

# Village of Mokena, Illinois Newsletter

Mokena e-News

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## You're Invited

Chances are, you've heard a lot about electrical aggregation lately.

But what really is it, and why is there a referendum question related to it on the March 20 ballot?

If you're one of those folks that's been asking those questions, we hope you'll come out to the Mokena Park District administration building (10925 LaPorte Road) next Tuesday evening for a brief presentation and the opportunity to interact with and ask questions of your Village of Mokena staff.

The presentation will begin at 7 p.m., followed directly afterwards by a question and answer period.

Hope to see you there!

## ***POWER BID GENERATES SAVINGS FOR WATER, SEWER SERVICES***

In spite of uncontrollable factors such as the City of Chicago's imposition of annual rate hikes on Lake Michigan water, your Mokena Village Board is finding ways to soften the financial impact on your monthly water and sewer bill.

On February 13, the Board reaffirmed its commitment to buying electricity for Village operations through the Northern Illinois Municipal Electric Cooperative (NIMEC), authorizing the cooperative to negotiate and bid for the Village's water and sewer operations electric supply on the open market.

On the very next day--February 14--NIMEC took the Village's electric supply package

to market.

Thanks to good timing and a highly positive bid outcome, the Village was able to lock in a new rate with Exelon that should generate savings of minimally \$50K over the next year to partially offset the effect of Chicago's price increases.

The Village has been bidding your power supply for water and sewer operations with NIMEC since 2006. Savings achieved through this bidding process have been used on an ongoing basis to assist in controlling the amount you pay for water and sewer services every month.



## *BOARD RESPONDS TO DEVELOPMENT UPTICK*

With development activity beginning to rise, your Village Board took action Monday evening to ensure we are positioned as a community to proactively attract and retain business.

As with past decisions directly connected to development activity, the Board's action addressed ever-changing customer demands created by an uncertain economy.

When the recession took hold several years ago, three full-time community development staff positions were eliminated, with personnel costs being cut by approximately \$225K. This "right-sizing" was an appropriate response at a time when building and economic development activity had slowed to a standstill.

More recently, a brighter horizon has been beginning to emerge for economic development. To proactively reposition itself and take advantage of new growth opportunities, action was again taken by your Board Monday evening. The Board created a new position to assume all of the increasing responsibilities related to building inspection/field services, and filled it with an existing employee. The new position of Building and Planning Specialist was created without increasing the overall number of staff members. This action releases capacity for the Economic and Community Development Director to pursue economic development activities right at a time when the local economy is beginning to recover.

This retooling also achieves another priority of your Village Board. It provides for the retention, development, and maximization of your existing human resources and talents without adding more employees to the payroll--"more service and less institution".



## *ELECTRICAL AGGREGATION AND THE MARCH 20 REFERENDUM*

At its regular meeting Monday evening, the Mokena Village Board hosted the second of four "public discussion" segments focused on electrical aggregation and the March 20 referendum.

Monday's discussion followed up on the January 23 segment and centered on a few

commonly asked questions and answers relative to the referendum.

Want to view both of these public discussions back-to-back? Simply click on the link below to go to the Village's Online Videos web page. Once there, scroll down to the "Community Events" section and click on the "Video" link for "Public Discussion - Electrical Aggregation".

Have a question regarding electrical aggregation and the March 20 referendum not answered in the video, or on the Village's website? Click on the link at the bottom of this edition of Mokena e-News and e-mail us your query, or call and talk to Lou Tiberi or Kirk Zoellner at (708) 479-3900.

We'll be back later this month with more. In the meantime, we encourage you to attend the public forum scheduled for next Tuesday, February 21, at 7 p.m. at the Mokena Park District, 10925 LaPorte Road.

[Public Discussion - Electrical Aggregation](#)



### ***CRIME MAPPING TOOL PROVING USEFUL, POPULAR***

The new crime mapping tool launched just last month by the Mokena Police Department is drawing a lot of attention from Mokena residents and surrounding communities.

And well it should.

The new tool, CrimeReports, is a web-based software program that uses icons to identify crimes, such as burglary or disorderly conduct, and superimposes them on a Google map to show the general area where the incident occurred.

Besides keeping you informed, the mapped information has been helping police officers get a picture of what's going on in various parts of the community. Some of you have been using the site for other reasons, too, such as submitting tips or finding out about registered sex offenders.

If you're not already tuned in to CrimeReports, you can access it from a link in the left-hand column of the Village of Mokena website's home page ([www.mokena.org](http://www.mokena.org)). Check it out now by simply clicking on the link below.

Interested in receiving regular updates on police activity in the Mokena area? Just click on the "Join CrimeReports today" link in the upper right-hand corner of the CrimeReports home page where you can register and select your subscription options. By registering, you additionally have the option of receiving emergency messages which may be sent by the Mokena Police Department from time to time.

[CrimeReports](#)



### ***FUNDRAISER SET FOR U.S. MARINE JOHN CONRATH***

Every now and again a time comes when we have the opportunity to help out those

that have already done so much to help us.

That time is Saturday, February 25, when a special fundraising event for U.S. Marine John Conrath is being held at the William F. Martin VFW Hall, 19852 Wolf Road, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Many of you know Mr. Conrath for the instrumental role he's played in helping conduct numerous Welcome Home escorts and fundraising events for our local veterans returning from active duty overseas.

Admission to the event, which will feature food, entertainment, a 50/50 drawing, and raffle prizes, is \$20 per person.

### Quick Links...

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- [Mokena Community Calendar](#)
- [Sign up for Mokena e-News!](#)
- [Ask a Question: Electrical aggregation - March 20 referendum](#)
- [Mayor Joe's Thoughts](#)
- [Electrical aggregation](#)
- [Public Forum - Electrical Aggregation](#)

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