

## Village to put 'Huntley First!' with 4-year plan

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**HUNTLEY** – Village officials will launch a four-year strategic plan – complete with a new “Huntley First!” slogan and website – to attract more business and residential growth.

The board is expected to sign off on the village staff’s 2012-16 strategic plan, which targets existing and potential businesses for expansions and new growth.

Separate from the village website, [www.huntleyfirst.com](http://www.huntleyfirst.com) will go online after tonight’s board meeting.

Officials say the ongoing highway project and Huntley’s proximity to Chicago give local leaders an advantage in attracting more businesses. The village also has more than 200 acres of land developed into business park areas and 750 acres of undeveloped land identified for future industrial, manufacturing and commercial sites.

“Huntley maintains all the benefits of being located in the largest Midwestern metropolitan area, but with all the lower-cost benefits of other cities, such as Indianapolis, St. Louis or Milwaukee,” Village Manager David Johnson said in a recent news release.

The fiscal 2012 budget includes \$35,000 for economic development expenditures, which would cover the costs of the “Huntley First!” plan.

Over the past decade, the village has seen rapid growth. According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the population surged from 5,700 residents in 2000 to 24,000.

Last month, the village completed its Route 47 lane widening project and is preparing to start construction on the full-access interchange at Interstate 90 and Route 47, an area that’s recently seen more economic development with new businesses.

The General RV dealership opened last spring near the interstate. Then in November, FYH Bearing Units USA Inc., formerly of Wauconda, began operations at its new 41,000-square-foot facility at the intersection of I-90 and Route 47.

The wholly-owned subsidiary of FYH, Japan’s oldest and largest manufacturer of mounted ball bearing products used for industrial and agricultural purposes, has plans to expand its Huntley Corporate Park site.

Huntley’s 2012-16 strategic plan sets out to form stronger ties with various groups, such as retailers, residential developers and existing businesses, with more communication and support.

In addition, village officials plan to organize more workshops to identify local strengths and weaknesses, create a fiber optic access program as a way of incentivizing businesses to relocate to Huntley, and establish regular benchmarks.