

2009 National Citizen Survey Information

The Survey Says: Life is Good in Skokie!

In fall 2009, the Village of Skokie contracted with the National Research Center (NRC), Boulder, Colorado, to conduct a mail survey that asked Skokie residents to rate life in the community and specific Village programs and services. The Village also participated in the National Citizen Survey program in 2003 and 2006.

In early October, 2009, a total 1,200 surveys were mailed to randomly selected Skokie single- and multi-family households. A total 450 surveys were returned, for a 39% response rate. Typical citizen survey response rates range from 25% to 40%. It is customary to describe the precision of survey estimates by assigning a 'margin of error'. The margin for the Village's survey is 5%, meaning that any percentage reported in the survey is no greater than plus or minus five percentage points from the reported number.

All of the standardized questions included in the survey were compared against benchmark data received from approximately 500 other

jurisdictions across the country that participate in the National Citizen Survey.

Of the 29 services for which comparative data exists, 27 of Skokie's ratings were above national benchmarks, two were similar to national benchmark data and none were below.

Here's what residents had to say about Skokie services, and how Skokie compares with other towns:

Overall Community Quality

Once again, the survey revealed that Skokie residents are highly satisfied with quality of life in the Village.

- Overall quality of life in Skokie - 81% excellent/good rating; 148th out of 353 comparable jurisdictions
- Your neighborhood as a place to live - 80% excellent/good rating; 120th out of 229 comparable jurisdictions
- Skokie as a place to live - 93% excellent/good rating; 74th out of 294 comparable jurisdictions

Public Safety

As with the 2006 and 2003 surveys, the Village's public safety services once again received extremely high ratings.

- Fire services - 98% excellent/good rating; 4th out of 285 comparable jurisdictions
- Police services - 89% excellent/good rating; 16th out of 347 comparable jurisdictions
- Ambulance services - 96% excellent/good rating; 12th out of 268 comparable jurisdictions

Public Trust

Survey respondents demonstrated strong trust in the Village government.

- Value of services for taxes paid - 71% excellent/good rating; 12th out of 302 comparable jurisdictions
- Job Skokie government does at welcoming citizen involvement - 73% excellent/good rating; 9th out of 263 comparable jurisdictions

In this edition:

- Downtown Skokie Update, page three
- Know Your Neighbor Week, page four
- Artistic Excellence Award, page five
- Community Calendar, pages six and seven
- Smith Center News, page eight
- 2010 Census Information, page eight
- Health Notes, page nine

- Job Skokie government does at listening to citizens - 66% excellent/good rating; 7th out of 227 comparable jurisdictions
- Skokie's overall image - 79% excellent/good rating; 79th out of 210 comparable jurisdictions

The Village of Skokie is proud of its decades-long record of open, honest government. The Village strives to be responsive to citizens, and most Freedom of Information requests are honored within three days of receipt which is faster than the previously required seven business days and new five-day statutory obligation.

Continued on page two

2009 National Citizen Survey Information

Continued from page one

The Public Trust section also asked residents to rate their perceptions of services provided by state and local governments, with the following responses:

- Services provided by the Village of Skokie – 88% excellent/good rating; 17th out of 332 comparable jurisdictions
- Services provided by the State of Illinois government – 32% excellent/good rating; 177th out of 204 comparable jurisdictions
- Services provided by the Cook County government – 29% excellent/good rating; 82 out of 85 comparable jurisdictions

Community Inclusiveness

Residents gave Skokie high marks for its openness to people of diverse backgrounds, services to vulnerable citizens and also for residents' sense of community in the Village.

- Sense of community – 67% excellent/good rating; 98th out of 238 comparable jurisdictions
- Openness and acceptance of people of diverse backgrounds - 81% excellent/good rating; **10th out of 202 comparable jurisdictions**
- Services to seniors – 87% excellent/good rating; **5th out of 232 comparable jurisdictions**

- Services to youth – 75% excellent/good rating; 24th out of 208 comparable jurisdictions
- Services to low-income residents – 62% excellent/good rating; **6th out of 186 comparable jurisdictions**

Village of Skokie Employees

The survey asked residents about their level of contact with Village employees and their satisfaction with the service they received.

- Some 67% of respondents said they had in-person or phone contact with a Village employee during the past year; 40th out of 203 comparable jurisdictions for contact
- **Village employee knowledge - 91% excellent/good rating; 10th out of 260 comparable jurisdictions**
- Village employee responsiveness - 85% excellent/good rating; 26th out of 256 comparable jurisdictions
- Village employee courtesy - 87% excellent/good; 33rd out of 211 comparable jurisdictions
- Overall impression of Village employees - 86% excellent/good rating; 22nd out of 296 comparable jurisdictions

All of these ratings are identical to or better than 2006 survey ratings. The Village's 500-plus employees are hard-working individuals who are committed to providing the best possible service to Skokie residents.

Information and Awareness

The survey included questions to gauge residents' use and perceptions of various information sources and local government media services.

- Consistent with previous survey data, 90% of those surveyed said that they read *NewSkokie* at least once each year; 40th out of 129 comparable jurisdictions for readership
- Some 68% of respondents indicated that they visited www.skokie.org at least once in the past year; 17th out of 86 comparable jurisdictions for usage
- Skokie public information services – 85% excellent/good rating; 14th out of 232 comparable jurisdictions


Residents are always invited to contact the Village with questions or concerns. A complete list of Village department phone numbers can be found on the back page of this newsletter, and most offices have after-hours voice mail. Residents can also email the Village at info@skokie.org. To make sure you're 'in the know'

on important programs and services, be sure to subscribe to *SkokieNews*, the Village's monthly electronic newsletter. Subscriptions can be made through the home page at www.skokie.org or by calling 847/933-8257.

Civic Engagement

Respondents were asked about their participation as citizens of the Village of Skokie in a number of different areas.

- A total 24% of respondents indicated that they attended a meeting of local officials or other local public meeting in the past year; 130th out of 185 comparable jurisdictions
- A total 27% of those surveyed said that they watched a meeting of local elected officials or other local public meeting on cable television in the past year; 130th out of 142 comparable jurisdictions
- A total 26% of survey respondents indicated that they volunteered time to a Skokie group or activity in the past year; 171st out of 185 comparable jurisdictions

More data from Skokie's 2009 National Citizen Survey will be featured in the April 2010 edition of NewSkokie and other 2010 editions. The entire survey results are posted on the Village web site at www.skokie.org. 

Downtown Skokie Spotlight:

Pat's Place, 5025 Oakton Street

The restaurant now known as Pat's Place has been a staple in Downtown Skokie since it first opened 50 years ago. In 1960, Harry and Dena Bellos, natives of Greece, opened Pan Inn as a small family diner located on the corner of Oakton Street and Babb Avenue in Downtown Skokie. Harry and Dena's daughter, Pat, took over the restaurant in 1977 and its name evolved into Pat's Place. Pat's Place is still a small family diner with a broad menu ranging from a sausage and cheese omelet to sandwiches to ice cream sundaes.

Pat's Place always has a nice and friendly atmosphere. Pat feels that her customers are her second family. She says that running a restaurant is, "...like having people come into your home, you always want them to be happy when they leave." This attitude has given Pat's Place a loyal customer base, varying from high school students, senior citizens and professionals employed in the Downtown Skokie area.

Every NewSkokie edition will now feature a Downtown Spotlight highlighting a Downtown Skokie business, event, attraction or development news. ∞

Downtown Skokie Update

In October 2009, the Village Board approved an Action Plan for Downtown Skokie. Village staff continues to implement key elements of the plan, with activity occurring on a number of fronts. For example:

- The Oakton Street corridor traffic study/parking analysis by Gewalt Hamilton is nearly completed and is currently under review by Village staff. The analysis includes several scenarios to calm Oakton Street traffic, increase parking and make the area more conducive to pedestrian movement.
- In February, 2010, Village staff published a new brochure featuring demographic data substantiating Downtown Skokie's numerous market advantages.

• Village staff are actively working to improve the appearance of vacant properties in the Downtown area. The goal is to provide an updated, visually pleasing appearance to the properties and windows, utilizing the space to promote Downtown special events.

• Pedestrian improvements on Lamon Avenue between Oakton Street and the Oakton Community College Skokie campus are substantially complete and were implemented with the goal of improving the campus-to-Downtown connection.

• The Village continues to procure property in the Downtown Skokie area in an effort to ready property for redevelopment initiatives and other improvements.

• The CTA Yellow Line Oakton Street Station ground breaking is expected to occur in spring 2010. The \$20 million project is fully funded, with \$14 million in federal funds and \$6 million in local funding. The Village is currently waiting for Illinois Department of Transportation permission to bid the project. The station is expected to be operational by fall 2011.

• The Village continues to offer sizeable financial incentives in its efforts to attract more retail and restaurant activity to Downtown Skokie.

Redeveloping Downtown Skokie remains a primary focus in the Village's economic development efforts.

For more information on Downtown Skokie, see www.skokiedowntown.org.



Welcome New Skokie Businesses

Each March and November, *NewSkokie* will feature the names and addresses of retail and service businesses that have recently opened in Skokie. Please consider shopping locally and contributing to the Skokie economy. The following businesses have opened since August, 2009:

World Panini, Westfield Old Orchard

Bob's News Stand, 4906 Oakton

Yolo Mexican Eatery, 5111 Brown

Chill Bubble Tea, 7154 Carpenter

Lanier Billiards, 3714 - 16 Dempster

Breadsmith, 3750 Dempster

Zi Studio, 8210 Christiana

Sood Physical Therapy Services, 8330 Lincoln

Johnny's Grill, 5313 Lincoln

T-Mobile, 5232 Dempster

Aeropostale, 4999 Old Orchard Center #K16

De Jred Jamaican Cuisine, 4901 Oakton

My Nails and Spa, 4925 Oakton

Dima Hanna, 4726 Oakton

Bunaken Café, 8118 Lincoln

Solomon Computer Clinic, 3522 Dempster

Champs Cuts, 5113 Brown

Qwik Tress Enterprises LLC, 3419 Howard

Subway, 3945 Dempster

Dalia Grocery, 4021 Oakton

iTan Tanning Spa, 5230 Dempster ∞

Village Board Action

The Village Board approved a Resolution authorizing a Local Agency Agreement for the resurfacing of East Prairie Road (Main Street to Dempster Street) and Kostner Avenue (Jarvis Avenue to Oakton Street). Construction is scheduled to start in May 2010.

The Village Board approved projects for the 2010 - 2011 Community Development Block Grant program. Many projects received funding, including the Home Improvements Program, street resurfacing, improvements to the Niles Township Food Pantry and many other community initiatives. Please see www.skokie.org for details on grant awards.

The Village Board approved a zoning map amendment to rezone the northern portion of 8255 Central Park Avenue from M2 Light Industry and M3 Industry to R3 Two-Family district. The rezoning was requested by Ida Crown Jewish Academy, Inc. in order to allow them to convert the property to a private high school.



Participate in Know Your Neighbor Week 2010

Know Your Neighbor Week is May 16-23, 2010.

Sponsored by the Village of Skokie and the Skokie Human Relations Commission and funded by The Chicago Community Trust Immigrant Integration Initiative, Know Your Neighbor Week is a program to encourage residents in Skokie's multicultural community to get to know one another and to celebrate each others similarities and differences.

- **Host a coffee:** A coffee is an informal gathering of neighbors and friends.
- **Who to invite:** Neighbors new and old, new people from your house of worship, school and any other friends or acquaintances new to the community.
- **The Village will help:** The Village of Skokie will provide all registered hosts with a coffee kit, which will include invitation flyers, name tags, markers, information about Village programs and services, conversation starters/ideas and a certificate for a free coffee cake to serve at the coffee.

For more information or to register as a host and receive your coffee kit, please complete the registration form below, email info@skokie.org or call 847/933-8257.

Know Your Neighbor Week May 16-23, 2010

Coffee Host Registration Form

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: (work/cell) _____ (home) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

DATE OF COFFEE: _____ **NUMBER OF INVITATIONS NEEDED:** _____

Please return this registration form by May 4, 2010 to:

Village of Skokie, ATTN: Janelle Silva
5127 Oakton Street
Skokie, Illinois 60077



The Skokie Village Board meets the first and third Mondays of each month, except in the case of a holiday. Meetings begin at 8 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street.

Watch Village Board Meetings on SkokieVision Cable Television (Channel 25 on RCN systems, Channel 17 on Comcast systems). The Board Meetings are broadcast at noon and 8 p.m. on the Thursday, Saturday and Tuesday following a Board Meeting.

Upcoming Public Meetings

All meetings are held at Village Hall (5127 Oakton Street).

Board of Trustees:
March 1, 15

Plan Commission:
March 4, 18

Appearance Commission:
March 20

Zoning Board of Appeals:
March 3, 17

Skokie Award for Artistic Excellence

The Skokie Fine Arts Commission is inviting nominations from the community for individuals who have made a significant contribution to the arts in Skokie.

The 2010 Skokie Award for Artistic Excellence will be presented at the June 7, 2010 Village Board meeting to a Skokie resident who has been nominated for the award and who the Commission believes has made a significant contribution to furthering the arts in the Skokie community.

Nominations are welcome for individuals who have contributed to the visual, performing, musical arts or literary arts.

Nominations must be submitted on the form below by April 7, 2010. Please call the Village Manager's Office for more information at 847/933-8257 or email info@skokie.org.

Skokie Award for Artistic Excellence Nomination Form

Artist/Organization Name: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ **E-MAIL:** _____

Length of time involved in the arts in Skokie: _____

Which age group does the artist's involvement reach (circle one):

Children Adult Both

Artistic category (circle one): Visual Arts Performing Arts

Musical Arts Literature/Poetry Other:) _____

On a separate page, please provide a concise narrative on why this artist deserves this award and attach one or two samples/photographs of the artist's work or a list of their performances.

Nomination submitted by:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ **E-MAIL:** _____

Nominations must be submitted by April 7, 2010 to:

Skokie Fine Arts Commission, c/o Village Manager's Office
5127 Oakton Street, Skokie, IL 60077

March 2010

Refuse and Recycling Collection Schedule



Refuse Collection

If you live on the north side of Greenleaf Street or north of Greenleaf Street, refuse is collected on Monday and Thursday. If you live on the south side of Greenleaf Street or south of Greenleaf Street, refuse is collected on Tuesday and Friday.

Recycling Collection

To find out which days your recycling is collected 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.

Blood Pressure Screening

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3-4:45 p.m., Wednesdays from 9-10:30 a.m. and Wednesday, March 3 and 17 from 5 p.m.-7 p.m.

*Body Composition Analysis

Mondays from 2-4:30 p.m., Thursdays, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and Wednesday, March 3 and 17 from 5-8 p.m. \$6 Fee

Cholesterol Screening Programs:

Simple Cholesterol Screening (Total Cholesterol Reading Only)

Mondays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Thursdays from 1-4 p.m. and Wednesday, March 3 and 17 from 5-8 p.m. \$6 Fee

*Lipid Profile Screening (Total Cholesterol, HDL, Triglycerides, LDL, Cholesterol/HDL Ratio). Mondays and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and Wednesdays, March 3 and 17 from 5-7 p.m. \$15 Fee

*Diabetes Screening Tuesday, March 23 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. \$5 Fee

*Hearing Screening Friday, March 19 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

*Immunization Clinics

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Wednesdays, March 3 and 17, from

5-7 p.m., Wednesdays March 10 and 24 from 1:30-4 p.m. \$5/person Clinic Fee

*Lead Screening Wednesday, March 3 from 2-4 p.m. and Wednesdays, March 3 and 17 from 5-7 p.m. \$25 Fee

*Nicotine Addiction Seminar Wednesday, March 24 at 7 p.m.

*TB Skin Testing Mondays and Fridays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and Tuesdays from 1-4:45 p.m. \$5 Fee

*Well Child Clinic Tuesday, March 16 from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Smith Center Activities

Located at 5120 Galitz Street. Please call 847/933-8208 for more information or to register.

Bright Ideas ESL Class

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

Chess

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

Conversational German

Thursdays, March 4 and 18 at 1:30 p.m.

Conversational Yiddish

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

FOCUS (For Optically Challenged Upbeat Sorts)

Wednesday, March 10 from 7-8:30 p.m. Please call Juanita at 847/933-8208 for more information.

Hearing Loss Support Group

Thursday, March 11 from 1:30-3 p.m.

Illinois Cares RX and RX Plus

Please call for an appointment.

Low Vision Support Group

Thursday, March 9 from 1:30-3 p.m.

Monday Group

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

Medicare Supplement Claims Assistance/Senior Health Insurance Program

Appointments are necessary. Tuesday, March 9 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Music and Laughter (formerly known as Men's Discussion Group)

Fridays at 1:30 p.m.

Needlework

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

News and Views Discussion

Fridays, 10 a.m.

Rules of the Road

Review for driver's

exam. Monday, March 1 from 9:15 a.m.-12 p.m.

Skokie Senior Mens' Group Discussion

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

Simple Will/Durable Power of Attorney/Living Will Program

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

Stamp Club

Wednesdays, March 3, 17 at 1:30 p.m.

U.S. Citizenship Class

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

Womens' Discussion Group

Wednesdays, March 10 and 24 from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Woodcarving

Fee required. 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Instructor: Irv Marion

CPR Schedule

Tuesday, March 16. Please call the Skokie Fire Department at 847/982-5340 for more information. **Residents:** \$15 refundable fee. **Non-residents:** \$20 non-refundable fee.

Continued on page seven

Continued from page six

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie

Located at 9501 Skokie Blvd. For 2010 performance dates and information please call the box office at 847/673-6300 or visit www.northshorecenter.org

If You Give a Pig a Pancake and Other Story Books

Centre East Theatre
March 2 at 10 a.m. and March 2 at 12 p.m.

Evanston Dance Ensemble Presents "Cinematic"

Centre East Theatre
March 5, 6 and 7. Call for showtimes.

The Ethicist Randy Cohen

Centre East Theatre
March 13 at 8 p.m.

Jack Sprat Low Fat World Tour

Centre East Theatre
March 16 at 10 a.m.

A Life

A Northlight Theatre Production
March 18-21, 24-28, 30, 31. Call for showtimes.

Super Scientific Circus

Centre East Theatre
March 19 at 10 a.m. and 12 p.m.

Strega Nona

Centre East Theatre
March 20 at 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Harmony Sweepstakes A Cappella Festiva

Centre East Theatre
March 27 at 7:30 p.m.

Skokie Park District

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

Devonshire Playhouse Presents: The Dining Room

Devonshire Playhouse stages this comedy and puts the audience right in the play! Final Show: Sunday, March 7 at 3 p.m. Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood.

Nature's Palette Art Show at Emily Oaks Nature Center

View paintings and sketches depicting natural scenery found in northeastern Illinois during regular Nature Center hours, March 12 through April 25. Sponsored by the Skokie Art Guild. Reception: Friday, March 12 at 7 p.m. Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel Street.

Skokie's 3-on-3 Hoops Throwdown

This all-day, single-elimination hoops extravaganza for girls and boys in grades 3-8 tips off at the Weber Center Gym and will crown its champions that afternoon. Free t-shirts for all and trophies for the winners. Sunday, March 21 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Weber Leisure Center, 9300 Weber Park Place.

Public Paper Recyclers

Bring your paper to Emily Oaks Nature Center or Weber Leisure Center 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. Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie. Weber Leisure Center, 9300 Weber Park Place, Skokie.

Skokie Public Library

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

Fun with Flickr! Sharing Photos Online

Wednesday, March 3 at 7 p.m.

Skype for Beginners

Thursday, March 4 at 7 p.m.

Coming Together in Skokie: Making Indian Cooking Healthier

Saturday, March 6 at 1 p.m.

Young Steinway Concert: Andrew Chang, piano, and Kiyoshi Hayashi, violin

Sunday, March 7 at 3 p.m.

Coming Together in Skokie: Meet the Author Vineeta Viyaraghavan

Monday, March 8 at 7 p.m.

Coming Together in Skokie: Introduction to Indian Vegetarian Cooking

Wednesday, March 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Coming Together in Skokie: Faces and Places of India

Saturday, March 13 at 2 p.m.

Twitter for Beginners

Thursday, March 18 at 7 p.m.

Globaljazz

Sunday, March 21 at 3 p.m.

eBay 101: Selling Basics

Monday, March 22 at 7 p.m.

Chicago's Jewish West Side

Wednesday, March 24 at 7 p.m.

Chicago's Amazing Native Orchids

Saturday, March 27 at 2 p.m.

Flying Solo: The Remarkable Jessica Raiche, Pioneer Woman Aviator

Sunday, March 28, at 3 p.m.

Skokie Art Guild Skokie Art Guild's 49th Annual Art Fair

July 10-11, 2010. Prizes and awards. \$150 booth fee. 75 exhibitors. Held outdoors on the beautiful Village Green in Downtown Skokie, 5211 Oakton Street. Apply now, 847/677-8163 or email skokieart@aol.com.

Get Paid to Lose 250 Pounds in 2010

Refrigerators and freezers that are 15 years or older can consume as much as \$150 per year in electricity. Getting rid of old appliances can save you energy and lower your electric bill; and thanks to ComEd's Smart Ideas Appliance Recycling, it's easy. ComEd will pick up your appliance for free and recycle it capturing the oils, refrigerants, metal and glass so they don't end up polluting the environment. ComEd will even send you a check for \$25 for each fridge or freezer you turn in (limit 2).

Book your pick up today at ComEd.com/ApplianceRecycling or call 888/806-2273. Smart Ideas Appliance Recycling is funded by ComEd customers in compliance with Illinois Public Act 95-0481.

∞ **SmithCenterNews** ∞
Senior Activities

Monday Senior Group

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

March 1: Table Games

Bring your friends and enjoy a relaxing afternoon with your favorite table game. You are welcome to bring treats to share with your tablemates.

March 29: Silver Singers

Sing-a-long while Miriam Strauss plays her musical tunes on the piano.

Celebrate Youth Arts Month With SOAR

The Skokie Fine Arts Commission is pleased to present the annual Students' Outstanding Artist Recognition (SOAR) program during the month of March in honor of Youth Arts Month. The 2010 SOAR program will feature artwork selected by art teachers from Skokie schools.

Artwork will be on public display at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, 9501 Skokie Boulevard, from Wednesday, March 3 through Friday, March 26, 2010. The exhibit is accessible Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. ∞

Housing Authority Information

The Village of Skokie does not issue or maintain any housing choice vouchers (Section 8). The Housing Choice Voucher Program is administered by the Housing Authority of the County of Cook. At this time, the Housing Authority is not accepting applications for any housing assistance. If you have further questions please call the Housing Authority at 312/663-5447. ∞

2010 Census Forms Arrive in Skokie Mailboxes in March

We Can't Move Forward Until You Mail It Back

It is of the utmost importance that every Skokie household complete the Census 2010 form and promptly mail it back. Census information affects the numbers of seats Illinois occupies in the U.S. House of Representatives. It also affects the money Skokie gets in federal grants, motor fuel tax reimbursements, local revenue from state income tax, and many, many other programs.

People from many walks of life use census data to advocate for causes, rescue disaster victims, prevent diseases, research markets, locate pools of skilled workers and more. An accurate count of Skokie residents will be of tremendous benefit to the Skokie community: better infrastructure, maintenance of high levels of local services and a brighter tomorrow for everyone. In fact, the information the census collects helps to determine how more than \$400 billion dollars of federal funding spent each year on infrastructure and services like hospitals, job training centers, bridges, tunnels and other public works projects and emergency services.

The Census 2010 questionnaire is only 10 questions and will take less than 10 minutes to complete. Information required on the census form includes your name, relationship, gender, age, date of birth, race and whether you are a renter or owner. Federal law strictly protects your personal information shared during the census.

Participation isn't just important—it's mandatory. ∞

ITAC Free Amplified Telephone Program Returns

Do you have difficulty hearing on the telephone? Then come and try the free ITAC amplified telephone available to anyone in Illinois with a certified hearing loss. Come to the Human Services Division, 5120 Galitz Street, for a live test call on Monday, March 15, 2010. Applications will be provided and anyone interested must pre-register. Contact the Human Services Division at 847/933-8208. This program is sponsored in conjunction with the Schaumburg Township Disability Services. Program is by appointment only. *ITAC is a free program required and governed by Illinois law.* ∞

March 23 is American Diabetes Alert Day

The American Diabetes Association has proclaimed March 23 to be American Diabetes Alert Day, to highlight the growing epidemic of diabetes in the United States and encourage persons to take steps now to lower the risk of developing diabetes. There are an estimated 23.6 million people, 7.8% of the population, living with diabetes mellitus, a serious disorder that can be life-threatening.

Individuals with diabetes are at increased risk for heart disease, blindness, kidney failure and lower extremity amputations not related to injuries. Diabetes and its complications occur among Americans of all ages and racial and ethnic groups. The burden of the disease, however, is heavier among the elderly and certain racial and ethnic populations, including African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, American Indians, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

So what is diabetes? The term diabetes refers either to a deficiency of insulin or to the body's decreased ability to use insulin. Insulin, a hormone secreted by the pancreas, allows glucose (sugar) to enter body cells and be converted to energy. It also is needed to synthesize protein and to store fats. In uncontrolled diabetes, glucose and lipids (fats) remain in the bloodstream and, in time, damage the body's vital organs and contribute to

heart disease. There are two main types of diabetes: non-insulin dependent (type-2) and insulin dependent (type-1). Non-insulin dependent diabetes, which usually appears after the age of 40, is the most common type, affecting 90 to 95 percent of those who have the disease. Insulin-dependent diabetes affects the remaining proportion of those with the disease. Although this type of diabetes can occur at any age, it most often appears in childhood or during the teen years. Those most at risk for developing diabetes include:

- Those with a family history of diabetes
- Individuals who are obese
- Members of certain racial or ethnic groups, including Mexican and Puerto Rican Americans, African Americans and Cuban Americans
- Those who are 45 years of age and older
- Individuals previously identified as having impaired glucose tolerance
- Individuals with hypertension or who have excessive levels of fat in their blood
- Women with a history of gestational diabetes or who have delivered babies weighing more than 9 pounds

The Skokie Health Department is offering a Diabetes Screening Clinic on Tuesday, March 23rd from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The clinic is by appointment only and there is a \$5 charge. For more information about diabetes or to make an appointment, call the Department at 847/933-8252.

Colorectal Cancer Month

Colorectal cancer (cancer of the colon or rectum) is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States for both men and women combined. The disease surpasses both breast and prostate cancer in mortality, second only to lung cancer in numbers of cancer deaths.

Despite the fact that it is highly preventable, over 140,000 new cases of colorectal cancer will be diagnosed this year and over 50,000 people will die from the disease. An almost equal number of men and women are diagnosed each year.

There are ways to prevent colorectal cancer. Screening tests are the most effective and can save lives by catching cancer in its earliest, most curable stages. Most cases of the disease begin as non-cancerous polyps or grape-like growths on the lining of the colon and rectum. Removing these polyps can prevent colorectal cancer from ever developing. Approximately 90% of colorectal cancers and deaths are thought to be preventable.

The risk of developing colorectal cancer increases with age. Beginning at age 50, men and women who are at average risk for the disease should get screened. Men and women who have a higher risk of colorectal cancer may need to be tested earlier and should talk to their health care professional about when. Other ways to reduce your risk of colorectal cancer include regular exercise and maintaining a healthy weight.

In conjunction with National Colorectal Cancer Month, the Skokie Health Department will be providing screening kits for a \$5 charge to residents. If you would like a screening kit, stop by the Skokie Health Department, 5127 Oakton Street from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Community Giving Program 2009

Many thanks to all of the 2009 Skokie Community Giving Program donors whose generosity brightened the holidays for over 200 residents and proved, once again, that Skokie is a community that cares.

One of the many notes of thanks received from donation recipients stated, "No words can explain how appreciative my family is for the generosity you have shown this holiday season. Thank you so much."

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Continued on page 11

Community Giving Program

Continued from page 10

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 Skokie Duxler Inc.
 Skokie Firefighters Benevolent Fund
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 Skokie Public Library Staff
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 Westfield Old Orchard
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 Robert and Kathy Wicks
 Irwin and Eileen Zeidman

Please accept our sincere thanks to all of you who helped to make the 2009 Community Giving Program successful. ∞

Roadways in Skokie: 179 Miles – Three Jurisdictions

The Village of Skokie is comprised of approximately 179 miles of streets. The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Cook County Highway Department are responsible for approximately 35 miles of Skokie streets. These typically include the more heavily used roads such as Crawford Avenue, McCormick Boulevard, Old Orchard Road and Skokie Boulevard. During snow events, either Cook County or IDOT are responsible for clearing snow from these roads, and they are also responsible for all road resurfacing and repairs, including repairing potholes. When the Village receives complaints about conditions on these roadways, the information is passed along to the appropriate jurisdiction.

The Village of Skokie maintains of about 144 miles of roadway which generally consists of low-volume residential streets that are maintained through the annual Village Street Resurfacing Program. The Village relies on information from several sources to generate the annual Village Street Resurfacing Program. Several years ago, the Village invested in a pavement condition report which provided surface and structural information on every block in Skokie. This report is the starting point in analyzing and selecting streets to be resurfaced. In addition to the report, annual visual inspections of streets are conducted. The visual inspections allow individual streets to be prioritized based on current conditions. The Village also uses inputs based on observations from the Public Works Department and requests from residents. All of this information is processed annually, along with the available budget and coordination with other capital projects to create the annual Village Street Resurfacing Program.

During a typical street resurfacing project, maintenance would include curb repair, replacement of broken street drains and two layers of asphalt. If the street was previously resurfaced, the existing surface is taken off and replaced. The Village provides notification prior to construction on a subject street and works closely with residents to ensure access to homes throughout construction.

Funding for the Village Street Resurfacing Program comes from several sources. These include Motor Fuel Tax (MFT), Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and a recently implemented Local Fuel Tax (LFT). The new Local Fuel Tax allows the Village to double the amount of streets resurfaced annually. The Village uses these combined funding sources with the goal of resurfacing approximately four miles of streets each year at a cost of roughly \$450,000 per mile. There are times when other funds become available, such as the Federal Stimulus Program and the State Capital Bill. This spring the Village will use Federal Stimulus Funds to help finance the resurfacing of Main Street between Skokie Boulevard and Crawford Avenue, and state funds which have been secured for sections of East Prairie Road and Kostner Avenue. ∞

The Village Forester Says...

If you are interested in a spring-planted cost-share parkway tree, please contact the Forestry Division at 847/933-8427. A forester will evaluate your parkway to ensure there is adequate space for a tree, and provide a list of appropriate species from which to select. The trees will be approximately 2.5" in caliper and 12' tall. They will be planted, mulched, and warrantied for one year. Please submit your request by March 19th. ∞



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Edie Sue Sutker

Manager

Albert J. Rigoni

Counsel

J. Patrick Hanley

Phone Numbers:

Emergency
9-1-1

Information

847/673-0500

TTY

847/933-8455

Fire Non-Emergency

847/982-5300

Police Non-Emergency

847/982-5900

Citizens Assistance

847/933-8480

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Skokie Offers Online Payment Options

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

- Water bills
- Parking tickets and other non-moving violations
- Miscellaneous invoices

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



Feedback

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

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

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

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Village Departments

Building/Housing/Zoning
847/933-8223

Citizens Assistance
847/933-8480

Civil Engineering
847/933-8231

Clerk's Office
847/933-8203

Community Development
847/933-8447

Health Department Administration
847/933-8252

Animal Control
847/933-8484

Environmental Health
847/933-8484

Personal Health
847/933-8252

Human Services
847/933-8208

Public Works Forestry
847/933-8427

Refuse and Recycling
847/933-8427

Signs and Street Lights
847/933-8232

Streets and Alleys
847/933-8427

Water and Sewer
847/933-8427

Traffic Engineering
847/933-8232

Village Hall
847/673-0500

Village Manager's Office
847/933-8210

Water Billing
847/933-8418