



## About Skokie's Backlot Bash

The Backlot Bash is a summer festival in downtown Skokie. The event is a collaboration between the Independent Merchants of Downtown Skokie (IMODS), the Skokie Park District, The Village of Skokie and the Skokie Chamber of Commerce. The name "Backlot" pays tribute to downtown Skokie's (then Niles Center's) heritage as a silent picture western back lot set between 1907 and 1915. Chicago's Essanay Studios, the MGM of its day, frequently used Skokie because its dirt roads, saloons and wood frame buildings resembled an old prairie town. Essanay used this area frequently for shooting movies featuring gunfights, bank robberies, and cowboy and Indian skirmishes. In 1915, the Niles Center Theater (now Skokie Theater) opened and residents were finally able to see the very westerns that they had watched being filmed here. Essanay was the home of stars such as "Bronco Billy" Anderson, Ben Turpin, Wallace Beery, Gloria Swanson — and in 1914 and 1915 — Charlie Chaplin.

### **2010 Backlot Bash Dates**

Friday, August 27  
through  
Sunday, August 29

### **Event Hours**

Friday, 6 - 10 p.m.  
Saturday, 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
Sunday, Noon - 8 p.m.

in

**Downtown Skokie**  
Oakton St. at Floral Ave.

For additional information, please contact Pamela Zeid, Skokie Park District, 847/929-7715 or [PZeid@skokieparkdistrict.org](mailto:PZeid@skokieparkdistrict.org).



**Friday-Sunday**  
**August 27-29**  
**2010**

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**Business Expo**  
Information And Guidelines

**Application Deadline**  
**August 1, 2010**

**[www.BacklotBash.com](http://www.BacklotBash.com)**

