

## Huntley's bond rating is boosted to AA+

By Jeanie Mayer For Sun-Times Media June 7, 2014 3:40AM

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HUNTLEY — The village received a clean, unqualified opinion from auditing firm Sikich Gardner & Co., reported by Fred Lantz, an auditor

with the firm. Not only is the village one of only 20 in Illinois to receive a clean, unqualified report, the village also received a boost in its bond rating from AA to AA+.

Lantz said the high rating stems from the village's strong financial policies and from earning the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting year after year. According to Lantz, the certificate is the highest form of recognition that can be awarded to a village by the Government Finance Officers Association.

Among the highlights of the audit, Lantz noted that the village's Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund, established in June 2001, was over 85 percent funded and that the Police Pension Fund was just over 51 percent funded at the end of 2013.

Detailed analysis of the village's audit is available at [www.Huntley.il.us](http://www.Huntley.il.us).

### Main Street bridge closed

The village's Main Street bridge between Harmony Road and Coyne Station Road will be closed to traffic from June 9 to Aug. 8 for rehabilitation work. The asphalt surface will be removed and replaced with a reinforced concrete wearing surface. In addition, the outer six feet of the concrete deck will be removed and replaced, and railings and approach pavement will be repaired.

Local traffic will have access up to the bridge beginning June 9. Detour routes are planned using Route 47, Route 176, Route 23, Route 20 and Harmony Road.

The bridge spans the south branch of the Kishwaukee River. According to the McHenry County Division of Transportation, the existing bridge was built in 1961.

### Salvaging history

The village has received a bid from Andyman Carpenter Contractor Services for the salvage and demolition of the Sawyer-Kelley Mill at 11801 Main St. The work was expected to begin within the week.

The village has made arrangements to salvage historical items from within the building prior to demolition. The post office desk and counters, and the pulleys in the peak of the building will be retained by the village, as well as other items of historical interest.

### Facade improvements

The village will vote on a facade improvement assistance program within the Tax Increment Finance District in downtown Huntley.

The plan would provide business owners up to \$20,000 in matching funds, within a five-year period. A cap of \$50,000 has been set as the available limit to grant this year. Village Manager David Johnson said the goal is for the TIF increment to eventually fully fund the matching program.

Business owners can apply for funds to help cover design costs, brick cleaning and tuck pointing, repairs and replacement of period architectural details or other uses that would provide a positive visual impact to the downtown area.

"All proposals would have to come before the board for approval on a case by case basis," Johnson said.



*Huntley's historic gazebo in the Town Square*

### Eagle Scout recognized

The village awarded a special recognition to Eagle Scout Brandon Watson for his work in beautifying the grounds around the columbarium at the Huntley Cemetery this spring. Village President Charles Sass said the landscaping was well-done and he thanked the Scout for his efforts.

"You helped to create a beautiful area we will enjoy for years to come," Sass said.

### Monsignor Steve Knox recognized

The village also awarded a certificate of recognition to Monsignor Steve Knox for his 10 years of service to St. Mary Catholic Parish and

his 25 years of service to the Catholic Church. Knox will be relocating to St. Patrick Parish in St. Charles.

"It has been a wonderful 10 years," Knox said. "We have made good connections here all for the good of the community. Huntley is a wonderful, wonderful community, and I am sad to leave it."