



The Village  
With A  
Heritage

Inverness

# InverNews

Fall/Winter 2014



## Smart Meter Installation Begins In November

Beginning in November, ComEd will be installing smart meters in the Inverness area.

A smart meter is a digital electric meter that uses two-way radio communications to collect usage information and securely transmit it to ComEd through a wireless connection.

Smart meters provide customers with access to more information about energy use through online energy-management tools that can help them manage their electric bills. Additionally, because smart meters automatically send meter readings to ComEd, they also help eliminate estimated bills and reduce operating costs which become savings on customers' electric bills.

ComEd will be sending Inverness residents more information through the mail about smart meters and the installation process. In the meantime, if you would like more information, visit ComEd's website at [www.ComEd.com/smartmeter](http://www.ComEd.com/smartmeter) or call 866-368-8326.

## Rates Set for Village of Inverness Electrical Aggregation Program

Following the passage of a voter referendum in November 2012, the Village of Inverness contracted to procure lower-cost electric supply for residents and small businesses via an opt-out program. The Village's initial two-year contract has met with great success: the average participating Inverness household has now saved \$398 from inception through September 2014, for a Village-wide cumulative savings of \$825,000. That first contract expires on meter read dates in February 2015.

The Village sought competitive bids for a renewal program and accepted a bid from Dynegy Energy Services at a fixed rate for the first 12 months, which then steps down to a lower fixed rate for the remaining 24 months of a three-year term ending February 2018. All residential and small commercial retail accounts will automatically be enrolled unless the account holder:

1. Chooses to opt-out as directed in the opt-out notice; or
2. Has already switched to another supplier; or
3. Participates in the Residential Real-Time Pricing (RRTP) hourly-rate program.

There is no enrollment fee and no early termination fee to vacate the program.

Residents will continue to receive one bill from ComEd to include the electric supply charges from Dynegy Energy Services. ComEd will continue to charge for delivery. The way you pay your bill, such as budget billing or automatic payment, will not be affected.

The era of double-digit savings versus the ComEd rate has passed for the time being. This program presents two benefits: (1) ratepayers will enjoy continued flexibility to join or leave the program with no termination fee, and (2) residents will receive a known, capped rate versus the ComEd Price-to-Compare rate, which is reset at least twice *(continued on page 2)*



### Inverness program vs. ComEd rates in cents per kilowatt hour

	supply + transmission	PEA fee	Effective rate
Inverness rate	6.570¢ (Feb. 2015 – Feb. 2016) 6.487¢ (Feb. 2016 – Feb. 2018)	None	6.570¢ (Feb. 2015 – Feb. 2016) 6.487¢ (Feb. 2016 – Feb. 2018)
ComEd rate	7.430¢ (Nov. 2014 – May 2015)	-0.50 to 0.50¢ (varies monthly)	6.930 to 7.930¢

## Jack Tatoes



Dear Residents:

This month the Village Board approved a new Municipal Electric Aggregation contract with Dynegy Energy Services to continue to provide an alternative energy supply option for Inverness residents and small businesses. The three-year contract provides a fixed rate for supplying electric power compared to the semi annual adjustments by ComEd. Similar to two years ago, residents are automatically enrolled in the program, unless you choose to opt out. In the near future, Dynegy Energy Services will be sending a mailing with more details about the program and how to opt out.

As a reminder, winter is just around the corner. Residents are encouraged to keep their driveway culverts unobstructed at all times. Snow should never be plowed into a culvert or across the street. One obstructed culvert can affect several homes and cause icy conditions along a residential street.

Over the summer, we welcomed a new Police Officer to our community. Mike Hish joins us after serving the Hoffman Estates Police Department for over 29 years and retiring as the Chief of Police, a position he had held since 2011. Mike replaced John Pearson, who served our community for over five years.

Lastly, two Inverness organizations that are celebrating milestones this year should be recognized. Congratulations to the Inverness Community Association, which is celebrating its 70th anniversary, and to the Women's Club of Inverness, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Both organizations have been an invaluable resource for our community.

On behalf of the rest of the Village Board and staff, I hope you enjoy the upcoming holidays and have a safe and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

Jack Tatoes, Mayor



## Contacting 9-1-1: Call if You Can, Text if You Can't

Cellular customers living in or traveling through the Northwest Central Dispatch System service area may be able to use their mobile phones to send a text message to 9-1-1 for emergency help. The area served by Northwest Central Dispatch System includes Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, Elk Grove Village, Hoffman Estates, Inverness, Mount Prospect, Prospect Heights, Palatine, Rolling Meadows, Schaumburg, and Streamwood.

Texting should be used only during an emergency when you are unable to make a voice call to 9-1-1.

### How to text 9-1-1 in an emergency:

- Enter the numbers "911" in the "To" field.
- The first text message to 9-1-1 should be brief and contain the location of the emergency and type of help needed.
- Push the "Send" button.
- Be prepared to answer questions and follow instructions from the 9-1-1 call taker.
- Text in simple words – do not use abbreviations.
- Keep text messages brief and concise.

## Electrical Aggregation *(continued from page 1)*

annually and can further adjust monthly due to the fluctuating Purchased Electricity Adjustment (PEA) charge.

Please note electricity supply prices are rising for all ratepayers:

1. This is due in part to a large increase in capacity charges, which all energy suppliers and therefore every Illinois ratepayer, must pay to power generators in order to ensure that enough power will be produced to meet demand.
2. Prices for the actual commodity that is electricity have soared since January 2014; this past winter's polar vortex caused a huge drawdown of the nation's natural gas supplies, a large component of electric generation.

Electric deregulation has met with great success in the State of Illinois, saving ratepayers billions of dollars. Residents may be reminded they were charged 9¢ per kWh for electric supply in the summer of 2010, and Illinois rates were near the highest levels in the nation in the 1990s through the early 2000s. Illinois electric rates have flipped and are now among the lowest in the nation, with residents in many Midwestern states such as Michigan and Wisconsin paying higher rates than in Illinois.

## It's the Season of Giving

November 10 – December 10

**Toys for Tots Drive:** Toys must be newly purchased and still in their packaging.

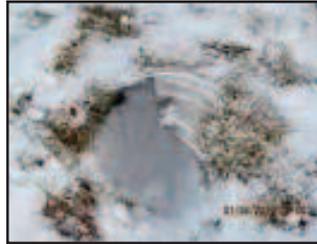
**Winter Coat Drive:** New or gently used adult and children's coats are needed for the PATH (Palatine Assisting Through Hope) organization.

Toys and coats may be dropped off at the Inverness Village Hall as well as at the Inverness Police Department.

# Wintertime Tips for Maintaining Culverts To Reduce Roadway Icing Hazards

Fall will soon be turning into winter, and that first blast of frigid air is likely to arrive within the next few weeks. Last winter Chicagoland endured extraordinarily harsh and prolonged conditions that created some serious safety-related roadway issues. Now is the time for homeowners to take the necessary steps to reduce or eliminate these hazards for the upcoming winter season:

- Driveway culverts must be unobstructed. Culverts should be kept free of leaves and debris at all times. A small amount of salt at the culvert ends during each snow event can help keep the culvert from becoming blocked with ice. When the culvert is filled with ice, melting snow or early rains cannot flow through the culvert and often flow onto the pavement. This situation creates icy roads when temperatures fall below freezing.
- Sump pump discharge lines are required to discharge within your property and be set back a minimum of 20 feet from the right-of-way line. Icing conditions on road pavement are more likely when sump pumps discharge directly into right-of-way ditches.
- Snow cleared from your driveway must be kept on your property. Snow cannot be plowed across the street into the opposite right-of-way. Plowing snow across the street creates three significant problems: first, it creates windrows (snow trails) off each side of the plow, which become icy patches for drivers on the road; second, when not plowed far enough it reduces the road driving width; and last, but not least, when pushed fully off the road pavement, it blocks the drainage ditch so when snow melts and rains occur, the ditch has a frozen ice dam, which prevents proper drainage.
- Individual homeowners are responsible for the maintenance of the right-of-way, including road shoulder grass and ditch drainage. Fall rains and winter conditions can make the road shoulders particularly subject to tire ruts and related damage. Homeowners need to maintain and repair the right-of-way on their property for both safety and aesthetics.
- If you believe that a Village snowplow has caused damage along the roadway frontage of your property (grass tire ruts, etc.), be sure to call the Village Hall within 24 hours so that the Village Engineer can document the damage. The Village will hire a landscape contractor in the spring to fix such documented damage locations only.



The quality of our community relies on each of us for the continued beauty of our neighborhoods.

## Going on an Evening Walk with Fido?

### Be safe and be seen: Make yourself visible to drivers

- Wear bright/light-colored clothing and reflective materials.
- Carry a flashlight when walking at night.
- Stand clear of hedges, parked cars, or other obstacles before crossing so that drivers can see you.

### Be smart and alert: Avoid dangerous behaviors

- Always walk facing traffic.
- Don't assume vehicles will stop. Make eye contact with drivers; don't just look at the vehicle. Be extra cautious if a driver is talking on a cell phone. He or she may be distracted by the conversation and not be paying enough attention to drive safely.

### Help your dog to be seen as well

A band of reflective tape on your dog's collar, leash, and harness will help make both of you visible. Blinking light collars and leashes and attachable collar lights will make your dog even more visible at night. Brightly colored and reflective vests for you and your dog are also good choices.



### Please be a dog-gone good neighbor

When scooping up doggie deposits in a plastic bag, please be sure to take it with you and dispose of it with your own garbage rather than leaving it on the roadside or in a neighbor's yard.

# NEWS TO KNOW—

## Women's Club of Inverness Celebrates 50 Years of Giving:

The Women's Club of Inverness is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2014 with the theme "50 Years of Giving" through scholarships, support for area agencies, volunteering at back-to-school supply events, holiday gift giving to needy families, and donations to Shoebox Express, which mails packages to those serving overseas in the military.

On November 8, 2014, the Women's Club of Inverness is hosting a gala celebration to mark this Golden Anniversary. All Inverness residents are invited to join the celebration at Medinah Country Club.

For further information and/or to make a reservation, contact event co-chair Nanci Robinson at (312) 543-2680.

## If fall is here, can winter be far behind?

And with winter will come snow. So here is an important reminder about snow removal: snow from your property may not be



deposited on any Village street. Village ordinance prohibits plowing, blowing or shoveling snow into the street. The homeowners are responsible for the actions of any contractor (snow removal company) they hire and will be held liable for such violations. The fine per incident is \$200.

## Holiday Closings

Village offices will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

**November 27 & 28:** Thanksgiving

**December 24 & 25:** Christmas

**December 31, January 1:** New Year's

## Changes in Refuse Pickup

Refuse will be collected one day later than usual due to the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's holidays.

Village of Inverness  
1400 Baldwin Road • Inverness, Illinois 60067  
847/358-7740 • 847/358-8858 fax  
Website: [www.villageofinverness.org](http://www.villageofinverness.org)

Village Hall Hours:  
Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-4:30 PM

Jack Tatoes . . . . . Mayor  
Laurie C. White . . . . . Clerk

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## Bringing the community together Inverness Community Association Celebrates 70 Years

The Inverness Community Association was founded 70 years ago in 1944 by 20 families, when Inverness was still very, very small. This was long before subdivision Homeowner Associations existed. The ICA was created to provide residents with social and sporting events to foster a greater sense of community. The ICA has published a residents directory, known as the "red book," since the early 1970s to help neighbors get to know each other and for emergency purposes.

Fast-forward a few years, and the Inverness Community Association is still going strong. One hundred percent volunteer run, the ICA hosts a variety of events for all Inverness residents, from Easter and Halloween parties to the 4th of July Fun Run/Parade/Ice Cream Social, the famous Concert in the Park, and new events such as the Members' Cocktail Party and Members' Wine Tasting party for adults.



The ICA still publishes the "red book" directory, which the Inverness Police Department and the Palatine Rural Fire Department utilize to reach residents in cases of emergencies.

Each November, ICA holds a Membership Drive for the following year: \$50 per family; \$45 if over age 65. All events are free to members, except for the Cocktail Party/Wine Tasting. Visit ICA's website, [www.invernesscommunity.org](http://www.invernesscommunity.org) or email [info@invernesscommunity.org](mailto:info@invernesscommunity.org).

The Inverness Community Association welcomes all residents of Inverness!

## Curfew Laws in Effect For Those Less Than 17 Years of Age

The Village of Inverness follows the Illinois Law pertaining to curfew hours and restrictions. For those under 17 years of age, it is illegal to be in any public place without adult supervision during the following times:

1. Between 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. Sunday thru Thursday
2. Between 12:01 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. Fridays, Saturdays, and holidays

Residents should be aware that anyone under the age of 17 who is operating a motor vehicle during curfew hours can be considered as not having a valid driver's license.

There are some exceptions in the law in very specific circumstances.

Residents are invited to contact the Inverness Police Department at (847) 358-7766 for further information.

Additional information, including the complete content of the law, is available online at [ilga.gov](http://ilga.gov); go to the compiled statutes sections for complete Illinois curfew information.

### Join your neighbors at these upcoming events:

**Second Annual ICA Members' Appreciation Cocktail Party, 6:00 PM-8:00PM, November 8:** This is a great way to meet your neighbors while enjoying great food and beverages at the Inverness Golf Club, 102 Roselle Road.

**Easter Party, Sunday, March 15, North Park:** This will be our first event for 2015. We'll have crafts, games, and our famous egg hunt. Be sure to check the website for the 2015 event schedule, [www.invernesscommunity.org](http://www.invernesscommunity.org).

