

Huntley's Village Journal

March 15, 2016

Village of Huntley
10987 Main Street
Huntley, IL 60142

Village President
Charles H. Sass

Trustees
Ronda Goldman
Tim Hoeft
Niko Kanakaris
Harry Leopold
John Piwko
JR Westberg

Village Manager
David Johnson

Important Village Phone Numbers

Village Hall:
(847) 515-5200

Water Billing:
(847) 515-5200

Public Works:
(847) 515-5222

Development Services:
(847) 515-5252

Police non-emergency:
(847) 515-5311

Police emergency dial 911

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HUNTLEY
The Friendly Village
with Country Charm

New Rules on Electronic Recycling... ...and what you can now throw away



Changes in Electronic Collection

Changes have been made in the State of Illinois as to which electronic items must be recycled and which items can now be thrown away with your household garbage.

There are 17 specific electronic items BANNED from landfills in Illinois and must be recycled. The following items must be recycled and are the only items to be accepted as part of the Village's electronics recycling event program: Cable Receivers, Computers (desktop, laptop, notebook & tablet), Digital Converter Boxes, Digital Video Disc Players, Digital Video Disc Recorders, Electronic Keyboards, Electronic Mice, Facsimile Machines, Monitors, Portable Digital Music Players, Printers, Satellite Receivers, Scanners, Small Scale Servers, Televisions, Videocassette Recorders, and Video Game Consoles.

All other electronic or electric items may be collected at the curb with your regular household garbage. These items are not banned from the landfill and must now go in the trash. If the item does not fit in your garbage can, they may be placed next to your garbage can and will be considered your bulk item. Waste Management (Sun City residents) allows one (1) bulk item/week. MDC Environmental Services (Residents within the Village limits) has unlimited bulk pickup/week. *Please note: Large household appliances/white goods (washing machines, dryers, & refrigerators, etc.) may be collected at the curb when it is pre-arranged with your waste hauler for an additional fee.*

Save the date! GREEN & CLEAN HUNTLEY DAY - Saturday, April 23rd Complete information on Green & Clean Day and specifics on the new electronic waste rules can be found on our home page: www.huntley.il.us

Scrutinize Direct Mail Offers Wisely

The Village recently received information about a letter from HomeServe USA, a Connecticut-based company, which is conducting a direct mail solicitation effort to sell private water line insurance to residents and businesses. In Huntley, home and business owners are responsible for all repairs to their water service from their property to the service line valve (usually found in the front yard or parkway). Residents and business owners may receive a letter from HomeServe USA regarding the specifics of their water line repair coverage contract. The Village advises all home and business owners who receive this sales letter to be wary. When assessing any product or service coverage warranty, the consumer should consider the failure rate of what is being insured. According to repair industry experts, the average cost to repair a private service line is roughly \$2,000 - \$2,500 which in many instances may be covered by the home or business owner's insurance policy. For additional information on consumer protection matters, visit the Illinois State Attorney General's home page at www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/consumers. A decision to conduct business with HomeServe USA is an individual matter. The Village IS NOT in partnership with the company nor does it endorse its service.

Mark Your Calendars

Mar 25	Spring Holiday Municipal offices closed
Apr 2	Farmers Market - Legion Hall
Apr 4	MDC - weekly yard waste begins
Apr 11-22	Hydrant flushing
Apr 23	Green & Clean Huntley Day
May 2	Branch pickup (north of Kreutzer)
May 9	Branch pickup (Sun City)

Downtown Updates

The Village recently completed construction of the Downtown Streetscape Improvements, a \$4.6 million investment in the community. Improvements have been made to create a more pedestrian-friendly atmosphere in the downtown.

Landscaping work is currently underway to beautify the Town Square. This includes new plantings, brick paver renovations, and new benches. A large clock will be located at the west end of the Square, and the new Veterans Memorial Project will be installed at the east end.

Recent challenges faced in the downtown include oversized truck traffic traveling through that cause traffic disruptions and have the potential for damaging the newly installed parkway improvements.

To improve traffic flow as well as safety for both pedestrians and motorists, the Village has taken steps to limit large truck traffic through this area. Downtown streets are posted for "No Truck Traffic Except Local Deliveries" and "Weight Limit 6 Tons." This will allow businesses within the downtown to receive necessary deliveries, while reducing the flow-through traffic to areas south and east of downtown. The restricted area can be bypassed by designated Class II truck routes and other preferred local roadways.

Fixing Toilet Leaks & More Water Saving Tips

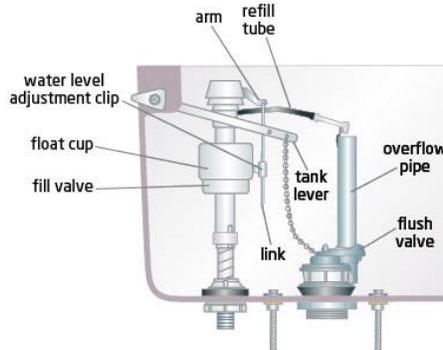
A silent leak in your toilet can waste several thousand gallons of high quality water each year and place unnecessary demands on your sewer system or septic tank. Usually you cannot hear the leak because it runs slowly out of the tank. A leaking toilet is a THIEF!

How can you discover if your toilet leaks?

1 - Lift off the lid from your toilet tank **2** - Place three or four drops of ordinary food coloring in the toilet tank. (Note: DO NOT USE DYE – IT COULD STAIN) **3** - Do not flush or otherwise disturb the toilet for one or two hours or longer **4** - At the end of the waiting period, observe the toilet bowl. If the color you placed in the tank shows up in the bowl, you have a leak.

How do you fix a leaking toilet?

Most frequently, leaks in toilets are caused by a defective flush valve. A flush valve is a flap or ball plunger device that is supposed to act as a stopper in the bottom of your toilet tank. After several years and many flushes, the stopper can be knocked out of shape or simply worn out. To make sure your toilet is in good working order and to save water, see your hardware dealer or plumber and obtain an inexpensive and easy to install replacement valve or complete replacement kit.



Try these other water saving tips!

- ▶ If washing dishes by hand, fill the sink with water rather than continually running the tap. Only wash full loads of dishes in the dishwasher.
- ▶ Avoid using running water to thaw frozen foods. Instead, defrost in the refrigerator overnight or thaw in microwave.
- ▶ Install efficient faucets and/or faucet aerators
- ▶ Turn off the faucet when lathering hands, shaving, or brushing teeth.
- ▶ Find and fix any leaky faucets. A faucet leaking 60 drops per minute will waste 192 gallons per month. That is equal to 2,304 gallons per year. Please use water wisely and conserve for everyone's benefit.

Prevent Sewer Backups

Flushable wipes aren't really flushable. While toilet paper disintegrates quickly, other products that are often labeled as "flushable" do not break down enough to properly flow through sanitary sewers and can cause problems for pumps and equipment at wastewater treatment plants. Wipes can clog within the municipal sewer system and in private plumbing systems leading to increased maintenance, sewer back-ups and expensive repairs. Village crews are spending a tremendous amount of resources collecting and discarding debris caught in our sewer system and pump stations — and a main culprit is flushable wipes. So please don't flush any wipes in the toilet, even if they are labeled "flushable". Visit www.youtube.com and search "Water Environment Federation Will It Flush" to view the video that demonstrates how several common household objects fail to break down in laboratory testing.



Backflow Testing Program

The Village of Huntley has been offering residential backflow preventer testing since establishment of the program in 2011. 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 Village's testing program allows residents to have their backflow preventers tested by the Village's Development Services Department for the cost of \$65 for one, and \$85 for both fire and lawn irrigation devices tested at the same address and on the same day. This is an increase from previous years and is the first increase since the program was established five years ago. It should be noted that 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.

The annual testing of backflow devices is required by the Village, State and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). An approved cross connection inspector is required to conduct the annual test using calibrated gauge equipment to ensure the device is working properly.

Electric Aggregation Rate Update

Since the beginning of the Village's Electric Aggregation program through the Northern Illinois Electric Aggregation Consortium (NIGEAC) in 2012, this program has saved the average Huntley homeowner a cumulative amount of approximately \$500 over the three and one-half years of the program. Village wide, a savings of over \$3.5 million has been realized for program participants.

The chart to the right shows a year-by-year comparison of the Village's rate and the ComEd rate.

During the last seven (7) months since Constellation became the supplier for the Village's program, commodity rates, including electricity, have significantly decreased. The rate that program participants are paying Constellation is 6.89 cents per kWh, while the ComEd rate for March 2016 is 6.63 cents per kWh. With this being the case, you may wish to compare rates for ComEd and all the electric suppliers. To do this, go to Plug in Illinois (link below) and review the Price to Compare Section. If you wish to discontinue electric supply with Constellation (there is no charge to exit the program), contact Constellation Energy at 1-844-257-8244 and tell them you want to opt-out of the Northern Illinois Electric Aggregation Consortium (NIGEAC) Huntley Program. The Village's energy consultant continues to closely monitor recent decisions made by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the U.S. Supreme Court regarding capacity cost increases that may impact program participants. As new information becomes available, the Village will provide it to program participants. www.pluginillinois.org

NIGEAC (Village of Huntley) / ComEd
Price to Compare Yearly Average

