



VILLAGE CONNECTIONS

Newsletter of Arlington Heights, IL

Embracing a Culture of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

As part of the Village’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiative, the Kaleidoscope Group, a consulting firm with 30 years of experience, was hired by the Village Board in September to work on a Village Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity audit and plan. The Kaleidoscope Group’s role is to provide the Village with recommendations, best practices and strategies for this important effort. The Chicago-based consultant is recognized as one of the top 10 pioneers in the DEI industry.

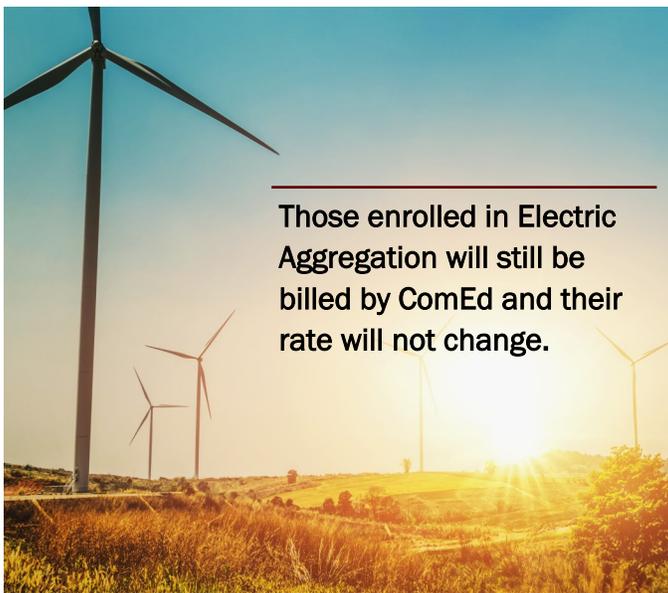


The consultant is hosting two virtual Community Listening Sessions on October 14th and 21st at 7 p.m. The purpose of these sessions, which are already filled with residents and business people who registered on a first-come, first-served basis, is to gain insight about the needs and interests of members of our community as it relates to diversity, equity and inclusion in Arlington Heights.

Another Community Listening Session may be added if the consultant finds it necessary. A larger, virtual Town Hall meeting will be

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Renewable Electrical Aggregation Program Launches



Those enrolled in Electric Aggregation will still be billed by ComEd and their rate will not change.

Residents and small businesses eligible for the Village’s Electric Aggregation program, offered through the Village’s electric aggregation supplier MC Squared Energy Services, will receive a letter in mid-October announcing that they are enrolled in the renewable/green energy program. Those automatically enrolled in the program are users that meet a certain level of usage. **Those enrolled in the Electric Aggregation program will still be billed by ComEd and their rate will not change.**

If you are enrolled in the Village’s aggregation program, the change to the renewable/green energy supplier is effective after your December billing cycle and will run through 2023. The only thing that will change with the new program is that your electric supply will come from a green energy supplier. Those in the program will be able to **opt out by November 3**, or they can cancel

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Message from Mayor Hayes



As our community continues to navigate the coronavirus pandemic, I am grateful to our residents and businesses for rising to this tough challenge and for doing your part in following health guidelines to help protect yourselves, your families and our community from the COVID-19 virus. The Village is here to help both residents and businesses during this time and more

information can be found on our [COVID-19 resources](#) website page.

COVID-19 has caused all of us to think creatively in terms of bringing back some semblance of normalcy while keeping ourselves safe from the virus. One creative program that emerged was Arlington Alfresco, which provides residents a fun and safe way to dine outdoors while giving restaurants an opportunity to serve more people amid the COVID-19 restrictions placed upon them.

Due to its popularity, the outdoor dining program has been extended until November 2 or when the first snowfall arrives, whichever occurs first. We appreciate everyone's patience as we worked out the kinks of the Arlington Alfresco program and we thank everyone who participated and made this a great success. Ideas are being further explored on bringing Arlington Alfresco back next spring and in what capacity, etc.

The economic strain of COVID-19 not only affects our local businesses, but it also has had a clear impact on municipal revenues. The Village's sales tax revenue is a significant source of money for the Village. Based on recent financial studies and projections done by Village Staff, it is anticipated that the 2021 proposed budget will show a modest deficit in our General Fund. This fund primarily includes the core administrative and operational tasks of the Village with 81% of its expenditures dedicated to personnel costs.

Thankfully, due to prudent budget practices, the Village has healthy reserves to help weather extraordinary events like those we are currently experiencing. The strong financial condition of the Village enables staff to propose a Village Budget that includes a zero percent property tax increase while including a small deficit in the General Fund. The budget will be reviewed by the Village Board at virtual meetings held at 7 p.m. on November 9th and 10th. Check the [agendas and minutes page](#) of the website for agendas that are posted on the Friday prior to the scheduled meetings.

In other Village news, the Village Board recently took steps toward a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiative by hiring a consultant to work with us to ensure the Village is doing all it can do to be a welcoming and inclusive place for all. The consultant's work will look at optimizing the Village's sense of belongingness, outreach, engagement and inclusiveness for all members of the community and Village employees.

While the coronavirus has led to the cancellation of many events, the Village and Arlington Heights Park District are working together to keep our traditional Tree Lighting celebration by hosting a virtual Tree Lighting ceremony later in November. Watch our website and social media platforms for more information.

In closing, I would like to emphasize that the Village is here to help residents and businesses through this difficult time. I hope everyone can find a way to enjoy the upcoming holiday season safely with families and friends.

Sincerely,

Mayor, Tom Hayes

Sign Up For Arlington Alert!

Get alerts for emergencies and other important community messages by signing up for the Arlington Alert program. You can choose to receive alerts via text, email, a call on your cell phone, etc. In addition to important community messages, you can also choose to receive community notifications about garbage pickup, winter operations and other matters of interest to you.

[Click here](#) to sign up.

Trick or Treat Hours & Safety Guidelines

The Village understands not everyone may feel comfortable with Trick or Treating this year due to the health concerns of COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has released Halloween guidelines stating that traditional door-to-door Trick or Treating is considered a high-risk activity for spreading viruses. The decision whether to participate in Trick or Treating is up to each household.

Recommended Trick or Treating hours in the Village will be from 3 – 7 p.m. on Saturday, October 31. Those who choose to participate in Trick or Treat are strongly encouraged to follow the CDC's recommended safety guidelines listed below to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Households participating in Trick or Treating are asked to turn on their porch/outdoor lights during the recommended hours. Households not interested in participating should consider turning off their porch light or minimizing exterior lighting so trick or treaters know not to visit your home.

We ask everyone to be a Good Neighbor and to please be respectful of others and their decisions to participate or not participate in Trick or Treating this year.

Safety Guidelines

- Those going door-to-door are encouraged to wear face coverings at all times. Per the CDC, a Halloween costume mask is not a substitute for a cloth mask or face covering. A costume mask can be used if it is made of two or more layers of breathable fabric that covers the mouth and nose. Consider wearing a Halloween-themed cloth mask.
- Individuals passing out candy are encouraged to wear face coverings and gloves and are asked to pass out candy individually instead of inviting children to take a treat from a communal container.
- Families participating in Trick-or-Treating activities are encouraged to maintain a safe distance from other Trick-or-Treating groups and to wait to approach a house until the previous group has left.

Consider Contactless Trick or Treating

As recommended by the CDC, families may consider participating in one-way Trick or Treating, in which individually wrapped goodie/treat bags are lined up for families to grab and go while continuing to social distance (such as at the end of a driveway or at the edge of a yard).

If you prepare goodie/treat bags, wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before preparing the bags.



Embracing Diversity, continued from Page 1

held in December, which will include elected officials from the Village and other governmental agencies. Information on the December Town Hall meeting will be forthcoming. In addition, the consultant will be meeting with Village officials, internal leadership and staff.

The DEI initiative is very important to the Village and that is why, since 2019, the Village Board has included "Finding new ways to embrace diversity within the community and Village Government" as part of its Strategic Priorities. To achieve this goal, the Kaleidoscope Group will be gathering insights and information through meetings held as well as reviewing the community's demographics and current Village practices. Information gathered from meetings and other data collected will help the consultant provide solutions and recommendations for the Village that will support an inclusive culture and safe environment for our community.

Village Blood Drive, November 4

Join in helping others through the Village Blood Drive held November 4. Due to COVID-19, the blood drive will be held at the Vitalant/Lifesource location in Arlington Heights (by Trader Joe's in the Arlington Annex shopping center). Residents interested in joining the Village to help support those in need of blood products should call 847.368.5760 to schedule your appointment.

Because of social distancing requirements, it's not possible to accommodate walk-in donors. However, if you are unable to schedule a blood donation on November 4, your participation in the Village Blood Drive can be accommodated on a different day that works for you. Please consider participating!



Aggregation continued from page 1

participation in the program at any time without an additional charge. Arlington Heights has been involved in the electric aggregation program since the approval of a 2012 referendum which enables the Village to procure electric supply in bulk from an alternative green energy supplier. MC Squared was chosen as the new electric aggregation supplier through a bidding process.

Users of the renewable/green energy program, will never pay more than the ComEd rate. The Village only seeks an electric aggregation supplier whenever pricing for green energy is favorable to the ComEd rate. ComEd will still distribute the electricity, handle service and repair needs and manage billing services.

Program Benefits

- 100% of power consumed will be "green" energy produced by Midwest located wind generation facilities.
- Guaranteed to be charged the ComEd rate, with no risk of paying more than ComEd.
- No hidden fees, no additional monthly fee.
- Maximum flexibility to join or leave the program, and never an enrollment or switch fee.
- Supplier provides a Civic Grant /reserve fund to the Village at no increased cost. This fund allows the Village to plan green energy projects that benefit the entire community.

If residents and small businesses enrolled in the green energy program wish to opt out, please contact MC Squared Energy Services by **November 3** by filling out the Opt Out card that has been provided with your letter, or opt out sending an email to MC Squared at ArlingtonHeights@mc2energyservices.com or by calling 833-748-0914, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Soliciting

MC Squared is the only green energy provider endorsed by the Village of Arlington Heights. No one from MC Squared, ComEd, or the Village will ever visit your home or call you to enroll. If a solicitor claims to be the Village supplier, MC Squared, or ComEd, please take their information and report the incident to the [Illinois Commerce Commission](#).

For more information on the benefits of the program and how to opt out, refer to our [website page](#) on Electric Aggregation.

Early Voting Starts October 19 for Presidential Election

Early Voting hours at Village Hall will begin October 19 for the November 3 Presidential Election. A Ballot Drop Box will also be available inside of Village Hall during Early Voting hours only for those who have opted to vote by mail.

Whether participating in Early Voting or dropping off a Mail Ballot, **voters will start lining up outside in the front plaza of Village Hall (near the three flag poles)**. Village Hall is located at 33 S. Arlington Heights Road and the front of the building faces Sigwalt Street.

Early Voting Hours

First week: October 19 - 24:

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Saturday (October 24): 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Second week/final Monday:

October 25 - November 2

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday(s): 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Final Monday (November 2): 8:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.

New Entrance for Voting

Enter Village Hall from Sigwalt Street. In-person voters will be directed to an entrance on the side of Village Hall and those dropping off Mail Ballots will enter Village Hall through the front doors. Voters are to adhere with the COVID-19 guidelines of wearing a face mask and maintaining social distancing of 6-feet from people who do not reside in the same household. You will not be allowed into the voting room until the machine has been sanitized and is ready for you.

Where to Park

Voters are to park in the commuter parking lot at Sigwalt Street and Arlington Heights Road, across from Village Hall. Parking citations will not be given to voters who park in the lot and may exceed the posted parking time allowed.

Drop Box for Absentee Voters

A Ballot Drop Box for Mail Ballots will be located just inside the front entrance of Village Hall. It can only be accessed during Early Voting hours. To learn of other Cook County locations for the Ballot Drop Box, please [click here to find other locations](#) and to view frequently asked questions regarding Mail Ballot Drop Boxes.

Voter and Mail Ballot Status

To check on your mail in ballot, update your address or find your polling place, visit the [Cook County Clerk's website](#).



VILLAGE CONTACTS



Village of Arlington Heights

33 S. Arlington Heights Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60005
www.vah.com

Village Hall Hours
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday through Friday

Visit our [Contact Us](#) page on our website.

Village Hall	847.368.5000
Village Manager	847.368.5100
Building & Life Safety	847.368.5560
Fire	847.368.5450
Finance	847.368.5500
Health & Human Services	847.368.5760
Human Resources	847.368.5161
Legal	847.368.5700
Police	847.368.5300
Public Works	847.368.5800
Engineering Division	847.368.5250
Planning & Community Development	847.368.5200
Senior Center	847.253.5532

For Police and Fire services, please call 911.

Arlington Heights Village Board

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2021 Hearts of Gold Nominations



Nominate someone for the annual Hearts of Gold Award Program, which recognizes people in our community for the special things they do! An award nomination is a great way to show appreciation for those who make a difference in our community, neighborhood, schools and businesses.

Nominations are easy to do using the online [nomination form](#). The deadline for nominations is 5 p.m., Friday, October 30.

We all know everyday heroes who quietly go about making our community a better place for all of us. The annual Special Events Commission's Hearts of Gold Awards program is your chance to honor these people!

For nominations, it is required that the individual or group nominated lives or works in Arlington Heights. Also, members of the Village Board, candidates for the Village Board or members of the Special Events Commission can not be nominated. The Hearts of Gold has 11 nomination categories, giving you the opportunity to nominate a great neighbor, teacher, volunteer, a young person, a hero, a business leader, a senior citizen and more!

Watch For It!

Virtual Tree Lighting Ceremony

The annual Tree Lighting event in North School Park, which has become a longstanding tradition for families in our community, will be presented to the public virtually this year as a way to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

The Village's Special Events Commission and the Arlington Heights Park District are working together in creating a unique virtual Tree Lighting experience that will capture the excitement of the holiday season in Arlington Heights! The virtual Tree Lighting will be shown during the week of Thanksgiving.

Families can still enjoy an in-person visit to North School Park which will be fully decorated as in previous years. Harmony Park in Downtown will also be festively decorated and parkway trees in Downtown and along major thoroughfares will be adorned with white lights.

Watch the Village and Arlington Heights Park District websites and social media platforms for more information on when to tune in and watch the Virtual Tree Lighting Ceremony!