

**Coming Together
in Skokie 2012**
See page five for full details!

NewSkokie



January/February 2012

The award-winning municipal information source

Skokie Nuisance Ordinance

How it Works and How it Helps

In March 2009, the Village Board adopted a nuisance reduction ordinance in response to community concerns over properties that generate an extraordinarily high number of calls for service to the Police Department, Property Standards Division or Health Department.

When a property is identified as creating a “public nuisance”, Village staff review the situation and implement corrective action. The Village Manager appointed a Nuisance Intervention and Prevention Committee that meets monthly to review properties in question. The ordinance stipulates that a property is a public nuisance if a felony or

two or more Class A misdemeanors occur on the premises during a 12-month period, or if an unreasonably high number of calls for service are generated in a 12-month period. The types of calls that are tracked pertain

to information and belief of a need for police service, health inspectors or other health personnel regarding a public health concern, firefighters or fire inspectors concerning the safety of the property and/or property standard inspectors

or other Community Development staff concerning the condition of the property or its use by its occupants. The ordinance allows the committee to determine the number or range of these calls that con-

Continued on page six

Municipal Electrical Aggregation

A 2009 Illinois law permits municipalities to contract with alternative electric suppliers for the electricity used by residents and small businesses. By purchasing electricity in this manner, the Village expects to save money for those customers. In order for the Village to pursue such a program, Skokie residents must approve of the concept by referendum. As such, a public question will be submitted to Skokie voters at the March 20, 2012 primary election, as follows:

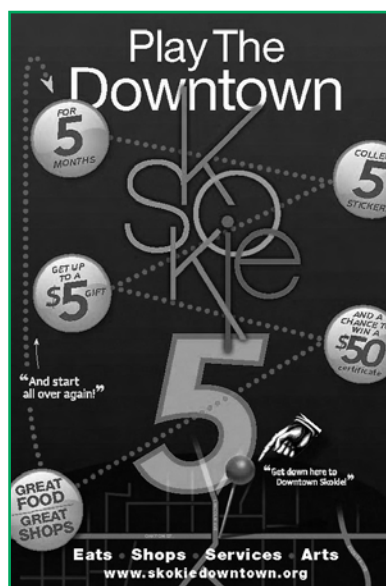
Shall the Village of Skokie have the authority to arrange for the supply of electricity for its residential and small commercial retail customers who have not opted out of such program?

Residents should watch for additional information to be distributed prior to the referendum that will provide details on municipal electrical aggregation. Questions should be directed to Max Slankard, Public Works Director, at 847/933-8427 or info@skokie.org.

Play the Downtown Skokie's 5 Promotion - Shop Local!

During the week of January 2, 2012, all Skokie residences will receive a colorful purple postcard that serves as a game card for the new Downtown Skokie 5 promotion. At press time, 30 Downtown Skokie businesses were participating, with more expected to join (see list on page eight, and visit www.skokiedowntown.org for updates). The Downtown Skokie 5 promotion runs through May 31, 2012, and this is how it works:

1. Bring the game card to any participating business in Downtown Skokie. When you make a purchase (\$5 minimum), ask for a special sticker for your card. One sticker per purchase.
2. When you have five stickers on your card, fill out the card with your name, address, email and phone number and bring it to any participating Downtown Skokie business.



3. When you turn in your completed card, the business will give you a small gift of up to \$5 value. You might get a complimentary appetizer or dessert, a decorative button, bicycle tire patch kit, small jar of touch-up paint, flower, etc. Prizes are subject to change and are at the sole discretion of the participating business.
4. Get a new card and start playing again! All participating businesses will have blank cards, and supplies also will be available at Village Hall, the Skokie Public Library and other Downtown Skokie locations.
5. Around the first day of every month, a \$50 gift certificate to a Downtown Skokie business will be awarded by random drawing from all completed cards turned in the previous month. Winners will be notified by email.

Continued on page eight

Spotlight on the Skokie Board of Health

The Board of Health (BOH) serves as an advisory committee to the Mayor, Trustees and Health Director on matters relating to the health needs of Skokie residents, on environmental conditions that affect the health of residents and the Skokie Blood Program.

Recently, the BOH increased blood donations by offering new blood donation venues at the Skokie Farmers' Market and at Westfield Old Orchard Mall. The BOH joined the national effort to support initiatives promoting healthy eating and physical activity by participating in the Skokie Trail to Fitness program and assisting in the Village's successful grant application for funds to design a multi-use path extending from Oakton Street to Jarvis Avenue along the Union Pacific right-of-way.

Recognizing the importance of concussion prevention and appropriate treatment, the BOH offered a concussion and heat injury seminar for Skokie school officials. Additionally, the BOH recently recommended amending the Smoking in Public Places Ordinance to help protect young people from tobacco addiction. ∞



From left to right, back row to front: Commissioners Mike Shah, Romil Sood, Dr. Herb Lipschultz, Dr. Marc Herwitz, staff liaison Bruce Jones, Dr. Stanton Polin, Dr. Bruce Gaynes, Dr. Daniel Vicencio, Dr. Edward Kaplan, Dr. William Plotkin, Milton Nidetz, Dr. Zia Usman, Stanley Lapidos, Rohit Pandya, Lloyd Gordon, Dr. Lesley Luka, Director of Health Dr. Catherine Counard, Chairman Dr. A. Michael Drachler, Dr. Nancy Topouzian and Ruth Varma. Not pictured: Commissioner Dr. M. Nudelman, Trustee Michele Bromberg, Trustee Pramod Shah, Clifford Prince and Patricia Urbanus.

Who's Who: Dr. A. Michael Drachler, Board of Health Chairman

How many years have you been on the Board of Health?

I have been a member of the Board of Health since 2002, nine years.

How many years have you been Chair of the Board of Health?

I have been Chairman for one year.

Why did you seek a volunteer position on the Board of Health?

I have always believed in giving back to the community and the Skokie Board of Health provided an excellent opportunity to use my medical knowledge and experience to contribute to the health and well being of the citizens of Skokie and the surrounding communities.

What BOH program gives you the greatest sense of satisfaction?

I am most proud of working to make Skokie the first municipality in Illinois to ban smoking in indoor public places.



Dr. A. Michael Drachler
Board of Health Chairman

What is your profession?

I am an Obstetrician/Gynecologist and have been in private or group practice for 30 years. Currently, I am a member of the NorthShore University HealthSystem Medical Group.

How long have you lived in Skokie?

I'm sorry to say I don't live in Skokie, I work in Skokie. My office is located at 9977 Woods Drive. I started working in Skokie in 1995 when I became Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Rush NorthShore Medical Center.

What is your favorite shop or restaurant in Skokie?

My favorite shop in Skokie is Kaufman's Bagel & Delicatessen and I look forward to its reopening after construction is completed.

If you would like further information on how to become an active member of the Skokie community, or information on volunteer opportunities, please contact the Mayor's office at 847/933-8269 or visit www.skokie.org to download a Board and Commissions application. You can also find volunteer opportunities at www.SkokieServes.com

Skokie-Oakton Swift Station Update

Construction at the new CTA Skokie-Oakton Yellow Station in Downtown Skokie is nearly complete. Exterior work is nearly finished, the roofing is almost finished and concrete sidewalks, decorative paver bricks and landscaping are complete. The structure painting and granite flooring are complete and look great.

Train signal work is underway and preparations are being made to connect these to the existing train signal system. The CTA equipment installation will occur soon along with the ceilings, cabinets and counter tops for the customer assistance kiosks. The CTA also is working on aligning and profiling the tracks.

Service from the station is expected to begin early in 2012 and a ribbon cutting is planned for late spring or early summer 2012. 



Compass Rose outside of the South Station House.

Things to do in Skokie this Winter Season

Shop Local this Winter

Do you want to decrease your carbon footprint and improve the community? The easiest way to do this is to shop local. Skokie is home to hardware stores, unique boutiques, fruit markets, bakeries, specialty shops, etc. Become a regular at a local shop and see how nice it is to be remembered when you visit. The Village recently launched a new Shop Local Skokie Facebook page, at www.facebook.com/ShopLocalSkokie.

Go Ice Skating

Grab your ice skates and glide away on the new Skatium Ice Rink. The newly renovated center not only rents ice skates, but also offers daily public skating hours during the holiday break and touts a new café that will satisfy any craving. Visit www.skokieparks.org for details.

Celebrate Elvis's Birthday

Grab your blue suede shoes and celebrate Elvis' 77th birthday with your friends. The North Shore Center for Performing Arts in Skokie, 9501 Skokie Boulevard, hosts a concert celebrating the era-by-era musical career of Elvis Presley on January 5, 2012. Contact the North Shore Center for Performing Arts in Skokie at 847/673-6300 for ticket availability.

Attend Return of Pizza Wars

Visit Niles West High School on Thursday, January 19 at 6 p.m. for the Return of Pizza Wars. This fundraising event allows the best pizzerias in town to battle for your vote with hot, gooey slices of paradise. Tickets are \$10 per person; \$12 at the door, with proceeds benefiting District 219 students. Visit www.219foundation.org for more information.

Make a Pie

January 23, 2012 is National Pie Day. Visit the Skokie Public Library and check out a recipe book on baking pies or the history of pies, then visit a local Skokie bakery to have instant pie-ification. Make a pie, eat a pie, exchange pie recipes in celebration of this tasty day!

Find Your Inner Artist

Got cabin fever? Get inspired! Find your inner artist by visiting a Skokie art gallery, exhibit or a Skokie art studio for lessons.

Go Trek in the Snow

It's cold and time to be bold... visit the Emily Oaks Nature Center to rent snow shoes and trek the trails within the nature center. Deer, rabbit and owls call Emily Oaks home, come find out why. Visit www.skokieparks.org for more details.

Be Romeo...or Juliet

Don't be in the dog house... Valentine's Day is on its way and Skokie is home to various florists and sweet shops to help make your sweetheart feel loved.


Enjoy Breakfast with Books

Put your listening ears on, grab the little ones, a hat and scarf and join the Youth Services staff at the Skokie Public Library to enjoy the Breakfast with Books family event on January 14 and February 11, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. The library will share some of their favorite books while enjoying a light breakfast snack. While at the Library, check out one of this year's Coming Together in Skokie books (see page five for more information).

Celebrate the Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year is January 23, 2012 – welcome the year of the dragon by dining at your favorite Skokie Chinese restaurant. Keep the Chinese New Year bells ringing and see the Chinese Golden Dragon Acrobats on February 4, 2012 at the North Shore Center for Performing Arts in Skokie, 9501 Skokie Boulevard. Contact the North Shore Center for Performing Arts in Skokie at 847/673-6300 for ticket availability.

Attend a Lecture

Visit the recently constructed Art, Science, and Technology Pavilion at Oakton Community College's Ray Hartstein Campus, 7701 North Lincoln Avenue. Check Oakton's website, www.oakton.edu for a schedule of lectures that are open to the public and consider taking a non-credit course in yoga, finance, photography or gardening. 

2011 Tax Levy Marks 21st Year of Property Tax Freeze

The Skokie Village Board adopted a 2011 property tax levy that is identical to the Village's 1990 levy, marking the twenty-first consecutive year of the Board's self-imposed property tax freeze. The 2011 tax levy presented to the Village Board on December 5 for first consideration amounts to \$15,456,695, which is identical to the 1990 levy. Approval is expected at the December 19, 2011 Village Board meeting.

"The Village Board approved a five-year property tax freeze in 1991. Due to prudent budgeting and a progressive approach to economic development, the Village has been able to sustain the property tax freeze for an additional 16 years, with 2011 marking the twenty-first year of the Village Board's commitment to hold the line on the Village's share of property taxes," commented Mayor George Van Dusen.

A tradition of prudent budgeting year after year demonstrates Skokie's commitment to fiscal responsibility. Recently, the Village authorized an agreement with a new waste hauler for condominium services which will save the Village \$906,678 over the proposed seven-year

term. This represents a 17.8% cost reduction from the prior contract. Through federal grant funding, Skokie Village Hall is being retrofitted with energy efficient technology including new lighting and windows. In addition, the Village eliminated curbside collection of grass clippings two years ago, providing an annual cost savings and environmental benefits to the community.

In addition, a portion of the annual property tax levy funds some of the Village's capital improvements. The Village continues to maintain its vehicle fleet by replacing vehicles through cash purchases instead of borrowing funds for vehicle acquisition and replacement. A recent example is the cash purchase of a replacement Fire Pumper Truck for \$545,000.

The Village's economic development strategy stimulates private investment within specific areas of the community and ultimately results in both an increased tax base and employment opportunities. In the 1990s, the Village determined that the risk-reward for investing in a parking structure for the Old Orchard Mall was worthwhile, and the investment

proved instrumental in turning a vacant section of the mall, previously occupied by Montgomery Ward, into the Nordstrom store that is present today. Subsequently, the Village made a priority of establishing a research and development campus in Downtown Skokie and collaborated with Forest City Enterprises to bring the Illinois Science + Technology Park to the community. The nearly 24-acre park currently has 18 tenants with more than 1,300 employees, and the park continues to grow at a steady pace despite the slow national economy. Prior to both of these economic development initiatives, the Village invested \$6 million to assist in establishing Village Crossing Shopping Center. Private investments in all three of these projects exceeded the Village's investments tenfold, and resulted in long-term economic benefits to the community.

Mayor Van Dusen stated, "The Village's ongoing commitment to investing in significant economic development projects and our austere approach to budgeting has resulted in measurable property tax relief to the community. In 1990, the Village's share of an average Skokie

property tax bill was 15.22%. In 2010, the Village's share was an average 7.15%. This has been sustained through austere financial times, without an impact on Skokie's excellent municipal services. I commend my colleagues on the Village Board and all Village staff for their hard work to continue Skokie's property tax freeze in light of challenging economic times."

Without a property tax freeze, annual increases could have mirrored changes in the consumer price index. Had the Village of Skokie adjusted its levy annually for inflation since 1990, the 2011 levy would have been \$26,600,178, which is \$11,143,483 higher than the actual 2011 levy of \$15,456,695. It also equates to a nearly 72.1% increase over the 2011 levy, and would have resulted in an average \$326 increase to the average annual residential property tax bill.

Tax bills contain a number of different components, with different government agencies responsible for the various components. For example, the Cook County Assessor determines property value, assessment level, assessed value, equalized assessed value and exemption for homeowners, senior citizens, etc. The only level of control the Village of Skokie has over property tax bills is relative to its annual tax levy. For more information on Skokie's portion of property taxes visit www.skokie.org.

Holiday Light Recycling and Removal

The Village of Skokie and the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) are offering a free Holiday Light Recycling Program. All holiday string lighting and extension cords can be dropped off at Village of Skokie - Public Works, 9050 Gross Point Road, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. through January 27, 847/933-8427. ∞

Remember to remove holiday decorations and lighting early in the New Year. In accordance with the Village of Skokie adopted 2008 National Electric Code section 590.3 (B), temporary electric power and lighting installations shall be permitted for a period not to exceed 90 days for holiday decorative lighting and similar purposes.

For more information, please contact the Property Standards Division at 847/933-8224. ∞



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 at 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:

January 3, 17
 February 6, 21

Plan Commission:

January 5, 19
 February 2, 16

Appearance Commission:

January 11
 February 8


Zoning Board of Appeals:

January 4, 18
 February 1, 15



Village Board Action

The Village is committed to major physical improvements to Downtown Skokie, including both Oakton Street and Lincoln Avenue. With priority placed on pedestrian safety, key physical improvements in Downtown Skokie will include pavement resurfacing, street light/traffic signal upgrades and streetscape improvements. The Board authorized a contract for schematic and detailed design of Downtown Skokie physical improvements with Gewalt Hamilton.

Additionally, the Village Board authorized discussions with the Cook County Highway Department regarding a jurisdictional transfer of Oakton Street from Skokie Boulevard to Long Avenue from Cook County to the Village. A jurisdictional transfer will allow the Village more control of Oakton Street in Downtown Skokie. Because of its location through Downtown Skokie, the Village already does substantial maintenance of Oakton Street including snow plowing, street sweeping, litter control, landscaping, landscape baskets, street lights and banners, sewer and water main maintenance and parking meter maintenance/enforcement. 


Coming Together in Skokie

The Village of Skokie, Niles Township High School District 219 and Skokie Public Library invite everyone to participate in the 2012 Coming Together in Skokie initiative. This year, Coming Together in Skokie celebrates the Assyrian culture. The program is a unique collaboration between many different community groups and presents a valuable opportunity for Skokie residents to participate in an enriching learning experience. The program begins in January and continues through March 2012. Skokie residents are encouraged to read a number of books in early 2012 that provide insight in the Assyrian culture, including:

***Gilgamesh: A New Rendering in English Verse* by David Ferry**
***Home is Beyond the Mountains* by Celia Barker Lottridge**
***Children of War: Voices of Iraqi Refugees* by Deborah Ellis**

These books were selected to appeal to a variety of ages, from middle school through adults. The committee hopes that residents and students will participate in book discussion groups at the library and high schools and in special events sponsored by these and other community organizations such as the Niles Township ELL Parent Center, Oakton Community College and the Skokie Park District. Copies of each book are available at the Skokie Public Library.

The opening celebration for the 2012 Coming Together in Skokie initiative will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2012, at Niles West High School, 5701 Oakton Street. An exhibition of Assyrian art and culture opens at 2:30 p.m., and the cultural program begins at 3:15 p.m. The Coming Together in Skokie committee, along with the Assyrian community, invites everyone to this special celebration of Assyrian culture. The event includes a brief historical summary, music and dance, an introduction to Assyrian wedding practices and the first-person narratives of Assyrian students. For a full list of Coming Together in Skokie programs, including details on presentations by authors Celia Barker Lottridge and Deborah Ellis at the Skokie Public Library, visit <http://ComingTogether.skokieliibrary.info> or call 847/673-7774.

The Coming Together in Skokie initiative is intended to build knowledge, awareness and appreciation of different cultures and backgrounds. The first Coming Together in Skokie initiative in 2010 featured the Asian Indian population, and the 2011 program focused on Filipino culture. Thousands of Skokie residents from many cultures and countries participated in the first two Coming Together in Skokie initiatives by attending community events and reading the designated books. It is hoped that more residents will become involved in Coming Together in Skokie in 2012. 

Nuisance Ordinance

Continued from front page

stitute a nuisance in a specified period of time.

Since its inception, the committee has deemed 47 properties/addresses as nuisance locations. The problem situations at 35 of these properties have been resolved to the satisfaction of the committee, and 12 remain active. Staff from the Community Development, Health and Police Departments, the Human Services Division and Village Manager's Office continue to monitor the 'active' nuisance properties and are working toward bringing the properties into compliance.

When the committee deems a property as a public nuisance, a number of possible actions occur. Initially, a letter is issued to the property owner from the Chief of Police and Property Standards Supervisor informing the owner that, due to a high number of calls or contacts, their property has been deemed a nuisance. A copy of the ordinance is attached, with a directive to review the materials and implement required action to eliminate the nuisance condition. According to Police Chief Anthony Scarpelli, committee chairman, the vast majority of property owners respond quickly and proactively about eliminating the nuisance condition. Even after a property is brought into compliance, it remains on the committee 'watch list' for at least 90 days to ensure that improved conditions remain stable.

If the initial letter does not bring about the desired change, a meeting is set up with the property owner, Chief of Police, Property Standards Supervisor and other appropriate Village staff to discuss the nuisance situation and make it clear that the property owner alone is responsible for conditions at the property. An action plan is developed for nuisance elimination. Landlords are encouraged to speak with their tenant and put them on notice that the nuisance issue or issues, if not remedied, will result in follow up action that could include non-renewal of the lease, tenant relocation or possible eviction. Property owners also are reminded of the ordinance provision that requires them to have a lease provision stating that the tenant shall not use the leased premises, or allow it to be used, for criminal activity. In extreme cases, landlords can receive up to a \$750 per day fine for violations and other adjudicative action can be taken.

Recently, a property was brought to the Village's attention by several neighbors who called to report alleged drug activity by the occupant. Village staff met with the property owner, who did not renew the tenant's lease. In another case, a neighbor contacted the police as they also suspected illegal drug activity at a property. Upon further investigation, the authorities determined that the activities were actually related to fencing stolen property. Neighbors are encouraged to participate in the Village's Neighborhood Watch

program, and to work together with the Village on neighborhood issues of concern. Information on Neighborhood Watch is available through the Police Department Crime Prevention Unit, 847/982-5919.

The Nuisance Property Ordinance is in place to protect the community. Residents are encouraged to call the Police Department immediately if they observe suspicious activity at a property, such as loud noise, youth problems, disorderly conduct and possible drug violations. For property standards or health code violations residents should call 847/673-0500. Also of concern are illegal dwelling units, such as basement apartments (which are not allowed by Village code) or overcrowding. Hazardous conditions should be reported to Property Standards, including inadequate exterior lighting on multi-tenant buildings, overgrown lawns, etc. Property Standards Supervisor Terry Oline reports that professionally managed buildings tend to be less problematic relative to code violations and activities that require intervention from authorities.

If you have concerns about suspicious activity at a property, call the Police Department. Always call 9-1-1 in the event of an emergency, but when reporting a matter that is not an emergency, please call 847/982-5900 or email info@skokie.org. Violations of property standards or health codes also can be emailed to info@skokie.org or reported to the Property Standards Division at 847/933-8223. ∞

Village offers Scholarship at Oakton Community College

In 2007, to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Council-Manager form of government in Skokie, the Village Board established the Skokie Excellence in Professional Government Management Scholarship at Oakton Community College (OCC). Each year, the OCC scholarship committee selects the scholarship recipient according to the Village's established criteria, including that the recipient must live in Skokie and aspire to a career in local government. The recipient's field of study can include law enforcement, public safety, government administration and other areas of curriculum that pertain to local government service and operations.

Students who wish to be considered for this scholarship must complete and submit a Scholarship Application and Personal Statement electronically to OCC by February 29, 2012. For more information contact Alex DeLonis, OCC Office of Student Financial Assistance at adelonis@oakton.edu or 847/635-2624. ∞

TeenLink

The Village of Skokie offers the *TeenLink* program to unite Skokie residents who are in need of outside seasonal yard work, including snow shoveling, raking and lawn care, with Skokie teens who are available for hire to do the work. The resident is responsible for contacting the teen and for making financial and scheduling arrangements.

If you would like the *TeenLink* contact list please call the Village Manager's Office at 847/933-8257.

Skokie teens can also complete an application to be added to the *TeenLink* program by contacting the Village Manager's Office or visiting www.skokie.org to download an application. ∞

Install, Inspect, and Protect

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) launched the *Install, Inspect, Protect, Campaign*, encouraging people to install and maintain smoke alarms and sprinklers, practice fire escape plans and perform a home safety walk-through.

The USFA recommends installing smoke alarms both inside and outside of sleeping areas and on every level of your home, testing them monthly and changing the batteries at least once a year. Additionally, alarms that are ten years or older should be replaced as they may no longer be reliable.

For more information, visit www.usfa.dhs.gov/smokealarms or call the Skokie Fire Department at 847/982-5344. ∞

When it Snows in Skokie

The Plow is on the Way

Anytime the forecast calls for snow, a Skokie Public Works snow commander is placed on call to monitor storm conditions and oversee plowing operations. The snow commander uses computerized weather systems to gauge a storm's intensity and progression. If needed, snow plowing crews are placed on alert.

Refuse Pickup

The first priority during a snow emergency is keeping the streets safe for traffic, emergency vehicles and pedestrians. Refuse pickup can be delayed when Village refuse trucks are used to assist with plowing operations. Check www.skokie.org for updates.

Alternate Side Parking

After a snowfall of two or more inches, the Alternate Side Parking Program is placed into effect. On even-numbered days, all vehicles are to be parked on the even-numbered side of the street. On odd-numbered days all vehicles are required to park on the odd-numbered side of the street. The program is in effect from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. for a minimum of two days.

As a reminder, an alert warning siren sounds at the start of alternate-side parking at 7 a.m. each day the plan is in effect. Residents can verify that the Alternate Side Parking Program is in effect by dialing 847/675-SNOW (7669), watching SkokieVision Cable, tuning into 1660 AM, signing up for email alerts through SkokieNews or visiting www.skokie.org.

Here Comes the Plow

When the Village experiences multiple days of snow, the emergency preparedness team works through evening hours to help keep ahead of conditions. It takes approximately 16 hours to clear the Village's 160 miles of roadway and 12 to 16 hours to clear the 70 miles of alleys. Heavy snow accumulations require even more time.

Sidewalks

Skokie is one of a few municipalities that plows residential sidewalks. The Village plows its entire network of sidewalks when snow accumulations exceed four inches. After streets are cleared of snow, special, smaller plows are dispatched to clear sidewalks.

Alleys

Alleys are plowed after a 6" or greater snowfall, only after all other operational aspects of snow removal have been completed and personnel and equipment are available.

Plowing Responsibilities

The Village is responsible for plowing Village-owned streets. Cook County and the State of Illinois own many of the Village's major roads, such as Old Orchard Road, Crawford Avenue and Golf Road, and are responsible for plowing/salting these roads. For more information on Skokie roadway jurisdictions, see the Public Works snow webpage at www.skokie.org. ∞

Shop Local Skokie Facebook page

The Village recently launched a *Shop Local Skokie* Facebook fan page to promote economic development inside of Skokie. Please be sure to “like” the *Shop Local Skokie* Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ShopLocalSkokie to learn more about the wide range of businesses located in Skokie and about the benefits of shopping local.

Skokie is home to many unique stores and restaurants, from national chains to independent shops. Shopping local helps create local jobs, saves gas/time and a portion of your sales tax comes directly back to the community.

Get out and explore Skokie to discover how all of your shopping, dining and entertainment needs can be met just minutes from your home!

Shop local and be sure to “like” the *Shop Local Skokie* Facebook page to learn all that Skokie has to offer. ∞

Downtown Skokie

Continued from front page

All participating businesses will have a Downtown Skokie 5 poster in their window, and will be listed at www.skokiedowntown.org. A partial list of participating businesses includes:

Al's Cycle Shop	Mystic Fountain Wellness Center
AmerAsia Printing for Less	Print Xpress
Annie's Pancake House	Robert's Office Supply
Bob's Magazine Museum	Skokie Ace Hardware
Bughouse Art Studio	Skokie Optical
Cigar King	Skokie Paint & Wallpaper
Crafty Beaver Home Center	Subway on Oakton
De Jred Fine Jamaican Cuisine	Sweetie Pies Bakery
Eclissi Italian Restaurant	The Curragh Irish Pub
FashN Frenz Jewelry	The UPS Store
Gaite Salon	Tondeo Traders
Kabul House	Tub Tim Thai
Libertad	Village Inn Pizzeria
Lira Beauty Salon	Walgreens
Marge's Flower Shop	Yolo Mexican Eatery

For a complete list of rules visit www.skokiedowntown.org. *Play early and often! Shop local and make a difference!* ∞

Grants for Skokie Schools and Arts Organizations

The Skokie Fine Arts Commission offers Cultural Arts Grants for Skokie schools and Project Art Grants for Skokie art organizations. Cultural Arts Grants for Skokie schools are in the amount of \$500 for fine arts programming.

Skokie not-for-profit arts organizations are eligible to apply for the Project Grant. This grant is available in varying amounts; however, the organization submitting the application must make a matching financial contribution of at least 25% of the cost of the project. Schools and governing bodies with taxing powers are not eligible to receive funding through the Village's Grant Programming Budget.

The Fine Arts Commission offers a grants workshop on Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. at Village Hall, 5127

Oakton Street. The application deadline for both grants is Monday, April 2, 2012. Skokie public and private schools that host professional visiting artists are

eligible to apply for the Cultural Arts Grant. A copy of the application is available at www.skokie.org. New applicants and applicants with ques-

tions are strongly encouraged to contact the Fine Arts Commission at 847/933-8257 or info@skokie.org with questions regarding grant guidelines. ∞

What I Love About Skokie

The Village continues to receive messages from residents with details on what they love about Skokie. Here are a few that have been received in recent weeks:

“Last winter as the big blizzard that shut everything down for a day was approaching I ran a number of errands. I ran to the hardware store for salt and a new shovel and to the gas station to fill up my car. Then I stopped for groceries and made my last stop at the Skokie Public Library. The longest line I was in all day was at the Library. The place was mobbed with people stocking up on books to read and movies to see. I love Skokie!” *Dave R., 20-year resident*

“I grew up in Skokie and have spent almost my entire adult life here... I loved Skokie 50 years ago and appreciate Skokie even more now with all it has to offer!” *Ellen W., 50 year resident*

What do you love about Skokie? Send an email to info@skokie.org or write to Village of Skokie, 5127 Oakton Street, Skokie, 60077, Attention: Public Information. Please include your name, address, phone and email address and the number of years you have lived in Skokie. As space permits, the Village will feature these comments in NewSkokie, on the Village web site and in other Village outreach. ∞

Preventing Pertussis

Recently, pertussis, or whooping cough, has been highlighted in the news because of an increase of pertussis cases in northern Illinois. The Skokie Board of Health recommends that all adults be vaccinated against pertussis as soon as possible. Immunity decreases over time after childhood vaccination. Adults who have not received a booster are no longer immune.

Pertussis is typically spread to young infants by adolescents or adults, usually household members. Infants too young to be immunized against pertussis are particularly vulnerable to severe pertussis disease. Increasing population immunity to pertussis should reduce opportunities for pertussis transmission.

Pertussis is a highly contagious disease that is preventable by vaccination. It is easily spread from person to person through coughing and sneezing. Symptoms such as cough, runny nose, sneezing and low-grade fever can last several weeks and lead to complications like pneumonia. Frequent hand washing, covering the mouth, coughing into tissues and staying home when ill are important practices to limit the spread of infection. The best way to prevent the spread of pertussis is to be vaccinated.

For more information regarding pertussis and the Tdap vaccine consult with your physician or contact the Skokie Health Department at 847/933-8252 or www.skokie.org/health.

Medical Reserve Corps Volunteers

The Skokie Health Department has implemented a Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) for interested medical professionals. The next orientation is scheduled for January 10 at 7 p.m. at Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street. Volunteer opportunities will be summarized at the orientation. Please reserve your seat in advance to assure that adequate materials are available.

If you have any questions or would like to sign up for the orientation, contact Claudia Braden, RN, Emergency Response Coordinator at 847/933-8252.

Stop Smoking Clinic



Street.

Need help to stop smoking? The Skokie Health Department's "Courage to Quit" program may just be what you are looking for.

There is a \$15 fee which covers the cost of course materials. The fee will be refunded to those participants who complete the program. Group counseling and education are part of the program.

The six-session program begins on Monday January 9 at 7 p.m. at the Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton

The program is open to all Skokie residents and those who work in Skokie. Call 847/933-8252 for more information or to register.

Guidelines for Feeding Wildlife

Many people like to feed birds and animals during the winter months, but most don't realize that this practice is regulated by the Village.

Ground feeding can attract rats, skunks and other un-

wanted "guests."

According to Village ordinance, feeding wildlife requires the use of approved feeders that are off the ground. The feeders and the areas around them must be properly maintained and kept clean to discourage unwanted pests.



For more information about ground feeding, contact the Health Department at 847/933-8484.

Holiday Closing

The Skokie Health Department will be closed on Monday, January 2 and Monday, February 20 in observance of the New Year's Day and Presidents' Day holidays. No TB screening or registrar services will be available on either day.

The Health Department will resume its normal operating schedule on Tuesday, January 3 and Tuesday, February 21.

January/February 2012

Refuse and Recycling Collection Schedule

Holiday Refuse Collection

During the weeks of January 2 (New Year's holiday), January 16 (Martin Luther King holiday) and February 20 (Presidents' Day holiday) Monday collections are on Tuesday, Tuesday collections are on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday collections are unchanged. To find out which days your refuse is collected please visit www.skokie.org.

Holiday Recycling Collection

During the week of January 2 (New Year's holiday) Monday collections will be on Tuesday, Tuesday collections will be on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday collections are unchanged. Normal collection schedules will remain in effect during the Martin Luther King Day and Presidents' Day holiday weeks. To find out which day your recycling is collected and what items are recyclable, please visit www.skokie.org.

Health Happenings

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

Immunization Clinics*

Immunizations are available for only a \$5 per person clinic visit fee. Appointments are required. Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon. Wednesdays, January 4, 18 and February 1, 15 from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesdays, January 11, 25 and February 8, 22 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Well Child Clinic*

Mondays, January 9 and February 13 from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

Simple Cholesterol Screening

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays, January 4, 18 and February 1, 15 from 5 to 7 p.m. \$6 fee.

Lead Screening*

Wednesdays, January 4 and February 1 from 2 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays, January 4, 18 and February 1, 15 from 5 to 7 p.m. \$25 fee.

Body Composition Analysis*

Tuesdays 9 a.m. to noon. Thursdays 2 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays, January 4, 18 and February 1, 15 from 5 to 7 p.m. \$6 fee.

Blood Pressure Screening

Tuesdays, 2 to 4 p.m. Thursdays, 9 a.m. to noon. Wednesdays, January 4, 18 and February 1, 15 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Hearing Screening*

Fridays, January 20 and February 17 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Stop Smoking Clinic*

Mondays, January 9, 16, 23 and 30 and February 6 and 13 at 7 p.m. \$15 fee.

Lipid Profile Screening*

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon. Wednesdays, January 4, 18 and February 1, 15 from 5 to 7 p.m. \$15 fee.

Diabetes Screening*

Tuesdays, January 17 and February 14 from 9 a.m. to noon. \$5 fee.

TB Skin Testing*

Mondays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon, except Mondays, January 2 and February 20. Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4:45 p.m. \$5 fee.

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 to 11:15 a.m.

Woodcarving Club

Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Amateurs are welcome. No instructor.

Hearing Loss Support Group

Thursdays, January 12 and February 9 from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Chess

Wednesdays and Fridays from noon to 4 p.m.

Conversational German

Thursdays, January 5, 19 and February 2, 16 at 1:30 p.m.

Conversational Yiddish

No fee or registration required. Everyone is welcome. Tuesdays, January 17, 24, 31 and February 21, 28 at 1:30 p.m.

FOCUS (For Optically Challenged Upbeat Sorts)

Wednesdays, January 11 and February 8 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Please call Juanita at 847/933-8208 for more information.

Circuit Breaker/ Illinois Cares RX

(Formally known as Circuit Breaker) Please call 847/933-8208 for an appointment.

Low Vision Support Group

Tuesdays, January 10 and February 14 from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Medicare Supplement Claims Assistance/ Senior Health Insurance Program

Selected dates, by appointment only.

Skokie Senior Men's Group

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

Needlework

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

Rules of the Road

Review for driver's exam. Mondays, January 9 and February 6 from 9:15 a.m. to noon.

Stamp Club

Wednesdays, January 4, 18 and February 1, 15 at 1:30 p.m.

Silver Singers

Mondays, January 30 and February 27 at 1:30 p.m. For more details, please call 847/933-8208.

Federal Income Tax Program

Federal Income Tax help is provided free-of-charge starting in February to low-to moderate-income senior residents and those individuals who are handicapped. Simple taxes only. Please call 847/933-8208 for an appointment or more information.

U.S. Citizenship Class

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

CPR Schedule

Please call the Skokie Fire Department at 847/982-5340 for January 17 and February 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 information please call the box office at 847/673-6300 or visit www.northshorecenter.org

Elvis Birthday Tribute Artist Spectacular

In the Centre East Theatre Thursday, January 5 at 7:30 p.m.

Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra

In the Centre East Theatre Sunday, January 8 at 3 p.m.

Capital Steps

In the Centre East Theatre Thursday, January 26 at 7:30 p.m.; Friday, January 27 at 8 p.m.; Saturday, January 28 at 5 and 8 p.m.; and Sunday, January 29 at 3 p.m.

Continued on page 11

Continued from page 10

Black Pearl Sings!
In the Northlight Theatre

Tuesday through Sunday from January 13 to February 19.

The Music of ABBA
In the Centre East Theatre

Friday, February 3 at 8 p.m.

Chinese Golden Dragon Acrobats
In the Centre East Theatre

Saturday, February 4 at 1 and 5 p.m.

Thodos Dance Chicago & Luna Negra Dance Theater
In the Centre East Theatre

Saturday, February 11 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, February 12 at 3 p.m.

Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestra
In the Centre East Theatre

Sunday, February 19 at 3 p.m.

Lily Tomlin
In the Centre East Theatre

Saturday, February 25 at 5 and 8 p.m.

Skokie Park District

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

Winter Chilly Fest
Enjoy an evening of outdoor ice skating under the stars and a cozy chili dinner. February 11 and 12 from 4 to 8 p.m. Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel Street.

Summer Camp 2012 Open House

January 11 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Oakton Community Center, 4701 Oakton Street.

Teen Dances

Skokie teens with Teen Program IDs will get their groove on the second Friday of every month at the Weber Center Gym. January 13 and February 10 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Weber Leisure Center, 9300 Weber Park Place.

Summer Camp - Resident Registration

January 29 is the first day for Skokie residents to register for Camps 2012. Non-resident registration begins February 15. Don't wait in line, use WebTrac at www.skokieparkdistrict.org for fast and easy service anytime. Walk-in and mail registration also accepted.

Snowshoe Rentals at Emily Oaks Nature Center

First-come, first-served when four or more inches of snow are on the ground. \$4-\$5/hour. Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel Street.

The Acrofabulous Circus Spectacular

February 4 at 7 p.m. \$9 for students and seniors, \$11 for adults. Devonshire Playhouse, 4400 Greenwood Street.

Daddy-Daughter Valentine's Dance

Dance the night away with your daughter or daddy. Ages 1+, February 4 from 5 to 7 p.m. \$20 -\$30/couple, \$10 for additional attendees. Oakton Community Center, 4701 Oakton Street.

Teen Job Fair

Local employers will be available to answer questions and accept employment applications for seasonal and year-round part-time jobs for teens. Tuesday, January 24 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Skokie Public Library.

Spring Program Resident Registration Begins

February 15 is the first day of Skokie resident registration for the Park District's spring programs (February 22 for non-residents). Don't wait in line, use WebTrac at www.skokieparkdistrict.org for fast and easy service anytime. Walk-in and mail registration also accepted.

Devonshire Playhouse Presents: Pride and Prejudice

February 18 through March 4. Devonshire Playhouse, 4400 Greenwood Street.

Fourth & Fifth Grade Dance Party

Get ready to dance the night away with a guest DJ, games, prizes and more! Pizza, juice and supervision will be provided. You must register in advance. \$7 to \$8. February 24 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Oakton Community Center, 4701 Oakton Street.

Skokie Public Library

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

Library Closed

Sunday, January 1.

In a Nutshell: The Worlds of Maurice Sendak Exhibit Opening

Thursday, January 5 at 7 p.m.

Young Steinway Concert

Sunday, January 8 at 3 p.m.

I Have an eReader - Now What?

Monday, January 9 at 7 p.m.

Stories of Jewish Chicago in the Kitchen - What's Old Is New

Wednesday, January 11 at 7 p.m.

Concert: Tin Pan Alley to Terezin: Music of the 1930s

Sunday, January 15 at 3 p.m.

Preschool and Child Care Fair

Tuesday, January 17 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Concert: Trio Voce

Sunday, January 22 at 3 p.m.

eBay 101: Selling Basics

Wednesday, January 25 at 7 p.m.

Ancient Roman Mosaics: A Special Exhibit Preview

Thursday, January 26 at 7 p.m.

Skokie Madden Bowl IV

Saturday, January 28 at 1 p.m.

Assyrians: The Indigenous Mesopotamians

Wednesday, February 1 at 7 p.m.

Young Steinway Concert

Sunday, February 5 at 3 p.m.

An Evening with Jabali African Acrobats

Thursday, February 9 at 7 p.m.

Evanston Dance Ensemble Previews "Count Me In"

Sunday, February 12 at 3 p.m.

Tell Them Anything You Want: A Portrait of Maurice Sendak

Wednesday, February 15 at 7 p.m.

Understanding Gilgamesh

Thursday, February 16 at 7 p.m.

Highland Park Pops Big Band

Sunday, February 19 at 3 p.m.

The Underground Railroad in Will and Cook Counties

Saturday, February 25 at 2 p.m.

Music of Mesopotamia: Classical Guitar and Se-tar

Sunday, February 26 at 3 p.m.

Second Homeland: Film Screen and Panel Discussion

Wednesday, February 29 at 7 p.m. 

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The Health Department Needs Your Input!

The Skokie Health Department is conducting a comprehensive community assessment to determine the health needs of Skokie. The results of this assessment will help the department modify existing programs, if necessary, and plan for the next five years.



This is part of the IPLAN (Illinois Project for Local Assessment of Needs) process. IPLAN is one of numerous requirements the Health Department must meet to maintain its certification by the Illinois Department of Public Health. The Skokie Health Department is currently one of only a few certified municipal health departments in the state.

Your opinion is very important to this process. A short electronic survey will be available on line at www.skokie.org beginning Tuesday, January 3, 2012. Please take a moment to complete the survey, and give the Health Department feedback. Paper copies will be available in the Health Department, or you can call the department to have an individual survey mailed to you.

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

Holiday Tree Pickup

Weather permitting, Village of Skokie Public Works crews will pick up Holiday trees during the first two weeks in January. Collected trees are chipped and available as mulch to Village residents after the New Year's holiday.

For collection place your tree in your normal refuse pickup spot. Do not put the tree in a bag or container, and please remove all decorations. The mulch pick-up area is located on the south side of Church Street in the Commonwealth Edison right-of-way property which is just east of Terminal Avenue. ♻️

NewSkokie is printed on 45% post-consumer recycled content paper with soy-based ink.



Village Departments

Village Hall
847/673-0500

Citizens Assistance
847/933-8480

Civil Engineering
847/933-8231

Clerk's Office
847/933-8203

Community Development
Building/Property Standards/
Zoning
847/933-8223

Economic Development
847/933-8446

Planning
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

Village Manager's Office
847/933-8210

Water Billing
847/933-8418