



Village of Skokie Fall 2016 Economic Development Update

New and exciting developments are underway on Dempster Street, Westfield Old Orchard and the expanding Touhy Corridor.



The Village of Skokie enjoyed another high profile year, particularly in terms of total retail sales growth, **ranking #1 among the Top 20 Chicagoland Suburbs from 2014-2015**, according to the highly regarded 2016 Melaniphy Report. Skokie placed **11th overall among the Midwest's Top 20 Wealthiest Communities** (65,000+ population) by NerdWallet.com, ahead of Minneapolis, Minnesota and Madison, Wisconsin. The Village also celebrated the one-year anniversary of **SkokieBiz**, a semi-annual electronic newsletter which chronicles the Village's record year of construction permits issued and number of business openings in all sectors.

Dempster Street

- Continuing its growing reputation as a "First to Market" community, Skokie will soon welcome a new 33,000-square-foot 'flexible format' **Target** store at the southwest corner of Dempster Street and Bronx Avenue, just east of the Dempster Street Yellow Line CTA Station. This new store, scheduled to open in fall 2017, is Target's first flexible-format suburban Chicago location. The former Village-owned parcel was sold recently to *BlitzLake Partners* who will develop the property on behalf of Target. A new **Dunkin' Donuts** opened in the CTA Station, several new stores including **Allstate**, **State Farm**, and **Al Sham Sweet** (a Turkish bakery) have opened in the recently-upgraded 4950 Dempster Street center, and an **O'Reilly's Auto Parts** store is scheduled to open at 4800 Dempster Street later this year.

Westfield Old Orchard/Skokie Golf Retail District

- Minnesota-based **Hammer Made** recently opened its first suburban Chicago store at Old Orchard. Additional high-profile retailers such as **West Elm**, **Soma Intimates** and **Free People** opened in 2016 while **Fabletics**, **Vineyard Vines** and **Nando's Peri Peri** are scheduled to open in time for the holiday season. Westfield also announced that a subsidiary of Cinemex, the seventh-largest cinema chain worldwide, will pilot two premium movie theater concepts at the shopping center in 2017. At *The Shops at Orchard Place*, a new **HomeGoods** store will generate over 80 new jobs.
- The **North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie** is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. The two-theatre complex attracts over 165,000 people annually to more than 400 performances and events, contributing an estimated \$3.2 million annually to the local economy. The **Doubletree Hilton Hotel** recently completed substantial ballroom renovations and is currently upgrading the majority of its corridors and guestrooms. The Doubletree also installed a new digital key system providing frequent guests the option to make a room reservation, bypass the hotel check-in counter and access their rooms on their smartphone.
- Proximate to the mall, **Bob's Discount Furniture**, **Mattress Firm** and **Casual Male XL** opened in spring 2016, while **Culver's**, **Chick-fil-A**, **Bank of America** and **AAA Travel** are scheduled to open on the east side of Skokie Boulevard in late 2016 or early 2017. Further east and proximate to the renowned Skokie Hospital, the Village welcomed a **Dunkin' Donuts/Baskin Robbins** drive-thru at 8800 Gross Point Road and a new national chain childcare center, **The Goddard School**, at 9651 Gross Point Road.





Touhy Commercial Corridor

- In August, hundreds of daily patrons waited in long lines to dine at the first **Jollibee** restaurant in Chicagoland. Other new exciting store openings in *Touhy Marketplace* included **The Halal Guys**, **WingZone**, **T-Mobile** and **Just Tires**, while **Mariano's** continues its success at *Skokie Commons*.
- Three new and/or upgraded retail centers are underway up and down Touhy Avenue: At *Touhy Town Center* (5500 block of Touhy), a new drive-thru **Panera Bread** and **Mod Pizza** will open soon. Further east at Touhy and Laramie Avenues is the *Jack's Corner* development, which will open soon containing a **Starbucks** and **Aspen Dental**, among other users. The current **Pep Boys** center at 5220 Touhy Avenue will be redeveloped in 2017, adding three new stores, including **Real Urban Barbecue** and **Orange Theory Fitness**.
- At *Village Crossing Shopping Center*, AMC Showplace Theatres upgraded their entertainment offerings to include a full-service **MacGuffin's Bar and Lounge**, and a **Vein Clinics of America** facility is scheduled to open this fall.

Illinois Science + Technology Park (IS + TP)

- Twenty eight tenants currently occupy over 450,000 square feet at the IS+TP, employing almost 1,500 professionals.
- **Northshore University Health System's** data processing division continues to grow and added over 100 jobs this past year. **LanzaTech, Inc.** celebrated its two-year anniversary, currently employs 115 workers and received major press for developing aviation fuel produced from recycled waste carbon emissions at a manufacturing site. **Exicure, Inc.** (formerly AuraSense Therapeutics) expanded and began clinical trials to develop gels for chronic plaque psoriasis. **Fresenius Kabi** also expanded due to its growth in the generic, sterile injectable pharma market. **NuMat Technologies** is completing a manufacturing line for its next-generation gas storage technology. Lots of investment, growth and excitement anticipated in 2017!
- The IS+TP's business incubator, now known as the **Skokie Innovation Labs**, received a grant from *The Searle Funds/Kinship Trust* and continues to nurture several award-winning new startups from Northwestern University.

Downtown Skokie

- Downtown Skokie hosted a record-setting Backlot Bash attendance this past summer, with several new local restaurants participating. The Skokie Chamber of Commerce celebrated the seventh annual **Wednesdays on the Green** series during summer 2016, attracting thousands of visitors to Downtown Skokie.
- Several new restaurants and retailers opened, including **Euro Echo Café**, **Nailed** and **T-Mobile**. Euro Echo Café received a dual interior/exterior rehabilitation grant from the Village as part of its complete renovation of a former law office. Four other restaurant groups are currently working with the Village on similar restorations of older structures along Lincoln Avenue and Oakton Street. Just east of Downtown Skokie, **Mishkookii Art Space**, 4517 Oakton Street, opened to rave reviews in August, and is owned and operated by John Maloof, an Oscar-nominated local resident. The Village also is working with a Chicago-based brewery to bring a production facility and taproom to Main Street, just north of Downtown Skokie.
- Phase Two of Downtown Skokie's **Floral Avenue** single-family housing development is nearly sold out. These "not so big" houses are being sold for an average of \$600,000 each and are situated on what is now known as the "Village's Most Expensive Street."

West and Eastern Industrial Areas

- The Village approved several additional Cook County Class 6B applications this year, resulting in over \$1.7 million in new private investment and an increase of approximately 25 new jobs.

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