



July/August 2018

# VILLAGE NEWS

## Electrical Aggregation Program

Following the passage of a March 2012 voter Referendum on electrical aggregation, the Village of Olympia Fields contracted with alternate retail suppliers to procure a lower cost power supply for resident and small commercial retail accounts. Over the past 6 years, the aggregation program produced real savings for Olympia Fields residents, but those savings have decreased to a level that ComEd rates or rates that are available directly to individual homeowners are equal to or better than the rates that the Village can negotiate.

- ⇒ In 2012 when the Village originally implemented the aggregation program, the supplier rate was 4.98 cents compared to the ComEd rate of 7.99 cents. This was a 3 cents per KW savings
- ⇒ The 2013 supplier rate was 4.98; ComEd rate was 5.89
- ⇒ The 2014 supplier rate was 7.40; ComEd rate was 7.48
- ⇒ The 2015 supplier rate was 6.52; ComEd rate was 7.15
- ⇒ The 2016 supplier rate was 6.26; ComEd rate was 6.26
- ⇒ The 2017 supplier rate was 6.53; ComEd rate was 7.25

The Village's current aggregation supplier rate is 6.53 until the end of September, the current ComEd rate is 7.25. At the end of the current term, they both are projected to increase.

- ◆ The new supplier 12 month term rate will be 7.36; the ComEd projected rate is 7.36
- ◆ The new supplier 24 month term rate will be 7.23; the ComEd rate is projected to decline over the next two to three years
- ◆ Since inception, the Village has added a civic contribution tax of .2 cents to .4 cents. The Village has chosen to end this practice
- ◆ Now that the savings gap has all but disappeared, the Village has determined that residents can enter into an agreement on their own with other suppliers for a rate lower than the ComEd rate or the supplier rate

offered to the Village. The Village's negotiating committee agreed that it would best serve our residents to allow them the option of shopping for a more competitive rate or return to ComEd

- ◆ Approximately half of our residents have already opted out of the aggregation program

The Village will suspend the program effective at the end of the current term, which is with the October 2018 ComEd meter readings.

Residents who are currently enrolled in the program **need do nothing**, they will be automatically switched back to the default ComEd supply service in October 2018. You will receive a "Confirmation of Drop" notice from ComEd in late September 2018, informing you of the upcoming switch.

If you wish to continue with an alternative electrical supplier, you may do so as an individual homeowner and get competitive rates and terms. Market electricity rates change hourly and can be locked-in for up to three years via online service aggregators.

The following website is a source for current electricity rates and terms: <https://electricityrates.com/>, when prompted, enter your Olympia Fields zip code, 60461.

Deregulation allows you to choose from a variety of retail electricity providers, much like how you shop around for a telephone or internet provider. When choosing an electricity supplier, the process is completely hassle-free. You will not have any service interruptions, your electricity will still be just as reliable as before, and your monthly bill will continue to arrive. If your power goes out, your utility company, ComEd, will still be the one to call. The only change will be under the supply section of your bill, there you will see the provider you selected and the rate you approved.



# How to Reduce Your Electric Bill: Home Energy Assessment

With the issuance of the August water bill, you will see a 10.6% reduction in residential water rates. This action was enacted at the May 14th Board meeting. In an effort to further reduce your utility expenses the Village of Olympia Fields is encouraging each home owner to take advantage of ComEd's Home Energy Assessment program.



a FREE energy assessment that includes free and discounted products for your home. ComEd has partnered with your natural gas utility to bring electric and natural gas savings to you.

Homeowners, call 1-855-433-2700 to schedule your Home Energy Assessment.

## What is a Home Energy Assessment?

The Home Energy Assessment is a free visual inspection that determines the ways you use energy in your home. An energy advisor will collect information about your home's energy use by taking a look at your heating system (e.g. furnace or boiler), cooling system (air conditioner), water heater and attic, if accessible.

The energy advisor will then provide you with personalized recommendations identifying additional ways to save ener-

gy and money. During the assessment, the energy advisor may install the following energy-saving products:

- ◆ ENERGY STAR® certified LEDs
- ◆ Programmable thermostats
- ◆ WaterSense® certified showerheads
- ◆ WaterSense certified faucet aerators for bathrooms and kitchens
- ◆ Hot water pipe insulation
- ◆ Advanced power strips\*

\* Advanced power strips are also available for free to eligible customers but will not be installed. Lite smart thermostats are available for purchase at a discount during the assessment and include FREE installation. Only smart thermostats purchased during the assessment are eligible for installation.

The average customer will save over \$100 a year on utility bills as a result of the energy-saving products installed during the assessment.

You'll also learn about other ways to save and other rebates offered by ComEd and your local natural gas utility. Individual cost savings are not guaranteed and may vary based on weather, usage habits and energy and utility charges.

For more information visit ComEd's website at [ComEd.com/Homesavings](http://ComEd.com/Homesavings)

To schedule your Home Energy Assessment call 1-855-433-2700 for an appointment.



## Be Aware: All Contractors Must be Licensed to Work on Your Property

In the last newsletter we provided information about building permits and the type of projects that require a building permit. This article will focus on the requirements for contractors to be licensed in the Village of Olympia Fields.

It is unlawful for any person to engage in business in the Village as a building contractor or general building contractor without first having obtained a license from the Village. In order for a contractor to receive a license to work in the Village, the contractor must complete an application and provide the Village with proof of insurance coverage which the applicant agrees to keep in force throughout the period to be covered by the license.

The insurance coverage must include worker's compensation, public liability for personal injury or death, property damage and vehicle coverage, listing the insuring company's policy number, amount of coverage and expiration date.

Minimum limits of insurance shall be as required by law for worker's compensation, five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) for general liability and fifty thousand dollars

(\$50,000.00) property damage for both public liability and vehicle coverage, and the Village shall be named as additional insured on said policy. Written evidence shall be submitted to the Village prior to the issuance of any contractor's license.

If you are having a construction project done at your home this summer and you want to make sure that everything is in order with a contractor that claims to be licensed in the Village, please do not hesitate to call the Building Department (708) 503-8000, or stop by Village Hall at 20040 Governors Highway to confirm.



## Citizens Police Academy

The Olympia Fields Police Department will host a six-week Citizens Police Academy from August 16<sup>th</sup> through September 20<sup>th</sup>. The classes will be held once a week on Thursday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and will consist of discussions and hands-on training. Some areas of instruction may include: General Procedures, Traffic Enforcement, Use of Force and What Happens When You Call 911.

The mission of the Olympia Fields Citizen Police Academy is to foster a strong and effective relationship between the Police Department and the Olympia Fields community. The Citizens Police Academy will accomplish this mission by educating and training our community members through direct interaction and experience with the Police Department.

Applicants will be subject to a background check and will be informed in writing as to whether they have been accepted, denied, or placed on a waiting list for a future class. Classes and schedule are subject to change.

Requirements to participate in the program are:

- ◆ Must be at least 18 years of age
- ◆ Must be a resident, business owner or work in the Village of Olympia Fields
- ◆ Must pass a simple background investigation. Applicants must have no felony convictions or serious misdemeanor convictions
- ◆ Must be able to attend the majority of scheduled classes

Applications will be available on the Village's website and at the police lobby window beginning Monday, July 16<sup>th</sup>.

## National Night Out August 7th

Come and join the Olympia Fields Police Department as they celebrate National Night Out with an open house on August 7th from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Enjoy music, games, prizes, food and more!

National Night Out enhances the relationship between law enforcement and neighbors while bringing back a great opportunity to bring our community and police together under positive interactions.

More information about the event is available at 708-503-8100.



# Garbage Cans—Let's Keep a Lid On It and Keep It Out of Sight

The residents of Olympia Fields take great pride in their homes, surrounding property and neighborhoods. That is why the Village encourages and maintains a high quality property maintenance program. By insuring these standards are met and maintained, we promote the stability of our property values.

One way to keep the focus on our beautiful homes, and manicured lawns in our Village is to follow these simple rules for garbage placement and garbage containers storage.

- ♦ Except for days of pick-up, refuse containers and garbage containers shall be stored in an area on the owner's property which is not visible from the public street.
- ♦ During the months of the year on Central Standard Time, refuse containers and garbage containers shall not be placed upon any village street or sidewalk or on any village property for pickup prior to 4:00 p.m. on the evening before the assigned pickup day for the particular area of the village and all such aforementioned refuse containers and garbage containers shall be removed and placed back upon private property by 6:00 p.m. on the day of the pickup assignment.

♦ During the months of the year on Daylight Savings Time, refuse containers and garbage containers shall not be placed upon any village street or sidewalk or on any village property for pickup prior to 6:00 p.m. on the evening before the assigned pickup day for the particular area of the village and all such aforementioned refuse containers and garbage containers shall be removed and placed back upon private property by 6:00 p.m. on the day of the pickup assignment.

♦ Garbage containers shall be kept closed tightly except during the collection or deposit of garbage or refuse. The contents of all containers shall be so protected that the wind cannot blow out or scatter debris over the streets and premises of the village.



If we work together and follow these simple guidelines we secure our investments.

## Best of the Best Summer Landscaping

The Olympia Fields Beautification Committee is proud to announce this year's Summer Landscape Award Program winners.

The top three residential winners are:

- ♦ 1st Place, 20311 Harding from Original Village HOA
- ♦ 2nd Place, 209 Wysteria from Wysteria HOA
- ♦ 3rd Place, 16 Graymoor from Graymoor HOA
- ♦ Business Winner: Davis Staffing

Each Homeowners Association selects 3 to 6 homes to represent their association and the top three homes from each Association is judged by the Beautification Committee to select the Village-wide winners. The top three winners will be presented with gift certificates at an upcoming Board of Trustees meeting.

## Discover Your Unclaimed Property

The State Treasurer is holding 2.9 billion dollars in unclaimed funds for Illinoisans. The State holds these lost funds until they are claimed by either the original owner or their heirs. Property is returned at no cost with the proper identification.

Unclaimed property consists of accounts and other financial instruments, usually intangible, being held at corporations, financial institutions, financial intermediaries, courts, and life insurance companies, that have gone dormant for a specified period of time based on property type.

Common types of unclaimed property include: checking and savings accounts, uncashed wage and payroll checks, uncashed stock dividends and stock certificates, insurance payments, utility deposits, customer deposits, accounts payable, credit balances, refund checks, money orders, traveler's checks, mineral proceeds, court deposits, uncashed death benefit checks and life insurance proceeds. Unclaimed property does not include real estate or vehicles.

How do you find out if you have unclaimed property? Search your name in the online I-Cash database at [www.illinoistreasurer.gov](http://www.illinoistreasurer.gov).

