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June/July 2009

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July 4th Celebration 2009

Celebrate the birthday of the United States of America with the 26th annual Skokie 4th of July Parade beginning at noon on Saturday, July 4th on Oakton Street in Downtown Skokie. The parade takes place rain or shine.

The 4th of July Parade Committee, led by Fern Katz, has worked for months to bring top-rated bands to march in the community. Music and entertainment includes:

- A-OK Klowns
- Band of the Black Watch
- Blue Stars Drum and Bugle Corps
- Champlin Park High School Marching Band
- Chicago Celtic Pipes and Drums
- Chicago Light Artillery, Battery A
- Genie's and Their Flying Carpets
- Glassmen Drum and Bugle Corps
- Jazz Steppers
- Jesse White Tumbling Team
- Lincoln Way High School Marching Band
- Medinah Aviators
- Medinah Big Wheels
- Medinah Clown Unit
- Medinah Fire Unit
- Medinah Fire Unit "Sea and Rescue Division"



- Medinah Oriental Band
- Medinah Mini Choppers
- Medinah Motor Corps
- Model "A" Restorers Club
- Rambler Recreation Band
- Renacer Boliviano Folkloric Dance Troupe
- Roosevelt High School Marching Band
- Spirit Drum and Bugle Corps
- South Shore Drill Team
- Those Funny Little People
- Uncle Sam on Stilts
- Wood Dale Stars
- 1st. Michigan Engineers and Mechanics Co. E
- And much more!

Bring a lawn chair and picnic lunch and join the crowds lining Oakton Street and Lincoln Avenue to view the parade. Please see page two for a parade route map.

Continued on page two

Vehicle Stickers On Sale Beginning June 1

New for 2009 - residents may renew vehicle licenses online at www.skokie.org.

All vehicles registered with the State of Illinois to a Village of Skokie address must display a valid Village vehicle sticker. Vehicle stickers must be displayed on automobile windshields by August 31. Passenger vehicle stickers purchased prior to August 31 of each year cost \$20. After that date, the cost increases to \$30 per sticker.

Beginning June 1, passenger vehicle stickers will be on sale at Village Hall, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Vehicle sticker renewals only may be made online 24 hours a day/seven days per week at www.skokie.org.

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

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



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Local Motor Fuel Tax

The Village Board recently approved a local motor fuel tax of \$.03 per gallon to provide funds for additional street resurfacing projects in Skokie. The tax is effective June 1, 2009.

Skokie receives Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) funds from the state each year on a per-capita basis. Since 1990, the state has fixed this amount at \$.19 per gallon. MFT revenues are declining as motorists purchase more energy-efficient vehicles and otherwise reduce fuel consumption. Due to the fixed MFT amount, and the decline in fuel consumption, it is projected that Skokie will incur a more than 8% reduction in MFT funds during the current fiscal year, following a 3% decline in MFT revenues last year. While there might be an increase in the state MFT in the near future, none of the increased revenues are expected to be passed through to municipalities.

Despite the decline in MFT funds, costs for road repairs continue to escalate: asphalt costs have increased 163% since 1990 and electricity for street lights has increased nearly 18% since 2006. Most notably, the purchase of road salt used in winter weather conditions increased from \$26 per ton in 2002 to \$121 per ton in 2008. Purchasing road salt for the 2009/10 winter season alone will require \$631,000 in MFT funds.

Downtown Improvement Incentives

In recognition of the public desire to improve and redevelop Downtown Skokie, the Village has designed a special package of business retention and attraction incentives. These incentives are particularly intended to help increase retail and restaurant establishments in the Downtown.

The Downtown Incentives Program includes an interior rehab component, limited to ground floor retail and restaurants, using the same \$50,000 limitation as the façade program. Expenditures under this program are limited to fixed capital improvements. These can include building materials, fixtures, heating/air conditioning units, major kitchen equipment, electrical,

plumbing and the labor costs to permanently install such items. There also are financial benefits for design assistance, real estate brokers' bonuses and reduced parking requirements for retail and restaurant uses. All components of the Downtown Incentives Program are funded through the Downtown Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Fund and are limited to the boundaries of the Downtown TIF district.

The Village is now beginning to generate some interest in this program. One of the most recent façade renovations occurred at the former Vitellos Bakery property at 8040-44 Lincoln Avenue. Vogster Entertainment, LLC, which designs and develops intellectual

properties with a primary focus on video games, now occupies the second floor of the building. The property owner is beginning a major interior renovation of most of the first-floor space and Sweetie Pies Bakery will be expanding and relocating to this space.

Sweetie Pies was recently honored for its second place finish in Skokie's Merchant of the Year competition and plans to sign a 10-year lease for the 8042 Lincoln Avenue space. A primary component of their business is custom-order cakes, and larger ovens and baking space are necessary to expand that portion of the business. Additionally, the larger space will enable Sweetie Pies to become more of a full

service café. A \$50,000 grant was recently approved by the Village Board to undertake a complete renovation of the ground floor space. Sweetie Pies plans to have a grand opening at its new location in July.

For further information on road resurfacing in Skokie, please see www.skokie.org or contact the Traffic Engineering Division at 847/933-8232. ∞

It is hoped that Sweetie Pies will be the first of many new or expanded businesses to take advantage of the new Downtown Incentives Program over the next few years.

To learn more about the Downtown Incentives program, visit www.skokie.org. ∞

Lawn Care Equipment

Occasionally, the Village receives complaints about loud lawn care equipment. Residents are reminded that the Village Code addresses these concerns, limiting use of this type of equipment as follows:

- **Lawn care equipment, except for gas-powered leaf blowers, may be operated only between the hours of 8 a.m. and 9 p.m., Monday through Friday; 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. on Saturdays and 10 a.m. and 9 p.m. on Sundays and holidays.**
- **Gas-powered leaf blowers may only be operated between the hours of 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. Monday through Sunday, including holidays.**
- **Throwing grass clippings in a sewer, ditch or open pit area, or upon vacant lots or public rights-of-ways is prohibited.**

Homeowners are responsible for making certain that the use of lawn equipment occurs within permitted hours of operation. Residents who use the services of a landscaping contractor should advise them of the hours of operation for lawn care equipment.

Please visit www.skokie.org for more information about leaf blower and lawn mower usage. ∞

Reminder: Changes in Yard Waste Collection for 2009

This year, Skokie residents are asked to just let grass clippings lay on the lawn after mowing.

The Village *no longer* collects grass clippings as part of the Yard Waste Collection program. The policy change was approved in March 2009 to provide both environmental benefits and cost savings to the community. The Village expects to reduce diesel emissions, fuel and the quantity of debris being added to the waste system. Skokie is the first municipality in metro Chicago to adopt this green concept.

Yard Waste Collection Quick Facts:

- Brush and other yard debris, including brush trimmings, thatch from raking and old flower or vegetable plants, will continue to be collected on Wednesday of each week through October 14. This debris must be placed in a 30-gallon kraft paper bag for collection. Brush should be bundled with string, rope or twine, with branches not exceeding 5 feet in length and 3 inches in diameter.
- To schedule a collection of brush or other yard debris (not including grass clippings) residents must call 847/933-3333 by noon on Monday to request collection for the coming Wednesday. This is an automated system and messages can be left 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Residents can also request collection at www.skokie.org.

For more information, please visit www.skokie.org or call the Skokie Public Works Department at 847/933-8427. ∞



Photo: A Neuton lawn mower. Learn about eco-friendly lawn mowers and how you can purchase one at a discounted price in the article to the right.

Lawn Care Equipment Rebate Program

The Village of Skokie, in support of northeastern Illinois' regional eco-friendly *Clean Air Counts* initiative, is offering a Lawn Care Rebate Program. Through Labor Day (September 7, 2009) Skokie residents can trade-in gasoline-powered lawn mowers for a discounted (between 5% to 33%) electric or "people-powered" lawn mower.

To participate in the program, Skokie residents may bring a gasoline-powered mower to Skokie Ace Hardware, 5035 Oakton Street, and receive a rebate voucher. This voucher can be used to purchase an eco-friendly mower at a reduced price from Skokie Ace Hardware or purchase an electric mower by phone order with a program code from Neuton Mowers (www.neutonpower.com/CLEANAIR) as part of their Direct Order Discount Coupon Program.

Mowers Available with a 5% to 33% Discount include:

- **Earthwise** and **Neuton** corded and cordless electric lawn mowers
- **Scotts** and **American** classic reel mowers

To learn more about the Village's Lawn Care Rebate Program or about Skokie's Participation with *Clean Air Counts*, please visit www.skokie.org or call the Village Manager's Office at 847/933-8257. ∞

Spotlight on the Village of Skokie Human Services Division

Did you know that the Skokie Human Services Division has been helping Skokie residents for over 25 years?

The Skokie Human Services Division is a professionally staffed team dedicated to providing the best possible care for community residents in need. Programs and services provided by Human Services include: short-term and crisis counseling, intervention for at-risk youth, information and referral, disability services, delivered meals for the homebound, neighbor mediation, a senior transportation program, social and educational programs for Skokie seniors and a lending closet that includes canes, walkers and wheelchairs. Limited emergency assistance and holiday giving programs also are available through the Human Services Division.

Human Services Division - By the Numbers

The following numbers represent 2008 highlights of the many services provided through the Human Services Division:

- Staff social workers assisted nearly 4,600 people.
- Over 9,900 meals were delivered to homebound residents unable to prepare meals for themselves.
- About 400 senior citizens were registered to use the senior transportation system.
- Staff worked with 172 at-risk youth and their families, providing alternatives to usual penalties and to build family support.

Citizen engagement is critical to the continued health and vitality of the Skokie Human Services Division. The Division is advised by three volunteer commissions and oversees nearly 80 volunteers per month. *To learn more about the Skokie Human Services Division, please visit www.skokie.org.* ∞



Featured above: Girl Scouts at the recent Assist-A-Family appreciation luncheon sponsored by the Human Services Division.

Smith Center News: Monday Senior Group

All programs take place at the Smith Activities Center, 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.

June 1 - Table Games

June 8 - Spring Musical

Note: 12:45-1:30 p.m. program. Fairview School students will perform a special spring musical selection.

June 15 - Consumer Fraud

The Cook County State's Attorney's Office will send a representative to inform seniors about consumer fraud.

June 22 - Medicaid

The Center of Elder Law Solution will speak and answer questions about the legal aspects of Medicaid.

June 29 - Quigong

Learn the "ultimate anti-aging" exercise.

July 6 - 4th of July Celebration

Note: Lunch at 12 p.m. Join the Smith Activities Center in celebrating Independence Day with a pizza party and Bingo. There is a \$6 fee for lunch due at the time of registration. Please register by July 1, 2009.

July 13 - Reverse Mortgage

Terry Meland from Mortgage Education Association Foundation will discuss the benefit of reverse mortgage during bad economic times.

July 20 - Presentation of Free Amplified Telephones

Note: This program begins at 11 a.m. and is intended for only those with a hearing impairment. The Illinois Telecommunications Association (ITAC) from the Schaumburg Township Disability Services will give a presentation demonstrating amplified telephones. For more information please call 847/933-8208.

July 27 - Video, Mama Mia ∞



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:

June 1, 15

July 6, 20

Plan Commission:

June 4, 18

July 2, 16

Appearance Commission:

June 10

July 8

Zoning Board of Appeals:

June 3, 17

July 1, 15



Village Board Action

The Board approved a contract with Midwest Brick Paving to install concrete pavers at Krier Plaza, located at southeast Oakton Street/Lincoln Avenue. The current pavers need to be removed and replaced. The project is being funded by the Downtown Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District.

The Village Board authorized the implementation of a three cents-per-gallon local fuel tax effective June 1, 2009. For more information, please turn to page two.

The Village Board approved changes to the Nuisance Property Ordinance of the Skokie Village Code. Repeated calls to the same property consumes valuable resources, typically from the Police Department, and diverts their attention from other potentially more pressing matters. The changes allow the Village more authority to handle criminal activity in a neighborhood or repetitive nuisance activity at a specific address or addresses. The intent of the ordinance is to focus not just when there is criminal activity, but also when there are repeated calls to the same address for any number of nuisance activities ranging from loud music to animal control violations. Changes to the ordinance also will require all property owners to include a provision in their lease that the tenant occupying the property shall not use the leased premises, or allow it to be used, for criminal activity. If the leased property is used for criminal activity then the landlord would be required to evict the tenant.

Michael M. Lorge and Pramod C. Shah were sworn in as Village of Skokie Trustees on May 4, 2009. Mr. Lorge and Mr. Shah fill seats left vacant by Trustee Frank G. McCabe and Michael A. Gelder. Learn more about your Village of Skokie elected officials in the August 2009 *NewSkokie* newsletter or online at www.skokie.org.

Skokie Fine Arts Commission

The Skokie Fine Arts Commission is now accepting applications for the 2009-2010 granting year. To be eligible for a grant, all projects and programs must take place between May 1, 2009 and April 30, 2010.

Skokie schools are invited to submit arts-related projects and programs for Cultural Arts Grants in the amount of \$250. Skokie-based arts organizations may apply for Project Grants in varying amounts. Applications for both grants are available on the Commission's webpage at www.skokie.org.

If you are a first-time grant applicant, please consider attending the Fine Arts Commission Grant Workshop on Wednesday, November 11, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street. The first-time grant applicant presentation also is available on the Commission's webpage at www.skokie.org.

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





Village of Skokie

2008 Water Quality Report

Lake Michigan, Skokie's Source of Drinking Water

In general, people obtain drinking water from rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. This is true for both tap water and bottled drinking water. Skokie's tap water comes from Lake Michigan which, like the other Great Lakes, was formed as glaciers retreated north during the last ice age. Lake Michigan is the largest lake in the United States at 118 miles wide and 307 miles long. Lake Michigan averages 279 feet in depth and reaches 925 feet at its deepest point. The lake's drainage basin, which is approximately twice as large as its 22,300 square miles of surface water, includes portions of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin. The Great Lakes are one of the world's most valuable sources of fresh surface water. Almost half of all the liquid fresh water in the world is found in the Great Lakes. Most of the world's surface fresh water is locked away in the ice caps around the North and the South Poles, which makes us appreciate the Great Lakes that much more.

All 63 miles of Illinois shoreline support drinking water uses. The primary sources of pollution threatening Lake Michigan include air, rain and snow pollution, storm water runoff and industrial discharges. 💧

How often do you turn on your water faucet for a glass of drinking water? The answer is probably very often, as the Skokie Water Distribution System sends an average of 8.5 million gallons a day of pure drinking water to residential and commercial customers. This is enough to cover the entire Village with several feet of water in a year's time. Skokie residents can be confident that every gallon, every glass of their drinking water exceeds the federal standards set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

For years, Skokie citizens have enjoyed a safe, economical water supply (purchased from the City of Evanston) with no reported water-borne illnesses. Evanston has a long history of drinking water safety. In 1914, when typhoid fever, cholera and dysentery gripped the nation, Evanston was the first community on Lake Michigan to treat its water. In 1947, Evanston became the first city in Illinois to provide **fluoridated*** water. In 1973, Evanston's water treatment plant eliminated all water discharge into Lake Michigan. Today, in addition to over 50 chemical and bacteriological tests conducted by Evanston water personnel daily, the Village of Skokie's water professionals monitor drinking water for chlorine levels, contaminant levels and **lead**, copper and total **trihalomethanes**. To protect citizens' health, over 70 Village-wide samples are collected each month from the taps of Skokie

homes and businesses. The result is that Skokie's drinking water is among the safest in the United States.

With the publication of this Water Quality Report, Skokie continues the water quality tradition. Not only were there no treatment, monitoring, or reporting violations in the reporting period, but every substance detected in Skokie's water was well below federal standards. Over 65 contaminants tested for were totally absent in the drinking water. This includes such major contaminants as **synthetic organic substances** and **radon**. This USEPA-mandated Water Quality Report is an outgrowth of the consumer movement which has successfully championed the public's right to know the impact of water quality on health.

Why does Skokie Test the Water Supply?

As water travels over the land surface or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material. Water also picks up substances resulting from the presence of animals and human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: pesticides and herbicides, microbial contaminants, organic chemical contaminants, inorganic contaminants and radioactive contaminants.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA prescribes regulations limiting the

amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

All drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Water Drinking Hotline at 800/426-4791. 💧

* *Words in bold are defined in the About the Data section on page two.*

How Much Water Do You Use?

Lake Michigan affords a plentiful supply of water which may cause people not to consider conservation a primary concern. However, water conservation is more than just reducing the amount of water consumed. Water conservation means using water intelligently.

Before you can conserve water, you need to know how to measure the amount of water you use. Your water bill and water meter are the tools that can help to determine your water consumption and start your own water conservation program. 💧

Skokie's Drinking Water

Skokie's vast water system includes two 4.9-million-gallon storage facilities and over 2,300 hydrants. A full-time staff of laboratory professionals, public works staff and public health professionals devote themselves to Skokie's water safety.

Skokie's drinking water has received several awards for water purity. A State-Certified Water Plant Operator is on duty 24 hours a day at the Evanston plant, and over 50 chemical and bacteriological tests are conducted each day. Skokie water professionals continue the quality vigilance with frequent tests for chlorine levels, microbial contamination, **trihalomethanes*** and copper and lead levels at Skokie homes and businesses.

The Evanston Treatment Plant, which supplies Skokie's water, is capable of pumping 108 million gallons a day to communities like Skokie. Its raw water pumps bring Lake Michigan water in, while its finished water pumps send water to users. Natural gas engines fuel these pumps so the community never goes without safe drinking water, even during power outages.

Here's how the water is treated:

1. Six centrifugal pumps lift the water from suction wells to

begin its journey through the treatment plant.

2. Chlorine to disinfect, fluoride for dental health and aluminum sulphate and polymers to coagulate suspended solids are added to the water. Carbon is added as necessary to enhance taste and odor.
3. The resulting **floc** sinks to the bottom of settlement basins in four to eight hours.
4. Water inches through filters that contain a layer of anthracite coal and filter sand, removing the tiniest of particles and bacteria.
5. After postchlorination, water goes to reservoirs where a blended polyphosphate is added to prevent copper and lead contamination. Water is sampled one more time for quality assurance before being pumped into the distribution system.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in tap or bottled water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly persons and infants can be at particular risk for infections.

These people should seek advice from their health care providers about drinking water. The EPA and Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800/426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/ow.

For specific information about Skokie's Water Division, the community's water quality, a complete water quality report of all tested contaminants, water conservation information, on-source pollutant information or any other water or sewer-related questions, contact the Skokie Water Division at 847/933-8277 or visit the Village's Web site at www.skokie.org. The Skokie Water and Sewer Division is located at 9050 Gross Point Road in the Public Works building. The public is welcome to attend Village Board Meetings at Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street, at 8 p.m. on the first and third Mondays of each month. Many decisions regarding Village matters, such as water, are made at these meetings.

* *Words in bold are defined in the About the Data section on page three.*



2008 Water Source Data - Abbreviations Key

% pos/mo: Percent positive samples per month.

#pos/mo: Number of positive samples per month.

MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal. The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level. The highest level of a substance allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as closely as feasible to the MCLG using the best available treatment technology.

AL: Action Level. The concentration of a substance which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

N/A: Not Applicable

mg/l: Milligrams per liter, also called parts per million (ppm).


NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit. Used to measure cloudiness in drinking water.

%<0.3 NTU: Percent samples less than 0.3 NTU.

ppb: Parts per billion, also called micrograms per liter.

2008 Source Water Assessment Summary


The Illinois EPA considers all surface water sources of community water supplies to be susceptible to potential pollution problems. The very nature of surface water allows contaminants to migrate into the intakes with no protection, only dilution, which is the reason for mandatory treatment for all surface water supplies in Illinois.

According to the sensitivity analysis, all three of Evanston's intakes are located far enough off shore that shoreline impacts are not considered a factor on water quality. However, at certain times of the year the potential for contamination exists due to the proximity of the North Shore Channel and west-weather flows. In addition, the proximity to a major shipping lane adds to the susceptibility of these three intakes. Coordination regarding water quality situations (i.e. spills, tanker leaks, exotic species, etc.) is frequently discussed during the association's quarterly meetings. 

ppm: Parts per million, also called milligrams per liter.

pCi/l: Picocuries per liter. Used to measure radioactivity and infection practices.

TT: Treatment Technique. A required process that reduces a contaminant level.

mrem/year: Abbreviation for millirem. A unit used to measure radioactivity effects. 

What are Non-Point Source Storm Water Pollutants?

Non-point source (NPS) pollution occurs when rain or melting snow carry pollutants such as contaminated soil, fertilizers, salt or animal waste into the sewer system. These pollutants are called non-point source because it is not always possible to identify their origins. While we sometimes want to point the finger of blame at industry, the fact is that we all contribute to non-point source pollution when we dispose of household hazardous wastes through the sewer system, over fertilize our lawns and gardens, leave pet waste unattended or allow our cars to leak automotive fluids onto Skokie streets and parking lots.

What are some more examples?

Pollutants can come from a variety of places both in and around our homes and businesses:

- Pollutant:** Sand, clay particles, other debris
- Source:** Construction sites, bare spots in lawns and gardens, wastewater from washing cars and trucks on driveways or parking lots
- Pollutant:** Nutrients
- Source:** Overused or spilled fertilizers; pet waste, grass clippings that enter the street sewers and leaves burned in ditches

Pollutant: Diseased organisms
Source: Pet waste and garbage

Pollutant: Hydrocarbons
Source: Car and truck exhaust; leaks and spills of oil and gas; burning leaves and garbage

Pollutant: Pesticides
Source: Spills and leaks or pesticides applied before a rainstorm

Pollutant: Metals
Source: Cars and trucks (tire wear, brakes, exhaust); galvanized metal gutters and downspouts.

Where do these pollutants go?

Skokie has a combination sewer system. The contents of the storm sewers are mixed with the contents of household sewers.

All of the waste is sent to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRDGC) water treatment plant. There, these wastes are treated to lower pollution levels and returned to the river system. Treated wastewater eventually flows into the Illinois River and then into the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico. So, what happens in Skokie and other Chicago-area communities affects both the quality of river water and the quality of life for other residents of Illinois and the United States.

During severe rainfalls, when the water system backflows, untreated sewage and pollutants can be discharged directly into Lake Michigan, Skokie's source of drinking water. While these backflows are rare, they can occasionally occur.

What happens to pollutants at the water treatment plant?

When pollutants enter the plant, the normal treatment process is slowed down. Particles that would normally disappear after one hour may still remain in the system six to eight hours after arrival. As we all know, time is money. The cost to treat pollutants is high, and this cost is passed on to you through taxes paid to MWRDGC. One way of reducing taxes is to reduce the amount of pollutants entering the sewer system.

How can I reduce NPS pollution?

Reducing non-point source pollution can be easy. Visit www.skokie.org to learn tips and ideas on how you can help reduce non-point source pollution in and around your home or business. ♦

Why is my Water Cloudy?

The cloudiness is attributed to millions of harmless tiny air bubbles that are not a health concern. Water in the Skokie water distribution system is under pressure, causing the air present to be dissolved in the water until the pressure is released at the tap. If the amount of dissolved air is low, water may appear to sparkle or have small bubbles. If there is a greater amount of dissolved air in the water, millions of very tiny bubbles will appear when the pressure is released, giving the water a cloudy, white or milky appearance. It may take several minutes for the air to escape. As it does, the water will clear from the bottom of the glass upward. ♦

Water Hardness Level

Hardness is a measure of the concentration of calcium and magnesium in water. Water is considered to be soft if it is less than 17.1 parts per million and hard if over 180 parts per million. The Village of Skokie water hardness level is medium (averaging 7.5 to 8.5 grams or 130 to 140 parts per million). Learn more about water hardness levels at www.skokie.org. ♦



Skokie Offers Online Payment Option for Water Bills

The Village has a new, convenient online payment program for water bills, parking tickets and other non-moving violations, miscellaneous invoices and vehicle license renewals (see page one for details).

Payment may be made online using American Express, Debit, DiscoverCard and Visa 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. ♦

Disposing of Your Expired Medication



For several years the Skokie Health Department has participated in an expired medication disposal program sponsored by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC). This program was recently discontinued by SWANCC due to unused disposal regulations.

While you can no longer bring your expired medications to the Skokie Health Department for disposal, the following guidelines will help you to dispose of your medication safely on your own.

- Follow any specific disposal instructions on the drug label or patient information sheet that accompanies the medication.
- Do NOT flush prescription drugs down the toilet unless the information sheet specifically instructs you to do so. Medications that are inappropriately flushed may end up in the water supply.

If no instructions are given, throw the drugs in the household trash, but first:

Take them out of their original containers and mix them with an undesirable substance such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter. The medication will be less appealing to children and pets, and unrecognizable to people who may intentionally go through your trash.

Put the mixture in a sealable bag, empty can, or other container to prevent the medication from leaking or breaking out of the garbage bag.

- For additional safety, do not give medications to friends. Doctors prescribe drugs based on a person's specific symptoms and medical history. A drug that works for you could be dangerous for someone else.

- Before throwing out a medicine container, scratch out all identifying information on the prescription label to make it unreadable. This will help protect your identity and the privacy of your personal health information.
- When in doubt about proper disposal, talk to your pharmacist.
- These disposal guidelines should be applied to over-the-counter medications as well.

For more information, contact the Skokie Health Department at 847/933-8252.

Men: Taking Care of Yourself

No matter how much you know about men's health, it can't hurt to know more about ways to a better lifestyle, the top men's health concerns, and the importance of getting medical care and regular screening tests. After all, men not only have unique health concerns, but they also suffer more from certain diseases. And worldwide, women outlive men. Why? Some reasons include:

- Men tend to smoke and drink more than women and generally have less healthy lifestyles.
- Men do not seek medical help as often as women.
- Men tend to join in fearless, risky, dangerous behaviors more than women.

Men also largely define themselves by their work, which adds to stress, and they tend to "disconnect" from their emotional side. This can add to problems in relationships, as well as in jobs and careers.

The good news is that many of the major health risks that men face can be prevented and treated if they are diagnosed early. So, you deserve to pay more attention to yourself! Take better care of yourself physically, mentally, and emotionally. Or if you are a woman searching for ways to help the men in your life, tell them the same.

In conjunction with National Men's Health Week, men can contact the Skokie Health Department to schedule an appointment for a special screening clinic to be held on June 15 and 16. The screening tests include blood pressure, lipid profile, diabetes, colorectal cancer, and hearing. These screenings are available for a charge of \$10 to Skokie residents up to the capacity of the clinic. That is a savings of \$15 over the cost of these tests done separately. Proof of residency is required.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact the Skokie Health Department at 847/933-8252.

Home Improvements Program

If you are a Skokie homeowner you may be eligible to receive financial assistance to improve your home. The goal of this program is to assist low- and moderate-income households to maintain the quality of their homes and reduce home energy consumption. Added program benefits include increased year-round comfort, lower utility bills and increased property value.

Qualified, low-income households are eligible to receive grants from the Village of up to \$8,000 for qualified housing improvements. For life safety and emergency improvements, this amount can be increased to \$12,000. Qualified moderate-income households are eligible to receive no-interest loans from participating banks with the entire interest subsidized by the Village. The maximum loan amount for which the Village will provide an interest subsidy is \$8,000. The Village of Skokie makes the grants and interest subsidies to homeowners using the federally funded Community Development Block Grant funds.

If you are a Skokie homeowner you may be eligible to receive financial assistance to improve your home.

To be eligible for this program, you must own and reside in a single-family house, townhouse, two-flat, condominium or cooperative and meet income limits set by the federal government.

Home improvements eligible under the program include most weatherization work, roof repairs or replacement, tuck pointing, exterior painting, window replacement, furnace repair or replacement, flood control systems and major structural repairs.

As part of the program's requirements, participating households receive a free inspection by the Village Property Standards Division.

Normal home maintenance or decorating procedures such as interior painting, carpeting, and kitchen remodeling or decorating are ineligible under the program.

Local banks participating in the loan portion of this program include Cole Taylor Bank, First American Bank and North Shore Community Bank. These institutions make loans to qualified homeowners and the Village pays the interest.

For more information on how to apply for this program, please call the Village Property Standards Division at 847/933-8224. ∞



Shown above: Village staff, family and friends join together to plant a tree for Arbor Day on April 25, 2009 at Skokie Fire Station 18 at 9024 Gross Point Road. Skokie has been designated a Tree City for over 22 years.

Health Department Receives Grant for Disaster and Emergency Response

The Skokie Health Department was awarded a grant in the amount of \$25,617.97 from the Cook County Department of Public Health through the Urban Areas Security Initiative Public Health Grant. Funds from this grant will be used to improve the Village's ability to respond to disasters and purchase of emergency response items.

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 police, fire and emergency medical response who are available at all times; HazMat trained professionals on staff; and reciprocal agreements with other agencies to provide additional services during emergencies.

To learn more about the Village's emergency preparedness and what you can do to prepare yourself and your family for an emergency situation, please visit www.skokie.org. For more personal/family emergency preparedness information, visit www.ready.gov. ∞

The Village of Skokie Encourages Bicycle Safety

As a reminder to residents, the State of Illinois and the Village of Skokie have specific laws to protect pedestrians, motorists and cyclists.

- By Village Ordinance, riders under the age of 16 must wear a helmet.
- Obey all traffic signs and markings.
- No more than two cyclists may ride side by side.
- Cyclists can ride on Skokie sidewalks, minding pedestrians, except for in the CX Core Mixed-Use zoning district which includes the area from: Oakton Street from Skokie Boulevard to Lockwood Avenue, extending north and south on Lincoln Avenue between Cleveland Street and Babb Avenue.

Learn more about bicycle safety at the Skokie Traffic Safety Commission's Traffic Safety Week, June 7 to 13, 2009. Please see the article on this page for details about events planned during this week.

For more information contact the Skokie Police Crime Prevention Division at 847/982-5922, or visit www.skokie.org.

Skokie Bicycle Safety Day

The Skokie Traffic Safety Commission is sponsoring Traffic Safety Week, held June 7 to 13, 2009. Traffic Safety Week is designed to increase public awareness of traffic and pedestrian safety 52 weeks a year.

Join your friends and neighbors at the annual Village of Skokie Bicycle Safety Day, Saturday, June 13, 2009, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Oakton Park's parking lot, near Oakton Street and Knox Avenue. Children through age 14 can participate in games and win prizes. A bicycle safety course will be provided to test their knowledge of the law and their ability to properly handle a bicycle. Bicyclists can register their bicycles with the Skokie Police Department this day as well.

Members of the Skokie Park District, Skokie Police Department and the Skokie Fire Department will be on hand to promote pedestrian and traffic safety.

For more information, contact the Traffic Engineering Division at 847/933-8231.

Annual Property Owners' Award

The Village of Skokie Beautification and Improvement Commission invites all property owners to participate in the annual Property Owners' Certificate of Appreciation Award. Please return signed ballots by **August 1, 2009**. Property may include a home, business, condominium, school or house of worship.

Rules

- Please submit photograph(s) of the front of the property. If the property is on a corner lot, the side landscape may also be included.
- Process all photographs as duplicates and place inside a mailing envelope.
- On the face of the envelope, print or type the following: name, address of property owner (or renter, if applicable) and phone number.
- Please include the completed authorization form below. Please print names as they should appear on the award certificate.
- Ballots must be received by **August 1, 2009**.

AUTHORIZATION TO USE PHOTOGRAPHS FOR PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION: I grant permission to the Beautification and Improvement Commission of the Village of Skokie to use the enclosed photograph(s) or to re-photograph my property for the purpose of entering the property in the Annual Property Owners' Award Program. All photographs submitted become the property of the Village of Skokie whether or not the subject is determined to be a winner. I also release these photographs to be used for promotion and publicity in the Village of Skokie and/or in other newsletter and media outlets.

Signature of
Property Owner(s):

Print Name(s):

Address:

Phone Number:

Return ballots to:
Chairman: Beautification and Improvement Commission
Village of Skokie Public Works Department
9050 Gross Point Road
Skokie, Illinois 60077

June/July 2009

Refuse and Recycling Collection Schedule



Refuse Collection

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

Recycling Collection

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

For more information please visit www.skokie.org or call the Skokie Public Works Department at 847/933-8427.

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, June 10 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, June 3, 17 and July 1, 15 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, June 3, 17 and July 1, 15 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, June 3, 17 and July 1, 15 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, June 3, 17 and July 1, 15 from 5-7 p.m. \$15 fee.

Diabetes Screening*

Tuesdays, June 23 and July 21 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. \$5 fee.

Hearing Screening*

Fridays, June 19 and July 17 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Immunization Clinics*

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Wednesdays, June 10, 24 and July 8, 22 from 1:30-4 p.m. and Wednesdays, June 3, 17 and July 1, 15 from 5-8 p.m. \$5 per person clinic fee.

Lead Screening*

Wednesdays, June 4 and July 2 from 2-4 p.m. and Wednesdays, June 3, 17 and July 1, 15 from 5-8 p.m. \$25 fee.

Men's Health Screening Clinic*

Monday, June 15 and Tuesday, June 16 from 7-9 p.m. \$10 fee. See page 10 for details.

Nicotine Addiction Seminar*

Wednesdays, June 24 and July 22 from 7-9 p.m.

TB Skin Testing*

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

Well Child Clinic*

Tuesdays, June 19 and July 14 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

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

Conversational German

Thursdays, June 4, 18 and July 2, 16 at 1:30 p.m.

Conversational Yiddish

No fee or registration required. Everyone is welcome. Tuesdays, June 16, 23, 30 and July 21, 28 at 1:30 p.m.

FOCUS (For Optically Challenged Upbeat Sorts)

Wednesdays June 10 and July 8 from 7-8:30 p.m. Please call Juanita at 847/933-8208 for more information.

Hearing Loss Support Group

Thursday, June 11 from 1:30-3 p.m. *No July meeting.*

Illinois Cares RX and RX Plus

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

Line Dancing

Interested in line dancing? The Smith Activities Center is coordinating a new line dancing class. Contact Sherrie Magnuson at 847/933-8208 if you are interested in participating.

Low Vision Support Group

Tuesday, June 9 from 1:30-3 p.m. *No July meeting.*

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, June 9 and July 14 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Mens' Discussion Group

Fridays at 1:30 p.m.

Needlework

Socialization and needlework. Mondays at 10 a.m.

News and Views Discussion

Fridays, 10 a.m.

Rules of the Road

Review for driver's exam. Mondays, June 1 and July 6 from 9:15 a.m.-12 p.m.

Skokie Senior Mens' Group Discussion

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

Continued on page 15

The Village of Skokie will be closed on Friday, July 3, 2009 in observance of the Independence Day holiday.

Continued from page 14

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.

Stamp Club

Wednesdays June 3, 17 and July 1, 15 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, June 10, 24 and July 8, 22 from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

CPR Schedule

Please call the Skokie Fire Department at 847/982-5340 for June 16 and July 21 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 in-

formation please call the box office at 847/673-6300 or visit www.northshorcenter.org

The Lieutenant of Inishmore

A Northlight Theatre Production. June 2-7, call for showtimes.

Ensemble Espanol: Flamenco Passion

Centre East Theatre
June 26 and 27 at 7:30 p.m. and June 28 at 3 p.m.

Tango Electique

July 5. Call for showtime.

Mrs. International Pageant Preliminaries

July 17 at 7:30 p.m.

Mrs. International Pageant Finals

July 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Teen International Pageant Preliminaries

July 23 at 7:30 p.m.

Miss International Pageant Preliminaries

July 24 at 7:30 p.m.

Miss and Teen International Pageant Preliminaries

July 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Skokie Art Guild Call for Artists

Apply now for the Skokie Art Guild's 48th Annual Art Fair. July 11-12, 2009 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Skokie Village Green. Awards and prizes. For more information, call 847/677-8163 or email skokieart@aol.com.

Skokie Park District

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

National Whiffleball Championship

Last chance to register to play in Skokie's first national championship tournament on Saturday and Sunday, June 27-28. Ages 12-adult. Go to SkokieParkDistrict.org for information. ChannelsidePark, 3200 Main Street.

Fourth of July Parade and 3-D Fireworks Festival

Featuring a parade, picnic, live music and incredible 3-D fireworks show! Saturday, July 4 from 12 p.m. to dusk. See pages one and two for details.

Pancake Breakfast in the Woods

Visit Emily Oaks Nature Center for a sunrise breakfast in the woods. Sunday, July 12 from 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. \$5-7 admission. Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel Street.

Sunday Night Concerts in the Park

Free world-class entertainment. Sundays, July 12-August 16 at 7 p.m. Devonshire Park, 4400 Greenwood Street.

Wednesday Magical Merry-Go-Round Children's Concerts

Free family-oriented performances feature singers, storytellers, magicians and more. Arrive 30 minutes early to participate in the pre-concert games and contests. Wednesdays, July 15-August 12 at 7 p.m. Located in various parks, call 847/674-1500 for details.

Be a Backlot Bash SuperFan or Super-Family!

Earn exclusive access to Skokie's Backlot Bash, August 28-30, for a mere \$25, \$50 or \$100! Individuals and families of four can receive everything from free t-shirts, to special access to events throughout the Bash. Go to www.BacklotBash.com for details!

Skokie Public Library

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

Healthy Cooking Every Night of the Year

Thursday, June 4 at 7 p.m.

Career Transitions Fair

Friday, June 5 at 9 a.m.

Dance Performance: Evanston Dance Ensemble's Young Choreographers

Sunday, June 7 at 3 p.m.

Super-Coupons 1: Saving on Groceries

Saturday, June 13 at 1 p.m.

World Arts Performance: Balkano

Sunday, June 14 at 3 p.m.

Computer Skills for Job Seekers: Finding Jobs Online

Monday, June 15 at 7 p.m.

Super-Coupons 2: Saving on Everything

Thursday, June 25 at 7 p.m.

Outdoor Performance: The Bucket Boys

Monday, June 29 at 7 p.m.

You Can't Google This!

Thursday, July 9 at 7 p.m.

Chinese Opera: Legend of Love

Sunday, July 12 at 3 p.m.

Outdoor Performance: Disk Dogs A-Z

Thursday, July 16 at 7 p.m.

World Arts Performance: Ashley Lewis & Ashton Gap

Saturday, July 18 at 4 p.m.

World Arts Performance: Chicago Cosacks & Mazur Dance

Sunday, July 19 at 3 p.m.

Daniel Burnham: Make No Little Plans

Thursday, July 30 at 7 p.m. 

The Village of Skokie
www.skokie.org
1660 AM Skokie
Council/Manager
Government
Since 1957



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George Van Dusen

Clerk
Marlene Williams

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Edie Sue Sutker

Manager
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Counsel
J. Patrick Hanley

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9-1-1

Information
847/673-0500

TTY
847/933-8455

Fire Non-Emergency
847/982-5300

Police Non-Emergency
847/982-5900

Citizens Assistance
847/933-8480

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NewSkokie

Village of Skokie
5127 Oakton Street
Skokie, IL 60077



Tune to 1660 AM

Village of Skokie Municipal Advisory Radio Station

For emergency preparedness
information, up-to-the-minute reports,
alerts and relevant instructions for what
to do in an emergency and national
weather service announcements.

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. Please provide your address for a direct response.

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

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

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Village Departments

Building/Housing/Zoning
847/933-8223

Citizens Assistance
847/933-8480

Civil Engineering
847/933-8231

Clerk's Office
847/933-8203

Community Development
847/933-8447

**Health Department
Administration**
847/933-8252

Animal Control
847/933-8484

Environmental Health
847/933-8484

Personal Health
847/933-8252

Human Services
847/933-8208

**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
847/933-8232

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