

Remembering Sherrill Lynch

The City was saddened to learn of the recent passing of Mr. Sherrill E. Lynch, 97, a long time Countryside resident who was influential in establishing and naming Countryside.

In the course of his career, Sherrill was a supervisor in the Process Engineering division at Electro-Motive. Sherrill was one of the original members of the Homeowner's Association in Countryside, where he served as President. During his term as President, Countryside was incorporated and at the incorporation, Sherrill recommended the name "Countryside".

Sherrill had a passion for photography, and this is evident through the numerous national and international awards he won for his photography. A few examples of his work can be found on the second floor of City Hall. Sherrill also found time to teach photography to many aspiring photographers in his home and basement studio.

Sherrill's accomplishments in incorporating Countryside, along with his photography will never be forgotten. His efforts made an important and lasting contribution to Countryside as well as the surrounding communities and residents.



Sherrill Lynch
*award-winning
photographer*



Sherrill Lynch, president, and Marcia Macie, Secretary, preside over a meeting of the Countryside Homeowner's Association in 1959.



Members of the Countryside Homeowner's Association board who were instrumental in founding the City were recognized in special ceremonies at Countryside's 10th anniversary celebration in 1970. From left are: Mel Eggert, Janet Tertell, Gene O'Brien, Association President Sherril Lynch, Bill Miller, Carroll Kinder and Don Conrad.

Police Department

Prevent Vehicle Break-Ins

We have seen a slight increase in vehicle break-ins lately around the Countryside area. This is a very common crime that usually occurs in places with a large number of parked cars. Fortunately, there are a few safety tips that you can follow to help prevent yourself from becoming a victim:

Always lock your doors.

Keep items out of view. A thief looks into car windows hoping to find something of value; things such as purses, bags, GPS devices, etc. Keep spare change out of sight. Put anything of value in the trunk or take it in your house.

Use safety features—such as car alarm or removable radio faceplate.

Park in a well-lit area.



Members and prospective members of the Countryside Business Association network at the December 7th fundraiser at the William Tell Holiday Inn.

Winter Driving Safety

Winter weather can be challenging for drivers. But there are things you can do to be prepared.

Take your time. Check road conditions at www.gettingaroundillinois.com before you leave. During snowfall, use main routes and drive with your lights on with reduced speed. Always keep your gas tank at least half full.

Watch for snowplows. They are covered under Scott's Law, the "Move Over Law", which mandates that when approaching any emergency vehicle stopped along the roadway, you must reduce your speed, change lanes if possible, and proceed with caution.

Be prepared. Keep the following items in your car: tools to change a tire, shovel, bottled water, ice scraper/snow brush, flashlight, first aid kit, battery jumper cables, extra food, blanket, and extra washer fluid.

Please remember to not drink and drive.

Community Briefs

Primary Election February 2, 2010

Deadline for regular voter registration:

January 5, 2010

Early Voting Begins:

January 11 through January 28, 2010

Business Report

The following businesses recently opened, relocated, or expanded in Countryside.

Learning Express - Children's Toys
18 Countryside Plaza
708-352-8697

XCEL Maintenance & Handyman Services
9727 Lorraine Court
708-244-4283

Solicitation

Please report any solicitation at your home to the Police Department at 708-352-2171.

Countryside Business Association News

On December 7th, the Countryside Business Association (CBA) held a Holiday Fundraiser at the William Tell Holiday Inn. Approximately 50 individuals participated in this event.

The CBA will host a Business After Hours event at Continental Autocenter on Tuesday, January 12, 2010.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the CBA or for more information about the CBA, please visit the CBA's website at:
www.countrysideba.com

Ward 1 Report

Alderman Robert Pondelicek
Alderman Michael Smetana

Construction began on the underground utility work for the ITEP LaGrange Road Streetscape grant. The phase should be completed by the end of December. Above ground construction is not slated until next Spring.

The South Lyons Sanitary District, which covers half of the City of Countryside, received over \$5.1 million in grants and loans from the federal ARRA (stimulus plan) and IEPA for sewer rehabilitation. Construction started with the first phase to be located East of Plainfield Road & 55th Street. Questions should be directed to the District's Offices 708-354-7390.

The former Pleasantview Fire District and Motel properties (both City owned) have national retailers inquiring about development on both sites.

The City is actively marketing the properties along Joliet and LaGrange Road in the Business District.

Alderman Mike Smetana and Bob Pondelicek would like to wish all Ward 1 residents a safe and happy holiday season.



Public Works Director Bob Fullar and Infrastructure Committee Chair Alderman Michalczyk check out the new Public Works vehicle, replacing one of the 1985 dump trucks. A substantial savings was made utilizing the State purchasing agreement. Also pictured, John Williams (driving)

Ward 2 Report

Alderman Karen Michalczyk
Alderman John Von Drasek

The building permit has been issued for the revitalization of the former Al's Hardware property. The proposed plan list two retail uses and one office use on the first floor with a residential apartment on the second floor.

Please drive over bridges with caution in the Winter months as they are the first to freeze. Please remember that Willow Springs Road and the Cutoff are plowed by the Cook County Highway Department 708-485-7130.

The water main project on Lorraine Drive is nearly complete. The contractor is almost complete with the final water hook ups and the restoration of the parkways will be commencing soon.

Please do not shovel or push snow into the streets. According to Section 7-3-2 of the municipal code, it is unlawful to remove snow from private property upon any public sidewalk or the paved surface of any public street. Any person violating any provision of the code shall be fined not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) or more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for each offense.

The City recently completed re-paving 74th Street, east of Sunset Avenue. The project was funded through the acquisition of a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) with a local monetary match.

Alderman Karen Michalczyk and John Von Drakek would like to wish all Ward 2 residents a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

A new underdrain was installed at Woodland Ridge Park. This underdrain will alleviate all the wetness and mold underneath the wood chips at the park (see photo below).



Ward 3 Report

Alderman Sean McDermott

Alderman Wayne Straza

The Speedlane gas station (1422 West 55th Street) is undergoing a branding change from the local gas brand to the international Shell brand. The station will feature new signage to promote the Shell brand.

Casa de Montecristo (1332 West 55th Street) plans to open after the holiday season. This business specializes in fine quality cigars and will also offer a smoking lounge.

Please welcome the Yeng Ho Chinese restaurant at the intersection of Plainfield Road and 55th Street.

Learning Express (toy store) has opened in Countryside Plaza.

The William Tell Holiday Inn is implementing \$164,000.00 renovation as part of a chain wide upgrade.

MWRD Information

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago would like to remind everyone to never dispose prescriptions or over-the-counter medications down the toilet or sink. Once it was common practice to flush medications down the toilet or sink. If flushed down the toilet or sink, the drugs are not completely removed by sewage treatment plants or septic tanks and may enter surface and ground waters, or soils.

Follow these guidelines for proper disposal:

First, check with your police department to see if they have a drug collection program;

Second, check to see if your community has a household hazardous waste program that collects medications; and

Lastly, if no collection options exist, follow these steps:

Remove all labels from prescription bottles;

Mix unused, crushed drugs with coffee grounds, kitty litter, or another undesirable substance, and then;

Place this mixture in a sealed container and put in your trash on the day of pick-up.

For more information please call the IEPA at 312-744-7672 or the MWRD at 312-751-5600.

Save Water and Money

The WaterSense program, sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, rates the water efficiency of fixtures and appliances and allows consumers to conserve water and protect the environment. By choosing a WaterSense-compliant product, consumers can do their part to conserve water and the energy needed to purify it while saving money. To learn more about this program, visit the WaterSense website at www.epa.gov/WaterSense.



Congressman Lipinski, Township Supervisor Hartigan, and Countryside Officials join Santa and Mrs. Claus at Memorial Park for the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony

Community Development

State Mandated Energy Codes

On August 18, 2009, the Countryside Building Department began enforcing the state mandated 2009 International Energy Conservation Code for Commercial buildings. This is an update to the 2006 International Energy Code which covers both residential and commercial buildings. The Energy Code establishes energy efficiency standards for engineers, architects and contractors as it is applied to new construction and remodeling whenever a building permit is required. Americans use more energy heating and cooling buildings than driving and this is part of a national effort to use energy wisely.

Finance Department

Proposed Property Tax Levy Reduced

The City of Countryside held a public hearing on Wednesday, December 9, 2009 to discuss a proposed property tax levy of \$2,314,358.76. Testimony was given by many residents and business owners. The City Council voted later that evening at their regularly scheduled council meeting to reduce the proposed tax levy to \$1,474,358.76.

Why A Property Tax Levy?

In the past, the City's strong sales tax base has supported the cost of operations. The backbone of our sales tax base has been the car dealerships. The automobile industry has experienced significant changes over the past few years. Dealerships have closed due to declining auto sales and some due to the loss of their franchise. Unfortunately, the City of Countryside has lost 6 car lines over the past 2 ½ years. We have been able to attract 1 dealership during this same time period.

The overall economic climate has impacted the City's revenues as well. Consumer spending is down. This equates to less sales tax. Interest rates have fallen to historic lows which, means the City earns less on its investments. The stock market dropped tremendously last year which means the value of the investments set aside to fund the police pension plan has dropped as well.

The City's state sales tax and interest income have dropped by about \$1.5 million from a couple years ago. That means the City has less money to pay its operations including police protection, snow plowing, leaf pickup and many more services provided to our residents and businesses.

How Much?

The City's projected deficit is currently \$2.6 million for FY2011. The Finance Committee recommended levying taxes in the amount of \$2,314,358.76 to cover debt service payments and the annual contribution to the police pension fund. The City Council decided not to levy the recommended \$840,000 for the annual contribution to the Police Pension Plan. However, the remaining amount will be levied to pay debt service.

The total tax levy for 2009 is \$1,474,358.76. Using the equalized assessed value currently available from Cook County the tax rate would be approximately .0037 of equalized assessed value. This is only an estimated rate as the equalized assessed value changes each year.

What Now?

Most municipalities are faced with financial situations similar to Countryside. Some like Schaumburg are considering a tax levy for the first time, others are considering the elimination of their annual tax rebates like Crestwood, and others are trying to control their tax levy increases to manageable amounts. The City Council will continue to address the remaining \$1.2 million deficit in the coming months. All options are under consideration including wage freezes, staffing levels, service cuts, privatization of services, etc.

The State's Financial Woes Could Impact All of Us

The State of Illinois' general obligation debt was downgraded by Moody's Investors Services in December. Illinois now has the second lowest rating from Moody's of all the U.S. states, California being the lowest. A bond rating for a governmental entity is similar to a credit score for an individual. The lower the score/rating the harder it is to get financing and the higher the rate of interest charged. This lower bond rating means the State of Illinois will pay higher interest rates to attract buyers for its debt issuances.

Standard & Poor's Rating Services and Fitch Ratings also downgraded Illinois' general obligation debt this past summer. Some reasons cited for the downgrades include minimal financial reserves, very high unfunded

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Finance Department

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pension liabilities and lack of action on structural budget gap of more than \$11 billion. The Chicago Tribune carried a story on December 8, 2009 titled GOP governor candidates spar over state finances. Candidates provided their ideas on how to deal with the state's fiscal situation including reducing pension benefits for future state workers, instituting a managed health care program for the poor, reduce budgets to fiscal 2006 levels, and cutting personal and corporate income to spur economic development. However, one suggestion to reduce or eliminate state revenue-sharing is most frustrating for municipalities.

The City of Countryside receives a 1% share of the state sales tax, and a share of income and motor fuel tax based upon population. Fiscal year 2009 provided the City with approximately \$6 million in state sales tax, \$545,000 in income tax and \$160,000 in motor fuel tax revenues. The motor fuel taxes are required to be segregated in a special revenue fund and can only be used for specific purposes such as street resurfacing, noise walls, etc. State sales and income taxes are used to fund general operations including police protection, snow plowing, etc. Mayor Conrad stated, "The City of Countryside will work diligently to keep our share of the state revenues on behalf of the residents and businesses. We too are faced with a budget deficit and tough decisions ahead. The state needs to make their own tough decisions and not look to municipalities to solve their financial mess."

Community News

Tow Trucks for Tots

The second annual Tow Trucks for Tots parade was held on Sunday, November 8, 2009. The parade was a huge success with 309 tow trucks participating, and over 2,000 gifts were collected to give to children around the Chicagoland area. Towers from Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Missouri arrived at the Caterpillar plant in Rockdale, IL and drove 44 miles to Toyota Park in support of Toys for Tots. This group should be receiving an award from the Guinness Book of World's Records for having the largest tow truck parade.

Once again, Countryside's Chariot Automotive participated in this successful event. Jim Bresnahan of Chariot Automotive was asked to lead the 2009 parade, which was an amazing honor to have; and Santa Claus even rode with Jim in the parade! Chariot Automotive would like to thank everyone who donated for this event.



Santa Advertising the Toys for Tots Drop Off for the Annual Tow Trucks for Tots Event Held November 8, 2009

Community Development

Census 2010

How ten questions and minutes define who we are as a nation. The upcoming 2010 Census Questionnaire is Easy, Important and Safe. With only ten questions, the 2010 Census questionnaire takes approximately ten minutes to complete. Households are asked to provide key demographic information, including: whether a housing unit is rented or owned; the address of the residence; and the names, genders, ages and races of others living in the household. By law, the

Census Bureau cannot share an individual's responses with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities. Plan on receiving your questionnaire in March 2010 either by U. S. mail or hand delivery. The questionnaire is due back to the U.S. Census on April 1st, 2010.

Interested parties in working as enumerators for the Census are urged to call 866-861-2010 or visit www.2010census.gov/2010censusjobs.



Bryan Swanson, City Planner presented information on the upcoming Census 2010 to the Countryside Senior's group



Stop by and visit the Mazda Retail Revolution dealership on LaGrange Road

Autobarn Mazda Renovations Complete

Countryside's automobile community has gained a state of the art dealership. The AutoBarn Mazda recently invested over \$3 million in the community by remodeling their existing building transforming it into a Mazda Retail Revolution dealership. The Mazda Retail Revolution dealership is one of only a handful of Mazda dealerships in the Midwest offering customers a high tech and user friendly experience to buying cars. The 33,000 square foot dealership has touch screen monitors throughout the store to allow customers prior to purchase to view potential vehicles with various options virtually. The infusion of steel, glass and brightly colored green and orange hues on the façade invoke a true 21st century dealership to visitors and long time customers coming to the store. The dealership is also the only one of its kind in the Chicagoland area to offer "speed" retail boutique accessories such as Sparko Helmets and Piloti Racing shoes. The dealership also offers a MCafe which contains an assortment of gourmet teas, coffees and treats for its visitors and customers. If you are in need of servicing you will also find an enclosed service area for drive ups which make the servicing aspect of your vehicle a lot more comfortable.

Community Development

Building Permits Needed

Many people take on home improvement projects throughout the year. If you are having work done on your home, please remember the following building permit and code requirements:

- Construction activities are limited to the hours of 7:00 am to 6:00 pm seven days a week.
- New construction sites are required to be fenced and secured until structures are nearly completed.
- All residential or commercial building permit applications must include the name, address and telephone number of the General Contractor and all Sub Contractors.
- All building permit applications must include at least one 24-hour telephone contact number.
- All building permit applicants must acknowledge that they have read, understand and agree to all the terms and conditions set forth in the Building Permit Code.
- A temporary construction sign shall be placed at all residential and commercial construction sites, which shall include the name of the General Contractor, telephone number for the General Contractor, permit information and general construction rules established by the City of Countryside.
- All permit holders are responsible for the cleaning of the street within 250 feet of the work site every day.
- Every permit issued shall become invalid unless the work authorized by such permit is commenced within 365 days after its issuance, or if the work authorized by such permit is suspended or abandoned for a period of 180 days after the time the work is commenced.
- The Building Official is authorized to grant one or more extensions of time, for periods not more than 180 days each.

The purpose of building permit and the reason the City requires the contractor to be licensed and bonded is to protect residents. Building Department staff monitors these locations to review the impact on traffic flow and access, and works closely with the Police Department to hold contractors accountable for complying with approved plan requirements. Should you need to report building permit concerns or possible violations, or if you are having work done on your home and are not sure if you need a permit, please contact the Building Department at 708-354-1860.

Comprehensive Property Inspection Program

In order to protect public health, safety and welfare, the City of Countryside has established a property maintenance program for all buildings in the City. This fee supported program has three parts:

Required licensing and periodic inspection of all rental commercial and residential properties including condominium common areas.

Pre-sale City inspections for all residential and commercial properties is before the City will issue a real estate transfer stamp.

A vacant property license is required for all vacant commercial and residential properties. Property is considered "vacant" when it is unoccupied for 120 consecutive days.

The City will soon be contacting each owner of vacant property to schedule an inspection. Copies of the applicable ordinances and fee schedules are available on the internet at www.countryside-il.org. For more information please call TPI Building Code Consultants at 630-443-1567.

Emergency Services and Disaster Agency (EMHS)



Emergency Management and Homeland Security

Our History....

Emergency Management and Homeland Security existed for many years under several different names. The group was originally known as Civil Defense and in the 1980's the city revisited the concept of emergency management after putting the Civil Defense concept on hiatus. The new concept of Emergency Services and Disaster Agency was then formed. After September 11th the units role changed again into its new title of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (E.M.H.S.) and it will continue to, evolve and restructure itself as times change.

Our Mission...

Our primary objective is to serve the residents of the City of Countryside, and to provide emergency preparedness education and emergency preparedness planning for the City of Countryside. As part of our mission, we also maintain the City's Emergency Operations Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan. This "living" document is a comprehensive guide for maintaining the continuity of government and mitigation of a disaster in the event the Mayor makes a major disaster declaration. Countryside E.M.H.S. assists the Countryside Police Department and Pleasantview Fire Protection District in any capacity that it can as deemed necessary by the Police or Fire Departments command staff.

Services We Provide...

While our name is Emergency Management and Homeland Security, our unit provides many services that are above and beyond our title.

As the unit continues to expand its role within the City, some of the duties or functions that the officers may perform may include, but are not necessarily limited to the following:

Traffic Control – Often these services are provided at the scene of traffic accidents, fires or major intersections during power failures.

Crowd Control – Maintain order at large gathering at City functions such as City sponsored events such as the Halloween Party, Christmas Party and Countryside Park events.

Coordinated Park Patrols – E.M.H.S. performs daily seasonal patrols of the City's parks as a visual deterrent to criminal activity.

Neighborhood Watch – On patrol of the parks, the patrol team also monitors the neighborhood during these patrols for suspicious activity and reports it to the Police Department.

Emergency Lighting – To provide emergency scene lighting by use of portable light standards and generators.

Emergency Communications – Via the Units mobile command vehicle, communications during emergency situations or mutual aid events can be coordinated from this self contained vehicle.

Downed Line Security – To maintain the quarantine areas where downed electrical wires are present to relieve Police and Fire units yet maintain the safety of the area.

Provide Departmental Assistance – To assist any governmental agency or mutual aid municipality in any capacity as deemed necessary.

Utilize Hand Tools – Operation of chain saws, shovels and other tools as required.

Emergency Operations Center – The unit is responsible for the cities Operations Center in the event of a major incident or weather event.

Command Structure

As with any organization, teamwork is critical to success. As such, the command structure of Countryside E.M.H.S. is as follows:

Coordinator

Assistant Coordinator

Deputy Coordinator

Officers

The E.M.H.S. Department has direct report responsibility to the City Administrator.

The E.M.H.S. Coordinator has direct report responsibility to the Mayor, Alderman, City Administrator, and Police Chief. Since Pleasantview Fire Protection District is a separate governmental agency that provides fire and EMS services to the City, the coordinator does not directly report to the fire chief, he/she does maintain a strong working relationship with them.

Mutual Aid Agencies

Countryside E.M.H.S. currently works closely with our neighbors: Lyons and Hodgkins E.S.D.A. units. While McCook currently does not have an E.S.D.A. unit, we have been requested to assist their police and fire departments in the past.

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Emergency Services and Disaster Agency (EMHS)

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On a broader scale, Countryside E.M.H.S. has been asked to provide manpower and equipment to Cook County Sheriffs Police, Cook County Emergency Management Agency and the Illinois State Police.



the protection of life and property. Further, as part of this organization, we are involved in many functions that contribute to the good of our neighbors, the community as a whole and our neighboring communities.

If you have any questions regarding emergency preparedness, please feel free to contact any of the officers or our emergency operations center at 708-354-8484.

*Officers of the Countryside
Emergency Management and
Homeland Security.*

institutional facilities protected with fire alarm and sprinkler systems and that these systems directly report to the Fire District's Fire Alarm Communications Center. The resulting connections over the years have produced positive results through the early detection of threats from fire and other building problems.

From the earliest fire alarm connections through today, our fire district personnel have provided monitoring services for your location continuously around the clock. In 1998, Pleasantview Fire District, in cooperation with the Tri-State and Darien-Woodridge Fire Districts, established the Chicago areas first wireless radio alarm receiving system. The system was designed to provide an alternate method of connection to our fire alarm communications centers as well as improve reliability and stabilize costs. Over 60 percent of our fire alarm connections now use the wireless radio network. Our partner fire districts sharing the system have seen similar growth, therefore pressing the efficient operational limits of the wireless radio system.

Due to the growth in this shared system, the Fire District has elected to purchase a wireless radio fire alarm receiving system exclusively for the use of Pleasantview Fire District residents and business owners. We are moving to this new system for improved service and efficiency through the use of enhanced technology provided by a computer aided alarm interface at the Fire District's Communications Center. We will begin the transition to the new system in the first quarter of 2010, with the intention of moving all users within 1 year. This system will be owned by the Pleasantview Fire District and supported through an agreement with Chicago Metropolitan Fire Prevention Company (CMFP).



In June of 2005 the National Weather Service recognized the City of Countryside for successfully achieving certification as a StormReady community. This designation does not make Countryside storm proof, however, it does mean that the City has taken the necessary steps required to prepare for and respond to severe weather events. The City of Countryside was one of only 37 communities at that time in the state of Illinois and the fifth community in Cook County to achieve this designation from the National Weather Service.



Pleasantview Fire Protection District News

Businesses and Residential Fire Alarm Systems

For over 60 years, The Pleasantview Fire District's number one priority has been providing our community with quality preventive and protective services. To this end, we are writing today to inform you of a recent decision made by the Fire District to continue this fine tradition of quality services. For over 30 years, it has been the policy of the Fire District to have businesses, multi-family buildings, and

Employment Information...

The City of Countryside is an Equal Opportunity Employer and applicants must have a clear and valid Illinois drivers license. Applications can be obtained from the City of Countryside Clerk's Office Monday through Friday between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm.

In Conclusion...

Officers of this organization learn why emergency services and disaster preparedness are so important in

Recreation Department

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We are very excited to inform you of the improvements and enhancements that the new system will provide.

The Pleasantview Fire District is currently in the process of updating its requirements for directly connecting fire alarms to radio only. This change **WILL REQUIRE ACTION ON YOUR PART.** The exact form of this action and the corresponding costs associated with your migration to the new system will vary depending on whether you are using a leased phone line, leased radio, or owned radio. In light of the recent rate increases imposed on our citizens who use leased AT & T telephone line connections, we firmly believe that a radio alarm connection will provide a more economical and reliable method of connecting your fire alarm to the Fire District.

Due to the planned changes, we recommend that you contact us in the event that you have a question or problem regarding your fire alarm system connection contract.

In the near future we will re-contact you with more specific information on our upcoming project including projected costs. We would like to thank you in advance for your patience and your cooperation during this transition period.

If you have any questions, please contact our Fire Prevention Bureau at 708-352-3021.



Another Successful Year of Events

Countryside wrapped up its year of special events on December 5th with the annual Children's Christmas Party. Approximately 300 Countryside residents were present to greet Santa and Mrs. Claus and celebrate Christmas in Countryside.

Once again, the City's year of events were a success, beginning with the Easter Egg Hunt, where children find eggs filled with candy and have their picture taken with the Easter Bunny.

The annual Concerts in the Park series was held every Thursday evening from mid-June through the beginning of August. At the final concert of the series, Mayor Conrad recognized all life-long Countryside residents during the intermission. Shown below is a photograph of some of Countryside's life-long residents.

Despite the cold and windy day, the City's annual Harvest Fest (October) was once again a huge success, with approximately 1500 participants throughout the day. Participants received a free pumpkin and were able to enter a contest to guess the pumpkin's weight. The person with the closest guess to the weight was able to take the pumpkin home at the end of the event.

The start of the holiday season was welcomed in Countryside the Friday after Thanksgiving with the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived by firetruck at Memorial Park to greet all residents and have their pictures taken with the children.

The City would like to thank all of its sponsors for the 2009 Year of Events: Vulcan Materials Company, AT&T, Continental Motors Group, GROOT, Hunt Printing and Graphics, The Doings, The Home Depot, and State Bank of Countryside.

New this year are the LED Holiday lights at Memorial Park and City Hall. In years past, the City contracted with a company for the decorations at the park. As a cost savings measure, in 2009, the decorations were purchased by the City and installed by the Public Works Department, saving the City almost \$10,000.



Lifelong Countryside Residents were recognized at the August 6, 2009 Concert in the Park. Seated from left to right: Mayor Robert Conrad, LaVerne Gabay, former Mayor Carl LeGant, and Michael Gabay (top)



Mayor Robert A. Conrad
 City Clerk Sharon Sweeney
 Treasurer Steven Jasinski
 Alderman Sean McDermott
 Alderman Karen Michalczyk
 Alderman Robert Pondelicek
 Alderman Michael Smetana
 Alderman Wayne Straza
 Alderman John Von Drasek

PRSRST STD
 US POSTAGE
PAID
 LA GRANGE, IL
 PERMIT NO. 134

5550 East Avenue
 Countryside, IL 60525-3689

Countryside Calendar

January

5	Plan/ZBA Commission	7:30 pm
5	Senior Citizens Club	6:30 pm
13	City Council	7:30 pm
19	Flagg Creek Administrative Board	6:30 pm
19	Senior Citizens Club	6:30 pm
27	City Council	7:30 pm

February

2	Plan/ZBA Commission	7:30 pm
2	Senior Citizens Club	6:30 pm
10	City Council	7:30 pm
16	Flagg Creek Administrative Board	6:30 pm
16	Senior Citizens Club	6:30 pm
24	City Council	7:30

March

2	Plan/ZBA Commission	7:30 pm
2	Senior Citizens Club	6:30 pm
10	City Council	7:30 pm
16	Flagg Creek Administrative Board	6:30 pm
16	Senior Citizens Club	6:30 pm
24	City Council	7:30 pm

Phone Numbers to Know



Clerk's Office 708-354-7270	Police Non-Emergency 708-352-2171
Recreation 708-485-2595	Public Works 708-354-3390
Community Development 708-354-1860	Emergency 911

Websites to Know



City of Countryside www.countryside-il.org	Shopping/Business Information www.gocountryside.net
Cook County Clerk www.voterinfo.net	Flagg Creek Golf Course www.flaggcreekgolfcourse.org
Pleasantview Fire Protection www.plvw.org	West Suburban Chamber www.westsuburbanchamber.org