



CALUMET CITY

# REVIEW

Spring 2013

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR MICHELLE



Mayor Michelle Markiewicz Qualkinbush

After a detailed selection process designed to get Calumet City residents the lowest electric rates on the market, the City Council selected national electric service provider HOMEFIELD ENERGY to provide electricity to residences and small businesses. Calumet City voters approved a referendum to allow our city government to negotiate lower electricity for all homeowners and small business owners on November 6, 2012.

Calumet City now joins over 350 municipalities in Illinois that have adopted the bulk purchase discount system (electric aggregation) and expects to see the electric bills of our residents drop an average of \$150 to \$300 per year.

As I have stated before, Commonwealth Edison (ComEd) still owns the transmission towers, the substations, the power lines, the repair trucks and will employ all

the repair crews. ComEd will still send you the monthly bill and collect your payments. The only difference would be in who supplies the electricity that buzzes along ComEd's lines into your homes at the best price.

If you choose not to take advantage of the lower prices offered by HOMEFIELD ENERGY, any customer can choose not to participate and ask to "opt out". That customer would continue to receive ComEd's rates. For more information, please check out the answers to the most Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on our website at [www.calumetcity.org](http://www.calumetcity.org).

Michelle Markiewicz Qualkinbush  
Mayor of Calumet City

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# SMILEY TOWER REPAINTED

## SMILEY TOWER TURNS PINK TO PROMOTE BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

In an effort to turn our most visible city landmark into a regional health awareness reminder, city officials agreed to have the Smiley Tower painted pink in order to promote breast cancer awareness and general health awareness. Every few years, the Smiley Tower needs to be inspected, resealed and repainted to help maintain the integrity of our water system, and the decision on the contract came just as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month was approaching in October.

Our project is a variation of the pink ribbon marketing campaign started in 1991 with the Susan G. Komen Foundation as part of its annual fundraising race. Adopted since then as the international symbol for supporting breast cancer victims and promoting breast cancer prevention education, the pink ribbon and pink theme has been successfully used as an awareness tool in televised national sports programs, corporate advertising and celebrity awards events.

Our city officials chose the new color and design as a reminder all who see the tower to educate themselves on the various strategies and lifestyle changes which can help them avoid breast cancer and live a longer and healthier life in general. For more information on how to prevent, detect and cope with breast cancer, please visit [NBCAM.com](http://NBCAM.com) as a general information resource.



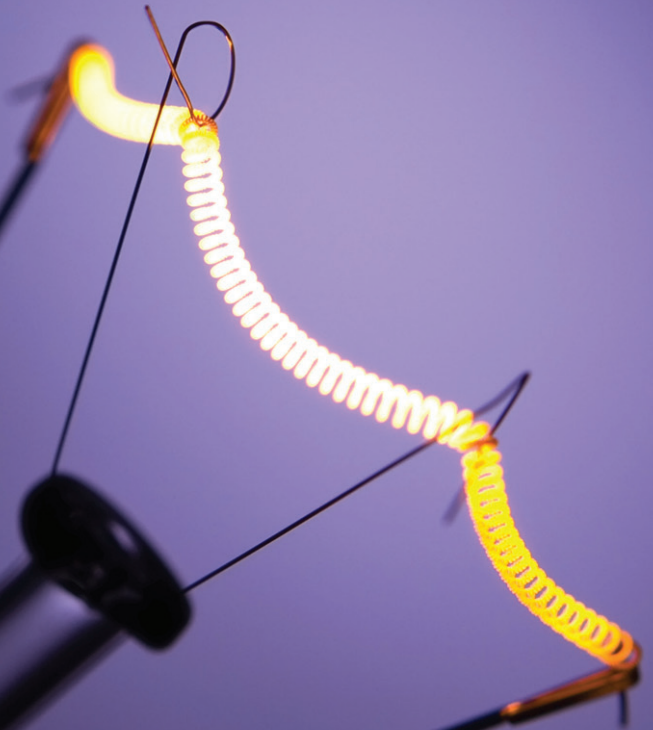
# ELECTRICAL AGGREGATION

## LOWER MONTHLY ELECTRIC BILLS ARE ON THE WAY !

Calumet City recently chose HOMEFIELD ENERGY as the bulk rate electric provider for Calumet City after a nationwide search. City officials created and advertised an official Request For Qualifications which solicited proposals and projected rates from corporate electric aggregation providers who are seeking to serve Calumet City residents for the next few years.

HOMEFIELD ENERGY is based in Illinois and is committed to providing safe and reliable service to all customers, focused on an environmentally conscious energy future, and giving back to the communities the company serves as both an electric provider and a natural gas provider. Regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, HOMEFIELD ENERGY has recently been chosen by over 120 communities as their electricity provider, including Peoria, Decatur and Carbondale.

The rate locked in by Calumet City through HOMEFIELD ENERGY for the next year is 4.948 cents per kilowatt hour, which is less than the current 8.324 (non space heat) and 6.473 (space heat) cents per kilowatt hour charged by Commonwealth Edison. Consequently, for the next year, average homeowners will see their electricity bills drop.



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CALUMET CITY



MICHELLE MARKIEWICZ QUALKINBUSH

"AN ILLINOIS CERTIFIED CITY"

RE: Electric Aggregation Program

Dear Calumet City Resident:

On November 6, 2012, the voters in Calumet City passed a referendum authorizing Calumet City to seek lower electricity rates for eligible residential and small commercial retail customers by establishing an "opt-out" electric aggregation program. After a thorough bid process Homefield Energy was chosen as your retail electric supplier. Homefield Energy is an independent seller of power and energy service and is certified as an Alternative Retail Electricity Supplier by the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC Docket No. 11-0673).

#### PROGRAM DETAILS

As an eligible participant, your account will be automatically enrolled in the program unless you choose to opt-out by March 1, 2013.

- There is no enrollment or switching fee.
- Your new price of **\$0.04948 per kWh** is guaranteed until June 2014.
- Your new electricity rate will be lower than the current ComEd default rate.
- Price will not change through this term.

ComEd's current non-summer price of \$0.08324 per kilowatt-hour for Non-Space Heat customers and \$0.06473 per kWh for Space Heat customers is called your "Price-to-Compare". A summer "Price-to-Compare" will be determined by May 2013. More information about your "Price-to-Compare" can be found at the Illinois Commerce Commission site:

<http://www.pluginillinois.org/FixedRateBreakdownComEd.aspx>.

#### NO CHANGES IN YOUR BILLING

You will continue to receive one monthly bill from ComEd. You will still be eligible for the same programs you are eligible for now through the utility, such as Budget Billing, payment agreements and energy efficiency programs. The only change will be in the Electric Supply price on your ComEd bill (<https://www.comed.com/customer-service/billing-payment/understand-bill/Pages/residential.aspx>).

#### ENROLLMENT PROCESS

Once your account is enrolled, you will receive a confirmation letter from ComEd confirming your "switch" to Homefield Energy. A sample "Switching" letter is included in this packet for your reference. Approximately 30 to 45 days after enrollment you will receive your first bill with your new Homefield Energy price. Please see the enclosed Terms and Conditions for additional information.

#### OPT-OUT INSTRUCTIONS

**If you choose not to participate, you can elect to be removed from the Program by completing and returning the enclosed Opt-Out Card by March 1, 2013.**

If you have questions or need additional information about Municipal Aggregation or Homefield Energy, please visit [www.homefieldenergy.com](http://www.homefieldenergy.com) for FAQs and community specific information. Homefield Energy Customer Care is available 8:00am to 7:00pm Monday through Friday at 866-694-1262 or via email at [CustCare@HomefieldEnergy.com](mailto:CustCare@HomefieldEnergy.com).

Sincerely,

Mayor Michelle Markiewicz Qualkinbush

See Reverse for Frequently Asked Questions....

# NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

The National Day of Service was created by Georgia Congressman John Lewis (an original Freedom Rider) and Pennsylvania Senator Harris Wofford. In addition to serving as proponents of the efforts to create the Martin Luther King Jr. national holiday, these legislators were determined to honor Dr. King by encouraging all admirers of Dr. King and his philosophy to honor his memory by improving their community through volunteer service. The ability of citizens to change their community through positive action is emphasized for one day, with the hope that citizens will continue to continue their efforts throughout their life for the benefit of their fellow man.

Mayor Michelle and the elected officials of Calumet City worked as a team to help spruce up the Caroline Sibley School with a new coat of paint and minor decorative improvements.



Magdalena J. "Leni" Wosczyński, Mayor Michelle Markiewicz Qualkinbush & Gerald A. "Gerry" Tarka



Magdalena J. "Leni" Wosczyński & Thaddeus Jones



Mayor Michelle Markiewicz Qualkinbush & City Clerk Nyota Figgs



Thaddeus Jones & Volunteers



Thaddeus Jones, Mayor Michelle Markiewicz Qualkinbush, City Clerk Nyota Figgs, Magdalena J. "Leni" Wosczyński, Darius Hogans & Gerald A. "Gerry" Tarka

# FLOODING DAMAGE PREVENTION

## CALUMET CITY'S FLOOD HAZARD

Although the Grand Calumet River flows along the northern boundary of Calumet City, it does not overflow and cause flooding problems. However, the Little Calumet River has a history of overflowing its banks causing drainage problems and sewer backups.

Due to a drought last year, flooding has not been a threat, but as the east coast Hurricane Sandy proved in October, water related disasters can occur at any time and can cause enormous health and safety problems, economic interruption and billions in property damage.

The most recent severe floods in Calumet City occurred in 1981, 1982, 1990, 1996 and 2008. Despite the shoring of the Little Cal levee in the 1990's and the construction of the Deep Tunnel Thornton Reservoir, flooding always remains a threat to any river town like Calumet City.

In addition to the excess water overflowing the banks of the river, flooding can come from backed up sewers into the streets and in our homes and yards. Only when the rain subsides will it soak into the ground and flow freely through the sewer system again, however, there are some precautions to protect our families against the danger and hardship of rising waters:

Prevent flooding by keeping sewers and catch basin clear of leaves and debris.

Prevent loss of valuable papers, photographs and possessions by storing them in the attic.

Prevent economic loss by keeping receipts for expensive possessions and taking photographs

Prevent water damage by occasionally checking your sump pump to make sure it is operational.

DO NOT attempt to clear any water blockages near large drain pipes.

DO NOT drive through flooded streets where you cannot gauge the depth.

DO NOT go into a flooded basement or structure where there is live electricity.

DO NOT walk near downed power lines or electrical transformers under water.

Go online at [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) or tips on staying safe during and after a flood. Go online at FEMA to download information regarding flood damage prevention.

Call Inspectional Services at 708.891.8120 to find out if you are in the Flood Plain. Call your insurance company to see if you are being charged the correct rate. Call your insurance company to add sump pump failure and sewer backup coverage.

Calumet City has an **Overhead Sewer and Sump Pump Flood Assistance Rebate Program** for eligible homeowners looking for financial assistance to upgrade their flood control devices. Applications are available at the Inspectional Services Department at 708.891.8120.



# SENIOR PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

## SENIOR TAX EXEMPTIONS MUST BE RENEWED EVERY YEAR

To insure that our senior citizens have the lowest possible property tax bill, we are reminding any senior citizen who is a full or partial owner of their home to apply for the Senior Citizen Taxpayer Exemption included on the form below. This exemption must be filed every year with the Cook County Assessor's office in order for the Senior Citizen to receive the Equalized Assessed Value reduction which translates into a tax reduction benefit.

If you noticed that your property tax bill for 2012 was higher than usual, it may be that you forgot to apply for your senior exemption. If you did forget, and you were born prior to January 1, 1947, you should fill out the form below and send it in. If you already paid your property tax you will receive a refund of your overpayment. Any senior applying for the Senior Taxpayer Exemption will automatically be granted the standard Homeowner's Exemption.

**COOK COUNTY ASSESSOR**  
**JOSEPH BERRIOS**



COOK COUNTY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE  
118 NORTH CLARK STREET, CHICAGO, IL 60602  
PHONE: 312.443.7550  
WWW.COOKCOUNTYASSESSOR.COM

### 2012 TAXPAYER EXEMPTION APPLICATION

Property Index Number(s)

Owner / Taxpayer

Property Index Number(s)

Property Address

Daytime Phone Number

City

State

Zip

SAMPLE

### 2012 HOMEOWNER EXEMPTION

**You must include a copy of a recent property tax bill and a copy of one of the following valid forms of residency with this application: an Illinois Driver's License (both sides) OR an Illinois Identification (ID) Card.**

As owner of the above property, I hereby apply for the Homeowner Exemption. I affirm by signature that this property was occupied by its current or previous owner as a principal residence as of January 1, 2012. I understand that it is against the law to provide false information on this Homeowner Exemption application.

Applicant's Signature

Date

### 2012 SENIOR CITIZEN EXEMPTION

**You must include a copy of a recent property tax bill and a copy of one of the following valid forms of proof of age and residency with this application: an Illinois Driver's License(both sides) OR an Illinois Identification (ID) Card.**

**NOTE:** Individuals using forms indicating a different name must demonstrate a connection to the current name by including a copy of a marriage certificate or other supporting documents. Owners of Cooperative Apartments must also submit a copy of their Stock Certificate, Occupancy or Trust Agreement.

I affirm that I was born in **1947** or earlier, or my spouse was born in **1947** or earlier and myself or my spouse is liable for payment of the taxes and that this property was occupied by its current or previous owner as a principal residence.

Date of Occupancy

Date of Birth

Applicant's Signature

Date

SAMPLE

# NEW BRIGHTER STREETLIGHTS GRANT

## NEW BRIGHTER STREET LIGHTS WILL MAKE NEIGHBORHOOD SAFER

Calumet City will be applying for a grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), Calumet City plans to replace every old fashioned street light bulb with a new LED light bulb which burns 33% brighter. Brighter streets at night reduce the likelihood of crime, making it easier for residents to report suspicious behavior they see, make it easier for motorists to see residents in the roadway and make it easier to see objects on the sidewalk to avoid tripping.

LED lights (Light Emitting Diode) are light bulbs that fit easily into an electrical circuit, but unlike ordinary incandescent bulbs, they don't have a filament that will burn out and they don't get very hot. They are illuminated by the movement of electrons in a semiconductor material, and they last just as long as a standard transistor. The lifespan of an LED light surpasses the short life of an incandescent bulb by thousands of hours. LED's

are the same technology behind the reduction of televisions that are less than 2 inches thick, because the small LED lights replaced old incandescent tubes.

LED lights also use up to 50% less electricity than traditional light bulbs. As part of the state initiative to lower energy consumption by government entities, DCEO the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) has a grant program to partially reimburse municipalities for the cost of retrofitting their street, alley and building lights with more efficient light sources. The DCEO can reimburse a municipality for up to 75% of the project, with any additional cost being financed through the cost savings the municipalities retain through lower electric bill payments.

Calumet City hopes to have all the new LED light bulbs installed before Summer.





Nyota Figgs  
Calumet City Clerk  
708.891.8166



# CITY CLERK

nfiggs@calumetcity.org

It is my pleasure to present the winners of Calumet City 1st City Sticker Contest. The winners are:

- 1st Place—De'Janira Singleton
- 2nd Place—Nidia Trinidad
- 3rd Place—Michael Ashford

Again, I would like to thank ALL of the students who participated in the contest, and BMO Harris for co-sponsoring this event.

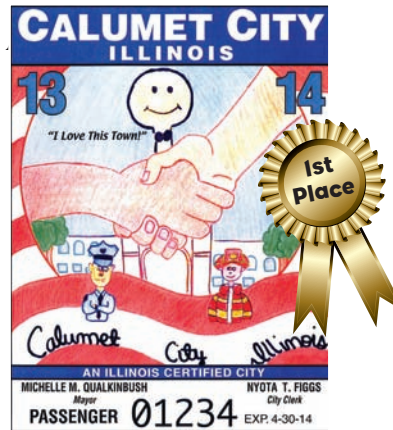
The winners along with all other participant are invited to the City Council Meeting on February 14, 2013 where they will be presented with a Resolution and prizes. The first place winner design will be displayed on the Vehicle sticker for the 2013-2014 year.

Thank you to the judging committee for making the very hard decision of choosing winners.

Congratulations again to ALL the winners!

Sincerely,

Nyota T. Figgs  
City Clerk



## RAIN BARREL RAFFLE

As I mentioned it is my goal to help Calumet City residents save money on their water bill by being conservative with water usage. The Rain Barrel Raffle is a way to encourage residents to engage in water conservation. If you would like to purchase a rain barrel, you may do so at [www.mwrdd.org](http://www.mwrdd.org). The cost is \$58, they come in a variety of colors, and they will deliver them to your home!!

Stop by City Clerk's office to enter the Rain Barrel Raffle for your chance to win a FREE Rain Barrel.

Special thanks to the children at Calumet Memorial Park District and staff that painted the rain barrels on display at the Clerk's office.

Don't hesitate to enter there will be winners in March, April, and May!



**In order to prevent frozen pipes, keep heat in your house no lower than 55 degrees. During really cold weather, run the cold water and let run at a trickle to keep the water in the pipes moving.**



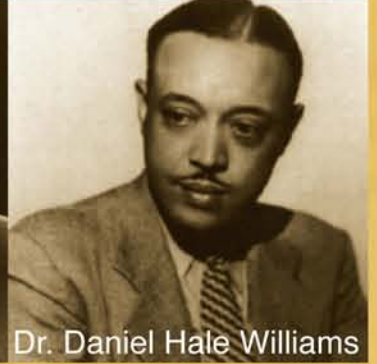
Dr. Mamie Phipps Clark



Dr. Maya Angelou



Dr. Ralph J. Bunche



Dr. Daniel Hale Williams

Dear Neighbor,

Calumet City is blessed with a rich cultural diversity. Our community is alive with proud traditions and customs of many people from many walks of life.

In February, our city recognized the historical contributions and achievements of prominent African Americans. These leaders affect the way we live our lives and our vision for what can be.

Please join us as we recognize a culture of community focused on family and strong in faith.

Sincerely,

**Michelle Markiewicz Qualkinbush**

Mayor

## Timeline of Great African

**1868** - Ex-slave Oscar J. Dunn becomes Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana. It is the highest executive office held by an African American.

**1870** - Hiram Revels becomes first African American member of the United States Senate.

**1893** - Dr. Daniel Hale Williams performs the world's first successful heart surgery.

**1908** - Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the first organization of African American Greek sisterhood, is founded at Howard University in Washington, D.C. by Ethel Hedgeman.

**1909** - National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is founded.

**1911** - Okkaternity, Inc. is founded on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C.

**1913** - Delta Sigma Theta Sorority is established. City Clerk Nyota Figgs is a diamond lifetime member.

**1926** - The first African American History Month is celebrated as Negro History Week by Dr. Carter G. Woodson.

**1936** - Facing racial prejudice on the word stage, Jesse Owens wins four gold medals at the Summer Olympics in Berlin, Germany. In 1984, the City of Berlin honored him by naming a street after him.

**1943** - Mamie Phipps Clark becomes the first African American woman to receive a psychology doctorate from Columbia University. Dr. Clark's expert testimony was instrumental in *Brown vs. Board of Education*, the case in which the Supreme Court officially overturned racial segregation in public education.

**1947** - Jackie Robinson becomes the first African American Major League Baseball player of the modern era. In honor of his achievements, Robinson's jersey number, 42, has been retired by every Major League team.

**1950** - Ralph J. Bunche receives the *Nobel Peace Prize* for mediating the Arab-Israeli truce. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. became the second African American to win the award in 1964.

**1955** - Rosa Parks refusal to relinquish her seat on a public bus to a white passenger sparks the Montgomery Bus boycott and the modern Civil Rights movement.

**1963** - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivers his "I Have A Dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C.

**1964** - As a result of the Civil Rights movement protests, the United States Congress passes the



American  
Month



# African American Heritage Month

## American Achievements

Civil Rights Acts of 1964 prohibiting discrimination based on race.

**1972** - Shirley Chisholm becomes the first African American candidate for the President of the United States.

**1983** - Guion Bluford becomes first African American astronaut in space.

**1986** - President Ronald Reagan appoints Edward J. Perkins ambassador to South Africa.

**1989** - Colin Powell serves as the first African American National Security Advisor. Powell became the first African American Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1989 and was nominated Secretary of State in 2000 by President George W. Bush.

**1992** - Carol Moseley Braun is elected first African American female in the United States Senate. A school bearing her name is later erected in Calumet City.

**1993** - Dr. Maya Angelou becomes only the second poet in U.S. History to write and recite original work at the Presidential Inauguration of Bill Clinton.

**1997** - Thaddeus Jones is elected first African American alderman in the 100 year history of Calumet City.

**2000** - Condoleezza Rice becomes the first African American woman to serve as the National Security advisor. She later serves as the first African American female Secretary of State under President George W. Bush.

**2002** - Actress Halle Berry becomes the first African American woman to win the Oscar for Best Actress for her role in *Monsters Ball*. The same year, Denzel Washington wins the Oscar for Best Actor for his performance in *Training Day*.

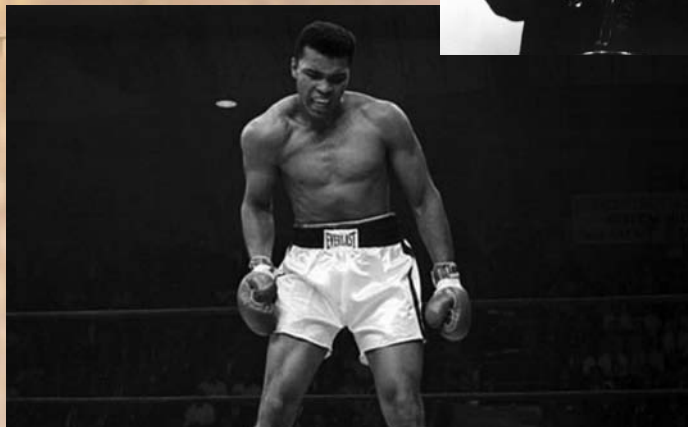
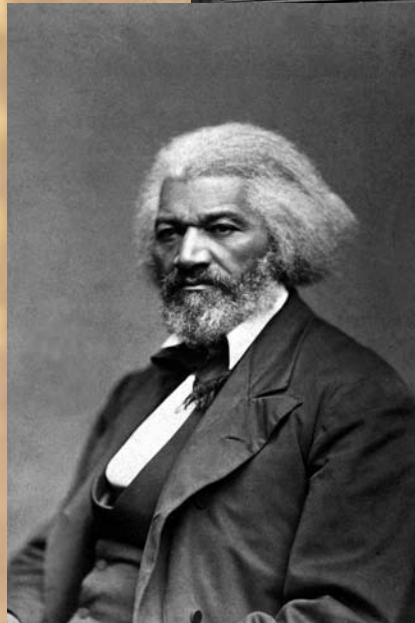
**2003** - City Clerk Gloria Dooley is the first African American woman to be appointed to a citywide office in Calumet City by Mayor Michelle Markiewicz Qualkinbush. She was later elected to the office in 2005.

**2007** - Indianapolis Colts Head Coach Tony Dungy becomes the first African American to lead his team to a Super Bowl victory.

**2008** - Barack Obama elected the first African-American President of the United States.

**2011** - Nyota Figgs elected first African American female elected to Calumet Memorial Park District.

**2012** - Gabrielle Douglas becomes the first woman of color to earn an Olympic Gold Medal in the Individual All Around gymnastics competition.





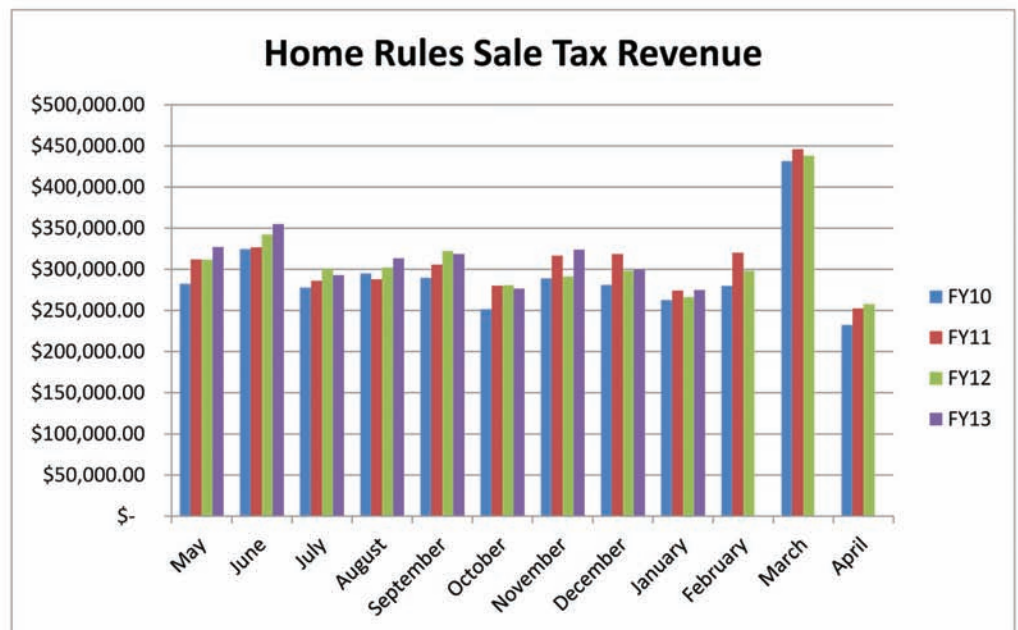
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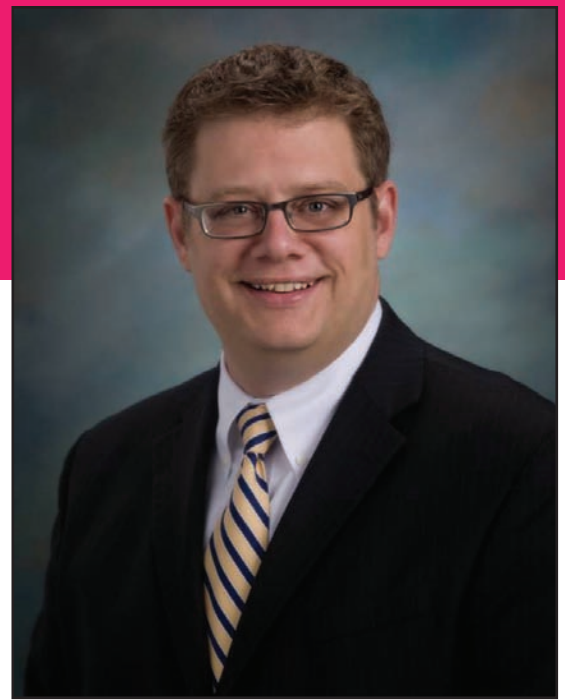
**LOCAL SALES TAX REVENUES INCREASE**

Calumet City, Illinois along with the rest of the nation witnessed a severe economic downturn in 2009. Your City financial team along with the administration and City Council took the necessary steps to weather that storm. Now I am very pleased to report that after an analysis of our sales tax collections over a 3 and ¼ year period we are on the road to recovery. Not unlike the rest of the country we are seeing small incremental increases in our Home Rule and State Sales Tax revenues. It should be noted that we record our revenues in the period that we receive them from the State of Illinois. When you look at the graphs below pay special attention to the month of March because that is when we receive our sales taxes from the month of December. As you can see, the mall area along with all of our commercial districts, have seen steady increases over the past three years. There is always a three month delay so we have not seen our December 2012 distribution at press time but all indicators point to an increase in our Christmas sales receipts for this past year.

**City of Calumet City  
 Home Rule Sales Tax  
 4 Year Comparison**

	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13
May	\$ 282,165.29	\$ 311,912.14	\$ 311,551.53	\$ 327,034.68
June	324,474.33	326,551.94	342,103.33	354,850.54
July	277,603.74	286,031.60	300,457.35	292,919.60
August	294,799.54	287,706.48	301,859.21	313,021.04
September	289,379.71	305,537.71	322,118.98	318,475.04
October	251,278.53	279,975.94	280,602.34	276,365.17
November	288,811.52	316,548.69	291,230.27	323,580.66
December	280,977.99	318,518.09	297,933.26	299,621.34
January	262,500.70	274,116.74	266,009.51	274,579.48
February	279,544.20	320,132.45	298,073.58	
March	431,596.84	445,925.01	438,197.08	
April	232,215.40	252,221.62	257,546.31	
<b>Yearly Totals</b>	<b>\$ 3,495,347.79</b>	<b>\$ 3,725,178.41</b>	<b>\$ 3,707,682.75</b>	<b>\$ 2,780,447.55</b>





## THE FLU AND VACCINE INFORMATION

Seasonal influenza, commonly called the flu, is caused by a virus that infects the nose, throat and lungs. Generally, the flu includes symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, headache, muscle aches and fatigue. Flu is highly contagious and spreads easily from person to person, primarily when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

Flu can be passed to someone else before symptoms are obvious, as well as while one is sick. Most healthy adults may be able to infect others beginning one day before symptoms develop and up to five to seven days after becoming sick. Some people, especially children and people with weakened immune systems, might be able to infect others for an even longer time.

The flu hospitalizes around 200,000 people yearly, 90% of them age 65 and older. In order to reduce the risk of getting the flu, it is important to get the flu vaccination each year. Typically, flu shots are given in the autumn months so that protection can last during an entire season (October through March). Because the influenza virus changes from year to year, it is important to get vaccinated with a new flu vaccine every year. While there are many different flu viruses, the flu vaccine protects against the three viruses that research suggests will be most common during that year.

### Can people get the flu from the flu vaccine?

No, you cannot get the flu from the vaccine. This has been a myth that is difficult to dispel. The flu shot only contains proteins from the influenza virus, so the virus cannot reproduce itself and cause illness. The only side effect may be some soreness where the shot is given.

### Does the vaccine protect throughout the flu season?

Yes, getting vaccinated early will protect you throughout the flu season. But you will need a flu shot every year for each flu season.

### How effective is the flu vaccine?

The effectiveness of flu vaccines can vary. It depends on the match between the strains in the vaccine and the flu viruses that are circulating in the community as well as the age and

health of the person being vaccinated. Flu vaccines protect 70 to 90 percent of healthy people under age 65 when the vaccine strains are similar to the circulating strains. It takes about two weeks for your body to build immunity for protection against the flu and lasts for about one year.

For more information, visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Flu Vaccine Effectiveness: Questions and Answers](#).

Is there something available other than shots?

Yes, nasal spray is available for healthy kids, teens, and non-pregnant adults aged 2 to 49 years. The nasal spray vaccine contains live, weakened flu viruses. The spray can cause mild congestion and runny nose. Some may get a low-grade fever or feel achy for one to two days while their immune system responds to the vaccine. More information on flu vaccine is available on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website.

### Who should NOT get a flu vaccine?

- Babies younger than 6 months are at high risk of serious flu illness, but are too young to get vaccine - people who live with and care for them should get vaccinated instead
- Those with a severe allergy to chicken eggs or have had an allergic reaction to flu vaccines in past
- Those who have ever had [Guillain-Barré Syndrome \(a severe illness, also called GBS\)](#)
- Check with your doctor before getting a flu vaccine if you are ill with fever

*This information is provided from the Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium.*

2nd Ward Alderman Magdalena "Leni" Wosczyński  
Finance Committee Chairman  
708.891.8192

[lwosczyński@calumetcity.org](mailto:lwosczyński@calumetcity.org)



Many ward residents are concerned about the condition of the streets in the 2nd Ward. As chairman of the Finance Committee and as Deputy Mayor, I will lead the City Council to utilize the Street Condition Study completed by Robinson Engineering to develop a comprehensive multi-year, city-wide street resurfacing plan utilizing all available funding from the county, state and Federal government.

As you may be aware, Calumet City receives approximately \$90,000.00 each month from the Illinois Motor Fuel Tax Fund. All of the gasoline taxes collected by the State of Illinois are deposited in this fund and Calumet City receives back its per capita portion on a monthly basis. Our Motor Fuel Tax funds are used for the general maintenance of roadways and alleys, salt purchases, stone purchases, traffic signal and street light repair, and for the contracts bid to re-surface roadways. I encourage all residents to purchase gasoline in Illinois, even if it is a few pennies higher than in neighboring Hammond, Indiana. By shopping locally for fuel, we help

maintain the roadways we need to use every day to get around safely and quickly.

Soon the City Council will be reviewing all of the streets and I will express your concerns with Escanaba, Manistee, Bensley and Campbell Avenues as well as review all of the streets in the 2nd Ward. If you are aware of any signs in need of repair or replacement, please call my office at 708.891.8192.



calcity3@yahoo.com



Alderman Thaddeus M. Jones presented the following resolution to the City Council as a public health measure designed to create awareness of the ongoing threat of HIV and AIDS, which is higher than normal in the younger population of African-Americans.

**Alderman Thaddeus M. Jones – Sponsor**

WHEREAS, February 7, 2013, is the twelfth annual commemoration and observance of *National African-American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day*; and

WHEREAS, this observance is a nationwide effort to mobilize African-American communities to get educated, get tested, get involved and get treated around HIV/AIDS, as it continues to devastate African-American communities; and

WHEREAS, *National African-American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day* is directed, planned and strategically implemented by HIV/AIDS organizations to mobilize community-based organizations and stakeholders involved in HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment; and

WHEREAS, nearly 46,000 residents of Illinois are living with HIV and 55% of people diagnosed with HIV are African-American; and

WHEREAS, African-American gay men under the age of 30 in Chicago have an infection rate three times greater than their white counterparts;

WHEREAS, over two-thirds of women diagnosed with HIV in the United States are African-American.

WHEREAS, among African-Americans ages 25-44, HIV was the fourth leading cause of death for men and third leading cause of death for women, higher than any other racial group;



WHEREAS, numerous organizations, faith-based institutions, public health entities, and impacted citizens are hosting community events to recognize this day and its importance to African-Americans and all concerned citizens; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we join with these local, national and international groups to express our strong support for *National African-American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day* and the initiatives to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in African-American communities and provide access to and utilization of HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and support services to those affected by HIV/AIDS; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE City of Calumet City that we designate **February 7, 2013**, as *National African-American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day* in Illinois, and encourage local residents to strongly support this day and participate in events planned to commemorate the occasion. PASSED AND APPROVED this 14th day of February, 2013.



**ALL CALUMET CITY BUSINESS LICENSES NEED TO BE RENEWED BY DECEMBER 31ST OF EACH YEAR.**

If you are a business that has overlooked renewing your license, please visit the City Clerk's office and obtain an application in order to avoid having your business operations interrupted due to random spot checks by the Department of Inspection Services. Any business license not renewed by January 31, 2013 will require the payment of the original fee and a 50% late fee.



Administration website ([www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov)) and the Internal Revenue Service website ([www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)).

Licenses are not-transferable, and that includes the sale of more than 50% of the ownership of any business. All business licenses must be posted in a conspicuous place on the wall of the principal room of operation of the business.

Calumet City is a business friendly community that tries to work with business owners in a reasonable manner and at a fast pace to help expand our local economy.

Any person or corporate entity seeking a new business license should also visit the city hall to learn about the process required to gain approval for a new business, which varies according to the nature and location of the business. Some businesses may require zoning permits or variances if the business activity is drastically different from the previous occupant (such as opening a restaurant in a former gas station). Some businesses may just require an inspection of the premises by various city departments over a 48 hour period before approval of a final business license application. New business licenses issued after July 1, 2013 will only require a 50% license fee payment.

Although it is advisable to obtain professional legal and financial advice counsel before starting a new business venture, helpful strategies and tactics in starting a new business can be found at the U.S. Small Business





[rmunda@calumetcity.org](mailto:rmunda@calumetcity.org)



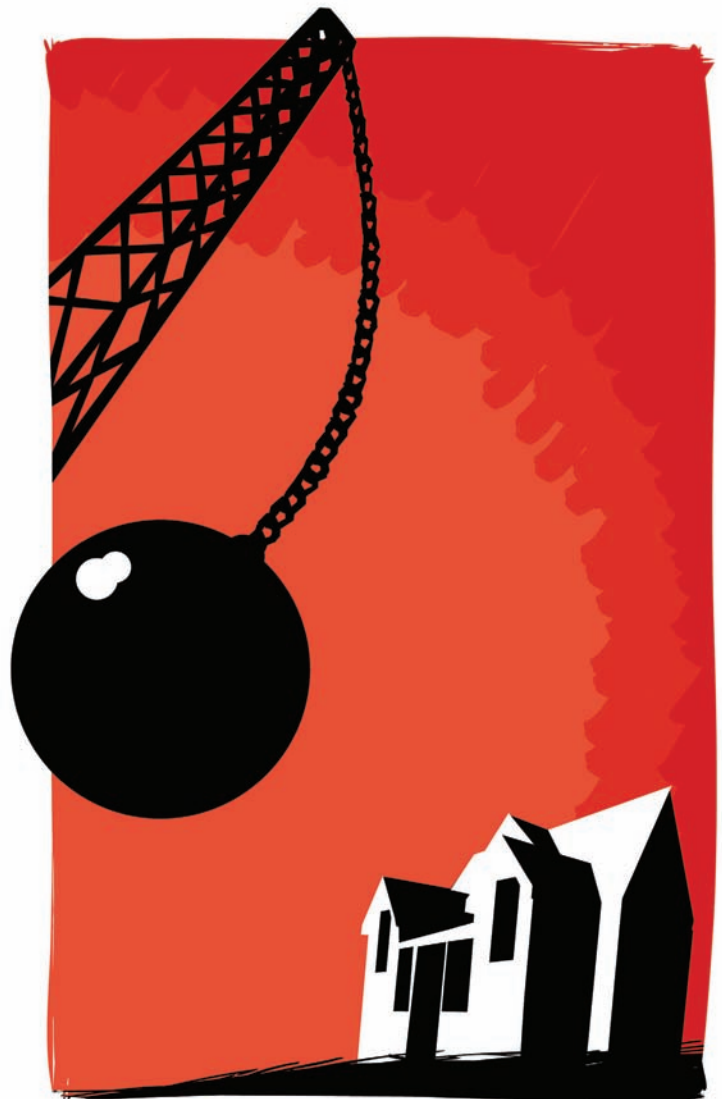
Residents frequently ask why Calumet City purchases and tears down houses in the City. The simple answer is to protect the property values of the existing homes in the city, and to prevent abandoned or foreclosed homes from becoming run down, dangerous or a crime and drug magnet.

Nothing can cause a problem in a neighborhood faster than an abandoned home that is broken into and used by kids as an unsupervised hang out, by criminals as a hiding place for their activities, or by vandals as an easy target to strip materials for resale. The State of Illinois now requires that local governments enact ordinances to protect their housing stock by forcing owners, whether resident owners or the foreclosing banks and mortgage companies, to monitor and maintain their properties so that neighborhoods do not deteriorate.

Our Vacant Building Ordinance requires these building owners to register their vacant buildings with Calumet City and provide the City with the following information so we know who to track down if something goes wrong for an absentee landlord:

Name, address, and telephone number of owner, anyone with a legal interest in the property, and the local agent for the owner. The City requires the property address and its PIN, the date it became vacant, the property insurance in place, and a \$200.00 annual fee to cover the cost of monitoring these properties.

Although it is in the best interest of property owners to maintain their buildings and their value, at some point the City needs to step in and determine whether a property needs to be condemned and eliminated in order to maintain the safety and property values of the entire neighborhood. As most homeowners know, a vacant lot will not lower their property values, but a crumbling crime ridden home will.





## ALDERMAN NICK SPEARHEADS GUN BUY BACK AGAIN

Although tragic shootings such as those in Newtown, Connecticut bring attention to the plague of gun violence in the United States, Alderman Nick Manousopoulos has been working for years to get illegal guns off the streets of our city as a personal project to protect our citizens. As Chairman of the Calumet City Public Safety Committee, Alderman Nick worked with the south suburban police departments and the South Suburban Association of Chiefs of Police (SSACOP) to sponsor another round of the Gun Buy Back Program. Designed to help get illegal firearms off the street to help reduce gun violence in Calumet City, the Gun Buyback Program is provided \$2,000 on an annual basis by Alderman Nick to meet his goal of personally getting 20 guns off the street every year.

The gun buyback programs were held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on June 23, 2012 and November 17, 2012 at the Calumet City Police Department with Calumet City police department on hand to help accept and safely handle the guns turned in. All firearms were exchanged for \$100 cash if the weapon and participant meet the program requirements.

To qualify for the \$100, the gun needed to be functional. Pellet and BB guns are always accepted, but no money is provided for those weapons. Only Calumet City residents and residents from participating communities were eligible to receive the funds, and the buy back ended when the money ran out.



**7th Ward Alderman Antoine Collins  
Ordinance and Resolution Committee Chairman**

**708.891.8197**

**[www.calumetcity7thward.org](http://www.calumetcity7thward.org)**

**[acollins@calumetcity.org](mailto:acollins@calumetcity.org)**



**7TH WARD ALDERMAN ANTOINE COLLINS HOSTS  
COLLINS FRESH YOUTH FEST**

On January 25th & 26th, 2013 the Collins Cares Initiative led by Calumet City 7th Ward Alderman Antoine Collins, hosted a Youth Fest in partnership with TF-North High School. This two day Fest was organized to convey community awareness and the need to help cultivate our future, the youth. The goal of the initiative was to reinforce that community support is necessary in helping the youth make the most out of their talents, deal with their problems in a positive way and achieve success - however they define it. In addition to offering topics for youth, the Collins Fresh Youth Fest oriented parents, seniors and other community members on various topics that could enhance their lives.

The two day event began with a kick-off program hosted by Power 92's Shagg Nice and DJ Ope Ski Friday, January 25th, 2013 at TF North High School. Day one of the Fest was attended by over 600 TF North Students. The Friday, pep-rally style event included performances by TF-North's Cheerleaders and TF-North's Twisted Elegance Dance Team.

The second day of the Collins Fresh Youth Fest, took place on January 26th, 2013. Day two consisted of a series of workshops for the youth, parents, senior citizens and other community partners, on various topics related to the youth and the community. Heavy emphasis was placed on bridging good community relations; going from conflict to collaboration, to establishing a path that enables youth to achieve their goals, pursue careers and become productive citizens. Workshop topics included:

- "No More Drama -Bullying Identification & Intervention"
- "Making the Right Choices-Giving Your Life Direction"
- "Swag Versus Substance, Can You Dress for Success"
- "Show Me the \$\$, How to Achieve Financial Success"
- "So You Want to Be a Model - Avoid the Shams and Scams"
- "Moving on Up! Easing the Transition to High School"
- "Etiquette - Dressing, Speaking and Reputation"
- "Planning for College. What Do I Really Need to Know?"
- "How to Identify & Interrupt Youth Gang Involvement"
- "Bridging the Gap-Caring for the Elderly"
- "ABC's of Starting a Business, Creating a job through Self-Employment"
- "Recursos para la Comunidad Hispana - (Resources for the Hispanic Community)"
- "What's the Reel Deal? Facts about the Entertainment Industry"
- "Zumba Anyone? Zumba Your Way to a New Year"
- "Internet Safety and Social Responsibility - Facebook, Twitter and You Tube"
- "The College Life. What to Expect on Campus"
- "Identifying & Intervening on Youth Drug Usage"



**7TH WARD PROGRAMS, INITIATIVES & OUTINGS**

Over the past four years the 7th Ward Residents and other community members have partnered with me on a number of great initiatives and activities. These activities would not have been successful without your participation. Thank you for making all of these events a success. Below is a partial list of some of our past events.

- City-Wide Pride Essay Competition
- 7th Ward Celebrations
- One Block at a Time "Block Club Initiative"
- Christmas Decorating Competition
- College Care Package Initiative
- Comcast Volunteer Days
- County Line Apple Orchard Trip
- Michigan City Trips
- New Buffalo Trips
- Milwaukee Day Trips
- Mothers Day Breast Cancer Walks
- Memorial Day Cookouts
- Entrepreneur Workshops
- Financial Literacy Workshops
- 7th Ward Health Awareness
- Holiday Pot Lucks
- Six Flags Great America Outings
- Chicago Bulls Outings
- Chicago White Sox Outings
- 7th Ward Clean-Ups
- Computer Literacy Workshops
- 7th Ward Summer Soiree
- Dancing In The Park
- Bingo Events
- 7th Ward Radio Broadcasting Program
- Job Training & Resume Workshops
- Chicago Bears Watch Party
- Tax Appeal Summits

**CITY OF CALUMET CITY**  
**204 PULASKI ROAD**  
**CALUMET CITY, ILLINOIS 60409**  
**DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY**

EMERGENCY	9-1-1
City Clerk's Office	(708) 891-8116
City Treasurer's Office	(708) 891-8125
Community & Economic Development	(708) 891-8140
Emergency Service & Disaster Agency (ESDA)	(708) 891-8190
Fire (non-emergency)	(708) 891-8145
Garbage Removal (Waste Management)	(800) 796-9696
Inspectional Services	(708) 891-8120
Library	(708) 862-6220
Mayor's Office	(708) 891-8105
Personnel	(708) 891-8100
Police (non-emergency)	(708) 868-2500
Public Works	(708) 891-8160
Purchasing	(708) 891-8137
Sewer & Maintenance	(708) 891-8160
Water Billing	(708) 891-8121
Water Service	(708) 891-8160

[www.calumetcity.org](http://www.calumetcity.org)  
[www.youtube.com/cityofcalumetcity](http://www.youtube.com/cityofcalumetcity)  
[www.twitter.com/calumetcity](http://www.twitter.com/calumetcity)

*Mayor*

Michelle Markiewicz Qualkinbush

*City Clerk*

Nyota Figgs

*City Treasurer*

Gerry Tarka

*1st Ward Alderman*

Eric Schneider

*2nd Ward Alderman*

Magdalena "Leni" Wosczyński

*3rd Ward Alderman*

Thaddeus Jones

*4th Ward Alderman*

Brian Wilson

*5th Ward Alderman*

Roger Munda

*6th Ward Alderman*

Nick Manousopoulos

*7th Ward Alderman*

Antoine Collins

POSTAL PATRON

CALUMET CITY, IL 60409

## DATES TO REMEMBER

February 11-23

Early Voting

Calumet City Public Library

660 Manistee

Monday-Saturday 9am to 5pm

Sunday 9am to 3 pm

February 26

Primary Election

Polls are open from 6am to 7pm

April 9

General Election

Polls are open from 6am to 7pm

May 1

Mayor's Student Awards Event

May 31

2013 City Stickers must be displayed by May 31st.  
The 2013 'Clerk on the Move - City Sticker Sales' dates are to be announced soon! Clerk on the Move will once again be selling stickers at the library and other locations around Calumet City.