

Skokie security plans canceled

No demonstrations on Sunday

SKOKIE- It will be business as usual on Sunday, June 25, for Skokie's 70,000 residents.

Permits have been revoked for the neo-Nazi march at village hall and the counterdemonstration at Niles East high school, both scheduled for Sunday afternoon.

That action was prompted by Nazi leader Frank Collin's announcement Thursday that he and his group will not demonstrate in Skokie this weekend, since they had won the right in court to march in Chicago's Marquette park on July 9.

At a press conference immediately

following the Nazi announcement, leaders of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago called off plans for a massive non-violent rally at Niles East. Federation President David Smerling said, "If the Nazis aren't going to bring their despised symbols to Skokie, we do not want to encourage

large numbers of people to come to that community."

THE ELABORATE security plans Skokie made for the march have been canceled. "There will be no police lines, no police cordon, no state police and no national guard," said Sgt Michael Burns, Skokie police department public information officer.

There had been plans to bar motor vehicle traffic from a one-square-mile area surrounding village hall, but Burns said now all traffic will move without restriction through Skokie on Sunday.

He added, "Things are winding down and the police operation will be back to normal on Sunday."

Collin, in calling off the Skokie march, said his group had won their right to free speech and that was all they wanted. He said, "Our only interest in agitating was to focus attention on the first amendment rights we were being denied. We put pressure on the system and it worked.

"But the moment we are threatened again we will be back."

Collin, whose group is also expected to demonstrate at the Federal building in Chicago on Saturday, said the Nazis would rather march July 9 in Marquette park than in hostile Skokie. "Marquette park is a forum area where we have a receptive audience. We will continue to speak against Jews there."

A SMILING Mayor Albert Smith reacted to the Nazi decision on the steps of village hall, Thursday evening. He called the decision "a triumph for all mankind, not just the people who

reside in our village."

Smith added, "The people of this community will be so delighted that they (Nazis) won't be here Sunday—they'll go about their business."

He said Skokie has won its fight despite the court losses to the Nazis and their legal representatives, the American Civil Liberties Union. "The purpose of the fight was to not have these people come to our community. They aren't coming, so it has to be a victory," the mayor said.

Both Smith and Burns had praise for the way Skokie residents have cooperated during this crisis. Smith said: "We are proud of the patience and orderly demeanor exhibited by our residents and in our effort to work within recognized judicial procedures."

Burns said the community's response to the need for "extraordinary measures was tremendous. People understood all this was necessary."

The spokesman said police leaves, canceled for Sunday, were expected to be reinstated. "I'm sure there is a great amount of relief (by the police) from the standpoint that there was a potential there for confrontation, and it would have been the police role to do everything possible to stop that. Everybody can relax a bit."

The Nazis may face counterdemonstrators—both violent and non-violent—if they march in Marquette park on July 9. Smerling said Thursday that the Jewish Federation will stand ready to join other community groups in non-violent demonstrations at Marquette park.

Factions of the Jewish Defense League (JDL), who promised to meet the Nazis with violence in Skokie, are undecided about their actions for the

Skokie park facilities now open

SKOKIE park district facilities will be open as regularly scheduled this weekend, June 24-25.

In light of the Thursday, June 22 announcement that the planned demonstrations in Skokie have been canceled, swimming pools, the golf course and the ice rink will remain open. Permits for use of ballfields and picnic grounds will be honored by the park district.

However, the park district announced that the Sunday evening performance of the Skokie Valley Symphony orchestra will be canceled.

proposed Marquette park march. Rabbi Meir Kahane, who attended the Nazi press conference and shouted charges at Collin from outside the Nazi headquarters, was expected to meet with members of one JDL faction on Friday in Lincolnwood. Kahane, founder of the JDL, was to discuss plans for counterdemonstration at the Saturday Nazi march in Chicago.

Sol Goldstein, a holocaust survivor and a leader of the proposed Federation counterdemonstration, said Skokie was "determined we would not let them (Nazis) in. We hope this will be an example for the people of Marquette park. We hope they issue the call. We will join them."