From the Mayor's Desk...

I don't know about you but there are so many things that I'm looking forward to this spring. It means longer daylight hours, and the warm feeling of the sun that should brighten your day. Shake off the winter blues and make it a goal to be more active and enjoy springtime to its fullest. Welcome the season with open arms by listening to music that celebrates spring or plan some beach time.

Now to some important information that you should be aware of. Do you know what the number one cause of lung cancer in non-smokers is? **RADON GAS!** Radon is a cancer-causing, natural radioactive gas that you can't see, smell or taste. To check your house for radon, you can order a testing kit for the low cost of $7.00 through the Cook County Department of Environmental Control. For more information, please go to our web site where we have a link to the EPA's Citizen Guide to Radon.

Countryside is partners with 284 communities that make up the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) which comprises over 9 million residents in the seven-county metropolitan Chicago region. We have to understand that what happens outside our boarders in the future, will have an effect on what happens in town. CMAP has adopted a comprehensive plan, "**Go to 2040 Moving Forward**", to address region wide population growth of more than 2 million new residents anticipated during the next three decades. Additional information is also available at [www.cmap.illinois.gov/2040/main](http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/2040/main).

Do not forget that April 9th is your time to let your voice be counted by going to the polls and electing your choice of Aldermen to represent your views on your City Council for the coming years. So enjoy the upcoming spring with warmer weather and by all means, contact me via email or phone to let me know what you think (good or bad). Your opinion does count! We all work for you, the residents of Countryside. My direct line is (708) 485-2050 and my email address is ekrzeminski@countryside-il.org.

**Top “10” Sales Tax Generators**

The City of Countryside depends on sales tax revenue to support the majority of general city operations. It has and will continue to be a top priority for the City to attract high revenue businesses such as car dealerships or big box retailers with a goal of eventually reverting back to the pre-2009 days when there was no municipal property tax assessed to residents and businesses.

The total sales tax rate in Countryside was 9.0% during 2012 and decreased to 8.75% effective January 1, 2013 due to a reduction in Cook County’s home rule tax. Of this total rate, the City automatically receives a 1.0% municipal sales tax and an additional .75% home rule sales tax on qualifying purchases. For calendar year 2012, the total sales tax collected by the City approximated $7.6 million dollars. The top ten businesses generated a combined $3.6 million dollars, or 47% of the total. The top ten sales tax producers are listed alphabetically in the chart.

The sales tax base should continue to expand as the site-work improvements within the Countryside Commercial Tax Increment Financing District nears completion in 2013 and new retail businesses open their doors. If you have any questions on sales or any other tax in the City, please do not hesitate to contact the City’s Finance Director at (708) 354-7270.
WARD REPORTS

WARD 1

Alderman James Jasinski  (708) 828-3563  jjasinski@countryside-il.org
Alderman Robert Pondelicek  (708) 354-5001  bpondelicek@countryside-il.org

◆ Ward 1 will have a new neighbor this summer. Andy’s Frozen Custard will be located at the northeast corner of LaGrange Road and 58th Street. The business will bring new job opportunities and great flavors to Countryside.

◆ The City continues to market 5631 S. LaGrange Road (former motel site) for unique and destination based uses. Just recently, the City placed a half-page ad in The Beer Connoisseur Magazine promoting the property and City for a micro-brew pub.

◆ Great progress continues at the Countryside City Center. The construction of the 3-tenant commercial building, Hooters Restaurant and Texas Roadhouse will all be starting this spring. Get ready for new jobs, increased sales tax revenue for the City, and a new sense of place in Ward 1.

WARD 2

Alderman Karen Michalczyk  (708) 917-2573  kmichalczyk@countryside-il.org
Alderman John Von Drasek  (708) 482-7663  jvondrasek@countryside-il.org

◆ Westfield Ford will be constructing a state of the art addition to their existing building and will be LEED certified. During construction the administrative offices will be temporarily located at 6150 S. LaGrange Road (former BMW location).

◆ Negotiations with Cook County are still underway for jurisdictional transfer of the 5th Avenue Cutoff roadway.

◆ Please be aware of gypsy scams and always request any contractor to secure a building permit.

◆ Aldermen Michalczyk and Von Drasek were integral in getting the following streets repaved and improved through CDBG funding: Prescott Road, Sunset Avenue and 74th Street. Through the CDBG program, the City has been able to resurface those streets prior to the schedule of street repair as recommended by the street resurfacing program.

◆ Please contact Karen and John if you would like to highlight a resident in a future newsletter.

WARD 3

Alderman Sean McDermott  (708) 354-2350  smcdermott@countryside-il.org
Alderman Scott Musillami  (708) 334-5803  smusillami@countryside-il.org

◆ The northwest corner of LaGrange and Joliet Road has been a very busy place. BMW Motorcycles of Countryside is relocating to the former Subaru location at 6070 S. LaGrange Road. The Subaru dealership relocated to 6191 Joliet Road which was the former VW dealership. All new locations will better serve the new dealerships. The former BMW Motorcycles location at 6150 S. LaGrange Road will continue to be utilized by an automotive retail use. In the short term, it will temporarily house the administrative offices of Westfield Ford during their renovation construction.

◆ Continental Mitsubishi recently received zoning approval from the City Council for an expansion of their parking lot on the former LaGrange Motel site. The expansion of the parking lot will provide the dealership the opportunity to store a larger inventory.

◆ Construction of the Andrew Whiting Memorial Park is making excellent progress. Get ready for a fun summer Ward 3 residents!
Economic Development Updates

City Center Update

Site work on lots 3A and 4 continued but unfortunately winter weather set in. As soon as the ground thaws there is approximately 6 days of work remaining to grade the lots and install a stone base around the pad site. Construction of the Hooters, Texas Roadhouse and multi-tenant building will be underway this spring.

The City Council approved an amendment to the Brandon Realty Redevelopment agreement in February. This amendment incorporates the new corporate prototype for the Hooters restaurant. Countryside will be one of only three in the nation with this new look.

Andy’s is Coming to Countryside!

The City Council approved a TIF Redevelopment Agreement with White Shirts, LLC for the construction of an Andy’s Frozen Custard at 5745 LaGrange Road. The RDA includes conveying the property on or before March, 22, 2013 for $200,000; all closing costs to be paid by the purchaser, permit applications must be on file by March 1, 2013 (which they are), and the developer must complete construction within four months of obtaining all required permits. The City is very excited about this addition to our TIF district. Andy’s is a well known brand which has had much success since 1986. It also is a business type which is often suggested by residents. Check out their website at www.eatandyss.com to get a sampling of the menu items.

Autobarn Subaru is Open!

Autobarn’s new Subaru facility has officially opened. The new location is 20,000 square feet. It includes an updated waiting room, more service lifts and the opportunity to offer a larger selection of vehicles to the public. The dealership hired 12 additional employees in the fields of sales, service writers and maintenance technicians.
Police Updates

The topic of distracted driving has received a lot of attention recently, and for good reason. According to the Illinois State Police website, “The use of a cell phone while driving increases your chance of getting into a crash by 400%!”

Current laws regarding the use of electronic devices while driving:

♦ Drivers 18 and younger are prohibited from using wireless phones while driving - with or without hands-free devices.
♦ All drivers are prohibited from text messaging and related activities such as emailing and Internet use.
♦ Motorists are prohibited from use of cellular phones in school speed zones and construction/road maintenance zones.
♦ Within 500 feet of an emergency scene, cell phone use and taking of photos or videos on wireless devices is prohibited.
♦ In Chicago, all drivers talking on mobile phones must use hands-free devices. Text messaging is prohibited while driving. Fines: $100-$500.

(Source: www.handsfreeinfo.com)

The Illinois State Police offer these tips to avoid distracted driving:

♦ Pull over to a safe place to talk on the phone, text message, or email.
♦ Don't touch that dial. Adjust seat positions, climate controls, sound systems and other devices before you leave or when you stop.
♦ Don't multi-task when driving. Don't use the vehicle's mirrors for personal grooming when the vehicle is in motion or try to read or write while you're behind the wheel.
♦ Pull over to care for children.
♦ Stop to eat or drink.

For more information, check out the Illinois State Police website at www.isp.state.il.us.

NOTICE: Effective April 15, 2013

By Order of Court, electronic communications and internet devices will be banned in all Circuit Court of Cook County Courthouses.

Go to www.cookcounty.org for a list of exemptions.

City-Issued Tax Exempt Debt

In calendar year 2012, the City borrowed five million dollars via a bank installment loan in order to pay for various improvements within the commercial tax increment financing (TIF) district along Joliet and LaGrange Road. The interest rate which the City received on this loan was an astonishingly low 2.28%, reduced significantly by the tax exempt classification of the loan. Federal regulations regarding the issuance of tax exempt debt can be rather complex but to briefly summarize, tax exempt loans offer the borrower lower rates of interest compared to taxable loans, although tax exempt loans also usually bring additional restrictions to the borrower. The regulation most relevant to the City’s $5 million borrowing dictates that any proceeds from property improved by using tax exempt financing and subsequently sold must be used towards paying down the tax exempt loan principal.

Although this regulation hinders the City from using the sales proceeds for other purposes such as reducing the property tax levy, it nevertheless benefits Countryside taxpayers in two very important ways: 1) when the loan principal is paid down from sale of improved land, interest expense on the $5M loan is likewise reduced, and 2) by securing tax exempt financing, the city pays a lower interest rate on the debt, saving taxpayers thousands of dollars in interest expense over the life of the loan. If you have any questions regarding tax exempt financing, please contact the City’s Finance Department at (708) 354-7270.
**Code Enforcement**

**How Does Your Home Shape Up?**

Spring is upon us and the Community Development Department will be resuming their code enforcement patrols of the City. We would like to take this time to make you aware of some of the areas that will be looked at to assure that exterior surfaces and surroundings are up to code. This checklist will help you keep your property in good condition. *How does your home measure up?*

1. **Address Numbers** must be easily seen from the street, and be at least 4 inches high.
2. **Roofs** cannot be missing shingles or any defects that would allow rain or snow to leak through, or any signs of sagging.
3. **Gutters** must be anchored to the roof, with downspouts properly connected and free from obstruction.
4. **Sump pumps and downspouts** shall discharge onto your own property in such a manner as to not create a nuisance to neighbors or public property.
5. **Window** glass cannot have cracks or holes. Window frames must be in good condition.
6. **Doors and door frames** must be in good condition and weather-tight.
7. **Exterior surfaces**, such as siding, soffit and fascia must be free of holes and be properly painted and weather-proofed.
8. **Driveways and walkways** should not have serious cracks, deterioration, or settlement that might cause a trip hazard.
9. **Accessory structures** such as decks, sheds, detached garages, fences, porches, pools and retaining walls must be structurally sound and in good repair.
10. **Recreational vehicles** (boats, campers, trailers) may not be stored in the front yard or on the driveway. When stored in the side or rear yard, they must be placed upon either asphalt or concrete and be screened on three sides by fencing or non-deciduous plants that are at least five feet in height.
11. **Trees** that are diseased, dying or dead shall be removed from your property.
12. **Grass and weeds** shall be maintained to 10 inches or less.

Some home improvement projects require a permit, which can be obtained from the Community Development Department. Some examples of work that does not require a permit are painting, carpeting or flooring, landscaping (as long as it does not change the grading of the land), or sealing your driveway. Most other work around your home or business does require a permit and if you are ever in doubt - please call and we will be happy to assist you.

For more information or to answer any questions you may have, please call the Community Development Department at (708) 354-1860.

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**Welcome to Countryside**

- **Baci Salon & Wellness**
  5512 S. Brainard Avenue
  **Hair Salon**

- **Salon B**
  26 E. Plainfield Road
  **Hair Salon**

- **Sarpino’s Pizza on LaGrange**
  5321 S. LaGrange Road
  **Pizza carryout/delivery**

- **Water Wares**
  5503 S. LaGrange Road
  **Plumbing supply retail store**

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**Young at Heart**

Established in 2011, Young at Heart's mission is “To recognize the different needs of each individual and improve the quality of life for our participants and their families.” Young at Heart currently offers weekly vital checks for Senior Citizens, which can be done either onsite or in your home. Young at Heart also offers casual day trips for its participants, as well as onsite activities and entertainment events. For more information on Young at Heart and its programs, please call (708) 639-4342 or visit their website [www.youngatheartc.info](http://www.youngatheartc.info).
Public Works Reminds You . . .

Brush Pickup (April 1-October 25)

Branch and brush pickup will be provided by the City for residents beginning April 1st through October 25th. Public Works crews will be covering the City on a weekly basis.

Residents are asked to observe the following rules for branch/brush pickup:

- Cut ends of tree limbs must face the street and be stacked along the parkway.
- Tree limbs should not be over 10 feet in length or over 4 inches in diameter.
- Tree stumps are not accepted at the disposal site and will not be picked up.
- Do not include vines in the branches for pickup. They will become entangled with the limbs, creating a dangerous situation during handling.
- City ordinance forbids the depositing of grass clippings, leaves or any other debris in the branch pile or on the street.
- Contractors providing tree and brush trimming services are responsible for the removal of all materials they cut.
- Please allow 7 to 10 working days for pickup.

If you have any questions, please call Public Works at (708) 354-3390.

Spring Clean-Up (May 18 - May 19)

This service is provided to all residents free of charge and is certainly one of the benefits of living in Countryside! Please note that all items for pick-up should be placed at the edge of the street in front of your home by 7 a.m., Monday, May 20th.

Items not accepted include:
- Yard waste (including brush)
- Bio-medical and infectious material
- Hazardous and toxic waste of any kind
- Volatile and highly flammable material
- Radioactive material
- Concrete/Dirt
- Liquids and paints
- Explosive material

The hauler will not collect any materials that are excessive in size and weight. Items that are not acceptable will be tagged by the hauler.

If you have any questions, please call Public Works at (708) 354-3390.

Frustrated by Potholes?

While the City is responsible for maintaining the majority of Countryside’s 17 miles of roadways, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) (800) 452-4368 and the Cook County Highway Department (708) 485-7130 are responsible for plowing, maintaining, and repairing potholes on approximately 11 miles of Countryside streets. These typically include more heavily used roads such as Willow Springs Road, Joliet Road, La Grange Road, 55th Street, East Avenue, Brainard Avenue, 5th Avenue Cutoff, and Plainfield Road.

Residents are always encouraged to report pothole problems to the City. If the pothole is on a street that the City maintains, a Public Works crew will be dispatched as soon as possible, often even the same day, to repair the problem. If the pothole is on an IDOT or Cook County Highway Department road, the information is passed along to the proper jurisdictional agency.

Let us know if your street light is out!

For neighborhood safety, please contact the Public Works Department at (708) 354-3390 if a street light is not working or if the lens is broken. Have the location and/or address near the pole available when you call.
**Water Department**

**Sump Pump Inspections**

Every year the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District requires the City of Countryside to perform inspections of its sanitary system. Part of this program requires inspection of all residential and commercial sump pumps to verify there is no cross connection between the sump pumps and the sanitary system. Pump connections should be made with metal or rigid PVC-type pipe, and not be connected to the sanitary system. You are not required to have a sump pump, but if you do it must be properly connected. Our inspectors will need to verify this.

We will be inspecting homes in the Ward 2 area for cross connected sump pumps, since this ward is managed by the Countryside Water Department. South Lyons Township Sanitary District is responsible for the remainder of the City, and will be conducting the same inspections in those areas.

Letters will be mailed in advance to those areas still needing inspections which will explain the procedure. Inspectors will begin by going house to house. Those not home when the inspector arrives will be required to schedule an appointment. If you should have any questions regarding this project, or need to schedule an inspection in advance, please contact Water Billing at (708) 485-2465. A normal inspection will take 10 to 20 minutes.

Please take note that City employees always carry a City issued photo I.D. They will provide it upon request.

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**Water Report**

**2012 Water System Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)**

The City of Countryside will be publishing its 2012 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) in June 2013. The CCR includes basic information on the source of your drinking water, the levels of any contaminants that were detected in the water during 2012, compliance with other drinking water rules, as well as educational materials.

To obtain a free copy of the CCR, please contact the Clerk’s office at (708) 354-7270 or stop by the Clerk’s office at City Hall, 5550 East Avenue, in June.

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**Lawn Sprinkling Restrictions**

City ordinance restricts sprinkling between May 15th and September 15th. Sprinkling lawns and gardens is prohibited between the hours of 12:00 (noon) and 6:00 p.m.

During the hours when sprinkling is permitted, odd numbered addresses may water on odd numbered dates, and even numbered addresses may water on even numbered dates.

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**Lift Station**

The Water Committee and the City Council are happy to announce that the new Ward 2 sanitary lift station will be constructed during the summer months. The new lift station replaces the current lift station from 1983. The new lift station will have the life span of 20+ years.

This new lift station will be maintained from above ground which will make it safer for our water operators. It will also have a natural gas generator that provides power when the electricity is out.

The cost of this project is $339,500. We are very happy to report that the entire cost of this project will be paid from the reserves of the sewer fund. Sewer rates for those residents in Ward 2 serviced by this lift station will not experience an increase.
City Services
Important Election Dates for April 9, 2013

Grace period registration and grace period voting continues at the Cook County Building, 69 W. Washington Blvd., Chicago and 5 satellite locations: Bridgeview, Markham, Maywood, Skokie and Rolling Meadows Courthouses until 4-6-13. On 4-6-13, grace period registration and voting will only take place at the Cook County Building.

Early voting continues at the Cook County Building, 69 W. Washington Blvd., Chicago and 5 satellite locations: Bridgeview, Markham, Maywood, Skokie and Rolling Meadows Courthouses. On 4-6-13, early voting will only take place at the Cook County Building.

To locate more voting sites or find your polling location, go to www.cookcountyclerk.com. Polling hours are 6 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Speak Out!

“Speak Out” provides a way in which YOU can communicate with the City of Countryside elected officials and administration. Your advice, suggestions, questions and opinions are appreciated and will receive a response. If you need more space, please attach a separate sheet.

Full Name: _____________________________ as a citizen/business owner of the City of Countryside, it is my opinion that: _____________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

Date: ___________ Address: ___________________ Phone: _______________

Mail to: “Speak Out” City of Countryside, 5550 East Avenue, Countryside, IL 60525 or e-mail to: cityhall@countryside-il.org

Full Name, mailing address, or e-mail address are required for a response.

Upcoming Meetings

April
2 Senior Citizens Club 6:30 p.m.
2 Plan/ZBA Commission 7:30 p.m.
10 City Council 7:30 p.m.
16 Senior Citizens Club 6:30 p.m.
17 Flagg Creek Admin. Board 7:00 p.m.
24 City Council 7:30 p.m.

May
7 Senior Citizens Club 6:30 p.m.
7 Plan/ZBA Commission 7:30 p.m.
8 City Council 7:30 p.m.
15 Flagg Creek Admin. Board 7:00 p.m.
21 Senior Citizens Club 6:30 p.m.
22 City Council 7:30 p.m.

June
4 Senior Citizens Club 6:30 p.m.
4 Plan/ZBA Commission 7:30 p.m.
12 City Council 7:30 p.m.
18 Senior Citizens Club 6:30 p.m.
19 Flagg Creek Admin. Board 7:00 p.m.
26 City Council 7:30 p.m.

Upcoming Holidays

Please note that City Hall will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

Good Friday
Friday, March 29, 2013

Memorial Day
Monday, May 27, 2013

Independence Day
Thursday, July 4, 2013

City Services

DON’T MISS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE!
**Community Happenings**

**Relay For Life of Countryside**

**Date:** July 12 - 13, 2013  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m. - 6:00 a.m.  
**Place:** Countryside Park

Countryside residents will pull an “all-nighter” in an effort to raise funds in the fight against cancer. Almost everyone has had a family member or friend whose life has been affected by cancer. This national event gives people an opportunity to get involved in raising money to fund research, provide services and support to cancer patients and their families.

Besides being an extremely important fundraiser, this event is also great fun for families and friends. There will be overnight fun and excitement for everyone - including music, late night pizza, kids' activities, contests and more.

Groups of individuals are needed to form teams. Each team will take turns walking the park throughout the night, with a team member walking the park at all times.

Anyone interested in participating in some way, either by forming a team, making a donation, joining in on the survivor’s lap, sponsoring a portion of the evening or volunteering your time to help at the event, email Jenna DeAngelis at the American Cancer Society at jenna.deangelis@cancer.org or call her at (312) 279-7266. Their website is www.relayforlife.org/countrysideil.

**Concerts in the Park - “World Tour”**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 13</td>
<td>Teknikal Diffikulties (Opener)</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Kharma (Headliner)</td>
<td>9:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 20</td>
<td>Barefoot Hawaiian</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 27</td>
<td>Midway Ramblers Cajun Band</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 11</td>
<td>American English</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 18</td>
<td>New Odyssey</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 25</td>
<td>Jose Valdes &amp; The Mambo All-Stars</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 1</td>
<td>Piano Man</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 8</td>
<td>Final Say</td>
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</tbody>
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We are pleased to announce our 2013 Concerts in the Park schedule. It's never too early to plan your summer schedule. All concerts are held rain or shine at Countryside Park.

Once again, we'll offer food from a local Countryside vendor and give-a-ways during intermission.

For more information, please call (708) 485-2595.

**Memorial Day Ceremony**

When: Monday, May 27, 2013  
**Time:** 11:00 a.m.  
**Where:** Memorial Park

Following the service, a separate ceremony to honor all deceased veterans will be held at 11:30 a.m. at Post 1941.

Robert E. Coulter Jr. Post 1941  
900 S. LaGrange Road  
LaGrange, IL 60525

**SAVE THE DATE**

Friday, May 17, 2013  
6:00 p.m.  
At Pinstripes  
(7 Oakbrook Center Mall - Oakbrook)

**ANNUAL FUND-RAISING EVENT!**

**Live and Silent Auctions**

- **Dinner!**
- **Bocce!**
- **Bowling!**

Celebrity athlete appearance by Chicago Bears cornerback - Charles Tillman and sports anchor - Pat Tomasulo from WGN-TV.
Officials:

**Mayor**
Ed Krzeminski

**Clerk**
Sharon Sweeney

**Treasurer**
Steven Jasinski

**Aldermen**
James Jasinski
Sean McDermott
Karen Michalczyk
Scott Musillami
Robert Pondelicek
John Von Drasek

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**Important Phone Numbers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Main</th>
<th>Fax</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City Hall</td>
<td>(708) 354-7270</td>
<td>(708) 354-9445</td>
<td>Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Dept.</td>
<td>(708) 352-2171 (non-emergency)</td>
<td>(708) 352-1032</td>
<td>911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerk's Office</td>
<td>(708) 354-7270</td>
<td>(708) 354-9445</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Works</td>
<td>(708) 354-3390</td>
<td>(708) 354-9445</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Water Billing</td>
<td>(708) 485-2465</td>
<td>(708) 354-9029</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Development</td>
<td>(708) 354-1860</td>
<td>(708) 354-9029</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation</td>
<td>(708) 485-2595</td>
<td>(708) 354-9445</td>
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**Websites to Know**

City of Countryside
[www.countryside-il.org](http://www.countryside-il.org)

Cook County Clerk
[www.cookcountyclerk.com](http://www.cookcountyclerk.com)

Pleasantview Fire Protection
[www.plvw.org](http://www.plvw.org)

West Suburban Chamber
[www.westsuburbanchamber.org](http://www.westsuburbanchamber.org)

Countryside Business Association
[www.shopcountryside.net](http://www.shopcountryside.net)

Flagg Creek Golf Course
[www.flaggcreekgolfcourse.org](http://www.flaggcreekgolfcourse.org)