



Springtime Driving Tips

With all the beauty spring brings, it also presents a unique set of driving challenges. Here are some tips from the Skokie Police Department to keep in mind as you hit the road during this sometimes slick and soggy time of year.

- Spring showers bring May flowers — and wet driving conditions: Slow down on slick roads, and increase your following distance even when mist begins to fall. Just a small amount of water can mix with oil and grease on the road to create slippery conditions.
- Share the road: Warm weather brings out motorcyclists, bicyclists and pedestrians. The Skokie Police Department also encourages bicycle safety while out on the roadway.
- Understand the impact of medications on driving: For many people, spring means seasonal allergies. Over-the-counter allergy drugs can have side effects or interact with other medications to diminish your driving ability. The Police

Department reminds everyone that being under the influence also includes medication and can result in serious consequences.

- If possible, go around potholes. Deep potholes can throw your car out of alignment or worse, forcing you to buy a new wheel and a new tire. Report deep potholes to the Skokie Public Works Department at info@skokie.org or 847/933-8427.
- Avoid driving through large puddles: Driving through water can impair your brakes, cloud your vision or cause you to hydroplane.
- Keep your tires properly inflated: Full tires can reduce the damage caused by potholes and other road hazards so check them often and don't wait until they are low enough to set off the console tire pressure warning light.

For more information please contact Officer Tammy Jacobsen at 847/982-5922.

How Do I Plan a Block Party?

A block party is a great way to connect with your neighbors and build positive relationships while keeping your community safe.

Involve as many neighbors as possible in a planning meeting. We suggest making one household the coordinating center for the party, then

CREATE A CHECK LIST:

- Set a date
- Obtain a Block Party permit (see information to the right)
- Publicize to all neighbors with a request for chairs and benches (have everyone bring their own)

- Arrange for food and refreshments. Consider a potluck. Ask everyone to label their dish and list ingredients as a courtesy to neighbors with food allergies.

Follow appropriate food sanitation guidelines. Call the Skokie Health Department at 847/933-8484 for more information.

PROVIDE:

- Beverage coolers
- Waste containers
- Paper goods/utensils

BLOCK PARTY PERMIT:

When you've set the date, contact Village Hall at 847/933-8232 for a permit to block off the street. You will need permission from 50 percent of the households on your block for this. There is no charge for the permit, but submit the completed permit application at least three weeks before the party.

BLOCK PARTY ACTIVITIES:

- Volleyball
- Bingo
- Sack or relay races
- Water balloon games
- Pet parade



Clean, Green Skokie is Back!

Join the Clean, Green Skokie! event that focuses on pride in the community and collaborating efforts for a good old-fashioned neighborhood litter cleanup 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!

Call the Village at 847/933-8257 or email info@skokie.org to register for Clean, Green Skokie! by telling us who will clean, what area will be cleaned and when the litter cleanup will occur.

Beginning in early April, litter cleanup 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!

Check out some of the highlights from last year's participants!





Introducing OffenderWatch®

The Village of Skokie Police Department is pleased to provide OffenderWatch® for the citizens of Skokie. OffenderWatch® is the nation's leading registered sex offender management and community notification tool with hundreds of leading agencies in dozens of states utilizing it. Skokie's Police Department utilizes OffenderWatch® to manage and monitor the whereabouts, conduct and compliance status of registered offenders living in Skokie. This site provides the most accurate and timely information available and is available to all residents by visiting www.communitynotification.com/il/skokie/.

The site is updated as addresses and other offender information is entered at the Skokie Police Department. Residents may search any street address in the Village and beyond to see information on registered offenders within a specified radius.

The OffenderWatch® site also offers an email alert system. Residents may receive email alerts simply by entering specific addresses into the system. An email alert will be sent if a new offender registers an address within one mile of any home or business address registered in the OffenderWatch® system. There is no cost for this service and no limit to the number of addresses residents can register. Some examples of suggested addresses to register for the email alert system include your home, school, work, gym, day care, park and extended family home addresses.

For more information, please contact the Skokie Police Department at 847/982-5950 or email Detective Andrew Lehmann at andrew.lehmann@skokie.org.

Safety First!

Ready to do some home repairs? More than 90,000 people visit the emergency room each year because of ladder mishaps. Here are a few safety tips:

- Read the manufacturer's instructions that come with your ladder. They contain guidelines for weight and height limits as well as for the proper use of their product.
- Inspect the ladder before using it to make sure there are no loose or broken rungs.
- Make sure the ladder is the right height for the job. Many accidents happen when people overextend their reach because their ladders are too short.
- Never stand on a ladder's bucket shelf.
- Make sure the ladder is completely open and that all of its feet are

planted on a firm, level surface. Extension ladders should not be placed at an angle that is too extreme.

- Avoid using a metal ladder near electrical sources.
- Face the ladder when climbing and descending.
- Keep weight centered between the two rails.
- Maintain three points of contact with the ladder while climbing. Half of all ladder related accidents are due to individuals carrying items as they climbed.



Save These Dates!

- The Skokie Festival of Cultures takes place on May 21 and 22, 2016 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Oakton Park, 4701 Oakton Street. Stop by the Skokie Police Department booth and say hello. We look forward to seeing you!
- National Night out takes place Tuesday, August 2, 2016 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Gross Point Park, 9100 Gross Point Road. Games, music, food and more!
- Downtown Skokie's Backlot Bash weekend, August 26 through 28. Live bands, carnival rides, 5k, classic car show and more!



Burglary Prevention Gadgets

The Skokie Police Department supports a homeowner's decision to install a security system to feel safe in their home. But if you cannot afford a security system or all the suggested components of a system, these gadgets might be for you! It's better to have something rather than nothing.

Here are some products available for purchase:

A fake TV gives the impression that you're home and watching TV in your dark or dimly lit home. It's a small box that emits light to mimic the color and scene transitions of a television program. When someone sees the television-like glow through your window, it seems that someone is home watching TV, possibly deterring burglars from your home.

You can get an inert motion sensor that emits a small LED flashing light, and if it senses motion, it can give a message to the intruder. Choose from different electronic voice warnings such as "Warning! Warning! Security Alert!" or "The authorities are being notified!" The fear of

being caught by a security device may be enough for intruders to leave immediately.

Place a barking dog sensor outside your home and when it detects motion, a speaker inside your home plays barking dog noises.

look like someone has been woken up or bothered by the dog barking. Typically, noisy dogs are not a burglar's friend, and it may make a burglar think twice about breaking into your home.

Network or internet cameras — usually marketed as IP cameras — are popular for keeping an eye on your property, your family, and your pets. These cameras provide live video and audio feeds that you can access remotely using an internet browser. Make sure you do your research to secure your home network before using IP cameras.

A home security survey is a great way to learn about other burglary prevention ideas!

Contact the Skokie Police Department Crime Prevention Unit at 847/982-5919 or 5922 to schedule your home security survey.



A fake TV can deter burglars.

Some more sophisticated systems will also turn on some lights in the home shortly after the dog starts barking, so it might

Remember to always report suspicious activity by calling the Skokie Police Department at 9-1-1

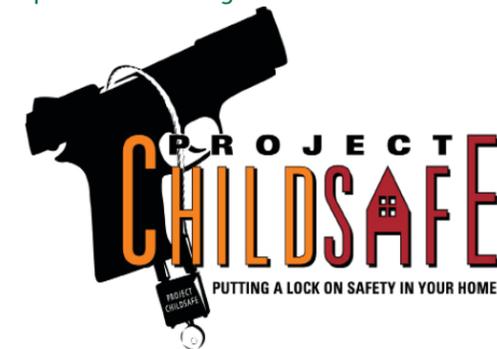
If You Own it, Respect it and Secure it!

Responsible gun owners keep firearms secure and away from children.

Responsible gun owners talk to their children about firearm safety and what to do if they see or find a gun.

The Skokie Police Department is promoting firearm storage awareness by providing free Firearm Safety Kits to Skokie firearm owners that include locking mechanisms for guns, to make it easier for firearm owners to protect themselves and their families. Our goal is to keep children safe and prevent tragedies like those reported all too often in the news.

Project ChildSafe, a nationwide program that promotes safe firearm handling, and the National Shooting Support Foundation provided the Village of Skokie with 100 kits.



Once the inventory is exhausted, the Skokie Police Department can request more if available from the NSSF. Similar cable-style gun locks may be purchased at retail locations or on the internet for approximately \$10.

"Storing your firearms responsibly is a simple but vitally important message, and we are pleased to have Skokie Police Department's support for this Initiative," said Steve Sanetti, NSSF president and CEO. "Together with all our industry partners we can be powerful messengers in encouraging firearm owners to respect their firearm and store it responsibly when not in use."

To receive your free Firearms Safety Kit, please make an appointment with the Skokie Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit by emailing crimeprevention@skokie.org.

For more information, please visit: www.projectchildsafe.org.