. Lorge currently is a partner in the Chicago Law Firm of Bronson & Kahn, LLC. Earlier in his career, Mr. Lorge served as a prosecutor in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. Mr. Lorge also has been published in magazine articles and authored a book released in 2006 by the University of Alabama Press. Active in numerous governmental committees

# Elected Officials

August/September 2009

***Village Clerk and Board of Trustees. They are leaders and policy makers elected to represent the community and to concentrate on policy issues. In Skokie, six Trustees serve on an at-large basis and represent the entire community. The Village Manager is appointed by the Mayor and Board of Trustees to carry out policy and programming decisions.***

and civic organizations, Mr. Lorge has served on Skokie's Cable Commission and Plan Commission, served as legal counsel to the Skokie Human Relations Commission and administered the Niles Township Government Legal Services for Seniors program. Before joining the Skokie Village Board, Mr. Lorge served as Niles Township Trustee from 2007-2009. He is past president of Temple Beth Israel in Skokie and serves on the national board of the Union for Reform Judaism and Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute. He is the founder and chair of the Greater Chicago Jewish Festival, the largest cultural event in the Chicago Jewish community. Mr. Lorge resides in Skokie with his wife Susie, a kindergarten teacher, and their four children Alyssa and Howard Dryver, Ilana, Ariel and Sari Ruth.

## **Donald P. Perille**

Donald Perille moved to Skokie in 1959. He has six children and 10 grandchildren. Mr. Perille earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing at the University of Illinois, Champaign, and worked in private sector management for many years. Before retirement he was the Director of Purchasing of the Circuit Court of Cook County. He has been a Village Trustee since 1989 and is the liaison to the Human Relations and Plan Commissions. He also serves on the Skokie Committee on Downtown Development. Mr. Perille was appointed to the Village's Plan Commission in 1961, serving as the Commission's Chairman for 25 years. He also served on the Mayor's Task Force on Housing, the Central Business District Task Force and was Chairman of the Human Relations Commission. Mr. Perille is active in the Skokie Chamber of Commerce. He served on the Board, Executive Committee and several other standing committees of the NorthShore University HealthSystem. He belongs to St. Peter Catholic Parish and has served on numerous committees including the Long Range Planning Committee and, for 14 years, on the St. Peter Elementary School Board.

## **Randall Roberts**

Randall Roberts was elected Village Trustee in April 2001 and is Skokie's delegate on the executive board of the Northwest Municipal Conference. He has been a practicing attorney for 28 years, earning undergraduate and law degrees from Loyola University, Chicago. Mr. Roberts is a member of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office executive staff, serving as the Director of Continuing Legal Education and technology project coordinator. Previously, he supervised the prosecution of juvenile delinquency cases, including cases involving Skokie youth. During his tenure in the State's Attorney's Office, Roberts has also held other supervisory positions and has prosecuted hundreds of adult criminal cases in courtrooms throughout Cook County. Mr. Roberts is a former member of Skokie's Youth at Risk Task Force; a past chairperson of the Chicago

Bar Association's Juvenile Law Committee and enjoys speaking at public forums about the criminal and juvenile justice system. He is a member of St. Nicholas Catholic Church where for the past 20 years he has served on the fund-raising and other parish committees. Mr. Roberts is a member of the Skokie Lion's Club and a supporter and volunteer for District 219 and District 73½ schools, Maryville Academy and Misericordia Home. He and his wife, Margy, have lived in Skokie for 22 years and are parents of three young adults, Elizabeth, Kevin and Sarah.

## **Pramod Shah**

Pramod Shah was elected to the Village Board in 2009. He holds a Master's degree in Chemistry from Gujarat University and attended the Indiana Northern School of Management. Mr. Shah is a Manager for Cyberbridge International, a Skokie-based software and information technology consulting company. He has a long-standing relationship with the local Indian community, is the Executive Director and the past President of the Indo-American Democratic Organization and a current member of the Jain Society of Metropolitan Chicago. Mr. Shah also was Vice Chair for the Skokie Caucus Party and a Gandhi Memorial Trust board member. Prior to becoming a Village Board member, Mr. Shah was appointed Niles Township Collector in 1999. In 2001 he was elected to that position, and in April 2005, he was elected as a Niles Township Trustee. Born in Gujarat, India, Mr. Shah moved to the United States in 1971 and has lived in Skokie for more than 30 years with his wife, Usha and two sons. Both sons attended school in Skokie School Districts 68 and 219.

## **Edie Sue Sutker**

Edie Sue Sutker is a life-long Skokie resident and was appointed to the Village Board in 2004, having served for nearly 10 years on the Skokie Plan Commission. She serves as the liaison to the Consumer Affairs and Cable Television Advisory Commissions and served as Vice-Chairperson of the Skokie Committee on Downtown Development. Ms. Sutker has a master's degree in social work from Loyola University, Chicago and a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Illinois, Champaign. Ms. Sutker is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker for Jewish Child and Family Services in Northbrook. Before her social work career, she was in the investment business for 14 years and earned her Series 7 and Series 63 licenses. In addition, she was the Executive Director of the VisionTek Foundation, which raised more than \$650,000 to fight cancer and leukemia. She is a life member of NA'AMAT USA and Hadassah, a member of the National Association of Social Workers and also a member of the Ezra-Habonim Niles Township Jewish Congregation. She enjoys race walking, biking, swimming, weight lifting and spending time with her family.

## 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.

### August 3 - Table Games and Skokie Police K9 Unit Demonstration

Bring a table of friends together to enjoy an afternoon playing table games. The Skokie Police Department also will be present to demonstrate how their dogs help in solving crimes. Ice cream treats will be served and everyone is invited.

### August 10 - Video, "Rhapsody in Blue"

Watch "Rhapsody in Blue" which features the life of George Gershwin.

### August 17 - BINGO

Join the Human Services Division for a fun afternoon of BINGO. There is no charge for this event.

### August 24 - Book Review

The Skokie Public Library will lead a book review on "Devil in the White City" by Erik Larson.

### August 31 - Silver Singers

Join Miriam Strauss for a fun-filled afternoon of music.

### September 7 - Office Closed in Observance of the Labor Day Holiday

### September 14 - Health Cooking Demonstration

Note: Program begins at 1 p.m. Charlotte from Alliance Home Health Care will cook healthy crepes.

### September 21 - Lyric Opera

The Lyric Opera will present the opera music from Tosca.

### September 28 - Silver Singers

Join Miriam Strauss for a fun-filled afternoon of music. ☞

## 2008 Block Party Award Winners

The following blocks were award winners of the 2008 Block Party of the Year award winners:

- 5300 Suffield Terrace
- 5100 Block of Harvard Terrace
- 8400 Block of Ridgeway
- 5100 Block of Morse Avenue
- Kirk and East Prairie

Award winners were recognized at the April 6, 2009 Village Board meeting. To learn more about block parties, please see the article on this page. ☞

## Host a Block Party and Get to Know Your Neighbors

Hosting a block party is a great way to become involved in the community and get to know your neighbors. Block parties can be held at any time of the year. According to the Skokie Human Relations Commission, the best time to hold a block party is on a weekend afternoon during the summer and early fall months.

The Skokie Human Relations Commission offers these ideas to help you plan your block party:

- **Don't try to do it alone.** Involve as many of your neighbors as possible in a planning meeting.
- **Make one household the coordinating center for the party.**
- **Delegate responsibilities to specific individuals.** This can include: securing the block party permit, creating invitations, arranging for food or a potluck, purchasing supplies and decorations, planning activities for adults and children and designating a clean-up crew.

When a date is scheduled for the block party, you'll need to complete and submit a Block Party Permit to the Skokie Engineering Division. The Engineering Division located at Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street, is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Permits also are available on the Village's website at [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org). There is no charge for the permit, but the application must be submitted to the Village of Skokie at least three weeks prior to the party.

For more information, please visit [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org) or call 847/933-8208. ☞

To obtain a Block Party Permit, visit [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org) or contact the Engineering Division at 847/933-8232.

Applications must be submitted at least three weeks prior to the party.

## Stay Informed about Construction Projects in Skokie

The Village of Skokie proudly extends many ways to communicate to Village residents. Check out the many ways residents can learn about what's going on in Skokie:

Visit the Village online at [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org)  
Subscribe to **SkokieNews**  
Read **NewSkokie**

## West Nile Virus Season

The Skokie Health Department staff works diligently each summer to monitor mosquito activity in the Village and to eliminate potential mosquito breeding sites. By doing so, this lowers the risk of West Nile Virus (WNV). Prevention is the key to minimize the risk of acquiring West Nile Virus (WNV).

### Reduce your risk of mosquito bites by:


- Staying indoors at dawn, dusk, and early evening.
- Wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants whenever you are outdoors.
- Spraying your clothing with repellents. Apply insect repellent sparingly to exposed skin. The most effective repellents usually contain DEET.

### Property owners can eliminate mosquito breeding by:

- Removing standing water where mosquitoes can breed.
- Cleaning and maintaining any catch basins that may be on the property. The North Shore Mosquito Abatement District will treat catch basins for mosquito larvae. For details, please call 847/446-9434.

- Changing the water in bird-baths and plant pots at least once a week.
- Emptying plastic pools at the end of each day, and store indoors.
- Keeping grass and shrubbery cut short. Adult mosquitoes accumulate in shady cool areas.
- Keeping gutters clean and free-flowing. Eliminate dips and low areas that collect water and do not let water stand on flat roofs.

If you find a dead bird it is important to contact the Skokie Health Department to collect the bird for testing. Historically, some birds have tested positive for WNV, and results from testing help to determine the extent of WNV activity. To report a dead bird, please call 847/933-8484.

For more information on WNV or 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. 

## Dog Bites

Recently the Village Code sections pertaining to animal bites were strengthened. The amendments to the ordinance apply to unprovoked situations where dogs behave in a threatening manner or cause physical harm (to either a person or another animal). Fines have been increased to a minimum of \$200 for the first offense and the dog will be required to attend obedience training, \$300 for the second offense, and \$750 for the third offense. On the third offense or after, the animal may be ordered to be humanely euthanized or removed from the Village of Skokie.

## Annual Flu Shot Clinics

The Skokie Health Department will offer flu shots to Skokie residents beginning in September. Please note that these clinics will be administering the traditional trivalent (annual) flu vaccine for this year, not vaccine to prevent infection with the novel influenza A H1N1 (Swine Flu) virus. Depending upon the severity of disease in the community and vaccine availability, there may be separate vaccination clinics for novel H1N1 later in the fall.

*2009 Flu Clinics will take place on the following dates at the Oakton Community Center, 4701 Oakton Street:*

- **Wednesday, September 30 from 1 to 5 p.m.**
- **Tuesday, October 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**
- **Tuesday, October 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**
- **Monday, October 19 from 3 to 7 p.m.**

*These clinic dates and times are subject to change based on vaccine availability.*

*The Oakton Community Center is accessible to people with disabilities and also is accessible by CTA buses #97 and #54A.*


Any resident age 50 or older is eligible to obtain a flu shot with no out of pocket expense. Residents under the age of 50 are also eligible to receive a flu shot if they have been diagnosed with a chronic illness and have a note from their physician. This note must state the person's chronic illness and that a flu shot is medically indicated. Proof of residency is required. This includes a valid driver's license, state I.D., voter's registration, current utility bill, or current lease or property deed.

Residents covered by Medicare Part B are asked to bring their card with them to the clinic. This is necessary for the Health Department to receive reimbursement from Medicare.

*For more information, contact the Skokie Health Department at 847/933-8252 or the Village's web site at [www.skokie.org/health](http://www.skokie.org/health).*



A key issue to note is obedience training and/or a fine will not be required if the person who was bitten or witnessed the attack is not willing to sign a citation against the dog. Skokie's Animal Control Officers rarely witness a bite and cannot issue a citation under those circumstances unless the individual signs the citation.

*For more information or to report a dangerous animal, contact the Skokie Health Department at 847/933-8252. *

# August / September 2009

## Refuse, Recycling and Yard Waste Collection Schedule

### Labor Day Holiday Schedules:

#### Refuse Collection

Monday collection on Tuesday, Tuesday collection on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday collections unchanged.

#### Recycling Collection

Monday collection on Tuesday, Tuesday collection on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday collections unchanged.

#### Yard Waste Collection

Thursday, September 10, for pre-scheduled requests residing north of Greenleaf Street. Friday, September 11, for pre-scheduled requests residing south of Greenleaf Street. Residents may schedule a collection for Thursday, September 10 or Friday, September 11, by Tuesday, September 8, 2009. To do so, visit [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org) or call 847/933-3333.



### 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

Skokie Community Drive. Wednesday, August 12 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 Wednesdays, August 5, 19 and September 2, 16 from 5-7 p.m.

#### Body Composition Analysis\*

Mondays from 2-4:30 p.m., Thursdays from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and Wednesdays, August 5, 19 and September 2, 16 from 5-7 p.m. \$6 fee.

#### Cholesterol Screening Programs

Simple Cholesterol Screening (total cholesterol reading only) Mondays 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Thursday, 1-4 p.m. and Wednesdays, August 5, 19 and September 2, 16 from 5-7 p.m. \$6 fee.

#### Lipid Profile Screening\* (total cholesterol, LDL, cholesterol/HDL ratio)

Monday and Thursdays 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and Wednesdays, August 5, 19 and September 2, 16 from 5-7 p.m. \$15 fee.

#### Diabetes Screening\*

Thursdays, August 20 and September 24 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. \$5 fee.

#### Flu Clinics

Please see page nine for details.

#### Hearing Screening\*

Fridays, August 21 and September 25 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

#### Immunization Clinics\*

Immunizations are available for only a \$5 per person clinic visit fee. Appointments are required. Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Wednesdays, August 5, 19 and September 2, 16 from 5-7 p.m. and Wednesdays, August 12, 26 and September 9, 23 from 1:30-4 p.m.

#### Lead Screening\*

Wednesdays, August 5 and September 2 from 2-4 p.m. and Wednesdays, August 5, 19 and September 2, 16 from 5-7 p.m. \$25 fee.

#### Nicotine Addiction Seminar\*

Wednesdays, August 26 and September 30 at 7 p.m.

#### TB Skin Testing\*

Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and Tuesdays from 1-4:45 p.m. \$5 fee.

#### Well Child Clinic\*

Tuesdays, August 11 and September 15 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.

#### Bright Ideas ESL Class

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

#### Chess

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

#### Conversational German

Thursdays, August 6, 20 and September 3, 17 at 1:30 p.m.

#### Conversational Yiddish

No fee or registration required. Everyone is welcome. Tuesdays, August 18, 25 and September 15, 22, 29 at 1:30 p.m.

#### FOCUS (For Optically Challenged Upeat Sorts)

Wednesdays, August 12 and September 9 from 7-8:30 p.m. Please call Juanita at 847/933-8208 for more information.

#### Hearing Loss Support Group

Thursdays, August 13 and September 10 from 1:30-3 p.m.

#### Illinois Cares RX and RX Plus

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

#### Low Vision Support Group

Tuesdays, August 11 and September 8 from 1:30-3 p.m.

### Monday Group

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

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

Appointments are necessary. Tuesdays, August 11 and September 8 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

### Mens' Discussion Group

Fridays at 1:30 p.m.

### Needlework

Socialization and needlework. Tuesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

### News and Views Discussion

Fridays, 10 a.m.

### Quigong

Wednesday, September 16 from 3:30-4 p.m. Call 847/933-8208 for program details.

### Rules of the Road

Review for driver's exam. Mondays, August 3 and September 14 from 9:15 a.m.-12 p.m.

### Silver Singers

For details, please call 847/933-8208 or see page eight.

### Skokie Senior Mens' Group Discussion

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

### Simple Will/Durable Power of Attorney/ Living Will Program

Program for low-income seniors who meet requirements. Fee charged by attorney. Call 847/933-8208 for program details and registration information.

Continued on page 11

**The Village of Skokie will be closed on Monday, September 7, 2009 in observance of the Labor Day Holiday.**

*Continued from page 10*

**Stamp Club**

Wednesdays, August 5, 19 and September 2 and 16 at 1:30 p.m.

**U.S. Citizenship Class**

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

**Woodcarving**

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

**Womens' Discussion Group**

Wednesdays, August 12, 26 and September 9, 23 from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

**CPR Schedule**

Please call the Skokie Fire Department at 847/982-5340 for August 18 and September 15 program information. **Residents:** \$15 refundable fee. **Non-residents:** \$20 non-refundable fee.

**North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie**

*Located at 9501 Skokie Blvd. For 2009 performance dates and information please call the box office at 847/673-6300 or visit [www.northshore-center.org](http://www.northshore-center.org)*

**daCorneto Opera presents August Gounod's Faust**

*Centre East Theatre*  
In French with English supertitles. Friday, August 14 at 7:30 p.m.

**Body, Mind, Spirit Expo**

Saturday-Sunday, August 22-23

**The Marvelous Wonderettes**

*Centre East Theatre.*  
September 17-October 25. Call for showtimes.

**Marshall Crenshaw**

*Centre East Theatre*  
Friday, September 25 at 8 p.m.

**Natya Dance Theatre**

*Centre East Theatre*  
Saturday, September 26 at 8 p.m.

**Skokie Park District**

*For more information on Park District programs, call 847/674-1500 or visit [www.SkokieParkDistrict.org](http://www.SkokieParkDistrict.org).*

**Concert: Best of Devonshire**

August 2 at 7 p.m.  
Devonshire Park, 4400 Greenwood Street.

**Kids' Concert: Rick Kelley**

August 5 at 7 p.m.  
Laramie Park, Sherwin Avenue and Niles Center Road.

**Sun-dae Picnic at the Pool**

August 9 from 12-4 p.m.  
Devonshire Aquatic Center, 4334 Greenwood Street.

**Concert: 8 Miles South**

August 9 at 7 p.m.  
Devonshire Park, 4400 Greenwood Street.

**Kids' Concert: Sandi Sylver**

August 12 at 7 p.m.  
Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood Avenue.

**Two-Person Best Ball Golf Tourney**

August 16 from 7:15-10 a.m.  
Weber Park Golf Course, 9300 Weber Park Place.

**Concert: Underwater People**

August 16 at 7 p.m.  
Devonshire Park, 4400 Greenwood Street.

**Skokie Park District Program Registration**

Begins August 15 for residents and August 22 for non-residents.

**Ice Skating Registration**

Resident registration begins August 24, non-resident registration begins August 26.

**Backlot Dash 5K Run/Walk & Kid's Run**

August 29 at 9:30 a.m.  
Village Green, 5215 Oakton Street.

**Nature Photo Contest Deadline**

September 6. Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel Street.

**Weber Park Golf Open**

September 13 from 7:15-10 a.m.  
Weber Park Golf Course, 9300 Weber Park Place.

**Footloose Youth Auditions**

September 8-13 at Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood Avenue.

**Theatre Closet Sale**

September 19 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood Avenue.

**Back-to-School Dance Party (Grades 4 & 5)**

September 25 from 7-9 p.m. Pre-register by September 22 for \$7 or register at the door for \$8.  
Oakton Community Center, 4701 Oakton Street.

**Skokie Public Library**

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

**World Arts Performance: Natya Dance Theatre**

Sunday, August 2 at 3 p.m.

**Search Engine Optimization**

Tuesday, August 4 at 7 p.m.

**Outdoor Performance: Chicago Boyz Acrobats**

Wednesday, August 5 at 7 p.m.

**Google: The Basics & Beyond**

Thursday, August 6 at 7 p.m.

**Concert: Trio Voce**

Sunday, August 9 at 3 p.m.

**For What It's Worth: Antique Appraisals**

Monday, August 10 at 6:30 p.m.

**Social Networking for Book Lovers**

Tuesday, August 11 at 7 p.m.

**Wii Bowling Tournament**

Wednesday, August 12 at 1 p.m.

**Practice the ACT, SAT, PSAT, and AP Exams**

Wednesday, August 12 at 7 p.m.

**World Arts Performance: Lamajamal**

Sunday, August 16 at 3 p.m.

**Using Google Docs**

Monday, August 17 at 7 p.m.

**Outdoor Event: Dancing Under the Stars**

Tuesday, August 18 at 6:30 p.m.

**Fun with Flickr**

Wednesday, August 19 at 7 p.m.

**Seven Modern Wonders of the World**

Wednesday, August 26 at 7 p.m.

**The Stormchaser @ the Backlot Bash**

Saturday, August 29 at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

**Preschool Picnic with Tricia Sebastian**

Thursday, September 3 at 12 p.m.

**Movers and Shakers: The People Who Made Chicago**

Thursday, September 10 at 7 p.m.

**Music Lessons are for Adults, Too!**

Saturday, September 12 at 1 p.m.

**Lyric Opera Lecture: Tosca**

Sunday, September 13 at 2 p.m.

**World Arts Performance: VOX3**

Sunday, September 13 at 3 p.m.

**World Arts Performance: Santour Virtuoso Kiu Haghighi**

Sunday, September 20 at 3 p.m.

**How to Get Published**

Thursday, September 24 at 7 p.m.

**World Arts Performance: Laura Fuentes y Calicanto**

Sunday, September 27 at 3 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*\*  
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**Assistant Editor/Layout**  
Natalie M.K. Marquez

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## Skokie Offers Online Payment Options

The Village has a new, convenient online payment program for:

- Vehicle License Renewals ONLY through August 31, 2009.
- Water bills
- Parking tickets and other non-moving violations
- Miscellaneous invoices



Payment may be made online using American Express, Mastercard, Discover, Visa credit and debit cards. The Village does not charge a fee for this service. To make a payment or learn more about online payments and Automatic Bank Payment, please visit [www.skokie.org](http://www.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 Village 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

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