Skokie Health Department Urges Flu Shot Vaccinations

Community Flu Shot Program Changes - Adults Only

With COVID-19 continuing to circulate, vaccination to protect against influenza, another serious disease, will be more important than ever this fall to help minimize illness in the community. Skokie residents are urged to obtain a flu shot this season.

There will be modifications to the fall Health Department’s community flu shot clinics this year in order to keep participants and staff safe because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Please note that there will be no home visits to administer flu shots to home-bound residents this year.

The fall flu shot clinics will be held at the Oakton Community Center, 4701 Oakton Street, on these dates:

- Wednesday, September 30, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 6, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Flu shot clinics will be open to ADULTS ONLY 18 years and older this year
- Appointments open on Tuesday, September 8

Beginning Tuesday, September 8, Skokie residents ages 18 years and older will be able to schedule appointments for the Health Department’s fall flu shot clinics either online at www.skokie.org or by calling 847/933-8252.

Consent forms will be available at www.skokie.org to print and bring to the clinic. Please fill out the form prior to coming to clinic, to minimize your time in the clinic. Staff will be available to assist those who are unable to do this online. Masks must be worn at all times by every individual that attends a flu shot clinic. Please bring identification showing proof of residence and Medicare card (if applicable) when you come to the clinic.

For further information please call the Health Department at 847/933-8252. See page seven for an important note on the importance of childhood vaccinations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vote for the Skokie Business of the Year

What is your favorite Skokie business? Tell us why you love it and why it should be the 2020 Skokie Business of the Year!

It’s been a hard year for the Skokie business community - please show your support by nominating your favorite Skokie business to receive the 2020 Business of the Year award. Each year, the Consumer Affairs Commission sponsors this awards initiative to recognize Skokie businesses that go above and beyond to serve the community.

Vote for your favorite Skokie business at www.skokie.org and see a list of Skokie businesses that are open and ready to serve the community! Shop local in Skokie early and often!
Sketchbook Brewery and Tap Room is Open in Skokie!

Craft beer lovers can head to Sketchbook Brewing Company’s new Skokie location at 4901 Main Street (south side, east of C.A.R.E. and the Skokie Valley Trail, and west of the CTA Yellow Line tracks). The brewery and tap room opened in late July and is Skokie’s first nanobrewery.

Beer and cider aficionados can view the fermenters through glass windows and enjoy their beverages on an inviting outdoor patio. Want to sit indoors? You’ll be glad to know that the Sketchbook owners are committed to following the current safety protocols to protect everyone’s health. See more information on Sketchbook’s commitment to safety at http://www.sketchbookbrewing.com/covid-19.

Sketchbook Brewing Company supplies up to 20 beers on tap, all brewed on premises. Who can resist beers named Snowy Owl (Red Rye Ale), Night Game (Double IPA brewed with honey), Pinky Sweater (Red Rice Pilsner), Twice Lucky English Ale, their nationally-known, award-winning Insufficient Clearance and many more!

Reservations encouraged to allow for social distancing - walk-ins also welcome. At press time, which was right when the brewery opened in late July, many of the Downtown Skokie and Village-wide restaurateurs had met with Sketchbook’s owners and discussed ways to promote their food delivery to this exciting new Downtown Skokie destination. Pizza from your favorite Skokie pizzeria delivered there? Tacos from one of Skokie’s great Mexican restaurants? Mediterranean food? Sushi? The possibilities from Skokie restaurants are endless!

For more information on Sketchbook Brewing Company and the new Skokie location, please visit www.sketchbookbrewing.com.

Here’s what else you need to know:

- Plenty of parking
- Expansive taproom
- Family-friendly
- Bike-friendly
- Paved patio
- Brewery tours
- BYOFood (ask your fave Skokie restaurant to deliver your food there - see note below!)
- Beer to go!

Village Economic Recovery Plan

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen was one of the first suburban Chicago mayors to establish an Economic Recovery Task Force. Between May 12 and July 29, 2020, the 11-member Task Force met regularly to help guide and assist Village staff, leadership and the community as a whole to develop an actionable plan to help Skokie businesses withstand the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Task Force, which is comprised of business, community, health and faith organization leaders, will continue to meet through the pandemic to receive updates on the Plan's progress. Since its inception, the Task Force has provided valuable perspectives into hardships businesses are facing during this period of uncertainty as well as those they will likely face in the coming months. These insights helped guide the Village's response and shaped the key recommendations and action steps outlined in the Plan.

To view the Village’s Economic Recovery Task Force’s plan, visit www.skokie.org and follow the link from the Business and Economic Development page. Please be sure to shop and dine locally! Visit the Village’s Shop Local Skokie Facebook page, too!
From the Skokie Health Department:

Skokie’s COVID-19 Data Looks Promising During Reopening

As of August 3, 2020, the COVID-19 situation in Skokie continues to look good. Although there are a few residents being diagnosed with COVID-19 each day, there has not been a surge in cases as we continue to gradually reopen businesses and safely engage in other activities in the Village. On average, the new case rate for Skokie has been 1/10th that of Cook County as a whole: 7/100,000 vs. 70/100,000.

Compliance with Public Health Measures is Key

Our community’s remarkable progress, which is clearly reflected in the hospitalizations by week graph (below right), is directly attributable to community members maintaining social distancing, wearing face coverings and staying home when sick.

Contact tracing has been equally important, to notify people who have been exposed to COVID-19 so they can take steps to protect themselves and their families. The cooperation from residents, employers and schools with contact tracers from the Health Department has been crucial to preventing additional cases of COVID-19 from occurring in the Village.

Our Work is Not Over

Since entering Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois Plan in late June, tremendous energy has been put into preventing increased spread of the disease by businesses, schools, houses of worship, the library and the park district. This pandemic has been hard for everyone, and we want to recognize that what the community has done so far has made a real difference. Continued vigilance is needed to prevent a resurgence of cases, and we know what steps to take to succeed. Thanks to all Skokie residents, businesses and employees at those businesses for doing their part to protect everyone’s health by maintaining social distancing, wearing cloth face coverings and staying home when sick. These are critical individual actions.

For more information on COVID-19 and the Village response, please visit www.skokie.org or call Health and Human Services at 847/933-8252.

![Skokie COVID-19 Hospital Admissions by Week](chart.png)

Technology and Reducing Loneliness for Seniors During COVID-19

While social distancing is key to help minimize the spread of COVID-19, it has resulted in isolation and loneliness for senior adults, particularly for those who live alone. Studies have found that social isolation is a risk factor for physical and mental health conditions, including heart disease, obesity, diminished immune response, depression, anxiety and impaired cognitive functioning in older adults. We need social connection to thrive. While managing safety during the COVID health crisis, it is crucial for senior adults to maintain and cultivate social connection with family, friends, community organizations — with some modifications!

Technology has been a major resource, with applications to help with meetings, learning and obtaining basic needs. People across the lifespan have quickly embraced technology so they can “see” their loved ones. If you have not yet made use of technology, now is the time to try!

The Skokie Public Library, CJE Senior Life, and the North Shore Senior Center have virtual classes and meeting opportunities for physical fitness, group support, field trips, art and more. There are so many useful things to do with technology, like playing games, watching movies, sharing photos, writing letters and more in addition to email, Facebook and Skype or Zoom.

Comcast makes low-cost computers and internet service available through their Internet Essentials Program for low income households. Applying for eligibility is easy and they offer technical assistance to connect to the internet, set up email, etc. For more information, call 855/836-8376.

For questions about accessing supports for senior adults in Skokie, please call Health and Human Services at 847/933-8252.
Skokie Farmers’ Market News!

The 2020 Skokie Farmers’ Market continues every Sunday from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. through November 1, 2020. Vendors at the outdoor market offer everything you need to feed your family – meats, fish, the season’s freshest veggies and fruits, honey, bread, cheeses, condiments, sweets and even tamales for a quick snack!

The 2020 Skokie Farmers’ Market is in a new location on the northwest corner of Oakton Street and Floral Avenue. Free parking is available in the Village Hall parking lot across the street at 5127 Oakton Street. This year’s market has a number of new safety requirements, that all attendees wear a face covering, observance of a ‘no touch’ policy and more.

The Skokie Farmers’ Market accepts SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), and to further support SNAP recipients, the Market will match recipients with up to $25 per day through the generous contribution of the NorthShore University HealthSystem and additional funding from the USDA. For each dollar deducted from your Link card at the market, you will receive up to $25 in matching funds per customer, per day.

For information details on the 2020 Skokie Farmers’ Market safety policies, visit www.skokie.org. Follow the link on the page to subscribe to the Skokie Farmers’ Market’s weekly e-newsletter. Please check out the Skokie Farmers’ Market Facebook page, too!

Obama Foundation - My Brother’s Keeper Alliance Pledge

Earlier this year, Mayor George Van Dusen took the Obama Foundation’s Reimagining Policing Pledge and committed to taking four specific actions recommended by the My Brother’s Keeper Alliance (MBK) that is part of the Obama Foundation.

The pledge lists the following actions that are intended to examine public safety policies through an equity lens:

1. REVIEW your police use of force policies.
2. ENGAGE your communities by including a diverse range of input, experiences, and stories in your review.
3. REPORT the findings of your review to your community and seek feedback.
4. REFORM your community’s police use of force policies.

The central theme of the pledge is to redefine public safety so that it recognizes the humanity and dignity of every person.

All of the Skokie Police Department’s policies and procedures are examined regularly through the professional accreditation process, which the Skokie Police Department first received in 1988. The most recent of these reviews occurred in late 2019. The rigorous reaccreditation process included an opportunity for citizen comments on the Skokie Police Department’s practices, and also examined the Department’s compliance with 67 professional standards. The external, professional accreditation team identified no deficiencies.

For a number of years, the Skokie Police Department command staff has mandated that all personnel participate in training on non-discriminatory policing practices and the appropriate use of force. Skokie Police personnel participate in this training on an annual basis.

In June 2018, the Skokie Police Department adopted the Ten Shared Principles Resolution, developed in concert between the NAACP and the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police to bridge the gap between the police and the community, an excerpt from which includes:

1. We value the life of every person and consider life to be the highest value.
2. All persons should be treated with dignity and respect. This is another foundational value.
3. We reject discrimination toward any person that is based on race, ethnicity, religion, color, nationality, immigrant status, sexual orientation, gender, disability, or familial status.

The Skokie Police Department’s Use of Force policy is reviewed annually. At Mayor Van Dusen’s request, this year’s review will be conducted by the volunteer members of the Village’s Public Safety Commission, and the review also will encompass the other points in the MBK Alliance/Obama Foundation pledge. The Commission’s findings and any forthcoming recommendations will be featured in future editions of NewSkokie. For more information about the Public Safety Commission, please visit www.skokie.org.

For more information about the pledge and the MBK Alliance, visit www.obama.org/mayor-pledge and https://www.obama.org/mbka/.
Leaf Collection Begins During the Week of October 19

On Monday, October 19, leaf collection begins and continues through early December, weather permitting. Instead of bagging, residents who choose not to mulch may rake leaves into the street next to the curb in front of their home. Please do not place leaves in the street prior to the beginning of the October 19 leaf collection season. As weather permits, crews make rounds throughout Skokie collecting the leaves every five to seven days. Yard waste collection concludes after the November 6 collection.

Please follow these tips to insure collection:
- Rake leaves away from parked cars and do not park on leaf piles.
- Be mindful of fire hydrants and keep them visible.
- Wetting leaves while piled prevents them from blowing away.
- Do not rake leaves onto or in sewer drains.
- Please do not add grass piles, twigs and branches or other garden debris to leaf piles as these items can damage equipment and prevent leaf collection.

Looking for help raking all of those leaves falling from the beautiful trees in your yard? Skokie’s TeenLink program is a database list of teens who are available to rake leaves and do other outside yard work. The list is provided to Skokie residents upon request and provides contact information for Skokie teens including their name and address, days available, type of work they’re willing to do and their expected rate of pay. Residents can receive the list by mail or email, and the resident needing assistance is responsible for contacting the teen to make scheduling and payment arrangements. Residents interested in receiving the TeenLink list and teens interested in being added to the list should please contact the Human Services Division at 847/933-8208 or by emailing info@skokie.org.

This photo, taken by resident Phyllis Nutkis at Crain Street and Karlov Avenue, is featured in the 2020 Skokie Through the Lens Exhibit that can be viewed at www.skokie.org. See page seven for details.

Holiday Refuse, Recycling and Yard Waste Collection Schedule

Due to the observance of Labor Day on Monday, September 7, the refuse, recycling and yard waste collection schedules for that week are changed as follows:

- **Refuse** - Monday collection on Tuesday, Tuesday collection on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday collections are unchanged.
- **Yard waste** - all yard waste will be collected on Saturday, September 12.
- **Recycling** - Monday collection on Tuesday, Tuesday collection on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday collections are unchanged.

Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street, will be closed on Monday, September 7. Village Hall is currently open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. for limited transactions, with numerous online and telephone transactions available. See www.skokie.org or more information.

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

Halloween 2020 - Celebrate Safely!

Due to concerns over the spread of COVID-19, the Village will not post official trick-or-treat hours for October 31, and encourages everyone to celebrate Halloween safely with their family and friends. Door-to-door trick-or-treating is strongly discouraged this year.

Please consider neighborhood house decorating efforts, contact-free trick-or-treating by placing pre-wrapped candy in a sealed bag and placing it on porches of children in the neighborhood, etc.

More ideas for safe Halloween celebration alternatives will be posted at www.skokie.org during October. Please see page 11 for the Skokie Park District’s Halloween program plans, including a costume skating party at the Skokie Skatium and more, noting that programs are subject to change due to modified Restore Illinois guidelines.
In an abundance of caution, and in accordance with the CDC, Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois plan and the Village of Skokie Health Department COVID-19 safety guidelines, the Skokie Police Department’s National Night Out 2020 celebration originally scheduled for August 4, and postponed to October 6, has been canceled.

During this challenging time, neighbors need each other more than ever. While the official 2020 National Night Out event is canceled, neighbors are encouraged to still celebrate a night out in a safe, inclusive and equitable manner:

Here are some ideas on how to safely celebrate:

- Consider hosting a virtual National Night Out event and invite all neighbors to participate by sharing their favorite summer recipe.
- Arrange regular and crucial neighborhood conversations through technology and social media.
- Organize a virtual neighborhood scavenger hunt or trivia night with inexpensive prizes.
- Schedule a neighborhood clean-up with appropriate personal protective equipment and social distancing.
- Arrange a virtual workshop (wood carving, baking bread, yoga, scrapbooking). Get your neighbors together and host a virtual workshop exchange to teach others a few new skills you have gained over the years.

The Skokie Police Department will truly miss the National Night Out celebration this year and please know, our commitment to community engagement has not diminished. We are looking forward to when we can safely be together again.

For more information on the Skokie Police Department’s Crime Prevention programs or virtual National Night Out celebration ideas, please contact the Skokie Police Department Crime Prevention/Community Relations Unit at 847/982-5919 or 847/982-5922. Emails can be sent to crime.prevention@skokie.org.
Childhood Immunizations are Essential

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend that every child continues to receive routine vaccinations during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Please be sure your child is up-to-date on their immunizations so they are protected against diseases such as measles and whooping cough. Delays could result in outbreaks of these and other dangerous diseases. In Illinois, the date for exclusion from school for children who are not up-to-date on their immunizations is October 15. The photo on the right showing everyone wearing masks was provided by the CDC.

If you do not have health insurance or a pediatrician, please visit www.skokie.org, Health Department page, for a listing of local federally qualified health centers or call Health Department nurses for assistance at 847/933-8252.

It’s Not Too Late to Reply to the 2020 Census!

It’s not too late to respond to the 2020 Census! Respond now or when a census taker comes to your door.

The Village would like to thank the almost 20,000 Skokie households that have completed the 2020 Census. In late July, census takers, who are from the Skokie area, began visiting the 5,000 non-responding households to ask the census questions in person. They also will visit households that responded without a Census ID to ensure that everyone is counted in the right place.

A complete, accurate count benefits the entire community, so if a census taker comes to your home, please cooperate. Encourage your family and friends to cooperate if a census taker visits their home. Census takers will follow current Skokie health and safety guidelines.

It is required by federal law that each residence completes the 2020 Census. Failure to completely and accurately complete the 2020 Census may result in a fine from $100 to $500.

Respond online now at 2020census.gov, by phone at 844/330-2020, or by completing and returning the paper copy you received in the mail.

Skokie Through the Lens 2019/2020

In 2014, the Skokie Fine Arts Commission launched the Skokie Through the Lens photography initiative to an enthusiastic response from the community. Each year since, the commission has called for community photographers to send photos for the competition.

The current Skokie Through the Lens exhibit, Faces of Skokie, features photographs from more than 50 individuals who live or work in Skokie. The photos were submitted in fall 2019, and the exhibit is currently available for viewing at www.skokie.org. While the exhibit usually features between 30 and 40 photos, there were so many great photos submitted this time that the commission is presenting the largest exhibit to date.

Please enjoy this year’s virtual exhibit and watch for details soon on the 2020/2021 Skokie Through the Lens initiative. Thanks to photographer Michelle Sanchez for this great photo that captures a fun moment at Aw Yeah Comics on Lincoln Avenue.
Village Board Action

The Village Board recently approved:

A Commercial Corridor Storefront Enhancement Program grant to support development of Bootleg Batard Bakery at 4249 Main Street. The grant, which will not exceed $43,000, will be given as a rebate to the new bakery owner, who is a Skokie resident, for exterior and interior renovation work necessary to open the new bakery/café. The funds are a 60/40 cost-share with the bakery owner paying 60 percent.

A Commercial Corridor Storefront Enhancement Program grant not to exceed $43,000 to support outdoor dining and interior improvements to Grecian Kitchen, a family-owned restaurant established in 1996 at 3938 Dempster Street. The majority of the work includes construction of a new outdoor patio, signage enhancements as well as numerous façade and interior improvements. The funds represent a 60/40 cost-share with the bakery owner paying 60 percent.

A contract for Phase I Engineering Services with Christopher B. Burke, Ltd., for the Crawford Avenue Improvement project. The Village is working closely with Cook County to improve Crawford Avenue between Golf Road and Oakton Street. The work included in Phase I Engineering, which is a conceptual design, includes public involvement, traffic and crash analysis, roadway lighting analysis and more. Phase II and Phase III construction plans will follow.

An intergovernmental agreement with Oakton Community College (OCC) to establish a community apiary on the OCC Skokie campus, 7700 Lincoln Avenue, to celebrate beekeeping and provide a communal beekeeping location for Skokie residents who are not able to, or would prefer not to, use their own property for this purpose. The apiary will be constructed in coming months using grant funds for use beginning in spring 2021, is on the east edge of the OCC parking lot that is secluded and has abundant vegetation. The college will oversee construction and all future maintenance, with the Village conducting annual inspections and investigating any issues that arise.

Numerous appointments and reappointments for volunteer service on various Village advisory boards and commissions, including the Board of Health, Fine Arts Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and more. For information about serving on a Village advisory board or commission, visit www.skokie.org.

Village Board Meeting agendas are published at www.skokie.org on the Thursday prior to the meeting date. Each meeting includes a period for public comments. All residents are invited to watch Village Board meetings live-streamed on www.skokie.org or on SkokieVision cable channel 25 (RCN) or channel 17 (Comcast). Meetings also are rebroadcast on both cable channels during the weeks following each meeting.

Mail and Early Voting Options for November

You can now apply to vote by mail for November 3, 2020 by visiting http://cookcountyclerk.com/votebymail. Requesting a ballot to vote by mail just takes a few minutes, and ballots are available in 12 different languages. Due to COVID-19, voters are strongly encouraged to vote by mail.

The Early Voting Period for the November 3, 2020 General election runs from October 19 to November 2 at Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street.

First week – October 19 to 24:
Monday to Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Second week/final Monday – October 25 to November 2
Monday (October 26) to Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday(s): 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday (November 2): 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For more early voting info or to request a vote-by-mail application, call the Skokie Village Clerk’s office at 847/933-8203. Completed mail-in ballots may be dropped off at any early voting location during the early voting period.
September is National Emergency Preparedness Month

Skokie residents are reminded that it is important to be prepared to survive natural or man-made emergencies. Having an emergency supply kit, making a family emergency plan, being familiar with how to receive communications in an emergency are all important steps to improve the ability to survive and recover from an emergency situation. This is true now more than ever during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Emergency Communications

The Village has numerous means of communicating with residents and business owners in the event of an emergency.

1660 AM Skokie Radio: The Village of Skokie’s emergency advisory radio station will assist in communicating up-to-date information in the event of an emergency.

www.skokie.org: During a municipal emergency, the site is frequently updated with important information.


CodeRED Messaging System: The Village’s high-speed telephone dialing system reaches Skokie residents and businesses quickly with a recorded emergency telephone message. Residents and businesses are strongly encouraged to add mobile phone numbers, email addresses and their street address to the system by visiting www.skokie.org.

SkokieVision Cable Television: The municipal cable station can feature both video and text information relating to an emergency and, when necessary, instructions on where to obtain further information. Tune to Channel 25 on RCN systems and Channel 17 on Comcast systems.

Outdoor Warning System: Warning sirens are strategically placed throughout Skokie. The sirens signal the start and end of the alternate-side parking program for snow emergencies but can be used for a tornado or other emergency. After a warning siren sounds, visit www.skokie.org or tune to 1660 AM Skokie Radio or SkokieVision cable television for details on the emergency. The emergency siren system is tested at 10 a.m. on the first Tuesday of every month.

Creating an Emergency Preparedness Kit

Having an emergency supply kit is essential. The most important items you’ll need are fresh water and food. Rotate important daily medications, and store items in an easy-to-carry bag such as a backpack, duffel bag or shopping bag. Consider preparing at least two kits, one for your home and another for your vehicle. For a full list of items to consider including in your emergency kit, visit www.skokie.org or https://www.ready.gov/kit.

The Village of Skokie cares about the community and urges everyone to create their own emergency preparedness plan. To learn more about what you can do to prepare your family, your home or business for an emergency, please visit www.skokie.org or call the Village of Skokie at 847/982-5340.

Don’t Be a Victim of Identity Theft!

Identity theft involves acquiring key pieces of someone’s identifying information, such as name, address, date of birth, social security number or more in order to impersonate them. This information enables the thief to commit fraud which can include taking over the victim’s financial accounts, opening new bank accounts, purchasing automobiles, applying for loans, credit cards, and social security benefits, renting apartments and establishing services with utility and phone companies.

Here are some tips from the Skokie Police Department and other sources to prevent identity theft:

- Promptly remove mail from your mailbox after delivery.
- Never provide personal information over the telephone unless you initiated the call and are sure you’re speaking to the correct person or organization.
- Shred personal documents, pre-approved offers of credit, receipts, bills and financial statements before discarding them in the trash or recycling bin.
- Never leave receipts in an ATM machine or gas station pump terminal.
- Memorize all passwords and your social security number. Do not write them down on your cards or place them in your wallet.
- Check with your financial companies if bills or statements are not received when expected.
- Report lost or stolen credit cards immediately.
- Consider putting a freeze or pause your credit cards; contact the card company for more information.

Continued on page 10
Don’t Be a Victim of Identity Theft (continued)

**Internet and Online Services**
- Always use caution when disclosing checking account numbers, credit card numbers or any other personal financial data at any web site or online service location unless you receive a secured authentication key from your provider.
- When you subscribe to an online service, you may be asked to file credit card information. Beware of con artists who ask you to confirm your enrollment by disclosing passwords or a credit card number. Do not give them out!

**If You Are an Identity Theft Victim**
- Immediately contact all creditors, by phone and in writing to inform them of the problem. Stop payment on all outstanding checks.
- Make a report with law enforcement agencies that have jurisdiction in your case.
- Contact the Federal Trade Commission to report the problem.

For more information on identity theft, visit www.skokie.org, and see the Police Department’s Identity Theft brochure.

Updates on Health and Human Services Programs

Due to the COVID-19 response all clinical and in-person services have been suspended until further notice. Below is information on specific programs.

**Birth and Death Certificates**
Birth/Death Records are available for people who were born or died in Skokie from 1969 to present. You can request a Birth or Death Certificate through the Village website (www.skokie.org) by printing an application to mail in or completing the online interactive form. Under state law, you may legally obtain:
- A certified copy of your own birth certificate if of legal age and/or the birth certificate of your child (your name must appear on the child’s birth certificate).
- A certified copy of a death certificate if you are a relative or can prove a vested interest in an individual’s death.

**Senior Health Insurance Program**
Volunteers are available to assist Medicare beneficiaries telephonically with questions about their health care benefits.

**Let’s Talk @ Lunch**
These important conversations about current events through a racial equity lens, will continue in a virtual format during the noon hour twice monthly. Registration is available online at the YWCA website or contact directly at info@ywca-ens.org or 847/864-8445.

**Emergency Financial Assistance**
For help with rent, mortgage, utilities or food, please contact Health and Human Services at 847/933-8252.

**Lending Closet**
The Lending Closet offers Skokie residents the use of wheelchairs, walkers, canes and crutches in limited supply. We are not accepting donations or returns. Please call for more information.

**Recycling/Disposing of Expired, Unwanted Medications**
A drop box is available in the lobby of Skokie Police Headquarters, 7300 Niles Center Road, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for prescription and over-the-counter medications in pill form, including controlled substances. Leave medications in the original containers and mark out personal information. No liquid medications or sharps accepted. The Skokie Walgreens pharmacy at 3945 Dempster (847/674-5876) has a Safe Medication Disposal kiosk for prescription and over-the-counter medications, ointments, liquids and more. Info at www.walgreens.com.

**Disposing of Used Needles, Syringes and Other Medical Sharps**
Please place used sharps in an FDA-approved sharps container or a strong, plastic container, like a laundry detergent or bleach bottle, and seal the container with duct tape. We ask that you hold on to the containers until Health and Human Services resumes collection, but if you are not able to do that, then the sealed containers can be disposed of in the trash.

Please call Health and Human Services at 847/933-8252 for more information.
Skokie Public Library

All events at the Skokie Public Library are being held online during September and October. You’ll find a wide variety of discussions and presentations for adults and kids, along with fun crafts and storytimes for the younger set. Details at calendar.skokielibrary.info.

Three events with authors are highlights. On September 24, young adult author Francisco X. Stork will discuss his new novel, Illegal. On September 30, graphic novelist Chad Sell, author of The Cardboard Kingdom and Doodleville, will host a chat and a chance to draw along with him. On October 15, authors Kelly Yang and Jessie Ann Foley will talk about their new books for teens, rape culture and the importance of consent.

The library’s website is the best place to find current, accurate information about the progress of the library’s renovation project and which services are currently available, such as curbside pickup, appointments for using a computer and more. If you have questions, call the Skokie Public Library at 847/673-7774 or visit www.skokielibrary.info and use the chat box on the lower right side of the website pages during regular business hours.

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie

At press time, the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, 9501 Skokie Boulevard, remained closed to the public but was featuring an outdoor concert series, Out Back Concerts, in the Center’s east parking lot. There might still be time to purchase tickets for what promises to be the best show of the lineup:

Aretha Franklin: Queen of Soul
Starring Donica Lynn, Presented by Michael Ingersoll’s Artists
Lounge Live
Saturday, September 5, 7:30 p.m.; rain date Sunday, September 6. All tickets $38
Award-winning star of Dreamgirls and Chicago Tribune’s Chicagoan of the Year, Donica Lynn triumphs in an uplifting homage to the legendary Aretha Franklin.

Skokie Park District

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all Skokie Park District programs are subject to modification or cancellation. For more information on Park District programs, visit www.SkokieParks.org or call 847/674-1500.

Story Stroll in the Park
Each week in September, a designated park will feature a children’s book laminated and attached to kiosks along the park path. September 1 to 6, Central Park; September 8 to 13, Gross Point Park; September 15 to 20, Lyon Park; September 22 to 27, Laramie Park.

Fall Flea Market
Buy amazing treasures or sign up for a spot to sell your own goods. Oakton Community Center lot, 4701 Oakton Street, September 13, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

B Movie Night: Attack of the 50-Foot Woman
Bring in gags and be ready to heckle the “award-winning” performances in the first of three monthly B-movie classics! Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood Street. $5. Snacks and drinks available for sale. September 25, 7:30 p.m.

Fall Harvest Family Pack
Celebrate the fall harvest with this pack that includes mini-pumpkin decorating, a fall craft for youth, a caramel apple kit and a virtual princess/hero storytime. $35/$44. Register at skokieparks.org, activity #313754-01. Pick up at Devonshire Playhouse, 4400 Greenwood Street, on October 1 and 2, 3 to 7 p.m. Virtual princess/hero storytime October 4, 1 p.m.

For tickets and information on this and other events at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, visit NorthShoreCenter.org or call 847/673-6300.
SEED Training Opportunities

Are you interested in meaningful discussion about issues that separate us from others in our community, including race, gender and cultural differences? Do you want to take a stand against prejudice and oppression? Are you ready to do the internal reflective work necessary to create a more inclusive and equitable community?

Skokie Cares, a collaborative group of which the Village of Skokie is a member, is sponsoring SEED (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) equity training during the 2020-2021 school year, for people who live, work, or have children who currently attend school in Skokie. During online monthly sessions you will learn about systems of oppression, power, and privilege that operate within our society. You will take part in thought-provoking exercises and discuss video clips and readings. Come to be challenged, enlightened, and changed.

Learn more and complete an online application at skokiecares.org. We welcome everyone, and strongly encourage people of color, people who identify as LGBTQ+, people of all ages, and people with disabilities to apply.

Spaces are limited. Learn more and complete an online application at skokiecares.org.

Keep in Touch!

Comments from the community are always welcome! Here are a number of ways to contact the Village:

- Email info@skokie.org
- Use the Access Skokie mobile app or web portal
- Call Village Hall at 847/673-0500, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Written comments may be sent to Village of Skokie, 5127 Oakton Street, Skokie, Illinois 60077, Attention: John Lockerby, Village Manager.