

# InverNews

The Village With A Heritage



Spring 2012

## Save Money on Your Electrical Bill

Program provides electric bill savings of 20%

The Village of Inverness has partnered with Clean Air Counts and the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus to provide an "Opt-In" electrical aggregation program that provides immediate electric bill savings to residents and small businesses. The Caucus is an organization of 272 mayors in the Chicago metro-area. This savings program is part of Clean Air Counts, a public/private initiative between the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to voluntarily improve the air quality in the Chicago metropolitan region.



### Who will supply electricity under this program?

Integritys Energy Group is the parent company of Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas. It is a local electrical energy supplier competitively selected by the Clean Air Counts coalition based upon a combination of low pricing and "green" environmental offerings.

### How does the 'opt-in' program work?

Under state statute, there are two types of electrical energy programs:

- 1) The "Opt-In" program which provides the most flexibility by allowing customers to shop for savings and change their electrical supplier at any time; and
- 2) The "Opt-Out" program which requires municipalities to bundle the entire community under one supplier unless the customer "Opts-Out" of participating in the program. This bundling only occurs after a voter referendum, two public hearings, and a lengthy bidding process has been completed.

There are a number of communities that have announced plans for an "Opt-Out" aggregation program, which automatically switches residents over to the alternative supplier, but cannot be implemented for several months. However, the "Opt-In" program allows residents to individually choose their energy supplier today. Opt-In electrical aggregation combines the best of both worlds: immediate savings to residents and the personal choice of who their energy supplier will be. Savings can be seen as soon as your next meter reading.

### How much will I save?

Under the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus plan, Integritys Energy Systems will provide residents and small businesses with an immediate savings of 20% on their electrical supply. It's easy and transparent for the customer to switch. Customers continue to be invoiced by and pay their bill to ComEd, and customers on the ComEd budget plan may continue on that plan.

*(continued on page 3)*

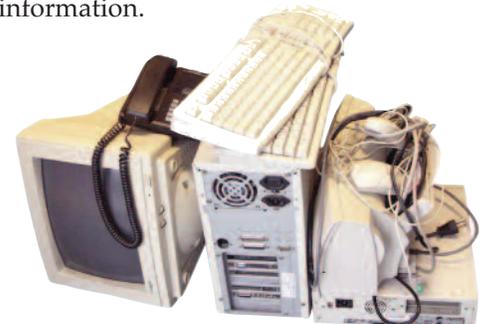
## Now You Can Recycle That Old Television, Monitor or Computer Free of Charge

Effective January 1, 2012, nearly all electronics are banned from landfills in Illinois. To make it easy and convenient for residents to properly dispose of these items, the Village has arranged to pay Groot Industries for the cost of picking up and recycling used electronics. The items will be picked up at the curb on your regular garbage collection day, but residents must call Groot in advance at (800) 244-1977 to schedule the pickup.

Items that qualify for this free pickup program include:

- televisions
- monitors
- printers
- computers including tablets
- electronic keyboards
- facsimile machines
- videocassette recorders
- portable digital music players
- digital video disc players
- video game consoles
- small scale servers
- scanners
- electronic mice
- digital converter boxes
- cable receivers
- satellite receivers
- digital video disc recorders

Check the Village's website, [www.villageofinverness.org](http://www.villageofinverness.org) for more information.



## Jack Tatoes



Dear Residents:

In 2008 the Village issued general obligation bonds for road improvements. That issue was rated AAA by Standard & Poors Rating Service. As a result, the Village was able to obtain a very favorable interest rate on these bonds. Last month, S&P affirmed its AAA long-term rating on this issue for the Village. This affirmation was based in part, on our very strong financial operations and "Good" financial management designation under their Financial Management Assessment methodology. The Board and I continually work hard to be fiscally responsible and stewards of our public funds. The S&P rating reflects this effort. For more information on the Village's finances, I encourage you to go to our website at [www.villageofinverness.org/news.html](http://www.villageofinverness.org/news.html). The S&P reports are there, as well as the current budget and prior years' audits.

I also want to report that we are making some progress with Commonwealth Edison. Since last fall, ComEd has or is in the process of replacing over 15,000 feet of underground cable. They have also installed "tripsaver" fuses on three circuits. Last month they also began off-cycle tree trimming and removal along a number of overhead circuits. While this is a start, in my opinion they have much more to do. I expect to have another meeting with ComEd management next month to get their plans for this additional work on several overhead circuits that have demonstrated poor reliability over the past. I will report on the outcome of this meeting in a future newsletter.

In this edition of *InverNews* you will find an article concerning electronics recycling. This went into effect the 1st of the year and you should have received a mailing directly from Groot Industries on this program. The Village evaluated several options with respect to implementation of the program. To make it convenient, we wanted to provide at home collection versus reliance on drop-off locations. We also wanted to keep your garbage rates the same even though this program requires Groot to provide additional staffing and equipment. The Village was able to negotiate such a program. *While there was a cost for the program, the Board and I agreed that the additional cost of this program would be paid for by the Village.* More information on electronics recycling can be found at Groot's website at [www.groot.com](http://www.groot.com) or at the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County at [www.swancc.org](http://www.swancc.org).

Enjoy your spring.

Sincerely,

Jack Tatoes, Mayor

## If you are planning to leave town for spring break . . .

Remember to sign up for the Inverness Police Department's free Vacation Watch program before you leave. Officers will check your house on a daily basis for any signs of suspicious activity.

Signing up for Vacation Watch is easy. You'll find the form online at [www.villageofinverness.org/forms.htm](http://www.villageofinverness.org/forms.htm) or at Village Hall.



## Calendar of Events

### April

- 10 Village Board
- 17 Plan Commission
- 18 Zoning Board

### May

- 8 Village Board
- 15 Plan Commission
- 16 Zoning Board

### June

- 12 Village Board
- 19 Plan Commission •
- 20 Zoning Board

## News You Can Use

**Crime solved:** Police Chief Robert Haas reports that thanks to an alert resident in the Lauder Hills subdivision, an individual has been apprehended and stolen items returned from a burglary that occurred in January. The woman noticed a suspicious person in the neighborhood and called 911 to report it. At the time, Hoffman Estates police were responding to a burglary in an adjacent neighborhood. When that individual was taken into custody and searched, several items from the Lauder Hills burglary were recovered and returned to the owner. **Never** hesitate to call 911 to report suspicious or unusual activity!

**2012 vehicle stickers:** Applications will be mailed at the end of May to notify residents that vehicle stickers will be available for purchase on June 1. Stickers are \$10 each and must be displayed by July 1. The fee rises to \$20 on September 2, and \$100 on October 2. Dog licenses are \$5 by July 1; \$10 after that date.

**Smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors:** The building code provides that whenever a permit is issued, smoke alarms are required to be added if they do not currently exist in every bedroom, the hall outside the bedrooms, and on every other level of the home. Most homes have a smoke alarm on each level but the installation of a smoke alarm inside of each bedroom could provide additional time to escape if a fire occurs. Even if you are not doing work that requires a building permit, it is well worth the nominal cost to install smoke alarms in every bedroom and the bedroom hallway. State law requires carbon monoxide alarms within fifteen feet of all bedrooms.

**Rely for Life:** The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life for Palatine, Rolling Meadows and Inverness will be held on June 15 at Sundling Jr. High School, 1100 N. Smith Street in Palatine. Organizers hope to raise \$225,000 at this year's event. For more information on how to get involved in Relay For Life of Palatine, Rolling Meadows and Inverness, call 847-368-1166 or visit [www.relayforlife.org/prmiil](http://www.relayforlife.org/prmiil).

## Yardwaste Pickup Resumes on April 5

Weekly yardwaste pickup will resume on Thursday, April 5.

### Important reminders

- **No charge for the first two bags/ bundles:** Any combination of two yardwaste bags or bundles per week will be picked up at no charge.
- **Stickers required for additional bags/bundles:** Yardwaste stickers are \$2.20 each. Stickers may be purchased at the Village Hall, the Jewel at 1485 Palatine Road, or directly from Groot by calling 1-800-244-1977.
- **Other requirements:** Bags must be biodegradable paper bags. Bundles may be no larger than four feet in length, two feet in diameter, may not weigh more than 50 pounds, and must be tied with twine.
- **Another option:** A yardwaste subscription is available for \$107 for the year, which includes a 95 gallon toter. If there is more yardwaste in a week than will fit in the toter, the remainder may be bagged with a sticker for pickup. Call Groot to sign up for this program.

## Electric Bill Savings Program

*(continued from page 1)*

### The Clean Air Counts – Energy Savings Program include:

- Residents enter into a contract that lasts through June 2013.
- The price is 6.1 cents/kWh, versus the ComEd price of 7.7 cents/kWh, a savings of over \$200 for the average user over the length of the contract.
- The price is guaranteed not to exceed ComEd's price throughout the contract term.
- Immediate savings start as soon as their next meter reading.
- The resident receives four free energy saving CFL light bulbs.
- Residents continue to receive one bill from ComEd. ComEd will continue to be the service provider, responding to service and emergency issues.
- Residents may continue on their ComEd payment plan.

It is important to realize that you are signing a contract. Moreover, there is an early cancellation fee of \$50 should you terminate the contract early. Savings exist only on the electrical supply portion of the bill. We encourage you to fully investigate all of your options.

Residents have two options to sign up for this program:

- Sign up at <http://www.integrystenergy.com/ESP> and follow the prompts; or
- Phone 1-888-688-1236 and request the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Clean Air Counts program rates.

The Village is pleased to be able to offer residents and businesses the opportunity to generate immediate savings on their electric bill. For further information, visit the Clean Air Counts page on the Caucus's website, at [www.mayorscaucus.org](http://www.mayorscaucus.org).



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

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## We All Live Downstream

Stormwater runoff can affect the quantity and quality of water that must be handled downstream. Excess runoff can contribute to flooding. Contaminated runoff can make water unfit for wildlife habitat and be detrimental to humans. Both situations can be costly to correct. Prevention is more effective and efficient than remediation.

Runoff carries with it salt, soil, leaves, pesticides, fertilizers, oil, gasoline, and any other materials present on the surface. Water from lawns and other open areas can run off into storm sewers and drainage ditches.

Some people think this water is treated in a sewage treatment plant just like water from sanitary sewers. But that is not the case. Storm water receives no treatment before entering local bodies of water. Safeguarding the quality of our streams and lakes is beneficial to the entire community.

### 10 Ways You Can Improve the Quality of Stormwater Runoff

1. Cover piles of soil, sand or mulch to stop them from being transported in stormwater. Plant grass where soil is exposed.
2. Sweep your sidewalk and driveway rather than hosing them down.
3. Put leaves and grass clippings in the compost, on the garden as mulch, or mow back into the lawn to recycle as nutrients.
4. Divert roof water to lawns or gardens where it can safely soak in.
5. Keep pesticides, oil, leaves and other pollutants off streets and out of storm drains.
6. Keep cars tuned up and repair leaks.
7. Wash your vehicle on grass or over gravel. Use as little detergent as you can and pour any leftover soapy water onto the lawn.
8. Dispose of household hazardous waste according to the label directions.
9. Clean up pet waste -- bury it or flush it down the toilet.
10. Never dump anything down storm drains. Water from these drains flows **untreated** into local bodies of water.



## Septic Tanks Tips: What to Put In, What to Keep Out

Here are some friendly pointers to help prevent overtaxing your septic field.

▲ Put all wastewater from your home into the septic tank. This includes all sink, bath, shower, washing machine and dishwasher wastewaters, and toilet flushings.

▲ Keep roof drains, basement sump pump drains, and other rain water or surface water drainage systems away from the absorption field.

▲ Do not use caustic drain openers for a clogged drain. Instead use boiling water or a drain snake to open clogs.



▲ Use potentially system-damaging commercial bathroom cleaners in moderation. Consider cleaning toilets, sinks, showers, and tubs with a mild detergent or baking soda.

▲ NEVER put grease, disposable diapers, plastics, latex paint, pesticides, solvents, oven cleaners, degreasers, or any hazardous chemicals into your system.