

COUNTRYSIDE

CHICAGO'S WESTERN GATEWAY



ILLINOIS
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*50th Anniversary
Community Profile*



April 28, 2010 marks the City of Countryside's 50th anniversary, an exciting milestone for this small, yet gradually growing, suburban community. This year provides both long-time residents and new additions to the City the chance to step back and look at how far Countryside has come since its original establishment in the 1830s and its incorporation five decades ago. It also presents an opportunity to look to the future, with the creation of the City's Comprehensive Plan: Vision for 2024.

The following pages depict the storied past of Countryside, beginning in the early 1800s and traveling through the decades to the current day. Readers are invited to immerse themselves in the history of the area's overall development, its schools, the creation and growth of City government and many other aspects that define Countryside, past, present and future.

This publication would not be possible without the help of several active, long-standing citizens of Countryside, who eagerly presented a wealth of historical documents and verbal information during the research process. Thank you!



Pre-Incorporation The Early 1800s-1960

Though Countryside is a fairly young community, its rich history stretches back to the early 1800s. Originally inhabited by the Potawatomi Indian tribe, current-day Countryside did not welcome its first settlers until 1833. It was in this year that the second Treaty of Chicago ceded all of the tribal lands in the area to the U.S., thus opening the land to settlement. Joseph Vial, his wife and their four children were among the first to arrive, discovering the area's sprawling prairie lands. The Vial family built a farmstead and was joined by just a few homesteads over the next few decades.

Following the Chicago Fire of 1871, the City of Chicago started on its journey of major growth and redevelopment, joining many other fledgling markets in the American Industrial Age. Searching for respite from the congestion and industry of the burgeoning city on the lake, residents began venturing to the quiet open areas surrounding Chicago—land which sold for merely \$2 an acre. Among the families moving west toward today's Countryside were the Conrads, Craigmills, Henrys, Murphys, Polks, Sielings and Winslows. Even with the shift from City living to suburban life, Countryside remained a modest farming community until the post-World War II era.

As surrounding communities, such as LaGrange, Western Springs and Brookfield, experienced a surge in growth and development, Countryside continued a quiet existence. The area's first attempt at development occurred in 1929, as a substantial tract of land located east of LaGrange Road was subdivided and developed as the Sherman Gardens. With only a few lots sold, the venture ultimately failed and the land was reverted to the Sieling family.

A second undertaking came about just six years later. The Gethner Land Office acquired the remaining parcels of land in the community and development gradually ensued. While owners began constructing "shell" houses in 1935, concentrated residential development did not begin until 1947.

The area's first residential subdivision, LaGrange Terrace, was established in 1947, followed by the Don L. Dise subdivision in 1954 and the two-phase Edgewood Park neighborhood. The large lots and lovely homes quickly attracted new residents, establishing Countryside as a "bedroom" community, where employees chose to commute into Chicago.

Between 1949 and 1960, local homeowner organizations served as the governing body of Countryside. Groups, including the LaGrange Terrace Civic Association and the Countryside Homeowners' Association, dealt with various civic issues—ranging from building regulations and zoning to annexation of land and civic improvements. By 1959, the Countryside Sanitary District, today known as the South Lyons Township Sanitary District, was formed in order to meet the changing needs of the growing population.

Sometime in early 1960, word spread of possible annexation to neighboring LaGrange. On March 3rd, the proposal was defeated in a referendum totaling 413-252. Shortly after, a new referendum was presented, which proposed incorporation as a city. The referendum was carried by a landslide vote of 293-86 on April 28, 1960.

EDUCATION in Countryside: The Ideal School

While Countryside utilized the post office, houses of worship and shopping centers of nearby LaGrange in its early years before incorporation, residents did establish their own school. Education was, and is, a cornerstone in the Countryside community. A one-room frame schoolhouse was constructed in the mid- to late-1800s, just steps from today's Target. The school remained nameless until students decided to nail a dead skunk to the fence surrounding the structure, resulting in the moniker of the School at Skunk Corner.

At the turn of the century, the one-room, wooden schoolhouse was replaced with a one-story brick structure, which burned to the ground in 1918. After the catastrophic event, school directors and residents came together to collect enough material to construct a new schoolhouse. The building opened in November of 1918 and was referred to as simply "the new school." In 1919, the county school superintendent made a visit to the new school and commented, "This is an ideal school for a rural community." The name stuck and the Ideal School's roots were laid.

As time went on and more families and children relocated to the community, the need for a larger school was felt. An expanded Ideal School was constructed in 1952 at 58th Street, where it still stands today. Seventh Avenue School, Spring Avenue School and Gurrie Middle School soon joined Ideal School—which together formed School District 105. Today, Ideal Elementary School serves around 200 students enrolled in Kindergarten through 6th grade. In addition to School District 105, Countryside is served by School Districts 106 and 107, as well as Lyons Township High School District 204.

HEALTHCARE: Adventist Midwest Health

Adventist Midwest Health, a member of the Adventist Health System, has been a part of the community for more than 100 years. The establishment of the Hinsdale Sanitarium in 1904 marked the system's beginnings. Founded by Drs. David and Mary Paulson, the Hinsdale Sanitarium eventually became known as Adventist Hinsdale Hospital, a 358-bed hospital that today serves as the only teaching hospital in DuPage County. Adventist opened the 223-bed LaGrange Memorial Hospital in 1955, which was followed by GlenOaks Hospital in 1980 and the

newest addition of Bolingbrook Hospital in 2008.

The Marx Brothers in Countryside

Around the year 1917, the famous Marx Brothers comedy team purchased a 27-acre farm in then-unincorporated LaGrange (now Countryside), near Joliet and LaGrange roads. The brothers learned that farmers were exempt from serving in World War I, and thus, in an effort to dodge the draft, set off to become farmers. A lack of experience led to various problems on the farm—as did the discovery of an easy transport to Chicago and Wrigley Field. The brothers spent much time rooting on the Chicago Cubs and not enough time at the farm to make it a successful venture. The Marx Brothers soon sold the farm and relocated to a house near Wrigley Field.

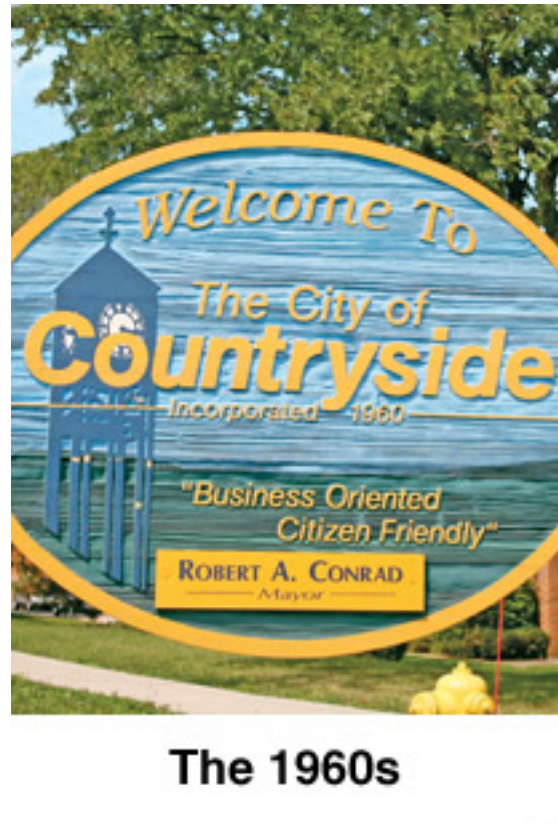
Pleasantview Fire Protection District

The Pleasantview Fire Protection District has been serving Countryside and its surrounding communities since its formation in 1946. Residents of the area joined to discuss the possibility of organizing a local fire department on February 11 of that year. At that time, neighboring fire departments were providing protection to Countryside, many times leaving their communities unguarded. On March 4, 1946, the Pleasantview Fire Protection District was officially established to serve Countryside, Burr Ridge, Hodgkins, Indian Head Park, Willowbrook and other unincorporated areas. It received its name from the area's two largest school districts: Pleasantdale and Plainview. The first call into the district was received on April 12, 1948, and the rest is history.

Today, the Pleasantview Fire Protection District is comprised of three stations (headquartered in LaGrange Highlands), which employ more than 50 full-time firefighters and paramedics, along with a base of part-time firefighters, full-time dispatchers and clerical personnel. The district responds to thousands of calls each year and invests in public safety education programs for school children, families and senior citizens.

Helping Hand Rehabilitation Center

The Helping Hand Rehabilitation Center was established in Countryside in 1955 and has since placed itself among the finest non-profit, community-based agencies in the state. Helping Hand was founded in order to meet the needs of children, teens and adults who are living with a developmental disability. In short, the center assists people with disabilities to become more independent and integral parts of the community in which they live. Some 400 people are served through Helping Hand today.



The then 2.75-square-mile City of Countryside was officially incorporated as a city on July 27, 1960 with a population of approximately 2,200 residents. And so Countryside started its new adventure as an individual municipality in the western suburbs.

The City of Countryside

Countryside chose to incorporate as a city due to the fact that incorporation as a village required the consent of all municipalities located within a one-mile radius. It was, and remains, a home-rule municipality operating under a mayor-city council form of government.

The first election for the City of Countryside was held in June of 1960. Among those elected were Mayor Albern Hollands, City Clerk Rudolph Perisich, Treasurer Willard Schuessler and Aldermen Albert Dostal, Melvin Eggert, Robert Schlachter, John Vicich, James More and John Carroll. Countryside's first City Council served until 1963, when the biennial election schedule commenced. Melvin Eggert served as mayor from 1963-1967, followed by the election of Michael Caduto from 1967-1978.

The City operated out of a one-room storefront office at the beginning. By 1967, a new building was constructed at 5550 East Avenue in order to house both the City administration and Police Department. The City Hall still stands at this location today.

Water Service & Street Construction

The movement to introduce modern water and sewer service, along with a new street system, in Countryside was a major obstacle in the decade prior to incorporation. In the 1950s, the Conrads, Carl LeGant and Willard Schuessler were among the first residents to advocate bringing these enhancements to their unincorporated community—but adequate funding remained a stumbling block. It was this issue of bringing water service and street construction to Countryside that served as the impetus to organize a local government that would provide this kind of city infrastructure.

Bonds for sewer service were approved in 1959, and almost immediately following incorporation, the City instituted a Water Committee. After a couple of years of planning, negotiating and working through land acquisitions, Lake Michigan water service made its way into Countryside via an intricate water piping system in the fall of 1964. New city street construction was also developed in this time frame, helping to establish a modern infrastructure for the residents and businesses of Countryside.

Countryside Police Department

Prior to its designation as a city, Countryside came under the jurisdiction of the Cook County Sheriff's Police. Just over one year after incorporation, on August 23, 1961, the Countryside Police Department was established under the leadership of Police Chief John Girard and three officers: Kenneth Wolf, Rich Kocek and George Suchomel. The department shared the McCook Police Department's radio operator for a short time, until the need to have its own became clear. Thus, the secretary at City Hall was given the position. By 1967, the department expanded, adding more officers and modern equipment. Today the department employs a 36-member staff, which oversees the safety of all incorporated areas in the Countryside community.

A Growing Economy

Countryside's base of businesses began to grow and diversify not long after incorporation. As neighboring LaGrange started to fill its downtown space to capacity, retail and industrial businesses turned to the large lots and advantages of no municipal property tax in the adjacent City of Countryside. During its first full year of incorporation as a city, Countryside issued 126 business licenses, 19 building permits and nine liquor licenses.

Ledo's Pizza

For nearly 50 years, Ledo's Pizza has provided the Countryside community with a delicious menu featuring quality pizza, pastas, sandwiches, ribs and more. The restaurant opened its doors on March 25, 1961 under the ownership of Robert Sr. and Louise Dorgan and Sparky and Rose Lenzie. The name "Ledo" is a combination of the two last names: "Le" in Lenzie and "Do" in Dorgan. Just a few weeks after the opening of the new business, the Dorgan's bought out the Lenzies and became the sole owners.

The first location in Countryside opened up as a small carryout restaurant, where it stayed for more than 12 years. In 1973, the Dorgans moved the business across the street to 5525 S. LaGrange Road, where Ledo's still stands to this day.

Over the years the entire family has been involved in the operations of Ledo's Pizza. Robert Sr. left the business in 1983, leaving it to his wife Louise and their two sons, Robert Jr. and Jim. In 1990, Jim moved on to a new venture, and after Louise's passing in 1995, the restaurant remained under the control of Robert Jr. His passing in

early 2002 left Ledo's Pizza to his wife, Sandra, and five children. Ledo's continues to be a family-run restaurant under Sandra's watch, carrying the same traditions upon which it was founded back in 1961.

The Stevenson Expressway

As the western suburbs continued to grow, a link into the City became a major demand for both commuters and businesses. On October 24, 1964, the Southwest Expressway opened, traveling through several areas, including Countryside. The highway was renamed on September 1, 1965 in honor of the late former Illinois Governor Adlai E. Stevenson. The Stevenson Expressway, or Interstate 55, was totally reconstructed in 1999-2000, in order to accommodate the increasing number of users. The coming of I-55 to Countryside proved to be a boon for local development and business growth.

Dansher Industrial Park

What is now the Dansher Industrial Park was once simply cornfields owned by the Dansher family. The City took interest in the area during their search for an ideal place to establish City Hall in the mid-1960s. The Danshers were willing to donate the 80-acre land for the new structure, but the City was deterred and chose to locate to its the current site.

Dansher began selling parcels of land to three individual businesses, and chose to build additional structures for rental—ultimately establishing the Dansher Industrial Park. Today, the City's light industrial businesses are concentrated primarily within Dansher, which remains a well-occupied site for business. Nestled within the northeastern portion of the City, Dansher is currently home to Aire Liquide America, Chicago Chain, Crown Lift Trucks, Nalbach Engineering, Nyco Products, Sokol and Co., Vee Pak Inc. and others.h



The 1970s & 1980s

As Countryside continued to expand population-wise, it was simultaneously growing in land size during the 1970s and 1980s. In 1971, the City annexed an area located south of Joliet Road, and by the 1980s, Countryside stretched over four square miles. This addition sparked further development in the community, leading to a surge of growth in the retail and industrial sectors.

Changes at City Hall

Mayor Michael Caduto served in his position until 1978, when Mayor Carl LeGant—who served as an alderman for 15 years prior—took over. It was around this time, in the late 1970s, that both the Public Works Department and the Recreation Commission were organized, and utility billing, payroll and budgeting all became computerized.

By 1985, City government was bursting at the seams in its current structure. Instead of relocating, the City underwent a large-scale expansion and renovation. A second floor was added in the summer of 1985, meeting the needs of the City administration, the police force and the new computer system.

Countryside Park

Located between 59th and 61st streets, Countryside Park is the flagship of the City's Recreation Department. This 11-acre park is home to two softball diamonds, a soccer field, a playground, lighted tennis courts, sand volleyball courts, a skate park, an inline hockey rink, a bocce ball court and a lighted walking path. Plus, its two gazebos host the widely popular Thursday night Concerts in the Park series each summer.

Flagg Creek Heritage Society

The Flagg Creek Historical Society was officially established in 1976 and in recent years underwent a name change to the Flagg Creek Heritage Society. The non-profit organization strives to preserve and promote the past, present and future of the Flagg Creek area, which includes the communities of Burr Ridge, Hinsdale, Indian Head Park, Willow Springs, Western Springs and Countryside. The Heritage Society is an affiliate of the Pleasant Dale Park District and currently operates the Flagg Creek Historical Museum and the historic Robert Vial House. The organization is currently in the early stages of raising funds for its ambitious new Flagg Creek Heritage Center.

Countryside Plaza

Once a Route 66 drive-in theater, Countryside Plaza has certainly grown over the years since its establishment in 1977. Developed by the Simon Property Group, the original plaza was developed in an L shape, which was modified as it expanded into an attractive retail center along LaGrange Road.

Today, Countryside Plaza is a community lifestyle center anchored by Best Buy, Old Country Buffet, JoAnn Fabrics, The Home Depot, PetSmart, Value City Furniture and Office Depot. The 548,000-square-foot, 43-acre shopping center is in the midst of implementing a key redevelopment project, as part of the City's Comprehensive Plan. Among the areas experiencing revitalization are the facade and signage, exit and entranceway, as well as the landscaping.

Countryfest

Countryfest was held successfully for 25 years with bringing the community together the main reason. The annual festival started off fairly simple in its earliest days as a one-day event. According to former Mayor Carl LeGant, the City and Chamber of Commerce cooked up about 400 pounds of bratwursts and 50 pounds of hotdogs throughout the day in Countryfest's inaugural year.h



The 1990s

By the City's 35th anniversary, it had issued three times as many business licenses, building permits and liquor licenses since that first year of incorporation. More than 40 restaurants and taverns, dozens of professional services, 16 auto dealerships and several hotels and motels lined the streets, which together brought in a sales tax revenue of more than \$4 million by the 1990s.

Flagg Creek Golf Course

While Flagg Creek Golf Course opened for play on July 2, 1993, its history extends all the way back to the early 1920s. It was during this time that the Robert Henry family developed the 18-hole Maple Crest Golf Course. The course was minimized to 12 holes with the construction of the Tri-State Tollway in the mid-1960s, and by the late 1980s, growth in the area led to developers pushing to transform the course into a mixed-use residential and retail destination.

The property was saved, though, thanks to the diligence of the Pleasant Dale Park District and the City of Countryside, which together formed the "I Helped Save Maple Crest Golf Course" committee. Course designer Greg Martin completely redesigned the golf experience here, turning it into a challenging nine-hole course ideal for golfers of all skill levels. Accompanying the new course was a putting green and a lighted range.

Shortly after its opening as Flagg Creek Golf Course in 1993, the Chicago Tribune rated it among the top 10 nine-hole courses in Illinois. Plus, in 1995 and again in 2006, Flagg Creek garnered the Chicagoland Golf Readers Choice Award, which designated it as the number one nine-hole golf course in this area.

Our Memories: The Vondrak Family

January 11, 1995 was a day the Vondrak family will always remember. That day, Countryside residents Ross and Roberta, accompanied by their two children, Sandy and Christi, and a number of fellow community members, played host to John Records Landecker's award-winning morning drive show on Oldies 104.3.

Landecker and the station promoted the Cul de Sac of Life road show contest, which would allow the morning show to broadcast live from someone's home located in a secluded cul de sac or a dead end road. After hearing about the contest, Ross and Roberta, who live at the dead end intersection of 57th and Ashland, set to work on securing that prize.

While Ross wrote a letter boasting of the community and its members—and also offering a nice massage session during the broadcast—Roberta created a petition that was signed by neighbors who encouraged Landecker and his morning show to come to Countryside. Not only would this be a wonderful experience for the Vondraks, but it would also help put the City of Countryside on the map. After submitting their plea, the Vondraks were chosen to host the remote broadcast.

John Records Landecker, his co-host Vicki Truax and their intern arrived bright and early on that cold January day. Joining the Vondraks and the DJs were the mayor, aldermen, the principal from Ideal Elementary School and dozens of neighbors, who all enjoyed the show while feasting on an exquisite catered breakfast featuring made-to-order omelettes.

In between the funny bits and the music, Landecker asked the Vondrak daughters to show off their musical prowess: the younger daughter playing “This Old Man” on her flute for the principal and the eldest playing the “Chicken Dance” on her clarinet. As for the aforementioned massage, Ross, a massage therapist, made good on his promise, providing a little relaxation for the intern.

The exciting day lasted from 5:30 until 10 a.m. and was officially dubbed John Records Landecker and Oldies 104.3 Radio Day in the City of Countryside by Mayor Carl LeGant.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: The New Countryside Women's Club

Countryside has always been a place of pride—a characteristic which is evident in the number of civic and social organizations that have been established here. Among the notable groups are the Salt Creek Camera Club (1955); Lions Club (1961); Seniors Club (1973); Rotary Club of Countryside (1987); and one of the oldest: the LaGrange Terrace Garden Club.

Not long after the first subdivision, LaGrange Terrace, was developed in 1948, a young resident, Mrs. Pat Blakesley, established the LaGrange Terrace Garden Club in order to encourage the beautification of this emerging town. The club changed its name to the LaGrange Terrace Women's Club by the fall of 1956, expanding its purpose to include contributions to the cultural development and charitable needs in Countryside. Once again the club changed its name to the Countryside Women's Club in 1960, and from then on welcomed all residents to participate.

The active women of the club regularly gathered for such events as dances, theatrical productions, fashion shows

and various social activities, while also volunteering their time for other causes. By the late 1990s, the club needed revitalization. In October of 1998, Club President Catherine Fajdich helped breathe new life into the organization, renaming it the New Countryside Women's Club.

Today, membership in the reinvigorated club continues to increase, and women of all ages are invited to join. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month between September and May at the City of Countryside headquarters (5550 East Avenue, second floor).



Countryside has certainly evolved in many ways over the last 50 years. Since its incorporation, the City of Countryside has tripled in population. The 2000 census resulted in a population count of 5,991 residents—a modest 4.8 percent increase between 1990 and 2000. The local population continues to gradually rise, hitting an estimated 6,031 in 2003 and 6,095 in 2008. By 2030, the city is expected to reach a total population of 6,287.

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS IN 2000: Memorial Park

As part of the City's 40th anniversary celebration, a neglected portion of property at 55th Street and Plainfield Road was redeveloped and introduced as Memorial Park. The park, built in honor of those who have served time in the U.S. military, is a linchpin in the Countryside community. It is here that residents and visitors will find the clock tower and carillon—an important symbol representing the City of Countryside. So important, in fact, that the clock tower was recently incorporated into the City's logo. Visitors to the park enjoy the sounds of up to 350 songs played by the carillon every day between Noon and 6 p.m.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: Vision for 2024

Thoughtfully preparing for the future is integral for continuing community prosperity. After 14 months of assessing various issues, needs and priorities, as well as reviewing input from the Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals, local residents and businesses, the City developed its Comprehensive Plan: Vision for 2024. The plan was approved by the City Council in November of 2004.

Vision for 2024 was created with a purpose of establishing long-range plans for the enhancement, development and growth in the City of Countryside—now and 20 years into the future. Included in the official policy guide are

the goals, objectives and policies for the future of Countryside, including proposals for the improvement of the city's existing character, preservation of important existing sites and recommendations for new growth and development. Among the community issues addressed are traffic, residential neighborhoods, commercial corridors, land use, open space and targeted redevelopment areas, to name a few.

Vision for 2024 is available for download on the City of Countryside's Web site, www.countryside-il.org.

A New Mayor in Town

Longtime Mayor Carl LeGant held office from 1978 until 2007 when he handed over the reigns to current Mayor Robert Conrad. Mayor Conrad presides over a six-member City Council, which includes six Aldermen, a City Clerk and Treasurer. Members of the City Council serve four-year staggered terms in office and join together twice a month (the 2nd and 4th Wednesday), except for the months of November and December, in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

IL Route 66 Heritage Project

Illinois Route 66 is "Where the Mother Road Begins," traveling 436 miles southwesterly from Chicago to East St. Louis. In the late 1990s, it was named a "state heritage tourism project" and on September 22, 2005 earned designation as a National Scenic Byway. This designation led to the formation of the Illinois Route 66 Heritage Project, a non-profit organization created in order to develop a Corridor Management Plan for the historic highway. The City of Countryside and its Community Development Department were chosen as the Chicago/Cook County Regional Coordinator for the IL Route 66 Heritage Project.

Joliet Road, or IL Route 66, travels through Countryside and its neighboring communities. The Wishing Well Motel was originally located at 6363 Joliet Road in Countryside, serving as a popular spot for Chicago entertainers and passersby. The iconic Wishing Well road sign is now an exhibit at the Route 66 Hall of Fame and Museum in Pontiac. Just outside of Countryside Route 66 fans will find the Wolf's Head Inn in Indian Head Park, Snuffy's 24 Hour Grill in McCook, Route 66 Classic Motors in LaGrange Highlands and Dell Rhea's Chicken Basket in Willowbrook—all of which represent the Route 66 experience.

Flagg Creek Heritage Center Campaign

The Flagg Creek Heritage Society has instituted plans to build a new museum facility along Wolf Road, just north of the Vial House. The Flagg Creek Heritage Center will stand two stories high and will have 5,500 square feet of space for collection storage, exhibits and programming. This exciting new community facility will depict the stories of the National Heritage Corridor and the people who have made this area what it is today. It is designed to serve as a flagship local heritage center.

The ambitious fundraising efforts of the Flagg Creek Heritage Society have begun, with the official launch of the campaign held on May 17, 2009. For more information, visit the society's Web site at www.flaggcreekheritagesociety.com.

DEVELOPING COUNTRYSIDE: A New City Center

The City of Countryside has a vision, which is clearly laid out in its Comprehensive Plan. Included in this vision is a mixed-use development, which will serve as the “gateway” into Countryside. In addition to serving as a hub for shopping, dining and entertainment, the City will incorporate pedestrian-friendly walkways and attractive streetscaping along north LaGrange Road. New lighting, landscaping, crosswalks and pedestrian oases at intersections are included in the beautification plan.

The City Council has, in recent times, created and achieved the development of a business district along LaGrange Road, between 58th Street and Joliet Road. The Council is also inquiring into a possible land acquisition on LaGrange Road in order to expand the district. The district will be located in this blossoming business district.

Also part of the development campaign for the City of Countryside is determining a possible location for a new City Hall, the redevelopment of Countryside Plaza and the completed enhancements and additions at Salem Square Shopping Center, Autobarn Mazda and Dominick’s.

An Overview of Countryside Today

The City’s vibrant business community, comprised of approximately 475 businesses, continues to aid in sustaining a strong tax base, which provides residents with high-quality municipal services, programs and infrastructure. The local school districts persevere in the installation of educational excellence, the City’s Recreation Department and parks system remains committed to providing outstanding community programming and enhanced facilities, and the Countryside Police Department and the Pleasantview Fire Protection District work hard to ensure community safety on a daily basis.

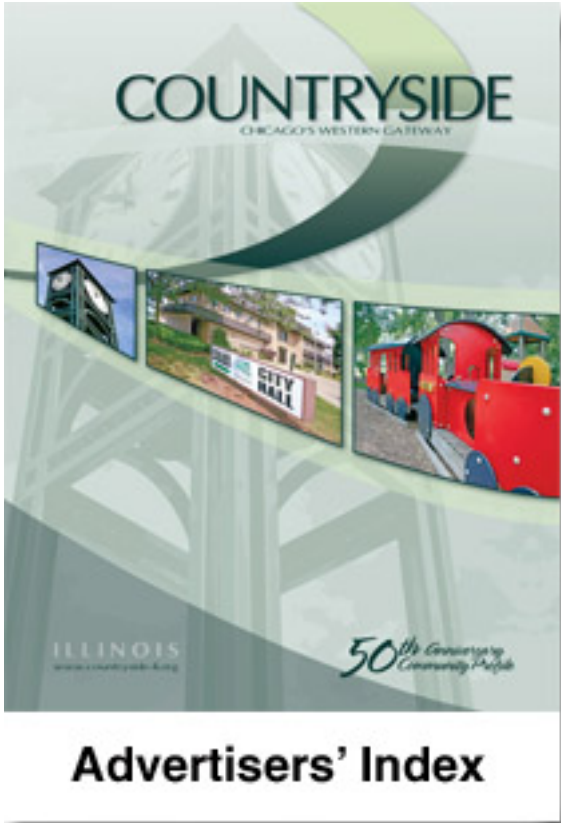
Countryside’s ideal location—a quick 15 miles outside of downtown Chicago, minutes from Midway International Airport and just around the corner from I-55 and I-294— continues to be listed among its finest assets. This position in one of the country’s largest counties (Cook) provides a tight-knit suburban essence in the vicinity of Chicago’s big-city amenities and attractions. To many, Countryside is regarded as Chicago’s Western Gateway.

Tourism in the Chicagoland area is exciting, and Countryside is right in the midst of it. From local attractions along Route 66, outdoor endeavors at Arie Crown Woods and Sundown Meadows Forest and the nearby Brookfield Zoo to Chicago’s shopping, dining and cultural avenues, Countryside residents and visitors have it all right at their fingertips. Accommodating area visitors, whether in town on business or pleasure, are several Countryside-based hotels equipped with more than 450 guestrooms. Among the choices are the recently renovated Holiday Inn Countryside, the Best Western Chicagoland-Countryside and the long-standing, family-owned LaGrange Motel.

The residential landscape of the community is represented by an attractive combination of historic residences and new homes, all of which are located in quiet, friendly and well-maintained neighborhoods. Current and potential residents take pleasure in the assortment of home styles, from modest bungalows, Victorians, Colonials and contemporary homes to condominiums, townhouses and apartment complexes. Plus, with no municipal property tax and affordable real estate options, Countryside is an excellent investment for many.

Countryside has, no doubt, transformed from a sleepy, undeveloped prairie land in its earliest years into a truly dynamic City in 2010—all the while maintaining the genuine values and traditions on which it was originally founded. Many residents who came to Countryside 50-plus years ago still call it home, as do their children and grandchildren.

Here's to another 50 years, Countryside!h



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ggesiakowski@wsnbt.com
www.westernspringsbank.com

Financial

NuMark Credit Union
Kari Endres
P.O. Box 2729
Joliet, IL
60434
815-744-8626
Fax: 815-773-6194
kendres@numarkcu.org
www.numarkcu.org

Flooring/Wallcovering

Victor Shade Co.
Judy Miller
6555 S. Willow Springs Rd.
Countryside, IL
60525

708-482-4731
Fax: 708-482-7537
www.victorshade.net

Insurance

Jenna Crowther, Agent / State Farm Insurance

Jenna Crowther

1148 Hillgrove Avenue

Western Springs, IL

60558

708-246-8333

jenna.crowther.mdh8@statefarm.com

www.jennacrowther.com

Insurance

Old Orland Insurance Agency Inc.

Martin Murphy

14306 Union Ave.

Orland Park, IL

60462

708-349-2000

Fax: 708-349-6072

ooiadsl@ameritech.net

Lodging

La Grange Motel
Jim Toth
5846 S. La Grange Road
Countryside, IL
60525
708-352-5640
Fax: 708-354-4267

Plumbing/Heating/AC

The HEAT Engineering Co.

Charles Mueller

6500 Joliet Rd.

Countryside, IL

60525

708-246-3300

Fax: 708-579-0264

Plumbing/Heating/AC

Allan E. Power Plumbing & Heating

Allan Power

804 Arlington Ave.

LaGrange, IL

60525

708-352-1670

Recreation

Forest View Farms
Jim Larsen
5300 W. 167th St.
Tinley Park, IL
60477
708-560-0306

Restaurants

Cafe Salsa
Ray Manz
9932 W 55th St.
Countryside, IL
60525
708-352-5100
Fax: 708-352-6843
www.cafesalsa.com

Restaurants

Time Out Sports Bar & Grill
Nick Mataragas
6025 S. La Grange Rd.
Countryside, IL
60525
708-482-3222
nyxon@comcast.net
www.bartimeout.com

Restaurants

Ledo's Pizza
Pam/Sandi
5525 S. LaGrange Rd.
Countryside, IL
60525
708-354-4500

Retail/Shopping

Breen's Uniform Rental

Rob Breen
5414 Dansher Road
Countryside, IL
60525
708-482-8995
Fax: 708-482-9174
werclean@ameritech.net

Retail/Shopping

Prestige Countryside Liquors
Chris Fotopoulos
1423 W. 55th St.
Countryside, IL
60525
708-354-6969
Fax: 708-354-6976
prestigeliquors55@sbcglobal.net

Retail/Shopping

LaGrange Coin & Stamps
Joe Rizdy
25 W. Plainfield Road
Countryside, IL
60525
708-579-5397

Retail/Shopping

Guy Blando Jewelers
Guy Blondo
6950 Wolf Rd.
Indian Head Park, IL
60525
708-246-8100
Fax: 708-387-7777
guy@guyblando.com
www.guyblando.com



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