HAPPY TWO YEAR ANNIVERSARY SKOKIEBIZ!

2017 has brought several new notable rankings for the Village (Skokie was featured in Crain’s ‘Best Places to Buy a Home’ and Chicago Magazine’s ‘Best Neighborhoods and Suburbs’), a new promotional microsite ThinkSkokie.com (see right), many new business openings and developments in progress, a new Economic Development Manager by way of Arizona (Len Becker), and exciting new public/private partnerships for signature sites throughout the Village. Stay tuned for big year-end announcements!

FROM VACANT LAND TO ACTIVE STATUS

One promising new development involves a longtime vacant parcel at 3601 Howard Street (formerly owned and operated by the Ohmite Manufacturing Co.) which is now being developed by nationally renowned Hillwood Investment Properties. Hillwood will construct a new Class A, state-of-the-art multi-tenant industrial logistics and distribution facility totaling approximately 236,912 square feet at this site, which is ideal for warehousing companies, food manufacturers or E-commerce fullfillment. The anticipated number of jobs to be created as a result of this development is between 200 and 300 new, full-time and part-time workers. Ground-breaking for the Skokie Commerce Center is scheduled for September 2017.

American Landmark Properties’ (ALP) acquisition of the 24-acre Illinois Science + Technology Park campus includes a 130,000-square-foot building at 8030 Lamon Avenue suitable for office and state-of-the art R&D facilities. To support its leasing activity, ALP has launched a dedicated website at americanlandmark.com/istp.

Chicago Cubs fans were treated to a visit by former catcher David Ross at a Westfield Old Orchard Barnes and Noble book signing earlier this year. This event was in celebration of his new book and the Cub’s World Series win. Holy Mackerel!

Orangetheory Fitness opened its newest store at 5230 Touhy Avenue in the newly renovated Touhy Plaza this past spring. Friendly staff, plenty of parking, great workout…go for the burn in Skokie!

Questions or comments? Please contact us!

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OVER 170,000 CARS AND TRUCKS PASS THROUGH OR STOP IN SKOKIE EACH DAY ON THE EDENS EXPRESSWAY

BUSINESSES WITHIN A FIVE-MILE RADIUS OF CENTRAL SKOKIE

249,771 WORKERS WITHIN A FIVE-MILE RADIUS OF CENTRAL SKOKIE.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING WITHIN A FIVE-MILE RADIUS OF CENTRAL SKOKIE.

$8.17 BILLION TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN A FIVE-MILE RADIUS OF CENTRAL SKOKIE.

What started as a pop-up boutique in Westfield Old Orchard's Cube turned into a full-fledged new Nespresso store this past spring! Grand Cru coffees, stylish machines and exceptional customer service all come together provide the ultimate coffee experience.

The new casual, Italian American, independently-owned Panino Blitz, situated adjacent to Krier Plaza in the heart of Downtown Skokie, is drawing workday and weekend crowds to rave reviews!

Congratulations to new Skokie Fast Signs franchise business owners Craig and Kim Hackl who opened at 3437 Dempster Street earlier this year. Check out their website or stop in for marketing, promotional and advertising tips.

Members of the Skokie Economic Development Commission were welcomed by Pharmore CEO Avi Goldfeder at a tour of their new home following their relocation within Skokie to 3412 W. Touhy and significant reinvestment into their new facility.

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Did you know?

- The Village of Skokie once again fared exceedingly well in terms of retail strength according to the 2017 Melaniphy & Associates Report, landing in the “Top Ten” Chicagoland suburbs for total retail sales for the fifth consecutive year. Skokie ranked eighth overall, and the Skokie/Evanston (Old Orchard) Core Mall market increased by over $349 million from 2007 to 2016 with sales of over $2.5 billion. Skokie had a 5.3% growth in Drinking and Eating Place sales from 2015 to 2016 (as compared to the City of Chicago’s 4.5% growth).

- What’s new at the Illinois Science + Technology Park (ISTP)? Carbon recycling company LanzaTech and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (India’s flagship national oil company) announced they will build the world’s first refinery of gas-to-bioethanol production facility in India. Lanzatech was also named the #1 Hottest Company in Advanced Bioeconomy for the second time, according to The Digest, the world’s most widely-read bio economy daily. Northwestern University recently leased space for scientific research at the ISTP and is collaborating with Oakton Community College on a training program to address local manufacturing needs. Additionally, Purdue Pharma L.P. and Exicure, Inc. announced a $790 million strategic research collaboration, option and license agreement to discover and develop a treatment for psoriasis and other diseases amenable to a gene regulation approach utilizing Exicure’s Spherical Nucleic Acid (SNA)™ technology.

- The Village of Skokie has approved three Storefront Enhancement Program grants for commercial corridor properties on Golf Road, Main and Oakton Streets. Financial incentives to encourage rehab, redevelopment and overall structural improvements within existing buildings are available on a first-come, first-served basis. These grants must meet certain criteria. For more info, please call Economic Development Division staff at 847/933-8447.

- Village staff attended the ICSC RECon and SelectUSA conferences to recruit national and regional retailers to Skokie as well as to showcase various properties to international companies interested in expanding or investing in Skokie. Village Economic Development staff also participated in a Roundtable Discussion for Crain’s Chicago Business highlighting Skokie as a “Smart Chicago Suburb Competing for Business” (see: http://www.chicagobusiness.com/custom-media/roundtable.html).

- The Village applauds the following Skokie businesses/organizations: Libertad, ranked #14 on Eater Chicago’s Top 25 suburban restaurants; 2016 Skokie Business of the Year: A-1 Pest Control/Plus Natural Solutions Worldwide inc.; The Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center was one of 10 recipients of the 2017 National Medal for Museum and Library Service, a highly prestigious award; and Aldi on Oakton on a grand re-opening this past spring after investing over $650,000 into its Downtown Skokie location.
ANNOUNCED JOBS IN SKOKIE

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<td>7100 Carpenter Road</td>
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<td>Financial</td>
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<td>Fitness</td>
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</tbody>
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TOTAL NUMBER OF SMALL BUSINESS OPENINGS WITH LESS THAN 10 EMPLOYEES: 47

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In February, Skokie was featured in Chicago Magazine’s popular “Field Guide” series, which promoted the best attributes and interesting factoids about the World’s Largest Village.

Another eclectic new retailer in Downtown Skokie, Old Temple Chicago (4853 Oakton Street) brings old world treasures and fantastic new finds for any home or office decor. Take a ‘staycation’ at this store!

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SALES TAX RECEIPTS ($)

REAL ESTATE TRANSFER TAX RECEIPTS ($)
Night or day, the lines form in and around the North Shore’s first Chick-fil-A, which opened in April at 9341 Skokie Blvd. Hundreds of campers spent the night in the parking lot, vying to be one of the first 100 guests to receive a year’s supply of their favorite chicken.

In May, members of the Skokie business institutional community celebrated National Tourism Week with Chicago’s North Shore Convention & Visitor’s Bureau.

Redefining the traditional Greek restaurant with an “interactive concept which combines premium ingredients, open kitchens, and Greek atmosphere in a fast-casual setting”, Skokie welcomed another ‘first-to-market’ restaurant, The Simple Greek, to Village Crossing Shopping Center this past spring.

Source: Village of Skokie Community Development Department

Questions or comments? Please contact us!
Brightening up snow-covered lawns and commercial parkways this past winter/early spring were these catchy and inclusive signs produced by the newly-formed Skokie Cares.

As one of the country’s leading providers of residential healthcare services, Legacy Healthcare (3450 Oakton Street) recently moved from their national headquarters in Lincolnwood to Skokie and renovated over 45,000 sf of office space.

The first Downtown Skokie St. Patrick’s Day Parade was held on a beautiful Sunday in March, attracting over 300 marchers, and ending with a grand celebration at The Curragh Irish Pub. Plans are underway by the newly-formed sponsor, Downtown Skokie Alliance, to ‘take it to the street’ next March 11, 2018!

On August 7, 2017, the Village of Skokie Board of Trustees accepted the Village’s First Targeted Economic Development Strategy & Action Agenda (2017-2020), focusing on key components noted below. A copy of the Strategy can be accessed on the Village of Skokie website at skokie.org or ThinkSkokie.com.