



#### Village Hall

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#### Council-Manager Government

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

#### Awards and Distinctions

All America City Finalist  
American Public Works Association  
(APWA) Accreditation  
Commission on Accreditation for  
Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA)  
Commission on Fire Accreditation  
International (CFAI)  
Fitch IBCA AAA Financial Bond Rating  
Gold Level Clean Air Counts  
Community  
Governor's Hometown Award  
Government Finance Officers  
Association Budget Award  
Government Finance Officers  
Association Certificate of  
Achievement for Excellence in  
Financial Reporting  
Illinois Law Enforcement  
Accreditation (ILEAP)  
Insurance Services Office (ISO) Class  
One Fire Department  
State of Illinois Certified Health  
Department  
Tree City U.S.A. Distinction

# Village of Skokie

**For Immediate Release**  
**March 13, 2017**

## Leonard Becker to Lead Skokie's Economic Development Team

Today, Leonard Becker began serving as the new Economic Development Manager for the Village of Skokie. "After a national search and extensive selection process, Len Becker was chosen due to his comprehensive experience developing targeted business expansion and retention strategies for multiple industries, including biopharmaceuticals, destination retail and advanced manufacturing, as well as his overall passion for economic development," said Village Manager John Lockerby.

The Illinois Science + Technology Park in Downtown Skokie was recently purchased for \$77 million by American Landmark Properties and, according to Lockerby, "The new owners are developing an investment growth plan, and Len's success in technology-based economic development programs as well as bioscience and strategic industry activities will further strengthen the Village's support of their efforts to expand the park by recruiting both national and international firms." Becker's breadth of economic development experience includes focusing on business retention, downtown redevelopment and business attraction, and he has a consistent track record of stimulating economic growth in the communities he has served.

Originally from Skokie, Becker most recently served as the Economic Development Director of Buckeye, Arizona. During his tenure in Buckeye, Becker launched growbuckeye.com, a robust economic development and business website, implemented a city-wide commercial property revitalization program, forged an entrepreneurial programming partnership with Arizona State University and more. While serving as director, he facilitated the expansion and attraction of nearly 90 new businesses, including a car dealership, grocer and hotel, which created 1,339 jobs. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in regional development from the University of Arizona. "The strength and scope of Skokie's economy presents nearly limitless opportunities for unique, strategic growth," said Becker. "I'm intrigued with the synergy between the Illinois Science + Technology Park, the adjacent CTA Yellow Line station, Oakton Community College and the resurgence of unique, independent restaurants and retail stores in nearby Downtown Skokie. I also particularly look forward to working with the principals at Westfield Old Orchard to build this flagship property's impressive retail portfolio as well as capitalizing on this attraction to further expand and develop surrounding sites." Len also developed, managed and implemented a successful economic development program for the 90-square-block downtown in Phoenix, Arizona, when serving as Economic Development Director of the Downtown Phoenix Partnership.

"I am confident that Len's extensive experience, when applied to Skokie's already strong, growing economy, will result in excellent enhancements to the existing business community," said Lockerby. The current edition of the *SkokieBiz* semi-annual economic development report details the addition of nearly 450 new jobs in Skokie during late 2016. Skokie was recently included in *Crain's* list of the 10 best suburbs in which to buy a home, and the March 2017 edition of *Chicago Magazine* includes a 'field guide' to a selection of Skokie's numerous attractions, shops and restaurants, including the award-winning Libertad that is among four Michelin-rated restaurants in Downtown Skokie.

"Len will work closely with the rest of Skokie's economic development team," said Lockerby. "He also will work with key community stakeholders on initiatives to further economic growth and partnerships in the Village of Skokie."

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