



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
October 22, 2012

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Village to host informational meeting on electric aggregation

ELMWOOD PARK, IL -- The Village of Elmwood Park is hosting an informational meeting for residents interested in the upcoming referendum on electric aggregation. The meeting will take place at 6 p.m. on October 25 at the Parks and Recreation Center, 2 Conti Parkway. A representative from Commonwealth Edison will be present to provide information and answer questions.

Historically, families and small business owners have had virtually no choice in their provider of electricity, but under deregulation in Illinois, municipalities can negotiate cheaper bulk contracts on behalf of their entire communities. However, a voter referendum must be approved to authorize a town or village to take advantage of the law.

"We believe this is an important meeting for anyone who may have questions," Village President Pete Silvestri said. "We want voters to understand what's involved when they go to the polls on Election Day."

The next opportunity for residents to cast a vote on aggregation is the Nov. 6 election. If Elmwood Park voters approve the referendum, the Village would be allowed to receive bids from energy suppliers certified by the Illinois Commerce Commission.

Should the Village not receive a bid that achieves its stated goals, it has the right to remain with Commonwealth Edison. Furthermore, any resident may choose to opt out if they do not wish to participate in the aggregation and remain with ComEd. Last March, voters rejected a similar referendum by only a small margin.

"It is important to remember that no resident would be compelled to participate and the village would receive no revenues from the program," Silvestri said.

www.elmwoodpark.org.

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