Electoral Referendums Update

In November 2022, Skokie voters approved three binding referendums that changed Skokie Village Board elections to non-partisan, adopted staggered terms for trustees, and established hybrid representation through the creation of four geographic districts represented by one trustee each and two at-large trustee representatives. (Currently, all six Skokie trustees are elected at-large.)

Implementing these changes is the responsibility of the Village, and will require the creation and adoption of a map with four geographic districts in advance of the next Village Board election in 2025.

Actions to Date
Following approval of the referendums, the Village Manager’s Office contacted other communities that implemented similar actions and consulted with outside experts with experience in Illinois election law on best practices in executing these electoral changes. Through an open solicitation, the Village contracted with Klein, Thorpe & Jenkins to assist with implementing the referendums in compliance with state election law and engaged a mapping consultant, Dr. Peter A. Creticos, who brings 40 years of districting and redistricting experience to Skokie.

On August 14, the Village held a seminar at the Skokie Public Library to provide the community with an overview of the laws that govern district mapping, provide basic demographic information and other facts about Skokie, and gather initial input and ideas regarding district mapping. A recording of the meeting including presentations is available at skokie.org/electoralreferendums.

Community Input
On Monday, September 11, at 7 p.m., at the Skokie Public Library Petty Auditorium, 5215 Oakton St., the Village will host a second community meeting where it will present a proposed district map and implementation plan to the community for feedback.

Redesign of Village Seal Commences

Share Your Input on Skokie Characteristics and Attributes

After initiating a yearlong review process that included outreach to Chicago-area Native communities, a Village committee has unanimously recommended that the Village of Skokie design a new Village seal for use on official documents and other materials, replacing the current Village seal featuring Native imagery that has been used since the late 1940s.

The Village’s Human Relations Commission periodically discussed the appropriateness of the Village seal over several years, and in 2022 created a committee of stakeholders to review, solicit feedback, and provide a recommendation regarding its use.

As part of its review process, the Village Seal Review Committee hosted a December 2022 listening session, inviting members of 17 Chicago-area Native community groups and organizations and reaching out to representatives of local Native residents to encourage their participation. Following feedback from the listening session and after extensive research on the subject, the Village Seal Review Committee determined:

• National peer-reviewed research shows that Native mascots and depictions of Native people have had a harmful effect on Native communities and the greater population by reinforcing stereotyping and prejudice
• The Native imagery used in the Village seal is not a culturally or historically accurate representation of the Potawatomi people who inhabited the area that is now Skokie

Continued on page 3
In June, the Skokie Village Board formally approved the Village’s Fiscal Year 2024 Budget, which funds Village operations from May 2023 through April 2024.

In addition to freezing the Village’s property tax for the 33rd consecutive year and prudently planning for Skokie’s long-term financial and economic health, the Budget makes critical investments in public safety and infrastructure, and provides the means necessary for the Village to work towards its sustainability goals.

- **Investments in public safety** include funding for a Skokie Fire Department ambulance and fire rescue truck, police body-worn camera program and in-car video systems, and continuation of the co-responder team, a partnership between Skokie’s Police, Fire and Health and Human Services Departments to respond to calls involving mental health crisis.
- **Investments in infrastructure** include more than $18 million designated for Village Capital Improvement Program (CIP) infrastructure projects.
- **Investments in sustainability** include $147,000 for tree plantings (an increase of 75 percent from the year prior), funding for the purchase of one electric and three hybrid police vehicles; free compost drop-off as well as other compost incentives and education; water reduction, storm water and solar power consultation; and upgrades to electric-powered lawn maintenance equipment.

The FY2024 Budget also includes the addition of a new sustainability coordinator position to support implementation of Skokie’s Environmental Sustainability Plan, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 35 percent by 2030, and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

In August, the Village welcomed Lisa Sanzenbacher to lead the Village’s sustainability efforts. Sanzenbacher comes to Skokie from the University of Illinois at Chicago’s (UIC) Office of Planning, Sustainability and Project Management, where she served as assistant director for sustainability programs. She brings more than a decade of experience to her new role in Skokie.

View the entire FY2024 Budget at skokie.org/budget. Learn more about the Village’s sustainability initiatives and track progress towards its goals at skokie.org/sustainability.

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The owner of the acclaimed Chicago Hyde Park restaurant Ascione Bistro is bringing their comfortably elevated Italian-focused concept north to anchor the new ground floor restaurant space at the Highpoint at 8000 North in Skokie.

Ownership is excited to bring their energetic brand to the vibrant, diverse and growing Skokie community and to make the new Ascione Skokie a dining destination for Chicago and the North Shore, continuing their focus on exquisite attention to details from the food, to the service, to the atmosphere. The new restaurant will be prominently located on the northwest corner of Lincoln Avenue and Oakton Street in Downtown Skokie.

In addition, ownership will open their first casual deli, Ascione Café, a sister quick-service concept that will anchor the west side of the Highpoint Motor Court and offer a variety of coffees, pastries, sorbet, salads, and sandwiches in a fast-casual, grab-and-go environment.

The buildout of both spaces is currently underway, and represents a more than $1.7 million investment in Skokie. With the substantial capital expenditures required to develop the highly visible and important space into a Downtown Skokie dining destination, the Ascione Skokie restaurant buildout will be supported by $153,500 from the Village’s Downtown Science & Technology TIF Interior and Exterior Rehabilitation Programs. Grant funding will be provided on a rebate basis after all work is completed and the restaurant is operational. The Village Board approved funds at their meeting on July 17.

Both restaurants are anticipated to open in fall 2023.
Redesign of Village Seal Commences (continued)

- Some members of the local Native community and the broader Skokie community find the seal image and its depiction of a Native person to be inappropriate, and in conflict with how some Native people would like to be represented.

The committee further recommended that the Village develop a new, culturally appropriate design that reflects the rich history and promising future of the Village, representing:
- The history of Skokie's land
- The Native community
- The possibilities of Skokie's future
- The richness of Skokie's multi-cultural community

Developing a New Seal

A committee is leading the Village's initiative to develop a new Village seal and, as part of the first steps in this process, is seeking community members' input on the characteristics and attributes that they feel represent Skokie's past, present and future.

All who live, work, visit or study in Skokie are invited to complete the Village Seal Committee's survey, available at skokie.org/seal, by Friday, September 15. Community members' input and ideas will be collated and shared with artist(s) who will be commissioned to develop new seal designs for consideration.

Because Skokie (formerly Niles Centre) was established on land that was originally inhabited by Indigenous peoples, and the Village would like the new seal design to continue to honor that fact, the Village has issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Native artists and other artists in the region to develop seal design concepts. The RFQ is available at skokie.org/seal, and responses are due by September 8.

Electoral Referendums Update (continued)

In advance of this meeting, community members are encouraged to share their input and ideas:
- By email to electoralreferendums@skokie.org
- Via an online survey at skokie.org/electoralreferendums
- In writing to the Village Manager's Office, 5127 Oakton St., Skokie, IL 60077

Next Steps

The Village anticipates implementing these electoral changes by year-end to ensure sufficient time for residents and candidates to understand the changes before the next Village Board election in 2025.

The Village plans to present a proposal to the Village Board for consideration in November, with adoption in December.

Stay up-to-date with the implementation process at skokie.org/electoralreferendums.

Police Update Mission and Values Statement

The Skokie Police Department has completed a collaborative community review and update of its Mission and Values Statement, which sets a benchmark for organizational culture and guides members of the department in serving the community.

Mission

The Skokie Police Department's updated mission statement is as follows: “The mission of the Skokie Police Department is to prevent crime, protect life and property, enforce the law, and preserve order, while protecting the rights of all people and doing so with the highest of ethical and professional standards.”

Values

The department also adopted Life, Partnership, Excellence and Respect as its core values, setting the standards and expectations for how the Skokie Police Department goes about accomplishing its mission.

A Collaborative Process

As part of the review and update process, which began in September 2022, individuals serving on the Village's Public Safety and Human Relations Commissions, as well as Village trustees Khem Khoeun and Alison Pure Slovin, gathered input from members of the department and a broad range of community members and stakeholders, including students, parents and school administrators, Use of Force review group representatives, houses of worship, and Neighborhood Watch block captains. The review committee compiled and organized public and Skokie Police Department input over the course of several months and worked with the department to draft an updated statement, which was presented to the Village Board as part of the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget process this spring.

The new Mission and Values Statement replaces the department's previous statement, updated in June 2018. It can be found on the Police Department's Welcome page at skokie.org, and was highlighted by department staff in a recent video available on the Village of Skokie YouTube channel.

Scan the QR code to go directly to the survey.
Skokie Fire Department Achieves Top Fire Protection Rating

The Skokie Fire Department has achieved the highest possible rating for fire protection services from Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO), an insurance industry advisory company.

The department's Class 1 designation, as awarded through ISO's comprehensive eleven-month evaluation process, places the Skokie Fire Department in the top 1 percent of all fire departments nationwide when it comes to providing fire protection services for residents and property owners.

ISO has evaluated more than 40,000 fire departments across the nation, with fewer than 500 departments, including 29 in Illinois, achieving a Class 1 designation. The Skokie Fire Department has maintained its prestigious Class 1 rating since 1995.

A Village-wide Effort
Achieving ISO's prestigious Class 1 rating requires the efforts and expertise of staff across multiple Village departments, including Fire, Police, Public Works, Health and Human Services, Community Development, IT and others. The program's comprehensive evaluation covers four major areas:

- **Emergency communications systems**, including dispatch facilities and telecommunicator training
- **Fire department**, including equipment, staffing, training and geographic coverage
- **Water supply system**, including hydrant testing and water flow evaluation
- **Community risk reduction**, including fire prevention codes and enforcement, public education and fire investigation

“This exemplary rating is the result of the Village of Skokie and the Village Board of Trustees’ longstanding commitment to providing first class municipal services to the entire Skokie community,” said Skokie Fire Chief Jeffrey Hoeflich. “Maintaining our prestigious Class 1 rating for nearly three decades is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and professionalism of the Skokie Fire Department and our entire Village staff team, who work together to support public safety.”

Vehicle Sticker Renewal Reminder

The 2023 Vehicle Sticker renewal period ended on July 31; prices increased by 50 percent on August 1.

**Who needs a vehicle sticker:** All vehicles registered to a Skokie address are required to display a current vehicle sticker. Renewal forms were mailed in late May. Convenient online, mail-in and in-person purchase options are available. Visit skokie.org/294/Vehicle-Licensing for more information.

**Next steps:** Beginning in September, owners of vehicles registered with the Illinois Secretary of State to a Skokie address that have not yet purchased a Skokie vehicle sticker will receive overdue notices via US mail. Recipients will have 30 days to purchase a vehicle sticker or provide evidence of no longer owning the vehicle. If you receive a notice, please respond promptly to avoid further enforcement action.

Patriot Day – 9/11 Remembrance Ceremonies

On Monday, September 11, 2023, the Skokie Fire Department will host ceremonies beginning at 8:57 a.m. at the flag pole of each fire station in remembrance of those who lost their lives in the attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001. At 8:59 a.m. (time of the World Trade Center South Tower collapse) a “last alarm” bell ceremony will take place followed by a minute of silence at 9 a.m.

Station locations include:

- Fire Station 16 – 7424 Niles Center Rd.
- Fire Station 17 – 8157 Central Park Ave.
- Fire Station 18 – 9024 Gross Point Rd.

The public is invited to attend with members of the Skokie Fire and Police Departments as well as other Village staff.
Composting Up, Landfill Waste Down

Skokie community members have collectively diverted 86 tons (172,000 pounds) of methane-producing food scraps from the landfill so far in 2023, making important progress towards the Village’s Environmental Sustainability Plan goal of decreasing landfill waste.

Adopted in 2022, the Village’s Environmental Sustainability Plan calls for Skokie to reduce landfill waste by 10 percent by 2030. To help achieve that goal, the Village:

• Launched a free food scrap drop-off program in February, offering free locations throughout Skokie where residents can deposit food scraps, and sponsored a 15 percent discount for new customers who sign up for the Collective Resource Compost curbside collection program
• Transitioned to once-a-week refuse collection in May after holding a series of public listening sessions and conducting a Village study that found that twice-a-week collection was not needed by a significant majority of residents, was an anomaly among nearby communities, and contributed to increased noise and air pollution and street damage

Since the start of these initiatives, refuse tonnage has trended downward while composting has increased. In July, community members diverted 20.5 tons of food waste – the highest monthly total ever for Skokie – through the Village’s composting programs in partnership with Collective Resource Compost.

Although there are a variety of factors that may impact waste data, including economic conditions, weather, and demographic changes, the Village’s Public Works Department reports that in July 2023, Skokie generated the lowest amount of landfill waste ever for the month of July dating back to 1994, as far as records are available. The Village also reduced diesel fuel usage by more than 2,000 gallons from May through July due to the transition.

To learn more about composting and recycling in the Village, visit skokie.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=804

Creating and Enjoying a Bird Oasis

The Skokie Beautification and Improvement Commission, in collaboration with the Skokie Public Library, invites you to hear speaker Pam Karlson and view photos of her Chicago bird garden habitat that attracts more than 100 bird species. On Thursday, September 28 from 6:30 to 8 p.m., learn how you too can create a garden that invites birds and help support birds and pollinators.

Tips include landscape enhancements and plant selection, with an emphasis on native plants. Our location along birds’ migratory route, bird species diversity, habitat, diet/foraging, nesting, supplemental support, and community science will also be discussed.

Pam Karlson, a career artist and certified professional gardener/garden designer with the School of the Chicago Botanic Garden, advocates for creating, restoring, and preserving wildlife habitats and has been rescuing migratory birds since 2004.

Questions? Email events@skokielibrary.info or call the library at 847-673-7774.

Providing Safer Routes to School

As part of Skokie’s 2022 Environmental Sustainability Plan, the Village is working with local school districts to expand and implement a Safe Routes to Schools Plan (SRTS) for all Skokie schools, encouraging students to use active transportation methods, such as walking or biking, as a way to get to school.

Active transportation provides many health, wellness and environmental benefits, including improved air quality, reduced costs related to driving, and reduced traffic congestion, improving quality of life for all community members.

As part of the plan, the Village added five blocks of new sidewalk near Highland Elementary School this summer, filling gaps in the Village’s sidewalk network and improving safety and walkability. Schools can now apply for the Illinois Safe Routes to School Grant program to support future initiatives.
SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Village Hall Closed For Labor Day
Skokie Village Hall will be closed on Monday, September 4.

Village Board Meetings
September 5 and 18, 7:30 p.m. See page 8.

Skokie Farmers’ Market
Continues every Sunday from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the west Village Hall parking lot at 5127 Oakton Street. Schedule of events at skokie.org.

Flu Shot Appointments Available
On September 6, residents can begin to make appointments for October flu shot clinics. See back cover.

Second Electoral Referendums Community Meeting
September 11, 7 p.m., at the Skokie Public Library Petty Auditorium. See front cover.

CPR Skills Testing
September 16 at Fire Station 17, 8157 Central Park Avenue. Fees apply and advance registration is required at skokie.org.

Birds in the Garden: Creating and Enjoying a Bird Oasis
Thursday, September 28 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton Street. See page 5.

Donate Food, Toiletries and Clothing to Local Families
For the second year in a row, the Skokie Commission on Family Services is hosting its monthly donation drive at the Skokie Farmers Market.

When: 9 a.m. to noon on Sunday, September 24 and Sunday, October 29

What: Non-perishable food, toiletries and clothing for all ages

All items benefit the Niles Township Food Pantry and Niles Township Clothing Closet at St. Paul Lutheran Church, organizations which serve local families.

OCTOBER EVENTS

Skokie Farmers’ Market
Continues every Sunday from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the west Village Hall parking lot at 5127 Oakton Street. Schedule of events at skokie.org.

Village Board Meetings
October 2 and 16, 7:30 p.m. See page 8.

Flu Shot Clinics
October 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and October 12 from 3 to 7 p.m. at Oakton Community Center, 4701 Oakton Street. Clinics are open to Skokie residents ages 4 and older. See back cover.

Skokie Beat Meetings
For dates and times of the Police Department’s Quarterly Beat Meetings, visit skokie.org/1257/Quarterly-Beat-Meeting-Schedule.

Holiday Refuse, Recycling, and Yard Waste Collections

Labor Day – Monday, September 4
Refuse and recycling: Monday collection on Tuesday; Tuesday collection on Wednesday; Thursday and Friday collections as normal
Yard waste: Yard waste collection on Saturday, September 9

Thanksgiving – Thursday, November 23
Refuse and recycling: Monday and Tuesday collections as normal; Thursday collection on Wednesday; Friday collection as normal
Fire Prevention Week  
October 8 through 14. See page 10.

Leaf Collection Begins  
Leaf collection begins on Monday, October 16 and continues through early December, weather permitting. See page 9.

CPR Skills Testing  
October 21 at Fire Station 17, 8157 Central Park Avenue. Fees apply and advance registration is required at skokie.org.

Final Yard Waste Collection  
The final yard waste collection for the season is on Wednesday, November 1. Leaf collection continues through early December, weather permitting. See page 9.

Skokie Farmers’ Market  
The last market of the year is Sunday, November 5 from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the west Village Hall parking lot at 5127 Oakton Street.

Village Board Meetings  
November 6 and 20, 7:30 p.m. See page 8.

CPR Skills Testing  
November 18 at Fire Station 17, 8157 Central Park Avenue. Fees apply and advance registration is required at skokie.org.

Village Hall Closed for Thanksgiving  
Skokie Village Hall will be closed on Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24.

Boomers & Beyond Community Resource Fair  
Oakton Community Center  
4701 Oakton St., Skokie  
Friday, November 3  
9 a.m. to noon

On Friday, November 3, the Village’s Commission on Family Services will host the “Boomers & Beyond” community resource fair at Oakton Community Center. The free event will offer educational programs, free health screenings and information designed to help people age with grace and independence while living an active lifestyle.

Attendees will receive helpful information and expert advice about local resources, community-based programs, state and federal benefits, volunteer opportunities, fitness and nutrition, legal assistance, financial products, social and cultural activities, lifelong education, assistive devices and more.

In addition to an exhibit area featuring more than 40 vendors, there will be refreshments, giveaways and free interactive education topics including advanced care planning, preventing the winter blues, fraud alerts and reducing the risk of dementia.

For more information, visit skokie.org and search “Boomers and Beyond” or call 847-933-8208.

Trick or Treat!  
Ghosts and ghouls will again be haunting the streets of Skokie this October! Official trick-or-treat hours are from 3 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, October 31. Please do not ring doorbells before or after these hours, and do not ring doorbells of homes that do not have a porch light turned on.

Plans are pending for trick-or-treating in Downtown Skokie on Saturday, October 28 from 1 to 3 p.m. Please visit skokie.org for confirmation closer to the date.
The Village Board recently approved:

- **Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget**, providing for critical investments in infrastructure, public safety and sustainability, while strategically planning for the long-term financial and economic health of the Village. Notably, the Budget extends the Village’s historic property tax freeze for the 33rd consecutive year while maintaining outstanding municipal services.

- **A right-of-way acquisition agreement with IDOT to extend the Skokie Valley Trail.** The project will add more than a mile of multi-use path between Dempster Street and Golf Road.

- **Prohibition of new stand-alone tobacco and vape shops.** Existing shops may continue operation but cannot expand or transfer ownership. Under the ordinance, tobacco products sold at grocery and convenience stores must fall within established shelf space limits.

- **Guidelines for massage therapy establishments,** ensuring businesses follow industry best practices and are staffed by licensed and trained professionals.

- **Design and construction engineering services for three new green alleys,** reducing the burden on Skokie’s sewer system and better utilizing Public Works maintenance resources.

- **Support for the buildout of a new dining destination, Ascione Skokie, at the Highpoint at 8000 North.** Approximately $153,000 in TIF funding will be provided on a rebate basis after the $1.3 million project is completed and the restaurant is operational.

- **Refurbishment of two Skokie Fire Department ambulances,** expediting delivery of the emergency vehicles and yielding approximately $500,000 in savings.
September is Emergency Preparedness Month

Make sure you’re ready for an emergency by following the recommendations below.

Sign up for Smart911. The Village uses the Smart911 emergency notification system to send alerts regarding severe weather and other public safety incidents, such as evacuation orders, water boil orders, and more. (As a bonus, you’ll also receive notifications when alternate-side parking regulations are in effect after heavy snow!)

Creating a Safety Profile with Smart911 allows you to include optional information on medical conditions, preferred medical providers, emergency contacts, pets and more that would be available to responders to help them better assist you in an emergency. This information will even be available when you’re traveling if the 911 center receiving your call participates in the Smart911 program.

Add your emergency contacts to the Illinois Secretary of State Emergency Contact Database. You can add up to two people to serve as your emergency contacts if you’re involved in a traffic crash or have a medical emergency where you cannot communicate with emergency responders. You can also add basic information on disabilities, medical conditions or special needs. Only law enforcement can access this information. Visit apps.isos.gov/eci.

Create an emergency supply kit. Having portable home and auto emergency supply kits with enough water, food, and medications for all family members is essential. Kits should also contain first aid items, phone numbers of emergency contacts, warm clothing and a small tools kit. Visit skokie.org or ready.gov/kit for a complete list of recommended items.

Several facilities in Skokie may be available as warming or cooling centers in the event of extreme temperatures, including the Skokie Public Library, Oakton Community Center, Weber Leisure Center, Devonshire Cultural Center, and Cook County Courthouse. Hours vary by location.

To learn more about emergency preparedness, visit skokie.org/322/Emergency-Preparedness.

Fall Cleanup: Leaf Collection and Yard Waste

The Village’s Public Works Department makes it easy to keep your yard clean this fall! Below are two programs to be aware of as autumn arrives.

Leaf Collection

On Monday, October 16, Public Works will begin seasonal leaf collection, which continues through early December, weather permitting. Instead of bagging leaves in landscape bags, residents may rake leaves into the street next to the curb in front of their home. (Do not place leaves in the street prior to October 14.) Crews will collect leaves throughout Skokie every five to seven days, as weather permits.

Please follow these guidelines:
• Rake leaves away from parked cars and do not park on leaf piles.
• Be mindful of fire hydrants and keep them visible.
• Consider wetting leaves after piling them to prevent them from blowing away.
• Do not rake leaves onto or into sewer drains.
• Do not add twigs, branches or other garden debris to leaf piles, as these materials can damage equipment. Grass clippings are not allowed for yard waste or leaf collection.

Yard Waste Collection

The final weekly yard waste collection for 2023 will be on Wednesday, November 1.

For more information on the Village’s leaf and yard waste collection programs, visit the Public Works Department page at www.skokie.org.
Fire Prevention Week Tips: Cooking Safety

Fire Prevention Week is October 8 through 14, 2023. This year’s theme is “Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to Fire Prevention. ™”

Here are a few reminders to stay safe while cooking:

• Turn pot handles towards the back of the stove to help prevent burn injuries.
• Keep a lid nearby. If grease or oil ignites, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner.
• Keep grills outdoors and away from play areas.
• Do not leave cooking unattended. Turn off burners if you must step away.
• Watch what you heat and set a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
• Keep the oven, stove and burners clean.

Started in 1925 in remembrance of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, Fire Prevention Week is one of the longest running public health observances in the United States.

Five Ways to Discourage Rodents

Following several consecutive mild winters and a pandemic that changed human behavior patterns, Skokie and surrounding communities are experiencing a seasonal uptick in rodent activity. The Village is working collaboratively with Skokie businesses, residents and property owners to address issues that may encourage rats.

How you can help
Please take these five actions to discourage rats:

• Eliminate sources of shelter. Make sure your yard and outdoor spaces are well maintained and free from overgrown plants, construction materials, and other bulk items. Inspect structures and seal any gaps or holes that could serve as entry points for rodents.
• Eliminate sources of food. Maintain a clean grill; clean up fallen fruit from trees; avoid leaving pet food outside and pick up pet waste promptly; don’t allow bird seed to accumulate on the ground; and practice proper waste management. Store household waste in tightly sealed bins and take advantage of the Village’s free food scrap drop-off sites to eliminate food scraps from your trash cart. The Village’s Public Works Department regularly monitors garbage services on its routes so that any issues can be addressed quickly.
• Eliminate sources of water. Empty bird baths and eliminate sources of water. (These can encourage mosquitoes, too!)
• Report issues promptly. Notify the Village of rodent issues immediately at skokie-portal.app.transform.civicplus.com/forms/28385. The Village’s Environmental Health Division will survey your property and provide free rat control if burrows are found.
• Educate your neighbors. Spread awareness among neighbors and friends about rat prevention measures and the importance of collective action.

Support Skokie Families in Need

Want to help Skokie families facing financial hardship? Support the Village’s Assist-a-Family (AAF) program, which provides ongoing emergency assistance as well as holiday gift card support to Skokie families in need.

Making the holiday season bright for all
During the winter holiday season, the Skokie Health and Human Services Department identifies eligible families in need and provides them with gift cards for local businesses, helping them purchase essential items, such as food and household necessities. Last year, the AAF program supported 325 Skokie households, benefiting 625 children and 591 adults.

Year-round emergency assistance
The AAF Emergency Financial Assistance program provides immediate support to low-income individuals and families facing unforeseen hardships, assisting with expenses such as rent, mortgage payments, and unpaid utilities.

How to donate
There are two ways to make a donation:

• Visit skokie.org, search “assist-a-family,” and click on the Family Services page to make an online donation
• Write a check payable to the Village of Skokie, with “Skokie Assist-A-Family Program” noted on the memo line, and mail it to the Village of Skokie, Health and Human Services Department, at 5127 Oakton St., Skokie, Illinois, 60077

Your contribution will impact the lives of Skokie families in need, ensuring they have the necessary resources to meet their household expenses throughout the year and enjoy the winter holidays with joy and dignity.

For more information, contact Skokie Health and Human Services at 847-933-8208.
North Shore Center for the Performing Arts

North Shore Center’s Feature Series 2023-2024 Season

Andy Summers
Friday, September 8 in the Center Theatre

I’m Not A Comedian…I’m Lenny Bruce
Starring Ronnie Marmo and Directed by Joe Mantegna
Saturday, September 9 in the Center Theatre

Skerryvore
Thursday, September 14 in the Center Theatre

Bored Teachers Comedy Tour
Saturday, September 23 in the Center Theatre

Linda Eder
Friday, September 29 in the Center Theatre

Sergio Mendes
Friday, October 6 in the Center Theatre

Animaniacs In Concert
Saturday, October 7 in the Center Theatre

LeAnn Rimes: the story… so far tour
Friday, October 20 in the Center Theatre

Vitamin String Quartet:
Music from Bridgerton
Friday, October 27 in the Center Theatre

Isaac Mizrahi
Saturday, October 28 in the Center Theatre

Craig Ferguson
Thursday, November 2 in the Center Theatre

Hyprov: Improv Under Hypnosis
Starring Colin Mochrie & Asad Mecci
Friday, November 3 in the Center Theatre

Louis Cato
Saturday, November 4 in the Center Theatre

Jose Gonzalez – A Tiger in Paradise
Saturday, November 11 in the Center Theatre

Atlanta Rhythm Section
Friday, November 17 in the Center Theatre

State Ballet Theatre of Ukraine
Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs
Saturday, November 18 in the Center Theatre

Paul Mecurio’s Permission to Speak
Saturday, November 18 in the North Theatre

John Splithoff
Saturday, November 25 in the Center Theatre

Haley Reinhart
Sunday, November 26 in the Center Theatre

Music Theater Works

Lerner & Loewe’s Brigadoon
October 19 – November 12 in the North Theatre

Northlight Theatre

Birthday Candles
September 7 – October 8 in the North Theatre

Music of the Baroque

The Mozart Requiem
Sunday, September 17 in the Center Theatre

Viva Vivaldi
Sunday, October 15 in the Center Theatre

Windy City
Sunday, November 19 in the Center Theatre

The North Shore Center for the Performing Arts is located at 9501 Skokie Boulevard. Ticket prices vary. For info and tickets, visit NorthShoreCenter.org.

Fine Arts Commission to Celebrate Arts and Humanities Month

Promoting the Arts in Skokie
Throughout the month of October, Skokie arts events will be highlighted via an easily searchable calendar on the Village website. Community members are encouraged to check out the calendar and support the arts in Skokie by attending the listed events.

Organizations and businesses wishing to have their events included in the calendar are encouraged to submit their programming at bit.ly/ArtsMonthSubmission.

Additional Arts and Humanities Month Activities
• Proclamation by Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen at the October 2, 2023 Village Board meeting
• Skokie Through the Lens community photography exhibit on display in the Village Hall lobby
• “Ghosted” storytelling event at Take Flight Spirits on October 18 at 7 p.m.
• Announcement of the 2024FY Fine Arts Commission Grant awardees
• Nominations open for the 2023 Artistic Excellence Awards

To learn more, visit https://www.skokie.org/1397/Arts-and-Humanities-Month
Get Your Regular and High-Dose Flu Shots

Beginning September 6, Skokie residents can schedule appointments for the Skokie Health and Human Services (HHS) Department's fall flu shot clinics by visiting skokie.org or calling 847-933-8252. Clinics will be held on October 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and October 12 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Oakton Park Community Center, 4701 Oakton St., and are open to Skokie residents ages 4 and older.

Influenza, commonly known as the flu, is a contagious respiratory illness that affects millions of people worldwide each year. Vaccination remains one of the most effective ways to prevent and reduce the severity of flu infections.

New this year: high-dose flu vaccines for seniors. In addition to the regular flu vaccine, HHS will now offer the senior high-dose flu vaccine for Skokie residents 65 and older. The high-dose version of the vaccine was developed for older adults who may have a weaker immune response.

Those receiving flu shots should bring identification showing proof of residence, medical insurance (if applicable), and/or their Medicare card (if applicable). The flu vaccine will be free, and residents will not be charged even if they have no insurance or their insurance doesn’t cover the flu vaccine.

For further information, visit skokie.org or call HHS at 847-933-8252.