

NewSkokie



April 2008

The award-winning municipal information source

Economic Development Update

Illinois Science + Technology Park

In March 2005 a 24-acre Downtown Skokie parcel, formerly occupied by G.D. Searle/Pfizer, was purchased by Forest City Enterprises, a Cleveland, Ohio-based firm with previous experience developing office research parks.

Forest City named the property the Illinois Science + Technology Park (IS+TP) and demolished a majority of the site's buildings, retaining the state-of-the-art research facility previously known as Building Q and three other buildings with newer or versatile office/research space. Village staff spent over a year working with Forest City on a master plan development. The Plan Commission approved the plan after several months of consideration, and the Appearance Commission approved design guidelines.

In January 2007, the Village Board gave the plan final approval and a new zoning district was created for the campus. The new IS+TP is designed to integrate into an expanded and rejuvenated Downtown Skokie.

The master plan for the park balances taller buildings with open spaces and pedestrian ways. A zoning district provision stipulates a minimum 25%

of open space that is accessible to the public. The site plan includes a provision that limits retail uses in the ground floor of each building to 20% of the building footprint, thus creating an environment where park employees venture away from the campus for meals and services.

Currently, the campus has approximately 800 employees. Tenants include: Astellas, Evanston Northwestern Healthcare, Forest City, Midwest BioResearch, NanoBusiness Alliance, NanoInk, Nanotope, Polyera, Fisher Scientific and World Courier.

In total, the park is projected to have up to two million square feet of office and laboratory space for a total project cost of about \$500 million. The completed development should result in 3,000 to 5,000 on-site jobs. Analysts project that the IS+TP will generate \$1.8 billion annually in statewide economic activity, with park employees spending \$2 million annually in Downtown Skokie, just at lunchtime.

West Dempster Street Development

The Mayor and Village Board have adopted/implemented several programs to address the

problems with the West Dempster Street Commercial District. The district is generally defined as Dempster Street from Kilpatrick Avenue on the east to Edens Expressway on the west. Problems include excess vacancies, lack of private investment/development, and building obsolescence and other aesthetic issues.

First, a transit-oriented district zoning plan was adopted. This plan allows additional height and density for properties along the corridor. The hope was that the new zoning would spur "mixed-use" development that features commercial uses on the first floor and residential on floors above. Secondly, the Skokie Swift property was completely renovated and this resulted in better transit connections, parking and the restoration and moving of the historic train station building. This structure now contains a very popular Starbucks facility. Finally, the Village undertook a \$3.5 million streetscape and landscape enhancement project. This was funded 50% by the Village and 50% by the adjacent property owners.

Typically these actions would spur the private sector to purchase the older, tired-looking properties and redevelop them

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utilizing the new zoning incentives. Despite these aggressive efforts by the Village this redevelopment has not yet happened to the extent desired. A mixed-use development was built on Niles Center Road between Dempster Street and Skokie Boulevard and redevelopment is currently occurring at two properties located at Dempster Street and Lockwood Avenue and Dempster Street and Gross Point Road. There also will soon be a façade improvement at northeast Dempster Street at Bronx Avenue. While this is a good start, the Village hopes for more substantial development at several other sites along the corridor.

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Economic Development Update

Continued from page one

The Village has filed lawsuits against two properties (south-east Niles Center Road/Dempster Street and southwest Skokie Boulevard/Dempster Street) to acquire these properties, combine them and then invite redevelopment proposals. The Village has met with a number of the property owners to try to motivate them to develop their properties. The Village will continue to utilize all available economic development tools to invigorate this important commercial area.

For updates on Skokie's numerous economic development initiatives, visit the Village's web site at www.skokie.org, watch for articles in future editions of *NewSkokie* and subscribe to SkokieNews, the Village's monthly electronic newsletter that often contains concise articles about redevelopment projects around town.

To subscribe to SkokieNews, visit www.skokie.org and follow the link on the bottom of the home page, or call 847/933-8257 and Village staff will enter your information in the SkokieNews subscription database. ∞

Community Development Block Grant Program

The Village of Skokie recently conducted three public hearings to determine its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects for the 2008-09 fiscal year. The Village receives CDBG funds from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) each year to use for a variety of capital improvements, housing rehabilitation and social services that principally benefit low- and moderate-income Skokie residents.

A standard application process is conducted by the Village to annually determine the most worthy funding requests within the confines of the total grant amount. Administration expenses are also paid from the grant but are capped at 20% of the annual entitlement. General support to social services is also limited to 15% of the new grant plus any program income that has been generated throughout the year. The program is designed so that most of the funding must go toward capital improvements and rehab activities.

The Village's grant for 2008-09 will be \$489,574. The Village also has \$3,214 of program income and will reprogram

\$39,116 of grant funds that have not been spent from previously completed projects for a total 2008-09 budget of \$532,084. CDBG proposals from both Village staff and outside agencies totaled \$697,966, necessitating a reduction of \$165,882 through the public hearing process. Following are the approved activities, funding allocations and descriptions of each project:

Administration

Program Administration and Planning, \$97,870:

Funding to administer the Village's CDBG Program, implement and monitor all projects, submit all required documentation to HUD and coordinate all planning activities relative to the Village's community development efforts.

Public Services

Disability Services, \$49,900:

Funding to staff and administer the Disability Services Office of the Village's Human Services Division, including administration, planning, and coordination of programs related to individuals with disabilities.

Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation, \$3,000:

M-NASR provides scholarship assistance for children and adults with developmental disabilities enabling them to participate in special recreational, social and exercise programs.

Children's Advocacy Center, \$2,000:

The Children's Advocacy Center serves child victims of abuse, and non-offending parents and siblings. Services include abuse investigation, expert child interviews, medical evaluations, court advocacy, crisis intervention, and ongoing support. The agency served 22 Skokie clients last year.

Access to Care, \$7,000:

The Access to Care Program is sponsored by the Suburban Primary Health Care Council in Westchester, Illinois. The organization served over 13,000 clients last year, of which 302 were Skokie residents and all are considered low income. Access to Care helps to provide basic medical services to uninsured low-income residents who are not eligible for Medicare or Medicaid.

Center for Enriched Living, \$3,000:

The Center for Enriched Living is a non-profit, social-enrichment and skills-development center for people with developmental disabilities.

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Downtown Skokie Swift Station

The Village continues to work with the State of Illinois and the Chicago Transit Authority on plans to construct a new Skokie Swift station in Downtown Skokie on Oakton Street just west of Skokie Boulevard and adjacent to the IS+TP. To date, the Village has received over \$10 million in Federal funds for the project. Currently, the project is in the design engineering phase.

Community Development Block Grant Program

Continued from page two

Funds will be used to offset expenses of the Center's Independent Living Skills Programs providing vocational skill development, fitness and nutritional programming, social skills development, health and hygiene management, personal safety and interpersonal communication building.

North Shore Senior Center, \$6,000:

Funding will assist in providing long-term case management and counseling services to Skokie's homebound, low-income elderly and their families. Services include formal assessments, counseling services, case management, and follow-up home visits. The majority of clients also have multiple medical problems which affect daily functioning.

The Harbour, Inc., \$3,000:

The Harbour, Inc. is a Park Ridge-based agency serving the needs of runaway, neglected and homeless girls and young women ages 12-21. The agency's Transitional Living Program (TLP) serves 16 to 21 year-old homeless girls in the north and northwest suburbs by providing supervised living while they complete high school and work part-time, and make the transition to self-sufficiency. The program served 41 girls last year, including two from Skokie who received 410 nights of TLP care.

Capital Improvements and Rehab

Multi-Family Area Sidewalk Replacement, \$199,314:

This funding will enable the Public Works Department to do extensive sidewalk replacement in all CDBG-eligible multi-family residential areas in Skokie. A small amount of curb and gutter replacement also will be performed in conjunction with this activity. Public Works plans to replace all defective sidewalks in the multi-family areas in 2008.

Sidewalk Grant Program, \$5,000:

This program provides for grants to homeowners meeting low/moderate income eligibility who are required to participate in the Village's mandatory 50/50 sidewalk replacement program. As the Village implements its Mandatory Sidewalk Replacement Program, low/moderate income property owners are able to apply on an individual basis for CDBG funds to cover their 50% share. The area of concentration for this program in 2008-2009 will be from Oakton Street north to the corporate limits.

Housing Repair Program, \$80,000:

Funding will enable the Village to continue the program of repairing single-family homes owned and occupied by low/moderate income residents. This program began in 1983 and has operated continuously ever since. Low-income households (less than

50% of area median family income) are eligible to receive grants up to \$8,000 to pay for building materials or contractors' services, and moderate-income households (50 to 80% of median family income) can receive loans from local banks with the entire interest charges being subsidized through the program. The program generally serves about 15 to 25 households per year.

Council for Jewish Elderly, \$20,000:

This project will involve the replacement of kitchen equipment at the Lieberman Geriatric Health Center at 9700 Gross Point Road. Lieberman is a 240-bed skilled nursing facility that served 354 frail, elderly residents in 2007, all considered to be low-income. The center provides skilled nursing care, Alzheimer's care, short-term rehabilitation and hospice/end-of-life care.

SHORE Community Services, \$15,000:

The recommended funding will assist SHORE in remodeling a kitchen in a group home, housing four men with severe developmental disabilities.

Orchard Village, \$15,000:

Funds will be used to replace the deteriorated flooring and renovate the kitchen at Orchard Village's Seniors Group Home housing eight people with developmental disabilities.

Search Developmental Center, \$12,000:

Search Developmental Center will replace the roof, soffits, gutters and downspouts at a group home housing four developmentally disabled women.

Metropolitan Family Services, \$4,000:

Metropolitan Family Services provides counseling and a variety of social services to primarily low- and moderate-income clients. Funds will be used to replace the building's deteriorated air conditioning unit.

Housing Opportunity Development Corporation \$10,000:

The funding will assist HODC with most of the cost of resurfacing the driveway and parking lot and replacing some broken windows at an apartment building in Skokie. All of the apartment units are rented at below-market rates exclusively to low-income residents.

For more information on the Community Development Block Grant program, please call the Community Development Department at 847/933-8446 or visit the Village's website at www.skokie.org.



2008 Beautification Awards

The Beautification and Improvement Commission Annual Property Owner Awards ceremony is scheduled for April 7, 2008 at 8 p.m. in the Village Council Chambers. The following residents will receive Certificates of Appreciation from the Commission for maintaining their property in an exceptional manner during 2007:

Adam's Mobil Service

8401 Skokie Boulevard

Dolores Lindenbaum

Arie Crown Hebrew Day School,
4600 Main Street

Shaul and Chani Basa

9252 Keeler

Pastor Joel Benbow, Trinity Lutheran Church

3637 Evanston

Dianne Peterson Blanas

8206 Central Park

Mary & Gerry Bonkoske

8100 Lorel

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Ciminello

5325 Main Street

Ben & Baby Cruz

5444 Grove

Mr. & Mrs. Felix Cruz

7818 East Prairie Road

Pons & Dorothy Derequito

4151 Emerson

Frederick A. Ehmke

5229 Madison

Nancy & David Futransky

9005 Pottawattami

Addie & Sam Goodman

9246 Hamlin

Lola & Marion Gulley

9244 Ewing

Haben Funeral Home & Residence

8051 Niles Center Road

Jim & Michelle Harris

5247 Greenwood

Carmen & Sam Jazairli

8301 Lockwood

Mr. & Mrs. Korajczyk

8320 Lockwood

Joe and Mary Kusecek

4401 Birchwood

Michaela McCarthy

3619 Foster

Mr. & Mrs. Michael McDermott

9353 Hamlin

Greg & Lori Merkley

25 Salem Lane

Nicholas H. Morales

5331 Harvard Terrace

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Niewiadomski

9445 Latrobe

Wilson Odisho

5342 Harvard Terrace

Chuck & Helene Pizzolato

5233 Madison

Linda, Gilbert, and Gregg Poppenhagen

5211 Cleveland

Thomas J. and Winikay T. Reese

8056 Lorel

Cindy Clark & Bob Regan

9549 Monticello

Nancy Salkover

9540 Avers

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Samuels

7809 East Prairie Rd

Patricia & George Schlauder

7640 Karlov

Jim & Diane Stuart

9523 Ridgeway

Leonard Joy & Suzanne Sawada

9520 Avers

Cati & Ted Tiriteu

4200 Enfield

Jackie & Bob Tropp

8547 St. Louis

Westfield Old Orchard

66 Old Orchard Center

The Village Forester Says...

Arbor Day

Remember April 25th is Arbor Day! As a Tree City for over 20 years, this day has special meaning for Skokie. Each year on Arbor Day the Village and the Skokie Park District co-sponsor a tree planting ceremony. This year's ceremony is April 25 at 10 a.m., and will be hosted by the Skokie Park District at Schack Park, located at Coyle and Latrobe.

In honor of Arbor Day, residents are encouraged to plant a tree on the parkway in front of their houses. The Village's 50/50 Parkway Tree Planting Program will pay for 50 percent of the cost of the tree. Parkway Tree Planting applications are available from the Village Forester and online at www.skokie.org.

For more information please contact the Village Forester at 847/933-8271, or visit www.skokie.org.



TREE CITY USA.



Harvest Water With Rain Barrels

Besides helping the environment, an obvious reason for harvesting rainwater is to save money. A rain barrel collects and stores rainwater from your rooftop which you later can use in many ways. For example, rainwater is naturally soft and devoid of minerals, chlorine, fluoride and other chemicals. It is the perfect source for watering your garden or maintaining your landscaping.

Additionally, rain barrels help slow down rain runoff so it can drain naturally into the ground. That helps keep excess water out of the sewer systems and keeps rain runoff from collecting pollutants on its trip to nearby waterways. Rain barrels also provide water during dry weather when you can set them to slowly release water over a period of time after rains have subsided. The slow release of water will allow it to seep into the soil and be used by plants. Be sure to check your barrel at least once a week to be sure that all openings are screened to prevent mosquito breeding.

Rain barrel programs are being implemented in communities across the country, including here in Cook County. The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) is selling rain barrels for Cook County residents. Rain barrels are \$40 each and can be ordered and paid for on the MWRD website, www.mwrdd.org. There are three pickup locations, one of which is in Skokie. MWRD also offers gift certificates for the purchase of rain barrels. *To learn more about the program visit www.mwrdd.org or call 312/751-5600.* ∞



Village Commissioners Awarded

On April 14, 2008, 26 Village Commissioners will be honored for their many years of volunteer services and dedication to the Village of Skokie.

The following list highlights those Commissioners that will be recognized and their award years:

Plan Commission

Mr. Morton Paradise, 40 years

Centre East Authority Board

Mr. Norman Rosen, 25 years

Mr. Jeff Greenspan, 10 years

Traffic Safety Commission

Mr. Francis Mon, 20 years

Beautification and Improvement Commission

Mr. Ferdinand Soco, 15 years

Advisory Commission on Disabilities

Ms. Arlene Doppelt, 10 years

Mr. Emanuel (Manny) Bud, 10 years

Mr. James M. Hedegard, 5 years

Human Relations Commission

Mr. Alfred S. Nathan, 15 years

Ms. Krishna Goyal, 10 years

Mr. James O. Coney, 10 years

Mr. Michael Halliburton, 5 years

Fine Arts Commission

Ms. Judy Schutz, 5 years

Board of Fire and Police Commissioners

Mr. Ralph Egloff, 35 years

Advisory Commission on Human Services

Rabbi Neil Brief, 25 years

Ms. Heather Lartz, 25 years

Appearance Commission

Mr. Michael Lynk, 10 years

Mr. Scott Z. Berman, 5 years

Zoning Board of Appeals

Mr. Ralph Klein, 20 years

Mr. Alan Gerstner, 15 years

Ms. Sharon Roos Kirkpatrick, 5 years

Board of Health

Dr. Clifford Prince, 10 years

Mr. Romil K. Sood, 10 years

Dr. Stanton G. Polin, 5 years





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 22 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:

April 7, 22*
(* Tuesday due to Passover Holiday)

Plan Commission:

April 3, 17

Appearance Commission:

April 9

Zoning Board of Appeals:

April 2, 16



Recent Village Board Action

The Village Board approved a new Administrative Hearing for parking tickets. Since 1998 the Village has operated an Administrative Adjudication Program for Community Development and Health Code violations. Many surrounding communities, including Evanston and Niles, process parking tickets through Administrative Adjudication. The goal of moving parking tickets to an Administrative Hearing is to increase compliance with parking regulations and streamline the process. The new Administrative Hearing for parking tickets program will be implemented beginning May 1, 2008.

The Board approved water system funding improvements in the Williamsburg Subdivision. These improvements are part of the Fiscal Year 2008 Capital Improvement Plan.

The Board approved three resolutions and three ordinances as they relate to the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Emerson Street Bridge over North Shore Channel Improvement Project. Along with the replacement of the bridge, the roadway will be widened and resurfaced. Traffic signals also will be modernized and construction of curb and gutter and relocation of storm sewers, drainage structures will be provided. The three resolutions are: a resolution approving an agreement between the Village and the IDOT; an Motor Fuel Tax resolution in the amount of \$30,000; and a resolution for the appropriation of funds. The three ordinances approved are: a Village ordinance providing for restrictive parking along Golf Road and McCormick Boulevard within the project limits; a Village ordinance prohibiting sanitary and industrial waste discharge into any storm water structure; and a Village ordinance pertaining to encroachments within the State of Illinois right-of-way.

Skokie Hosts Compact Fluorescent Lightbulb Recycling Program

Did you know that Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs (CFL) produce the same amount of light as regular lightbulbs, but use 2/3 less energy and can last 10 times longer? To be an efficient light source CFLs contain a small amount of mercury sealed within the glass tubing and should not be disposed in the garbage.

In February the Village of Skokie began a recycling program to help residents properly dispose of spent CFLs. Sponsored by the Solid Waste

Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC), the program is for residentially generated, spent CFLs. Please note that for safety reasons, four-foot bulbs will not be accepted. To learn how to dispose of larger-sized bulbs please visit the SWANCC website at www.swancc.org.

Residents may bring spent CFLs, contained in zip-lock-type baggies for extra protec-

tion, to the Skokie Health Department located on the lower level of Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.



For information on the benefits of CFLs please visit the SWANCC website at www.swancc.org. To learn more about the CFL recycling program, please call the Skokie Health Department at 847/933-8252.

What You Should Know About E. Coli

Food borne outbreaks caused by Escherichia coli (E. coli) O157:H7 are becoming a more common occurrence in this country. The Skokie Health Department provides the following information so you can be better informed about this potentially dangerous bacteria.

What is E. coli?

E. coli is an emerging cause of food borne illness. While most strains are harmless and live in the intestines of healthy humans and animals, the E. coli O157:H7 strain produces a powerful toxin that can cause severe illness. The combination of letters and numbers in O157:H7 refers to specific markers found on the bacterium's surface that distinguish it from other E. coli, which have other O and H markers.

How is E. coli spread?

Most E. coli infections come from undercooked ground beef. The infection also can result from drinking raw unpasteurized milk or drinking or swimming in sewage-contaminated water. The bacterium is present in the stools of infected persons, and it can be passed from one person to another if hygiene and hand washing habits are inadequate.

How does food become contaminated?

The organism can be found on a small number of cattle farms, where it can live in the intestines of healthy cattle. When the

animal is slaughtered, the meat may be contaminated by intestinal contents. When this meat is ground, fecal organisms that were on the outside of the meat are then thoroughly mixed throughout the ground beef. These bacteria can survive unless the meat is thoroughly cooked.

How common is the infection?

One laboratory that regularly tests for E. coli O157:H7 suggests that annually an estimated 20,000 cases may occur in the United States. The infection is being increasingly recognized in Canada, Europe, South Africa, the southern regions of South America, Australia and Japan. In Illinois, 100 to 200 cases of E. coli O157:H7 are reported each year.

What sort of illness does it cause and how is it treated?

Persons infected with the bacterium often develop severe diarrhea and painful abdominal cramps, although some people show few or no symptoms. The diarrhea can be very bloody. Because there is usually little or no fever, a person may think some other condition is causing the bowel to bleed, and this infection may go unrecognized. Most persons recover without antibiotics or other specific treatment in five to 10 days. Antidiarrheal agents should be avoided. In some persons, particularly children younger

than 5 years of age and the elderly, the infection can lead to destruction of red blood cells (hemolytic anemia) and acute kidney failure (also known as uremia). These complications can lead to stroke, seizures and death.

Are there any long-term consequences?

Persons with diarrhea alone usually recover completely, although it may be several months before bowel habits are entirely normal.

Among those who develop complications, about 8 % have a poor outcome, such as chronic kidney failure, high blood pressure, stroke, paralysis, bowel resection, blindness or seizures. A decline in kidney function may appear years later in about one-third of

those persons who have had complications. Thus, this infection may be a preventable cause of chronic kidney failure.

What can you do to prevent this illness?

One of the most important ways to reduce your risk for E. coli is proper handwashing. Additionally raw unpasteurized milk can transmit many diseases, including E. coli. Consume only pasteurized milk and pasteurized milk products. Since hamburger and ground beef may be contaminated with this bacterium, thorough cooking is essential to prevent illness. For advice on how to cook hamburger safely, call the U.S.D.A. Meat and Poultry Hotline, 800-535-4555 (voice and TTY), or the Skokie Health Department's Environmental Health Division at 847/933-8484.

National Public Health Week

The country is celebrating National Public Health Week from April 7 to 13, 2008. In conjunction with this observance, the Skokie Health Department is offering Cholesterol, Lipid Profile, and body composition analysis screenings at 50% off the normal fees. *To receive discounted tests, all appointments must be made prior to the end of National Public Health Week. These discounted prices appear below.*

Cholesterol screening is being offered for \$2.50 on a walk-in basis on Monday, April 7 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Wednesday, April 9 from 5-8 p.m.; and Thursday, April 10 from 1-4 p.m. The Lipid Profile test is being offered for \$6 by appointment only on Monday, April 7 and Wednesday, April 9 from 5-8 p.m., and Thursday, April 10 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Body Composition Analysis is being offered for \$2 by appointment only on Monday, April 7 from 2-4:30 p.m.; Wednesday, April 9 from 5-8 p.m.; and Thursday, April 10 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

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

Monday Senior Group

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

April 1 (Tuesday) - HEALTHY COOKING

Allied Home Health Care will present a healthy cooking program. Registration is required. This program is free.

April 7 - TABLE GAMES

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

April 7 - REVERSE MORTGAGE

Being held in another room next to Table Games

Mark Schmidt from Financial Freedom will give seniors information on reverse mortgages.

April 14 - HEALTHY EATING & DIETARY NEEDS

Noemi Juat & Gina Cabrera from Oncall Nursing Services, Inc. will present a program on proper eating and hydration for seniors.

April 21 - SECRETARY OF STATE

The Secretary of State will issue ID cards (under 65 there is a fee), and renew driver's licenses for those under the age of 75 with a clean driving record. There will be no testing available during this time. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and appointments are on a first-come, first-served basis.

April 28 - CRIMES AGAINST THE ELDERLY

Maureen O'Bryan from Cook County State's Attorney's Office will discuss crime issues concerning seniors.

SkokieNews

Stay up-to-date with important Village of Skokie information and events with Skokie's monthly electronic newsletter.

To register for SkokieNews, visit www.skokie.org or call 847/933-8257 and ask to be added to the list. ☞

Village Clerk Offers Regional Transportation Authority Photo Identification Cards

The Regional Transit Authority (RTA) recently announced that beginning Monday, March 17, 2008 senior citizens ages 65 years and older can ride buses and trains for no charge as long as they have a valid photo identification card issued by the RTA.

Seniors ages 65 years and older, both Skokie residents and non-Skokie residents, can obtain an RTA photo identification card from the Skokie Village Clerk's Office, located at Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The photo costs \$1 and the service is open to all individuals ages 65 years or older. After the application is filed by the Clerk's Office the Fare Card will be mailed directly to the address provided by the applicant within about three to four weeks.

Seniors who currently have a valid Reduced Fare Card need not apply for a new card. The Reduced Fare Card automatically became a "free" card on March 17, 2008.

The RTA free ride program coverage area includes McHenry, Lake, Kane, Cook, DuPage and Will Counties.

For more information on obtaining a RTA identification card from the Skokie Village Clerk, please call the Clerk's Office at 847/933-8203. ☞

Skokie Offers Easy Water Bill Payment Options

The Village of Skokie offers two easy methods to pay water bills. The first method is a free automatic withdrawal from a checking account. The form for this program is available online at www.skokie.org and the Finance Department at Village Hall, at 5127 Oakton Street.

The Village also offers online payment for water bills. Payments may be made with a Discover or MasterCard. To make an online payment, follow the link from the front page of www.skokie.org to the Illinois E-Pay system. The state adds a convenience fee to the payment amount.

For more information on water billing and payment schedules, contact the Village Finance Department at 847/933-8418. ☞

Skokie's Going 'Green'

Skokie's Going 'Green' article is an initiative of the Village's Environmental Practices Committee to communicate the Village's environmentally friendly practices and initiatives and to feature 'green' tips for residents and business owners.

State Treasurer's Office Offers Green Rewards Rebate Program

Did you know that the Illinois State Treasurer's Office offers a Green Rewards hybrid vehicle rebate program? Consumers who buy a hybrid, all-electric, or fuel cell vehicle (others may become eligible) and finance their car loan through a participating financial institution* will receive a \$1,000 rebate per car.

How the Program Works

When a consumer finances their car loan through a participating financial institution, the Treasurer's Office will deposit \$25,000 with the financial institution. The Treasurer's Office will accept 4% less in interest earnings in exchange for the financial institution passing on that \$1,000 savings to the consumer in the form of a rebate. The hope is that by adding this incentive, people will be more likely to consider purchasing a hybrid or other eligible vehicle. There is no income limit nor any purchase price restrictions. Purchasers are eligible for a \$1,000 per vehicle and up to \$50 million in deposits will be made available for this program, or a total of 2,000 rebates.

**For a complete list of participating financial institutions, please visit the State Treasurer's website at www.treasurer.il.gov.*

What has Skokie Done to Improve Its Own Fleet?

The Village of Skokie has two hybrid vehicles in its fleet. As current vehicles age, they will be replaced with more fuel-efficient models. Additionally, the Village has been a long time user of bio-diesel fuel for the Public Works Department's large truck fleet.

To learn more about the Green Rewards rebate program, please visit www.treasurer.il.gov.

For further information on the project please contact the Village Manager's Office at 847/933-8210. ∞

Skokie Fourth of July 2008 Parade Application

Everyone is invited to participate! This spectacular event is organized by a group of dedicated volunteers and co-sponsored by the Village of Skokie, Niles Township Government and the Skokie Park District. Join us at noon in Downtown Skokie on July 4th. **Applications will only be accepted through Friday, May 23, 2008. No exceptions!**

Name of Group: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work/Cell Phone: _____

Type of unit: (circle all that apply)

Float or Display

Vehicle

Marching Unit

Category (circle all that apply)

Neighborhood Group

Local Business

Organization

Commercial Vehicle*

Antique Auto

(*\$50.00 fee for each commercial vehicle.)

Enclosed is our donation for \$_____

(Please make checks payable to the 4th of July Parade Committee)

Number of Adults: _____

Number of Children under 6 years old: _____

Want to be (circle one): Away from music Near music

Note: All applications must be approved by the Parade Committee. A Letter of Acceptance will be sent upon approval.

Return all applications to:

Fern Katz, Chairperson

4th of July Committee

P.O. Box 702

Skokie, IL 60077

Phone: 847/674-8602

Fax: 847/674-1340

**April 2008
Recycling, Refuse
and Yard Waste
Collection**



Green Recycling Collection

*On the weeks starting:
April 14, 28*

Gold Recycling Collection

*On the weeks starting:
April 7, 21*

**Health
Happenings**

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

Blood Drive

Wednesday, April 9
from 2-7:30 p.m. at Vil-
lage Hall, 5127 Oakton
Street.

**Blood Pressure
Screening**

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

Diabetes Screening*

Thursday, April 24,
9 a.m.-12 p.m.

**Body Composition
Analysis***

Mondays, 2-4:30 p.m.,
Wednesdays, 5-8 p.m.,
Thursdays, 9 a.m.-12
p.m. \$4 fee (50% off
between April 7-13).

Hearing Screening*

Friday, April 11,
9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Nutrition Clinic*

Thursday, April 17,
9 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Lipid Profile
Screening***

(Total Cholesterol, HDL,
Triglycerides, LDL,
Cholesterol/HDL Ratio)
Mondays and Thurs-
days, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
\$12 fee (50% off be-
tween April 7-13).

**Simple Cholesterol
Screening**

(Total cholesterol
screening only)
Mondays, 9 a.m.-1
p.m., Wednesdays, 5-8
p.m., Thursdays, 1-4
p.m., \$5 fee (50% off
between April 7-13).

**Nicotine Addiction
Seminar**

Wednesday, April 23,
7-9 p.m.

**Immunization
Clinics***

Tuesdays and Thurs-
days, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.,
Wednesday Evenings,
5-8 p.m. and Wednes-
days, April 9 and 23,
1:30-4 p.m.

Lead Screening*

Wednesday, April 2,
2-4 p.m. and Wednes-
day evenings from 5-8
p.m. \$18 fee.

Nutrition Lecture

Thursday, April 17,
2 p.m. Topic: "Calcium
in the Diet: Can We
Prevent Osteoporosis?"

TB Skin Testing*

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

Well Child Clinic*

Tuesday, April 15,
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 regis-
ter.*

Rules of the Road

*Review for driver's
exam. Monday, April 7,
9:15 a.m.-12 p.m.*

Needlework

*Socialization and
needlework.
Mondays, 10 a.m.*

Chair Exercises

*Registration required.
Fridays, 11:00-11:30
a.m. (Note: No longer
offered on Mondays)*

Monday Group

*See page eight for de-
tails. Mondays,
1:30 p.m.*

Woodcarving

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

Chess

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

**Low Vision Support
Group**

Everyone is welcome.
Tuesday, April 8,
1:30-3 p.m.

**Womens' Discussion
Group**

Wednesdays, April 9
and 23, 1:30-3 p.m.

Stamp Club

Wednesdays, April 2
and 16, 1:30-3 p.m.

**Illinois Cares RX and
RX Plus**

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

**Conversational
Yiddish**

*No fee or registration re-
quired. Everyone is wel-
come.
Tuesdays, April 15, 22
and 29, 1:30 p.m.*

**Advanced
Conversational
Yiddish**

*For those who would
like to try a more ad-
vanced version of Yid-
dish. No fee or
registration required.
Tuesday, April 1, 1 p.m.*

**Medicare Supplement
Claims Assistance/
Senior Health Insur-
ance Program**

*Appointments are
necessary.
Wednesday, April 9,
9 a.m.-12 p.m.*

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

*Fee charged by attorney.
Call for program details.*

**Skokie Senior Mens'
Group Discussion**

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

**Conversational
German**

Thursdays, April 3 and
17, 1:30 p.m.

**News and Views
Discussion**

Fridays, 10 a.m.

**Mens' Discussion
Group**

Fridays, 1:30 p.m.

**Hearing Loss Support
Group**

Thursday, April 10,
1:30-3 p.m.

Silver Singers

Monday, April 7, 3 p.m.

Readers Circle

Thursday, April 3, 1:30-
2:30 p.m. For further
information regarding
the current reading se-
lection and to join the
discussion please call
Terri or Juanita at
847/933-8208.

U.S. Citizenship Class

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

**Bright Ideas ESL
Class**

Mondays and Thurs-
days, 9:15-11:15 a.m.
Registration required.

CPR Schedule

Please call the Skokie Fire Department at 847/982-5340 for April 15, 2008 program information.

Residents:

\$15 refundable fee.

Non-residents:

\$20 non-refundable fee.

Skokie Park District

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

Golf Season Begins!

April 1 is the official opening of the 2008 Skokie Park District golf season, with both the Sports Park Golf Range (3459 Oakton Street) and Weber Park Golf Course (9300 Weber Park Place) open daily, weather permitting. For hours and fees call 847/674-1500, ext. 3100.

Devonshire Playhouse Presents: Cinderella

April 3-13. Fee: \$10-13. Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood St., Skokie.

Earth Day Celebration

Celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Emily Oaks Nature Center with earth-friendly food, entertainment, music and a native plant sale! Sunday, April 27, 12-4 p.m.. Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel Street.

Public Paper Recyclers

Bring your paper to Emily Oaks Nature Center (4650 Brummel Street) or Weber Leisure Center (9300 Weber Park Place) and place it in our green and yellow paper retriever dumpsters for recycling! Your paper will have a new life within two weeks after pick-up. Contact 847/674-1500, ext. 2525 with questions regarding acceptable types of paper.

Skokie Public Library

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

National Library Week

An annual event recognizing the power of libraries to transform communities one person at a time, features three free celebrations in April:

• Live Theater: Frindle

Sunday, April 13, 2 p.m. and 4p.m. Free tickets will be available at 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

• **Rhythm and Moves**
Saturday, April 19 at 3 p.m.

• Classical Guitarist Lily Afshar

Sunday, April 20 at 3 p.m. Free tickets will be available at 2:30 p.m.

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie

Located at 9501 Skokie Blvd. For more information, call 847/673-6300 or visit www.northshorecenter.org

Better Late

Northlight Theatre
April 2-6, 8-13, 15-20, 23-27, 29 and 30. Call for showtimes.

Max & Ruby

Centre East Theatre
April 5 at 1 and 3 p.m.

Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra - "Romantic"

Centre East Theatre
April 6 and 7 at 7:30 p.m.

Craig Ferguson

Centre East Theatre
April 12 at 8 p.m.

Thodos Dance

Centre East Theatre
April 26 at 8 p.m.

Skokie Art Guild

Programs are held from 7-9 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month in the Mary Radmacher Room at the Skokie Public Library, 5265 Oakton Street.

Nature's Palette Members' Exhibit

Through April 28 at Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel Street. 

NEW! Immigrant Information Series

The Village of Skokie will offer a monthly Immigrant Information Series focusing on issues that are important to new immigrants. All workshops will be held at the Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton Street from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The workshops are free of charge and will be conducted in the English language. Children's activities will be available for children ages five and up.

The workshop series begins on April 7, 2008 and will cover Immigrant Resources at the Skokie Public Library. The sessions will include a review of the many resources available through Library including videos, magazines, online resources in English and many other languages as well as ESL help and homework help for kids in school.

Additional upcoming workshops include:

- May 5, 2008: Coming to America and the Path to U.S. Citizenship
- June 2, 2008: Village of Skokie Services
- July 7, 2008: Adult Education and Language Skills
- August 4, 2008: Finding Employment and Enhancing Job Skills
- September 8, 2008: Special Education and Services for Children with Disabilities
- October 6, 2008: Insuring your Home, Your Property, and Yourself
- November 3, 2008: Emergency Services: Protection, Prevention, and Preparedness
- December 1, 2008: Getting Around: Buses, Trains, and Automobiles
- January 5, 2009: Health and Wellness

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

This Immigrant Integration Series is sponsored by the Village of Skokie and funded by a grant from The Chicago Community Trust/Immigrant Integration Initiative. 

