

Prevent Break-Ins

The Huntley Police Department offers these suggestions that will help deter break-ins and keep your neighborhood safe.



- ◆ Open front blinds and drapes
- ◆ Neighbors watching neighbors
- ◆ Vacation Watch Program
- ◆ Remove papers from driveway and doors
- ◆ Be suspicious!
- ◆ Motion activated lighting
- ◆ Leave on radio/tv when gone
- ◆ Invest in a secure safe
- ◆ Alarm Systems

Alarms are a great deterrent and have a wide range of price points for installation. Options range from higher priced 24 hour monitoring systems to \$15 door stop alarms that are available at many discount and hardware stores.

When you see suspicious activity in your neighborhood **call the police by dialing 9-1-1 in emergency situations** or 847-515-5311 in non-emergency situations.

New E.D. Website

Huntley's new economic development web portal www.HuntleyFirst.com is now available online. The website focuses exclusively on reasons for businesses to locate and expand in Huntley and demonstrates the substantial cost benefits of being located in Huntley including significantly lower property taxes, highly competitive wage rates, speedy and efficient permit approvals, fiber optic availability, and full interstate access. Economic Development staff worked closely to develop the new site after review of dedicated economic development websites from across the U.S. The website focused on the specific needs of site selectors, real estate professionals and business decision-makers. In particular, the "Huntley First!" message and a searchable available properties database represent the core of the new site: www.HuntleyFirst.com

March 20th Referendum for Supply of Residential & Small Commercial Electricity



Huntley officials have placed a ballot issue on the March 20, 2012 General Primary Election regarding an Opt-Out Electric Aggregation Program. The Village of Huntley and approximately 300 other communities in Illinois have a similar question on the March 20th ballot.

Illinois law allows communities to band together through an intergovernmental agreement process to help achieve efficiencies amongst the participating communities. McHenry County and twelve cities/villages within McHenry, Kane and DeKalb Counties have come together to form the Northern Illinois Governmental Electric Aggregation Consortium (NIGEAC). NIGEAC will administer the program for each of the member communities.

The ballot initiative, if approved, would give the Village Board the authority but not the obligation to pursue an electric aggregation program through the efforts of NIGEAC. NIGEAC would seek bids from Alternative Retail Electric Suppliers (ARES) to replace the shoppable generation and transmission charges from the local utility company, Commonwealth Edison (ComEd). NIGEAC would be permitted to make an electric supply offer available to our residents and small businesses, if an attractive offer is obtained.

The following referendum question will be on the Tuesday, March 20, 2012, primary election ballot: "Shall the Village of Huntley have the authority to arrange for the supply of electricity for its residential and small commercial retail customers who have not opted out of such program?" YES _____, NO _____

This particular program will impact only the eligible residents and small businesses in the NIGEAC member communities. There are 19 other communities that currently have electric aggregation programs with their residents and small business already benefitting. This program does not guarantee savings but does present another valuable option for our residents and small businesses in their attempts to manage their energy costs.

With "opt-out" aggregation programs all eligible residential and small commercial customers are included in the program unless they decide to opt-out. The participation rate for opt-out programs tends to be very high, and because of this, suppliers are able to pass on lower rates.

The referendum must pass before any formal steps can be pursued with an opt-out program. The Village would hold two public hearings to explain the Plan of Operations and Governance that would be used to administer the program. Electricity flow under a new program could begin as soon as June 2012.

If approved you will be hearing more details as we move forward in the coming weeks and months. Participation is purely voluntary. The Village, like others before it, is attempting to leverage the bargaining power of a large buying group to obtain a favorable alternative to the local utility's supply rates. ComEd would continue to deliver your electricity, maintain their distribution system, respond to emergencies, read your meters, issue your bills, etc. The only change you will notice is a new supplier on your ComEd bill and lower rates.

To learn more about aggregation programs, please visit the Illinois Commerce Commission website www.icc.illinois.gov/electricity or the Plug in Illinois website www.pluginillinois.org

THE VILLAGE JOURNAL

Village of Huntley

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March 2012

**Village of Huntley
10987 Main Street
Huntley, IL 60142**

Village President
Charles H. Sass

Trustees
Pam Fender
Ron Hahn
Nick Hanson
Niko Kanakaris
Harry Leopold
John Piwko

David Johnson, Village Manager

Important Village Phone Numbers
Village Hall: (847) 515-5200
Public Works: (847) 515-5222
Development Services: (847) 515-5252
Police non-emergency: (847) 515-5311
Police emergency dial 911

Village Website:
www.huntley.il.us

Back Flow Preventer Tests

A residential backflow preventer is a device that is designed to stop water from a home's fire suppression or lawn irrigation line from entering a home's drinkable water supply. Without a backflow preventer, a loss of water pressure could result in dangerous materials being siphoned into the drinking water.

The key to preventing contamination from entering your home's water supply is to have the backflow preventer tested annually. In fact, the annual testing of backflow devices is required by the Village, State and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. An approved cross connection inspector is required to conduct the annual test using calibrated gauge equipment to ensure the device is working properly.

The Village has an approved program that allows residents to have their backflow preventers tested by the Village's Development Services Department for the cost of \$45 for one, and \$60 for both fire and lawn irrigation devices tested at the same address and on the same day. Please contact the Development Services Department at 847-515-5252 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

**It is not mandatory to use the Village of Huntley to perform the annual test, any Illinois Cross Connection Control Device Inspector that is registered with the Village can conduct the test.*



Green & Clean Huntley Day

Everyone knows Earth Day and Arbor day are popular April celebrations and now Huntley is happy to announce another great April celebration for the entire family... **Join us for Green & Clean Huntley Day on April 28th!**

Here's a look at what's happening:

- ◆ Spring Cleaning Drop Off Day—clean out your basement/garage and drop off items (see item details on reverse side) at the dumpsters located at Public Works at East Main Street & Donald Drive between 8am-1pm. Volunteers will be available to assist.
- ◆ Culvers Kids Coloring Contest—kids be sure to pick up a coloring sheet at Culvers, Huntley Village Hall, Huntley Library or Huntley Park District between April 9th & 27th and bring back your best coloring work back to Culvers of Huntley between April 22nd & 28th to get a free scoop! (no purchase necessary).
- ◆ Disney's Earth, come watch the story of adventure starring three animal families on a journey across our planet -polar bears, elephants and whales will be shown at the Huntley Park District's Cosman Theater. This free family film is sure to take your breath away!
Time: 3:00-4:30p.m. Concessions will be available for purchase.
- ◆ Green & Clean Drop-In Crafts for kids to at the Huntley Area Library—from 11am-1pm .
- ◆ Recycle your newspapers (no phone books or cardboard please) at the Huntley Library Paper Drive - containers located in the Library parking lot. Volunteers will be on hand from 9am-1pm to help at the drop off.
- ◆ Adopt-A-Highway groups will be cleaning up their assigned roadways. There are still several sections of roadway available for adoption; please see the Village's website at www.huntley.il.us for available sites and to apply.
- ◆ National Take Back Day Medication Disposal Event: drop off unused medications at the Police Department, 10911 Main Street, from 10am-1pm.
- ◆ Take a tour of the West Wastewater Treatment Plant, West Main Street, between 9am-1pm (tours take approximately 1 hr).

As always, be sure and check our website for the most up to date information on Green & Clean Huntley Day at www.huntley.il.us

Sidewalk Repair Rebate Program

The Residential Sidewalk Repair Rebate Program allows residents to hire their own contractor to repair public sidewalks fronting their property and receive a rebate for repair costs up to a maximum amount of \$500. Rebate amounts are based on a flat rate of \$3.50 per square foot of sidewalk repaired (\$3.50 represents 50% of the estimated cost per square foot for concrete work). The program will be administered on a first-come, first-serve basis and is subject to limited funding availability at the time of building permit submittal. Repairs made to sidewalks on private property are not eligible for funding.

See our website for rebate form and complete details: www.huntley.il.us

Spotlight on Huntley Business

The village launched another great E-News edition in February which focuses solely on Huntley business. If you missed **Spotlight on Huntley Business** you can view/link to it from our homepage (www.huntley.il.us) under Current News. The monthly publication features in depth news and website links on various Huntley businesses. Sign up to receive this and other great Huntley e-newsletters automatically by clicking on the E-News link on our homepage at www.huntley.il.us