

InverNews

The Village With A Heritage



Winter 2013

Village of Inverness Electric Aggregation Rate Set: Savings to Begin in 2013

Inverness voters approved a referendum on November 6, 2012, authorizing the Village to seek bids to secure lower energy supply rates for Village residents and small businesses. On December 11, 2012 the Village received competitive bids and awarded a contract to Constellation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Exelon Corp (NYSE: EXC). The contracted rate of 4.931¢ per kWh is approximately 44% less than the current ComEd electric supply rate of 8.819¢ per kWh. Under this program, you will continue to receive one monthly bill from ComEd, with the name of the new supplier and rate clearly indicated under the "Electricity Supply Services" portion of their bill.



The Illinois Power Agency (IPA) currently contracts for electric supply and sets the rate for users in the ComEd territory. The Village contracted for this fixed rate for a term of two years. The current IPA or ComEd rate will be reset, as it is each year, on June 1, 2013. The new IPA rate is unknown at this time. However, should the rate drop below 4.931¢ during the 24-month term with Constellation, the Village's program has a rate guarantee. This rate guarantee provides that Constellation will match that lower rate or return accounts to the IPA supplier so that residents receive the lower rate.

To participate in the program, eligible residents and small businesses need do nothing to be automatically enrolled. If you do not want to participate, you simply opt out of the Village's program. In addition, residents who do not opt out initially may leave the program at any time within the 24-month term without penalty.

(continued on page 3)

Lower Your Energy Bills

For a limited time, the U.S. Department of Energy, local utilities and non-profits are offering a program called Energy Impact Illinois to area homeowners to make their homes more comfortable and energy efficient.



The program offers a home energy assessment for \$49 to current Nicor customers. A contractor will inspect your home and provide an estimate for air sealing and insulation and provide a detailed report of recommendations and costs. You are under no obligation to proceed with any work. However, Energy Impact Illinois and/or Nicor are offering substantial savings to those who do. You can receive an instant rebate of 70% (maximum of \$1750) for undertaking the recommended work. Energy Impact Illinois provides approved contractors and a friendly call-center staff, who will take you through the process.

For more information, call 847-323-6454, or visit <http://www.energyimpactillinois.org> or <http://nicorgasrebates.com/index.php/programs/hes>

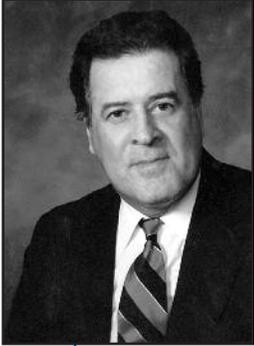
And Speaking of Electricity, Beware of This Potential Utility Scam

The Inverness Police Department recently received information from ComEd regarding a potential utility scam. The company has recently seen an increase in reports of individuals calling customers claiming to be ComEd representatives and telling the customer that their service will be disconnected unless payment is made. They instruct the individual to buy a prepaid credit card and call them back with the personal identification number (PIN). Variations of the scam include stories that the customer's billing cycle has changed and payment is needed immediately, or that the account is past due and immediate payment is required to avoid immediate disconnection, or that the customer's previous payments were not accepted or processed.



ComEd will never ask a customer to purchase a prepaid credit card to make a payment on a bill. If customers have concerns about the status of their account, they can call 1-800-EDISON1 and a representative will be happy to review the account. This is just another scam used by people trying to obtain personal and confidential information. The Inverness Police Department reminds you never to provide your Social Security or credit card numbers to somebody who is initiating contact with you.

Jack Tatoes



Dear Residents:

In November residents voted 3 to 1 in favor of authorizing the Village to establish an electrical aggregation program and thereby arrange for the supply of electricity to residents and small businesses that choose not to opt out of the program. After the election, we held two public hearings on our Plan of Operation and Governance and in December we took bids from suppliers. Based on those bid, we awarded a contract to Constellation Energy. Their rate for a two year term was 4.931 cents per kWh. The current ComEd rate is 8.819 cents.

In the very near future, eligible residents and businesses will receive a mailing from Constellation about the program and how to opt out. You don't have to do anything if you want to participate and you will be automatically enrolled. There is more detailed information about the program in this edition of InverNews, as well as the homepage of the Village's website at www.villageofinverness.org. I encourage you take a look at these materials when making your choice. More information about Constellation Energy can be found at their website at <http://www.constellation.com/government/pages/governmental-aggregation.aspx>.

Staying on the theme of saving money, the Village Board is also looking at the possibility of refinancing the GO bonds that were issued in 2008. Interest rates are at historical lows and our financial consultant has projected that a refinancing of this issue could save Village taxpayers more than \$300,000 over the life of the remaining debt. This translates to about \$30,000 less a year that will need to be levied to pay off those bonds. At the December meeting the Board approved proceeding with this option. Hopefully, if rates hold and the savings can be realized we will be taking action after the first of the year.

On behalf of myself and the Board of Trustees, we want to wish you and your family a Happy New Year. Please be safe this winter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jack".

Jack Tatoes, Mayor

'Snowbirds': Secure Your Nest Before Heading South

If you're planning to head south for the winter months, the Inverness Police Department has some important things to put on your "To Do" list before you leave.

- Call the Police Department at (847) 358-7766 and ask for a "Vacation Watch" to be put on your home during the time you will be away. The form can also be downloaded from our website at www.villageofinverness.org/forms.htm
- Arrange with a friend or neighbor to check your home two or three times a week.
- Have your mail forwarded to you, held at the post office, or arrange to have it picked up daily, and cancel your newspaper delivery.
- Leave a phone number where you can be reached with one or more neighbors so you can be notified of an emergency.
- Arrange for someone to keep your driveway and sidewalk clear of ice and snow.
- Give your home that "lived in" look by using timers for your lights and a radio or television. Vary the times they switch on and off.



Calendar of Events

January

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

February

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

March

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

Electric Aggregation Rate Set: Savings to Begin in 2013 (continued from page 1)

All eligible residents and small businesses, which do not opt out, will be automatically switched to Constellation. Eligible accounts will receive a notice of the rate and terms around the first of the year, with instructions on how to opt out. Those customers who do not opt-out will also receive a notice from ComEd informing them of the switch to Constellation. The switch is expected to occur on meter-read dates in March 2013. Please note that if you have already switched to another supplier or are participating in the hourly rate (RRTP) program, you are not considered eligible for the Village's program and will not receive the notices referred to above.

Residents who have already switched to an alternate supplier however, are invited to opt in to the program to achieve greater savings. Before doing so you should check whether there is an early termination fee from your current supplier. You may join the Village's aggregation program at any time during the 24-month term. There is no fee to join the program and there is no fee to leave the program at any time. Those residents who want to opt in may call Constellation at 800-718-1493 to enroll.

All residential and small commercial retail electric accounts will continue to have their electricity delivered by ComEd. Residents will continue to receive one electric bill from ComEd and will remain on any budget billing program or payment plan currently in place. If you are currently eligible for low-income assistance programs such as PIPP and LIHEAP, you will not lose those benefits

because of joining the Village's aggregation program. In the event of a power outage or downed lines, residents should always call ComEd directly at 800-334-7661.

The Village of Inverness receives no payment from Constellation for offering this program. It is offered solely for the benefit of Village residents and small commercial electric account holders. The average single-family household in Inverness used 17,990 kWh in the 12 months ending September 2012. We encourage you to look at your own energy consumption when evaluating the Village's program and its benefit to you. If you would like a totally "green" alternative, Constellation is also offering residents a rate of 5.006¢ per kWh representing renewable energy credits for 100% "green" power of their electric usage. If that interests you, please call Constellation at 800-718-1493 for more information.

Although the Village of Inverness is offering this savings program, residents should direct all questions about the Village's aggregation program to Constellation at 800-718-1493. If residents require additional assistance, they are urged to call NIMEC, the consulting firm that advised the Village with the bid process. Their toll-free number is 800-727-3820. Callers should leave their phone number and questions at this voice-operated service and can expect to receive a return call within 24 hours. More information and a list of frequently asked questions are available on the home page of the Village's website at www.villageofinverness.org.

Thinking About a Home Improvement? Plan Now and Avoid the Spring Rush

If you are planning a home improvement project that involves new construction or remodeling, you will be glad to know that filling out the required permit is as easy as visiting the Village's website, www.villageofinverness.org, going to the "Forms" section, and completing the permit application online. For your convenience, the website now includes an entire section with a variety of forms that can be downloaded.

If you have questions or need assistance in filling out the building permit application, contact the Village of Inverness Building Department at (847) 358-7960 and someone will be glad to help. Building Department hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. For your convenience, the Village's Building Code can also be viewed online under the "Links" section.

Allow Enough Time for Permit Review & Approval

The review and approval process for permit applications for new construction of single family homes typically takes about six weeks. The review and approval process for permit applications for all other types of construction/remodeling projects typically takes about three weeks.

In order to obtain a building permit, you'll need:

- A completed permit application, available online.
- Two plats of survey, one of which must be an original signed and sealed by an Illinois State Licensed Land Surveyor.
- Three sets of architectural plans original signed and sealed by an Illinois State Licensed Architect or Illinois State Licensed Structural Engineer for a new single family home.
- Two sets of architectural plans original signed and sealed by an Illinois State Licensed Architect or Illinois State Licensed Structural Engineer for all other types of construction.





STD. PRE-SORT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Palatine, IL P & DC
Permit No. 2854

Village of Inverness
1400 Baldwin Road
Inverness, Illinois 60067

847/358-7740
847/358-8858 fax

Website: 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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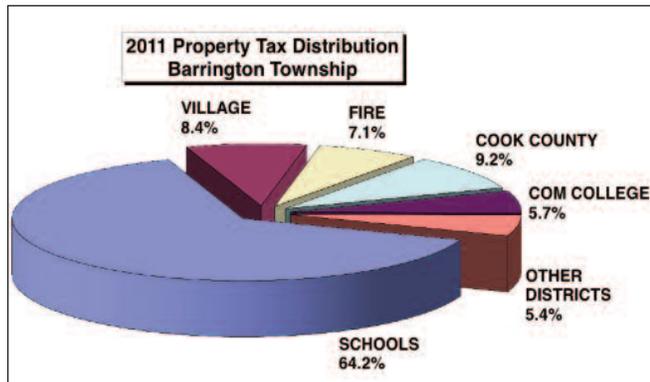
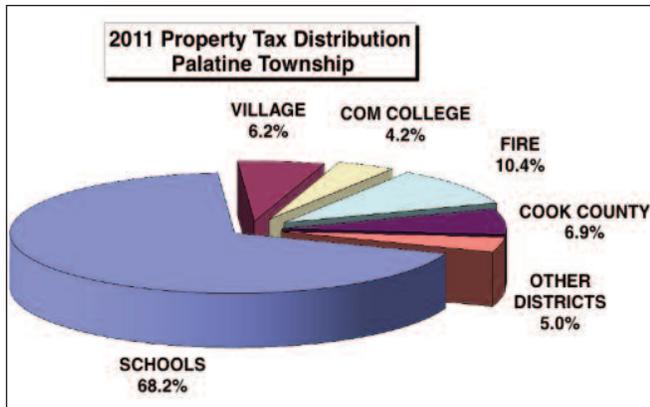
Property Taxes: Where Do They Go?

Last month the Village passed its property tax levy for 2012. The operational levy was frozen at the prior year level of \$1,618,800. 100% of this is earmarked for Police Department operations and it represents approximately two thirds of the total property taxes extended by the Village. The remaining third is allocated to debt service and is fairly stable from year to year.

Less than 9% of the total tax bill goes to the Village. While 2012 rates are not available, the

charts below break out where your property tax dollars went in 2011 by the township you live in. As you can see, 6.2% of the bill goes to the Village if you live in Palatine Township. Village residents who live in Barrington Township pay 8.4% of their property tax bill to the Village. Schools account for around 64-68% of the total bill and varies by the district you live in.

For more information on property taxes, please visit the Cook County Clerk website at www.cookcountyclerk.com/tsd/Pages/default.aspx.



Rural Fire Chief Takes Leave of Absence to Serve International Fire Chiefs Association

Effective September, 2012, Fire Chief Hank Clemmensen of the Palatine Rural Fire Protection District took a one year leave of absence from his position with the District. During his leave of absence, Chief Clemmensen will serve as President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

Due to the Chief's leave, two long-time members, Jeff Dill and Scott Mohr, were promoted to the position of Assistant Chief. Rich May was promoted to the position of Deputy Chief and will serve as Acting Fire Chief during Chief Clemmensen's leave of absence.

The District also began sharing resources with the Rolling Meadows Fire Department this year. The Rolling Meadows Battalion Chief is due on all motor vehicle accidents, fire alarms and structure fires. In return, Assistant Chief Mohr is also serving as the Training Officer for Rolling Meadows and is stationed at Rolling Meadow's Station 16.

Chief Clemmensen is expected back on September 1, 2013. For additional information please contact Assistant Chief Jeff Dill at 847-991-8700 or by e-mail at jdill@prfpd.org.