



new Skokie

April 2016 ■ NewSkokie - the award winning municipal information source

Survey Says: Skokie is a Great Place to Live!

In fall 2015, the Village conducted the National Citizen Survey that was mailed to 1,400 randomly-selected single- and multi-family homes throughout the community. The purpose of the survey is to gauge Skokie residents' satisfaction with Village programs, services and other factors that contribute to quality of life in the community. Skokie residents who responded said loud and clear:

Skokie continues to be a great place to live.

Most survey respondents rated the overall quality of life in the community high. The vast majority would recommend Skokie as a place to live and plan to remain in the community. Respondents also gave high ratings to Skokie as a place to raise children, and to their neighborhoods and the Village's overall appearance.

Safety is a priority for the community.

Safety was ranked as a top priority for the community over the next two years. About 9 in 10 residents feel safe in their neighborhoods and in Downtown Skokie, and a majority gave strong ratings for an overall sense of safety in the community. Survey



respondents valued safety services provided by the Village, with strong positive ratings for fire, police, fire prevention and ambulance/EMS services.

Skokie residents are engaged in the community

Residents identified community engagement as a top priority for the Village of Skokie. About 79% were pleased with the openness and acceptance of the community towards people of diverse backgrounds, which is a higher rating than

in comparison communities. The quality of the Village's public information services was given high ratings by the vast majority of survey respondents, which exceeds the national benchmark. Skokie also received ratings

higher than comparison communities relative to confidence in Village government and the Village government's honesty and acting in the best interest of Skokie.

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Skokie Community Survey Results

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As with the 2003, 2006, 2009 and 2012 citizen surveys, the Village contracted with the National Research Center (NRC), Boulder, Colorado to conduct the mail survey. Of the 1,400 surveys mailed, a total of 388 surveys were returned for a 28% response rate which is within the typical 25% to 40% response rate range. 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.

Skokie's survey scores were strong, and were consistently similar to or higher than national benchmarks by comparison to hundreds of communities across the United States that also engage in the National Citizen Survey.

A brief summary of Skokie's scores is as follows:

1. Safety – all of Skokie's safety-related questions were stable from the 2012 survey, and all but one was similar to national benchmarks. The 2015 survey included a question about whether residents stocked supplies for an emergency, and the response to this question fell below national benchmarks. Make sure your family is prepared for an emergency by stocking non-perishable food, a three-day supply



of water for everyone, flashlights with extra batteries, a portable radio and other items to ensure your family's safety and comfort. More info at <http://www.skokie.org/EmergencyPrep.cfm>.

- 2. Mobility** – Skokie ranks above national benchmarks for traffic flow, travel by car, travel by bicycle, ease of walking, public parking and paths and walking trails.
- 3. Natural Environment** – All of Skokie's ratings for natural environment, including garbage, recycling and yard waste collection, cleanliness, participation in recycling and more were similar to national benchmarks.
- 4. Built Environment** – Skokie scored above national benchmarks for affordable housing and the overall built environment. Skokie is above national benchmarks relative to ratings for land use, code enforcement and planning and zoning.
- 5. Economy** – Shopping opportunities ranked much higher than the national benchmark, as were employment opportunities.
- 6. Recreation and Wellness** – Skokie Health Department services ranked above the national benchmark.
- 7. Education and Enrichment** – Skokie's scores in this area were very strong. Residents gave ratings higher than national benchmarks to cultural/arts/music activities and childcare/preschool quality.
- 8. Community Engagement** – Skokie scored above the national benchmark for openness and acceptance.

Community Livability

Survey respondents rated over 40



features of the community related to Community Livability, and nearly all were rated positively and were similar to national benchmarks. Survey questions on mobility received the strongest ratings relative to paths, walking trails, travel by bicycle, travel by car, public parking and traffic flow.

Those surveyed gave Skokie an 84% excellent/good rating for overall quality of community services. A total of 8 in 10 residents gave positive ratings to overall customer service by Village employees.

Respondents rated over 30 programs and services available in the community, a majority of which received strong positive ratings. All aspects of safety and mobility received favorable ratings, and street cleaning rated higher than the national benchmark. Ratings for programs/services in the categories of Natural Environment, Built Environment and Economy were all positive and similar to national benchmarks except for land use, planning and zoning, code enforcement and cable television which ranked above national benchmarks.

The survey included over 20 activities and behaviors for which respondents indicated how often, or if at all, they participate in or performed. Relative to public safety, 8 in 10 residents had not been a crime victim or reported a crime, both similar to national benchmarks. More than half of responding residents used public transportation, walked or biked instead of driving. All of these ratings are higher than national benchmarks. Rates of volunteerism and

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Community Survey Results *Continued from page three*

watching a local public meeting during the past year were lower than national benchmarks.

Custom Questions

The Village included three custom questions on the 2015 National Citizen Survey, as follows:

Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Village to invest in each of the following community programs to increase the sense of community in Skokie: (numbers show percentage essential/very important rating)

- a.) Increased/improved neighborhood watch groups – 73%
- b.) Opportunities to get to know your neighbors – 66%
- c.) Neighborhood clean-up events – 59%
- d.) Learning about diverse perspectives – 56%
- e.) Block parties – 41%

How much do you support or oppose Village investment in each of the following? (numbers show percentage strongly or somewhat support ratings)

- a.) Additional street lighting on residential east-west streets – 87%
- b.) Additional lighting on the multi-use path from Dempster Street south to the Village limit – 85%
- c.) Additional street lighting in alleys – 84%
- d.) Additional lighting on Crawford Avenue – 81%
- e.) Cameras in public areas – 76%

Please indicate the impact, if any, each of the following would have on



the amount you recycle from home each week. Would you recycle more, somewhat more, or would you not recycle more? (numbers show much/somewhat more ratings)

- a.) Better understanding of what materials can be recycled – 81%
- b.) Better understanding of how to prepare materials for recycling – 78%
- d.) Larger outdoor recycling container – 68%
- e.) More indoor space to collect recyclable materials – 70%
- f.) Assistance from a friend or neighbor to move the recycling container to and from the curb – 44%

In addition, the survey included an open-ended question for residents to write anything else that was of importance to them:

Is there a community issue or concern that is not addressed in this survey? Please explain. (Answers to this question fell into six general categories. Each is listed below with the percentage of that response category):

- Village services/policy – 19%
- Transportation, traffic, roads – 19%
- Law enforcement, crime – 19%
- Code enforcement, maintenance, property and taxes – 17%
- Other – 9%
- Don't know/nothing – 17%

Trends over Time

Skokie's ratings on the quality of Village programs and services have remained very stable since initiating the triennial National Citizen Survey in 2003.

Positive, Stable Ratings with Some Opportunities for Improvement

Responses to the 2015 National Citizen Survey were overwhelmingly positive. The community's strong positive ratings relative to mobility, including availability of paths and walking trails, ease of



walking in the community and other indicators evidence the community's appreciation for the Village's investment in multi-use trails throughout the community and public transportation.

The 2015 survey also contained indicators of a few areas that were not highly rated, some of which have held lower ratings over time and that should continue to be examined for possible program improvements. These include:

- Quality of new development in Skokie
- Vibrant downtown/commercial area
- Street repair
- Volunteerism
- Watching local public meetings

The reports will continue to be analyzed for educational opportunities, even to select geographic or demographic segments of the community, to improve understanding or participation.

The full report of results from the 2015 National Citizen Survey is available at www.skokie.org, as are the results of all National Citizen Surveys conducted since 2003. Residents are encouraged to contact the Village anytime they have a community concern or would like more information about a Village program or service. Inquiries can be directed to info@skokie.org or by calling one of the Village's departments or divisions directly as listed on the back page of *NewSkokie*. All departments and divisions have 24-hour voice mail. ■



Community Development Block Grant Program

The Village recently conducted a series of public hearings to determine its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects for Program Year 2016-17. 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.

An open, competitive application process is conducted by the Village each year to determine the most worthy funding requests. The entitlement grant amount for Program Year 2016-

17 will be \$517,133. The Village will also re-program \$5,302 in grant funds that have not been spent from previously completed projects, and \$10,315 in program income from homes sold in the past year that were previously improved through the Village's Home Improvement Program, for a total budget of \$532,750. Service activities will receive the maximum funding allowed by CDBG program regulations, while construction projects will receive most of the program funding. Following are the approved activities, funding allocations and descriptions of each project. Organizations denoted with an * will provide a minimum 25 percent match.

Program

Administration and Planning (\$99,000)

Home Improvement Program (\$70,000)

Provide home repair grants and loans up to \$12,000 for owner-occupied, low/moderate-income homes.

Housing Opportunity Development Corporation

(\$12,000*) Mudjack the walkway adjacent to the building, waterproof the basement and replace windows and install insulation in the western rooms of a building in the 8200 block of Kilpatrick Avenue.

Street and Alley Resurfacing

(\$192,500) Resurface Grove Street between Gross Point Road and Skokie Boulevard, and Kenton Avenue between Oakton and Madison Streets.

Sidewalk Grant Program (\$3,000)

Provide grants to low/moderate-

income homeowners participating in Skokie's 50/50 sidewalk replacement program.

CJE SeniorLife

(\$25,000*) Repair the kitchen waste lines in the Lieberman Center for Health and Rehabilitation at 9700 Gross Point Road.

Turning Point

(\$12,000*) Replace the most problematic HVAC unit(s) serving the Turning Point mental health services building at 8324 Skokie Boulevard.

Search (\$10,000*)

Construct an accessible ramp, landing and deck area at the group home for individuals with developmental disabilities in the 9500 block of Lorel Avenue.

Orchard Village

(\$15,000*) Repair/replace the tile roof and gutters of the group home for individuals with developmental disabilities in the 8100 block of Floral Avenue.

Asian Human Services (\$20,000*)

Assist with the buildout of three dental offices at the Skokie Clinic at 8800 Lockwood Avenue.

Social Worker

(\$30,250) Offset the costs of Social Worker position in the Human Services Division at 5127 Oakton Street.

Metropolitan Family Services (\$6,000)

Offset staff costs for counseling services for low/moderate-income Skokie residents. MFS is located at 5210 Main Street.

Jewish Child and Family Services

(\$4,000) Offset the staff costs associated with providing financial assistance services for low/moderate-income Skokie residents affected by the current economic climate. JCFS is located at 5150 Golf Road.

PEER Services, Inc.

(\$7,500) Offset the staff costs associated with

providing substance abuse treatment services to low/moderate-income Skokie residents. PEER is located at 906 Davis Street, Evanston.

Children's Advocacy Center (\$3,000)

Offset the staff costs associated with providing child and family advocate/counselor services that support low/moderate-income Skokie child abuse victims and their non-offending family members. CAC is located at 255 Revere Drive, Northbrook.

The Harbour, Inc.

(\$6,000) Offset the staff costs associated with providing services that meet the needs of runaway, neglected, and homeless Skokie youth. The Harbour is located at 1440 Renaissance Drive, Park Ridge.

North Shore Senior Center (\$10,000)

Offset the staff costs associated with providing long-term

case management and counseling services for Skokie's low/moderate-income homebound elderly and their families. NSSC is located at 840 Dodge Avenue, Evanston.

Youth and Opportunity United

(\$7,500) Offset the staff costs associated with providing after school and summer programs for Lincoln Junior High, Old Orchard Junior High, and Edison Elementary youth. Y.O.U. is located at 1027 Sherman Avenue, Evanston.

For further information about the program and services listed here, as well as a complete description of each grant, please contact Planner/CDBG Administrator Carrie Haberstich at 847/933-8447. ■



It's Block Party Season!

Each year, many neighbors in Skokie get together to organize block parties. This is a great way to get to know your neighbors, which contributes to both safety and quality of life in the community. When closing off a street for a block party, a permit request must be filed with the Village's Engineering Division. In order to close a street, a majority of signatures must be obtained from those whose property access will be blocked. The permit application must be submitted at least 15 working days before the event. There is no fee for the block party application, but the fee for an amplifier permit is \$5 for amplified music or any other amplified sound as part of the festivities. The Skokie Public Works Department will drop off barricades at each end of the block on the Friday before the party, and will pick them up early the following week. Block parties can run the gamut from simple to extravagant. Use the following information to help plan your block party this year.



Establish a block party committee. One member can handle the permit, one member can make and pass out fliers (usually at least four weeks in advance) and one or more committee members can be the site coordinators on the day of the event.

Decide how to handle food. Having the block party in the late-afternoon/evening for dinner is traditional, but lunch or even brunch can be fun. Some ideas include:

- Everyone brings their own food and a dish/dessert to share
- Everyone contributes toward pizza or other catered food
- Have one side of the block responsible for appetizers and another responsible for desserts
- Set up a few grills and let everyone cook their own food
- Set up a few grills, recruit a few guest chefs and ask everyone to contribute to grilled burgers, brats, veggie burgers, hot dogs, etc.
- Everyone just brings a dessert or appetizer
- Everyone brings their own beverages
- Encourage ethnic dishes to give everyone a taste of Skokie's multi-cultural community
- Ask that all dishes be labeled due to food allergies and preferences, etc.
- Decide who will bring tables out for serving all of the food

- Either have everyone bring their own (and a few extra) plates, napkins, flatware, etc., or ask for contributions for bulk purchase

Decide on activities and other details:

- Purchase or make name tags
- Remind everyone to bring their own chairs
- Music? Set up someone's iPod and speakers, or contribute toward a DJ or band; A permit is required for amplified music
- Games for the kids are always fun; how about a children's bike parade?
- Some blocks go all out by asking for contributions toward renting bounce houses and other larger games
- Set up horse shoes or a 'bag-o' game for all ages
- Have a pet show or parade
- Consider bingo before the sun sets; bingo cards can be printed off the Internet, use dried beans as markers;

Invite the Skokie Fire Department and Skokie Police Department to attend. This is an option on the block party permit application. The fire truck or police squad will pull onto the block so that the neighbors can look at the equipment and talk to the firefighters and police officers. The times vary based on service calls in the community at that time, and the fire truck or police squad is usually on site for about 15 to 20 minutes.

Each year, the Human Relations Commission gives Block Party of the Year awards to up to five neighborhood groups. The Commission does not just give the awards to the most elaborate parties, but is particularly interested in unique, simple parties that accomplish the very important goal of bringing neighbors together to strengthen the community. **This year, special consideration will be given to blocks that are having block parties for the first time.** For information on both the block party permit application and the application for a block party award, visit <http://www.skokie.org/FormsPermitsApplications.cfm> or call the Engineering Division at 847/933-8231. ■



Clean, Green Skokie!

Join the second annual Clean, Green Skokie! Program, an event that focuses on pride in the community and collaborating efforts for a good old fashioned neighborhood litter clean up from April 10 through April 24, 2016. One lucky group or individual who helps clean up Skokie will have a tree planted in their honor at the Skokie Northshore Sculpture Park!

Beginning in early April, litter clean up kits can be picked up at Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., or picked up at the Public Works table at the Skokie Spring Greening event on April 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Niles North High School.



Clean, Green Skokie! participants are automatically entered for a chance to have a tree planted in their honor at the Skokie Northshore Sculpture Park. Want to increase your chances? Take a photo of your group cleaning, or posed by the filled bags of litter and recyclables, and tweet to #cleangreenskokie or post to your Facebook page with a tag to Shop Local Skokie. Any registered group that does this will receive five extra prize drawing entries!

Please call the Village of Skokie at 847/933-8257 or email info@skokie.org

to register for Clean, Green Skokie! Please know who will clean, what area will be cleaned and when the cleanup will occur. ■

Spotlight on the Mayor's and Village Clerk's Offices

Village of Skokie Mayor's Office

Mayor George Van Dusen has lived in Skokie with his wife Susan for nearly 35 years. They have two sons and two grandchildren who also live in Skokie. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Detroit and both a Master of Arts degree and a Ph.D. from Loyola University. He served as a Trustee in the Village from 1984 until he was appointed Mayor in 1999.

Mayor Van Dusen holds regular office hours during which time he works on policy issues, meets with Village Manager John Lockerby to discuss Village matters and other duties related to his position as chief elected officer of the Village. The Mayor also meets regularly with Michael Lorge, Corporation Counsel, to review the Village's positions on legal matters. When school children tour Village hall, their first stop is usually the Mayor's Office, during which time Mayor Van Dusen talks to the students about the Village's history, government structure and other interesting Village program information. Mayor Van Dusen also serves as the Village's Liquor Commissioner.

To contact the Mayor's Office, please call 847/933-8269 or visit www.skokie.org.

Village Clerk's Office

Pramod Shah was elected as Village Clerk in 2013 after serving four years as a Village of Skokie Trustee. As Village Clerk, Pramod Shah is the official custodian of records for the Village and creates and maintains minutes at all Village Board of Trustee meetings. The Village Clerk's Office is responsible for much more, including election services, processing passport and applications, bicycle registration and administering the real estate transfer tax.

The Election Division of the Village Clerk's Office is responsible for all matters involving elections, and the Clerk is the local election official. Skokie residents can register to vote in the Village Clerk's Office.

Skokie residents may register their bicycles at the Village Clerk's Office. To register, you will need to know the serial number, make, type, color and wheel size of the bicycle. Registering your bicycle allows the Police Department to recover it if it is lost or stolen.

If you live in Skokie, you can apply for a temporary handicap placard in the Village Clerk's Office. The placard is good for three months or less.

First time applicants can register for a passport at the Skokie Clerk's Office. To register, you will need an original or a certified birth certificate, a driver's license or state issued ID, one passport size photo (2" x 2" color photo) and a check made out to the U.S. Department of State (\$110 for those 16 years of age and over, \$80 for those under 16 years of age). A processing fee of \$25 will also be charged. Passport processing hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 11 a.m. and 1:30 to 4 p.m.

Lastly, real estate transfer stamps may be purchased at the Clerk's Office. Before a real estate transfer stamp is issued, the property must be free of liens/violations and can not have any overdue bills owed to the Village.

For more information on services and programs offered by the Village Clerk, please contact the Clerk's Office at 847/933-8203 or visit www.skokie.org. ■



2015 Police Department Annual Report Released

The Skokie Police Department recently issued its 2015 annual report. Overall, crime was statistically unchanged in 2015 with six fewer crimes committed. When reviewing an analysis of crime statistics from the past decade, data revealed that crime in 2015 remained 7 percent lower than the ten-year average.

Burglaries were down by 11 percent. This marks the seventh year of decline in burglary in the past eight years, with reported burglaries now 28 percent lower than the 10-year average. Three crime categories increased, including battery by 8 percent, burglary/theft to motor vehicles by 9 percent and motor vehicle theft by 21 percent. The Police Department's 2015 volume of service calls for non-criminal offenses such as disturbances, suspicious persons, alarms, traffic crashes, etc. were slightly lower than the prior year.

Community policing and community outreach were a particular focus for the Skokie Police Department during 2015. The August 4, 2015 National Night Out to promote community safety and bring neighbors together drew an estimated 500 residents to Oakton Park. The Police Department continued to provide a safe way for residents to dispose of old or unwanted prescription medications, with some 1,100 pounds of prescription medications disposed in the drug drop box, available in the Police Headquarters lobby 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Community Outreach Police Substation (COPS) vehicle was deployed 51 times in 2015, including two to three neighborhood deployments per week during the summer as part of the *Many Cultures, One Community - Keeping Skokie Safe* public safety campaign. The COPS vehicle also demonstrated its multi-purpose abilities when used as an incident command for four critical incidents. The Neighborhood Watch program continued in nearly 200 active blocks. The Police Department continued to publish the Official Public Safety Bulletin, and posted community



Skokie Police Officers participate in a Skokie neighborhood block party.

alerts, safety tips and informational announcements on the department's Facebook page. Skokie Police officers gave back to the community through the December 2015 "Cops with Kids" program that utilizes donated funds for Skokie police officers to shop with children chosen by their schools as those who would gain most from this positive program.

The Skokie Police Department remains ever-vigilant in its efforts to maintain the downward trend achieved in some offenses, and to address the neutral or upward trends in other crime categories. The community is encouraged to call 9-1-1 anytime they see anything out of the ordinary in their neighborhood or the community. Calls can also be made to the non-emergency Police Department number, 847/982-5900, or reported to the 24-hour, recorded Crime Tip Hotline at 847/933-TIPS (8477). If you see it, or hear it, report it!

The full report is available at www.skokie.org. ■

School Crossings Safety - Keep Your Eyes Out

School days bring congestion and motorists should pay particular attention when driving near a school at arrival and dismissal times. When approaching a school zone please remember:

1. Drivers must stop for school buses that have the stop sign extended, lights flashing and are loading/unloading children (except when approaching the school bus from the opposite direction on a four-lane road with two-lanes for travel in opposing directions).
2. Drivers must remain stopped until the stop sign is retracted and the warning lights are off.
3. Drivers must come to a complete stop when crossing guards have stop sign or flag displayed.
4. Slow down and obey traffic laws and speed limits in both the school zones and adjacent neighborhoods.
5. Pedestrians have the right-of-way.

6. Avoid loading/unloading children across the street from the school.
7. Comply with the school's drop-off and pick-up procedures.
8. Avoid double parking or stopping on crosswalks.
9. Watch for children walking or bicycling.

Obeying traffic laws and these safety tips will help ensure the safety of these young pedestrians. ■



The 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 live on SkokieVision Cable Television (Channel 25 on RCN systems, Channel 17 on Comcast systems). The Board Meetings also are re-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 4, 18

Plan Commission
April 7, 21

Appearance Commission
April 13

Zoning Board of Appeals
April 6, 20

Village Board Action

The Village Board recently approved special use permits associated with a new Starbucks at 5211 Touhy Avenue, former site of Jack's Restaurant, and a Culver's in the Jewel parking lot at 9449 Skokie Boulevard.

The Village Board recently approved the purchase of a new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software from BS&A Software. The Village's current ERP software is outdated and expensive to maintain. During implementation of the new software, staff will analyze current business processes, making changes where needed, creating efficiencies in processes and ultimately enhancing customer service. ■

Board and Commission Members Honored

On March 14, 2016 some of the Village's more than 250 volunteer commissioners were honored for their many years of service and dedication to the community. The following list highlights commissioners who were recognized and their years of service at the annual Commission reception:

30 Years

Beryl Rabinowitz, Board of Fire & Police Commissioners

25 Years

Douglas Gordon, Telecommunications Advisory Commission

David Marek, Plan Commission

Earl Nicholas, Public Safety Commission

Linda Sargon-Swenson, Human Relations Commission

15 Years

Anil Kumar Pillai, Consumer Affairs Commission

10 Years

Andrew DeCanniere, Sustainable Environmental Advisory Commission

Frank Ippolito, Public Safety Commission

Gary Merrill, Consumer Affairs Commission

Richard Perlin, Zoning Board of Appeals

Harold Primack, Commission on Family Services

David Putrus, Economic Development Commission

Richard Reagen, Commission on Family Services

5 Years

Jeffrey Burman, Plan Commission

Tina DeAragon, Sustainable Environmental Advisory Commission

David Donegan, Human Relations Commission

Heidi Duggan, Board of Health

John Escobar, Human Relations Commission

Estelle Greenberg, Consumer Affairs Commission

Biju Krishnan, Consumer Affairs Commission

Clifford Levy, Consumer Affairs Commission

Julie Naumiak, Appearance Commission

Heather O'Donnell, Commission on Family Services

Jay Pathak, Appearance Commission

Bob Quane, Plan Commission

Harshad Shah, Consumer Affairs Commission

Joshua Shpayher, Beautification and Improvement Commission

Liya Wang, Fine Arts Commission

Dr. Larry Williams Jr., Board of Health ■

Volunteers Needed - Home Delivered Meals Program

The Skokie Human Services Division is seeking volunteer drivers for the Skokie Home Delivered Meals Program. Volunteers must be available to deliver meals between 11:15 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. once a week. The meals are picked up at Skokie Hospital and delivered to homebound seniors, ill or disabled clients within Skokie. Please contact Lucy Rukavina at 847/933-8208 for more information. ■

April is National Spay and Neuter Your Pet Month

The single best decision you can make for the long-term welfare of your pet cat or dog is to have the animal spayed or neutered (“altered”). Altered pets are not as aggressive, less likely to roam and bark less excessively. Animals that have not been altered are also more destructive and prone to marking with urine (spraying). Having your pet spayed or neutered will prevent unwanted babies. According to the Humane Society, millions of healthy, unwanted cats and dogs are killed each year. Spay/neuter is the only permanent, 100 percent effective method of birth control for dogs and cats, and there are low cost spay/neuter options available for cats and dogs. ■

Rodent Control in Skokie

The Village of Skokie has an aggressive rodent control program that includes inspections for rodents, treatment of burrows and steps to ensure that preventive measures are in place. Residents are encouraged to report rat sightings to the Health Department at 847/933-8484, or by using an online form at www.skokie.org.

Rats live in areas where there is food, water and shelter. Infestations can be prevented by bagging garbage securely in containers, picking up fallen birdseed, cleaning up after dogs and maintaining property.

To learn more please review [Preventing Rats in Skokie](#) at www.skokie.org. ■

Skokie Stands Against Racism

The Skokie Human Relations Commission invites you to join the second annual Skokie Stand Against Racism on Friday, April 29 between 10:35 and 11 a.m. The Village of Skokie, Skokie Public Library, Skokie Park District, High School District 219, School District 73.5 and many other local organizations, invite all businesses, students, faith-based groups, civic and community organizations and individual residents to join with others in standing on Skokie streets as a visible reminder that racism affects all of us, and that Skokie will continue to take steps to build racial equity and stand against all forms of racism.

You can plan to stand with others at the following locations: Oakton Street from Lincoln Avenue west to Niles West High School, Gross Point Road near Oakton Street or along Gross Point Road near Church Street.

Residents also can gather others to stand together at another visible location at that time, and share in meeting others, reciting the pledge that everyone will say at 10:50 a.m., and talk about the questions raised on the program materials. There is no cost to participate, and materials will be available after registering your group by visiting www.standagainstracism.org and completing the registration.

Please encourage other groups, schools, etc. to register for the Stand. We want the message to be clear that there are



MANY organizations and people who are working for a racially equitable Skokie!

Please check www.skokie.org for updates including additional stand routes. The Village of Skokie is proud to partner with YWCA Evanston/North Shore in standing together for racial equity. This national YWCA initiative, part of their mission to eliminate racism, gives the community the opportunity to highlight and continue the work of the Skokie Human Relations Commission. ■



CPR Schedule

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

Skokie Health Department Health Happenings

Unless otherwise noted, all clinics are held at the Health Department, 5127 Oakton Street. Clinics marked with an (*) require advance registration. Proof of Skokie residency required for all clinics. For more information call 847/933-8252.

Adult Vaccinations*

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon. Wednesdays, April 6 and 20 from 5 to 7 p.m. Walk-in Clinic - Wednesdays, April 13 and 27 from 2 to 4 p.m. Call for vaccine fees.

Child Vaccinations*

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon. Wednesdays, April 6 and 20 from 5 to 7 p.m. Walk in - Wednesdays, April 13 and 27 from 2 to 4 p.m. \$5 fee.

Well Child Clinic*

Monday, April 11 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Diabetes Screening*

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon. Wednesdays, April 6 and 20 from 5 to 7 p.m. \$5 fee.

Hearing Screening*

Friday, April 15 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Lipid Profile Screening*

(Total Cholesterol, HDL, Triglycerides, LDL, Cholesterol/HDL Ratio) Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon. Wednesdays, April 6 and 20 from 5 to 7 p.m. \$15 fee

Blood Pressure Screening

Walk-in clinics: Tuesdays from 2 to 4 p.m. Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon. Wednesdays, April 6 and 20 from 5 to 7 p.m.

TB Skin Testing*

Mondays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon. Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to noon and 2 to 4 p.m. \$10 fee.

Lead Screening*

By appointment only. \$25 fee.

Refuse & 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 day your recycling is collected and what items are recyclable, please visit www.skokie.org.

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

Human Services Activities

Unless otherwise noted, all events are located at Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street. Call 847/933-8208 for more information or to register. Please note that the Skokie Human Services Division is now located in Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street.

Chess

Wednesdays and Fridays from 12 to 4 p.m., 5120 Galitz Street.

Senior Health Insurance Program

Consultations available for new and existing Medicare beneficiaries to learn about their health care benefits. Selected dates, by appointment only.

Rules of the Road

Review for driver's exam. Monday, April 4 from 9:15 a.m. to noon.

German is Fun!

All German language speakers, from beginners to natives, are welcome. Thursdays, April 7 and 21 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Oakton Community Center, 4701 Oakton Street.

Conversational Yiddish

No fee/registration required. Everyone is welcome. Tuesdays, April 19 and 26 at 1:30 p.m., 5120 Galitz Street.

Low Vision Support Group

Tuesday, April 12 from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Hearing Loss Support Group

Monday, April 18 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at the Skokie Public Library.

Skokie Senior Men's Group

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

Stamp Club

Wednesdays, April 6 and 20 at 1:30 p.m., 5120 Galitz Street.

FOCUS (For Optically Challenged Upbeat Sorts)

A low vision support group targeting Baby Boomers but all interested are welcome to attend. Wednesday, April 13 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Contact Juanita at 847/933-8208.

Silver Sing-a-long

Monday, April 25 at 1:30 p.m., 5120 Galitz Street.

Simple & Living Will/ Durable Power of Attorney

Program for low-income seniors. Fee charged by attorney.

Family Caregiver Support Group

Please contact Laretta Hart at 847/424-5661 or lhart@nssc.org if you would like to attend. This group meets April 27 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Skokie Public Library

For more details on library events, visit www.skokieliibrary.info.

Young Steinway Concert: Andrew Johnson, Cello, and Eric Stinehart, Viola
Sunday, April 3 at 3 p.m.

Color Your World (adult coloring)
Tuesday, April 5 at 7 p.m.

Sew Independent (sewing with vision loss)
Four Fridays starting at April 8 at 1:30 p.m.

Tempest Winds: Shakespeare and Music Concert
Sunday, April 10 at 3 p.m.

Lizzadro Museum Volcano Lecture
Thursday, April 14 at 7 p.m.

Afternoon of Creativity with Teaching Artist Melanie P. Brown
Sunday, April 17 at 3 p.m.

Family Lore: How to Capture the Stories of Your Life
Thursday, April 21 at 7 p.m.

AARP Tek: Getting Started with Android Smartphones
Friday, April 22 at 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.

VOX 3: Fairytales and Folklore Adult Concert
Sunday, April 24 at 3 p.m.

Practical Tips to Improve Your Financial Wellness
Thursday, April 28 at 7 p.m.

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie

Located at 9501 Skokie Boulevard. For performance dates and information visit NorthShoreCenter.org or call 847/673-6300.

Butler
In the Northlight Theatre
Through April 17, 2016

Harmony Sweepstakes A Cappella Festival Chicago Regional
In the Center Theatre
Sunday, April 3 at 3 p.m.

Rachel Barton Pine and the Park Ridge Civic Orchestra
In the Center Theatre
Thursday, April 7 at 7:30 p.m.

Steven Wright
In the Center Theatre
Friday, April 8 at 8 p.m.

Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestra presents Pictures at an Exhibition
In the Center Theatre
Saturday, April 16 at 7 p.m.

Music of the Baroque presents Intimate Purcell Anthems
In the Center Theatre
Sunday, April 24 at 7:30 p.m.

Skokie Park District

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

Golf Season is Here!

March 30 marked the official opening of the 2016 Skokie Park District golf season, with both the Sports Park Golf Range and Weber Park Golf Course open daily, weather permitting. Skokie Sports Park, 3459 Oakton Street. Weber Park Golf Course, 9300 Weber Park Place.

Pool Passes on Sale April 1

Skokie Park District pool passes go on sale April 1. Not only do these passes offer Skokie residents a 20% discount, but by purchasing your pass before April 30 you receive a free Splash Pass good for five visits to either one of the Park Districts two award-winning facilities. Skokie Water Playground, 4700 Oakton Street. Devonshire Aquatic Center, 4400 Greenwood Street.

Devonshire Playhouse Young Performers Present 'Once Upon a Mattress'

The Devonshire Playhouse Young Performers present their unique take on the timeless story of the princess and the pea. Call 847/674-1500, ext. 2400 for times and tickets. April 9 through 17. Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood Street.

Spring Greening

This green community fair features reuse and recycling dropoff (see SkokieSpringGreening.org for acceptable items), a green products and services showcase and sale and recycled and repurposed crafts. Sunday, April 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Niles North High School, 9800 Lawler Avenue.

Earth Day: A Journey Through Time

Visit the Emily Oaks Nature Center's Earth Day Picnic for the Planet for a fun look at earth-friendly food. There also will be entertainment and a native plant sale. Sunday, April 26 from 12 to 4 p.m. Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel.

Spring Clean Up

Spring is here and everyone is excited for warm, beautiful days. Every year when the snow melts though, litter, food wrappers, cans and other trash are exposed.

The Village urges all residents to keep Skokie clean by picking up and disposing of litter and debris in their neighborhood and around their homes and businesses, and reminds residents to bag all waste before placing it in the refuse carts.

Public Works recommends periodically cleaning out your refuse and recycling containers with household cleaners or bleach to prevent insects and rodents from being attracted to your garbage. If everyone does their small part, Skokie will remain a clean and beautiful place to live and work.

See page six for information on the 2016 Clean, Green Skokie! neighborhood litter clean up initiative. ■

Village of Skokie



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

Officials:

Mayor
George Van Dusen
Clerk
Pramod C. Shah
Trustees
Michele L. Bromberg
Karen Gray-Keeler
Ralph Klein
Randall E. Roberts
Edie Sue Sutker
Ilonka Ulrich

Manager
John T. Lockerby

Counsel
Michael M. Lorge

Phone Numbers:

Emergency
9-1-1
Crime Tip Hotline
847/933-TIPS (8477)
Information
847/673-0500
Fire Non-Emergency
847/982-5300
Police Non-Emergency
847/982-5900
Citizens Assistance
847/933-8480

Departments

Village Hall
847/673-0500
Citizens Assistance
847/933-8480
Civil Engineering
847/933-8231
Clerk's Office
847/933-8203
Community
Development
847/933-8223
Economic Development
847/933-8446
Planning
847/933-8447
Health Department/
Personal Health
847/933-8252
Animal Control
847/933-8484
Environmental Health
847/933-8484
Human Services
847/933-8208
Public Works
847/933-8427
Signs and Street Lights
847/933-8232
Village Manager's Office
847/933-8210
Water Billing
847/933-8418

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Yard Waste Collection Program

Skokie's seasonal, weekly yard waste collection program resumes on Wednesdays from April 6 through November 9, 2016. Grass clippings, stumps, sod or dirt will not be collected.

To schedule a collection of brush or other yard debris, residents must schedule their pick-up online at www.skokie.org or call 847/933-3333, the automated yard waste phone line. A scheduled pick-up must be made by noon on Monday to request collection for the coming Wednesday. Both online and phone systems can be utilized during daytime, weekend and evening hours.

Yard waste that will be collected includes brush trimmings, thatch from raking and older flower or vegetable plants. These materials must be placed in a 30-gallon bio-degradable paper yard waste bag. The Village will not collect any materials prepared in plastic bags.

Branches need to be bundled with string, rope or twine and should not exceed five feet in length and three inches in diameter. Bundles and bags should not exceed 50 lbs.

For more information regarding yard waste collection contact the Village of Skokie Public Works Department at 847/933-8427 or visit www.skokie.org. ■

Annual Spring Greening Event Set for April 10

Skokie's sixth annual Spring Greening, a community event held to promote a sustainable lifestyle, will be held on Sunday, April 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Niles North High School, 9800 Lawler Avenue in Skokie. Admission is free.

The event includes an indoor fair, complete with a trade show highlighting green products and services, as well as sales of repurposed crafts and family-friendly activities. A drive-through reuse/recycling drop-off will accept many different types of items, including electronic waste, batteries, ink and toner cartridges, clothing, latex paints (for a fee) and much more. Please note that there are some restrictions on what kinds of items will be accepted.



More information can be found at www.skokiespringgreening.org or by calling 847/674-1500, ext. 2500. ■

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