From the Mayor's Desk . . .

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be in the middle of winter but we can look forward to spring when warm weather and sunshine, something that always seems to add a positive spin to our lives. Let’s hope that all of the predictions are wrong – we really do not want a worse winter than the one we had last year.

A top priority of the City is to continue talks with developers and businesses to enhance the City’s main commercial area. We have a tentative agreement with Hooters to locate on the northern end of the property. We are also following up with the numerous businesses that the City Administrator, Alderman Jasinski, and I met with at the International Shopping Center convention in Chicago. New developing business investment will mean new jobs and better finances.

November brought the budget sessions for the City Council. The main topic of discussion was if the city could abate any part of the property tax for the annual payment of the $20 M 2008 bond. It was a decision of the aldermen, not to abate this tax because it would put the City in financial difficulty, and the City needs to have a balanced budget.

Starting January 1, 2012, electronic recycling becomes mandatory. According to the US EPA, electronics are complex devices which are made of a wide variety of elements such as lead, nickel, cadmium and mercury. The following items need to be recycled: TV’s, monitors, printers, fax machines, scanners, computers, electronic keyboards and mice, video game consoles and video cassette records, digital converter boxes, cable and satellite receivers recorders, portable digital music players, video disc recorders and players. The City is researching the possibility of having a one day electronics recycling event where residents can drop off their unwanted electronics in the spring.

As you will read in this issue of the Countryside Connections, I have appointed, with the consent of the City Council, Scott Musillami, a 30 year resident of the 3rd Ward, to fill the vacancy of Alderman Straza on the City Council. All of us at the City welcome Alderman Musillami and are glad that he has agreed to serve on our City Council.

The City Council approved a non-binding referendum to be placed on the March 2012 ballot, concerning purchasing electricity as a group to lower your electric bill. It is explained in detail on page 4 of this newsletter.

I am also happy to announce that a representative from Commissioner Tobolski’s office contacted the City stating that 5th Avenue Cutoff is scheduled to be resurfaced by the County this year. They are trying to have the 5th Ave Cutoff road resurfaced as one of the first jobs in 2012.

We are also looking for a few good citizens to help the City move forward by volunteering for two new City Citizen Committees. Please consider applying for the Beautification Committee and the Tree City USA Citizens Advisory Committee.

As your Mayor, I am optimistic as we look to 2012 and beyond, and I encourage you to be as well. In challenging times, it is more important than ever to count our blessings. The holiday season is behind us, and I wish all of you joyous opportunities to share good times with family and friends.

Mayor Ed Krzeminski
Mayor Appoints Alderman

At the December 14, 2011 City Council Meeting, Scott Musillami was sworn in by Mayor Krzeminski as a Ward 3 Alderman. Mr. Musillami is replacing retired Alderman, Wayne Straza. Mr. Musillami has been a resident for 32 years and is also a co-owner of the House of Color, located on 55th Street.

Police Updates

Congratulations Citizen’s Police Academy Graduates!

This fall, the Countryside Police Department offered its first Citizen’s Police Academy. The 12-week program included weekly presentations on topics ranging from Criminal & Civil Law and Police Tactics to Processing Crime Scenes. The Academy concluded on November 10th with a graduation ceremony.

Please check our website www.countrysidepolice.org and the newsletter for information on the next Citizen’s Police Academy.

Public Works Reminds You . . .

Help Keep Fire Hydrants Clear of Snow

With winter upon us, it is important to remind our residents the significance of keeping the City’s fire hydrants free and accessible. The City asks that you help to keep fire hydrants accessible for firefighting operations by keeping space clear around sides of the hydrant as you do your shoveling or snow blowing. With 446 fire hydrants in Countryside, it is not possible for the City’s employees to clear them all after a major snow storm.

If you notice a damaged or leaking fire hydrant, please call the Public Works Department at (708) 354-3390.

Don’t forget to disconnect any hoses that may have been connected to outside spigots to prevent frozen pipes.

Owners of vacant properties should be reminded to have enough heat in their buildings to keep pipes from freezing.

FYI

Here come the plows . . . No parking on city streets after 2” of snowfall.
Economic Development

The City of Countryside requested proposals this fall for the Countryside City Center site improvements - Phase I. Three general contractors submitted proposals ranging from $2.1 - $2.4 million. The City Council awarded the contract for Phase I site improvements to Schwartz Excavating, Inc. of Countryside for $2,125,868 on October 6, 2011. Work began once permits were secured.

Work completed to date includes the installation of a new water main, a new electric utility loop around the site; resurface of the Joliet Road entrance, installation of sidewalks, curbs, gutters, parking islands, concrete display areas and the parking lot in front of the future Harley Davidson dealership. The City is waiting for final approval from the South Lyons Township Sanitary District to begin the sanitary and storm work. Once approval is obtained the contractor will resume work over the winter, weather permitting. In the spring, the storm water detention pond, landscaping, lighting, the Harley Davidson’s Riders’ Edge course/parking area and the remaining main roads will be completed.

The City approved a term sheet which includes selling 1.25+/- acres to Hooters for the construction of a restaurant on the northern lot of the site. A term sheet merely lays out the terms agreed to by both parties. Final approval of a redevelopment agreement which formalizes the terms is pending. The City approved a memorandum of understanding giving Shorewood Development exclusive rights to market the remaining site. They are scheduled to present their recommendations to the Economic Development Committee in January. If approved by the City Council, Phase II site improvements would commence which would include “pad-ready” lots for summer construction.

Welcome to Countryside

Each newsletter will feature the names and addresses of retail and service businesses that have recently opened. Please consider shopping locally and contributing to the Countryside economy. Shopping in Countryside is an investment in your neighborhood and community.

Store Systems
5438 Dansher Road
Refurbish cash registers

Hair Mechanics
6534 W. Joliet Road, Unit 8
Hair salon & beauty products

M for Makeup
26 E. Plainfield Road
(located inside Flaunt Hair Salon)
Professional make-up application, brow design, skincare, and lash design.

Plote Construction
6475 Joliet Road, Suite A600
Excavating and road building

USAMEX
5410 Dansher Road
General merchandise including pre-packaged box snacks.

Standard Market Warehouse
5808 East Avenue
Receive, store & ship produce and meet to Standard Market stores.

SHOP & STAY
DINE & PLAY
COUNTRYSIDE

Ettleson Hyundai Grand Opening!

Over 700 people attended the grand opening event on September 22, 2011. It was a great success!

Ettleson Hyundai currently employs over 45 people, most of whom are from the local community and surrounding area. This dealership is one of the top 10 in Illinois. They have been servicing the Chicago area since 1968, with over 200,000 satisfied customers!
Finance Department

Electric Aggregation Program

State legislation which became effective January 1, 2010 gives municipalities the authority to bring residents and small businesses together to purchase electricity as a group and to negotiate the price of electricity with electric suppliers on the group’s behalf.

Municipalities that decide to implement the electric aggregation program to assist residents and small businesses in lowering their electric bills have two options to choose from. The first option would require residents and small businesses desiring to participate in the electric aggregation program to take action in order to opt in. The second option would automatically enroll all residents and small businesses in the program unless they take action to opt out. If a municipality desires to select the opt-out method, the majority of voters must approve this by referendum.

The City has decided on the opt-out method for the program and therefore, voters must approve by referendum this March 2012. The referendum will ask the following question: “Shall the City of Countryside have the authority to arrange for the supply of electricity for its residential and small commercial retail customers who have not opted out of such program?” If the majority of voters select “yes”, the referendum shall pass and the City may proceed with the opt-out program.

If the referendum is approved by voters, subsequent steps would include:

1. Holding two public hearings regarding the aggregation program.
2. Complete an electric rate request for proposal to be distributed to various electric suppliers.
3. Select the most competitive bid.
4. Provide residents and small businesses with the option to opt out.
5. Contract begins with the selected bidder at the new, lower rate.

Residents and small businesses who decide to participate in the program by not opting-out should not see or notice any change. Since only the supplier of the electricity will change, ComEd will continue to provide the distribution of electricity and bill customers on behalf of the new supplier. All electric charges, both for the supply and distribution, will be consolidated on one ComEd bill. If there are any issues with electric service (i.e. outages), ComEd will still be the responsible company to make repairs and/or address any problems.

If you have any questions regarding the electric aggregation program, please feel welcome to contact the City for additional information by calling (708) 354-7270.

City Now Accepting Online Credit Card Payments for Water Bills!

Making an online payment is as easy as going to the City’s website at www.countryside-il.org and click on “Pay Your Water Bill Online” on the left side of the screen. This will bring you directly to the payment screen. No user name or password is required. Enter your water account number (without dashes) located on your bill and your balance due as well as other account information will appear. Complete all required fields, click “submit payment”, and you’re done. Please note that water accounts paid online, regardless of dollar amount, will be charged a $2.00 convenience fee per transaction in order to cover the City’s cost of providing this service. If you have any questions, please contact the City at (708) 354-7270.

Best wishes to our residents and your families for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

WINTER / 2012
**Code Corner**

The City would like to notify all residents and businesses of this newly passed ordinance. Please review and note as the ordinance is effective immediately.

11-69-0: The City Council has revised the zoning ordinance for the R-3 “One Family” residential district. The change in code reflects the smaller sized lots in this district. Please contact the Building Department for further clarification at (708) 354-1860.

Registration for the Junior League will be held on February 7, 2012, from 7-9 p.m. in the clubhouse.

The Junior League will be held on Tuesdays, starting June 12th for 5 weeks. The cost for this league is $95. If you should have any questions, please call the clubhouse at (708) 246-3336.

**Countryside Business Association**

The Countryside Business Association (CBA) sponsored a Thanksgiving dinner for Countryside residents who needed some assistance during these tough economic times. The event was held at the William Tell Holiday Inn on Thanksgiving Day.

Approximately 120 family members enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving dinner of turkey, stuffing, yams, green beans, and pumpkin pie. In addition, a food drive was conducted by the CBA which provided each family with a shopping bag overflowing with non-perishable goods. A special thanks to the many volunteers and sponsors.

### Sponsors
- Country Financial
- Countryside Rotary
- Dr. Frank Frydrych, D.C.
- Flying High Sports and Rec. Center
- Holiday Inn & William Tell Banquets
- House Pros Home Inspection
- Impact Dance Studios
- Infinity Signs & Printing
- Inland Bank
- Ledo’s Pizza
- Melissa & Bill Bernacki
- Northwestern Financial
- Paint Solutions
- Republic Bank
- Township of Lyons
- Vulcan Materials
- Westfield Ford

**WANTED**

Looking for members of the public to fill the ranks of a few committees and commissions in the City. There are two new committees being formed, the Tree City USA Citizens Advisory Committee and the Beautification Committee. There are also openings on the Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals and the Board of Fire and Police Commission.

**Tree City USA Citizens Advisory Committee** will advise City Council and appropriate City departments regarding the City’s trees and assist in qualifying the City of Countryside as a Tree City USA community.

**Beautification Committee** will enhance the overall visual appearance of our community and quality of life.

**Board of Fire and Police Commissioners** is a statutory body that is appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the City Council. The Commission independently fulfills all duties and responsibilities associated with the hiring, firing, promotion, and discipline of police officers for the City of Countryside. Although the official title suggests oversight of the fire department personnel, in the City of Countryside, all actions concerning the fire department falls under the jurisdiction of Elected Officials of the Pleasantview Fire Protection District.

**The Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals** members are appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the City Council. The PC/ZBA is a recommending body; all recommendations are presented to the City Council for consideration and approval. The PC/ZBA’s powers and duties include, but are not limited to:

- Reviewing applications for amendments to the zoning district map or the text of the zoning ordinance.
- Recommending Special Use permits for planned developments, including any requests from required standards of the zoning ordinance.
- Recommending from time to time, plans for improvements in pursuance of the City’s Comprehensive Plan.
- Recommending updates to the City’s Comprehensive Plan.

Those interested should stop by City Hall to fill out a Prospective Committee/Board Member Questionnaire. Questionnaires are also available on the City’s website [www.countryside-il.org](http://www.countryside-il.org).
Emergency Management News

As the winter weather is upon us, the city's Emergency Management unit would like to remind everyone of some of the common winter weather advisories, watches and warnings that can be issued for our area by the National Weather Service:

Advisories:

♦ **Snow Advisory** – This advisory is issued when snowfall is predicted to be at least three to five inches.

♦ **Wind Chill Advisory** – This advisory is issued when wind chills are predicted to be at least 30°F to 50°F below zero.

♦ **Freezing Rain / Sleet Advisory** – This advisory is issued when a light accumulation of ice will occur and cause hazardous travel conditions.

♦ **Freezing Fog Advisory** – This advisory is issued when, as a result of fog, a light accumulation of freezing moisture occurs on roadways, bridges/overpasses and will result in hazardous travel conditions.

Watches and Warnings:

♦ **Winter Storm Watch** – This watch is issued when conditions are present for the possibility of severe winter weather such as heavy snow and ice is possible within the next day or two.

♦ **Winter Storm Warning** – This warning is issued when severe winter weather conditions are either happening, imminent or highly likely to occur.

♦ **Lake Effect Snow Warning** – Issued when lake effect snow is expected to occur.

♦ **Heavy Snow Warning** – This warning is issued when a heavy accumulation of six or more inches of snow is predicted.

♦ **Wind Chill Warning** – This warning is issued when winds chills of below 50°F or colder is predicted to occur or are occurring.

During the winter months, extra care should be taken by the elderly when the temperatures drop. More than 50% of the injuries that occur due to cold temperatures happen to people who are over the age of 60. Warm layers of dry clothing, including hats and mittens, and covering exposed skin can help to protect from the cold and frostbite. If frostbite occurs, warm the affected area gradually by wrapping the skin or placing the impacted area next to warm skin. **You should not rub the skin!** If the frostbite is severe, you should seek immediate medical attention.

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.
City Services

Driveway Apron Snow Removal: Senior citizens and disabled Countryside residents may sign up each year to have their driveway aprons plowed if more than 2-inches of snow falls. This removal will be done after all of the City streets are cleared. The City is not responsible for any driveway damage. To receive this service, call the City’s Clerk office.

Selling Your Home or Business: All property sales in Countryside require a pre-sale inspection. In addition to the pre-sale inspection, requirements of a property transfer include:

- A completed Real Estate Property Transfer Declaration form.
- A final water meter read.
- A paid sewer receipt.

The cost of the stamp is $50 (no personal checks), and is the responsibility of the seller.

For more information about these services, contact the Clerk’s office at (708) 354-7270. Forms are also available on our website.

Upcoming Meetings

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monthly</th>
<th>Meeting Name</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>Senior Citizens Club</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Plan/ZBA Commission</td>
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Remember to Vote!

MARCH 20, 2012

A question on the ballot will be in the following form:

Shall the City of Countryside have the authority to arrange for the supply of electricity for its residents and small commercial retail customers who have not opted out of such program?

Last day to register to vote is February 21, 2012

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.

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

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

WARD 1
Alderman James Jasinski
Alderman Robert Pondelicek
◆ The Countryside City Center continues to make site development progress in regards to infrastructure and street design. Permits have been issued to Harley Davidson to renovate the old Circuit City building.
◆ The Taco Bell project at 5611 S. La Grange Road should be completed in January.
◆ The McDonald's at 5701 S. La Grange Road received zoning approval for dual drive-thru capabilities. With this upgrade, a new façade and signage will be installed on the building.
◆ The City continues to market the 5631 and 5745 S. La Grange Road properties to national commercial developers.
◆ The Bally's Fitness at 5917 S. La Grange Road has new ownership. LA Fitness and Pro Results have purchased the location.
◆ The Pizza Hut at 5621 S. La Grange Road has new ownership. Franchise Management Investors US, LLC have purchased the location.
◆ Aldermen Pondelicek and Jasinski can be reached by e-mail or by phone at bpondelicek@countryside-il.org (708) 354-5001 or jjasinski@countryside-il.org (708) 828-3563 if you have any questions or concerns.

WARD 2
Alderman Karen Michalczyk
Alderman John Von Drasek
◆ In early 2012, the City will be applying for a Community Block Grant (CDBG) funding for the resurfacing of Maridon Road.
◆ A representative from Commissioner Tobolski's office contacted the City stating that they are trying to have the 5th Avenue Cutoff resurfaced as one of the first jobs in 2012.
◆ Drive safely over the 5th Avenue Cutoff bridge this winter.
◆ Take time to enjoy the Arie Crown Forest Preserve this winter.
◆ Aldermen Michalczyk and Von Drasek can be reached by e-mail or by phone at kmichalczyk@countryside-il.org (708) 917-2573 or jvondrasek@countryside-il.org (708) 482-7663 if you have any questions or concerns.

WARD 3
Alderman Sean McDermott
Alderman Scott Musillami
◆ The underground storage tanks at the former Speedway Gas Station at Plainfield & Brainard Road were recently removed from the site.
◆ Fuller’s Gas Station and Market submitted building plans to the Community Development Department for the construction of three additional oil bays.
◆ Construction continues at the new location for the Autobarn Volkswagen dealership at 6161 S. Joliet Road.
◆ In the Spring of 2012, the drainage along the rear lot lines between Terry Lane and Barton Road, adjacent to Longview Drive will be repaired. The repairs will include the installation of storm sewers which will tie into the storm sewer on Terry Lane. This should help alleviate the flooding issues in this area.
◆ Also scheduled for 2012 is the resurfacing of Leitch and Peck Avenues, from Plainfield Road to 55th Place. The project includes curb replacement as needed, roadway base repair, and replacement of asphalt surface from curb to curb. The road work is part of the City’s 5-year street resurfacing program to improve the road system throughout the community.
◆ Aldermen McDermott and Musillami can be reached by e-mail or by phone at smcdermott@countryside-il.org (708) 354-2350 or smusillami@countryside-il.org (708) 334-5803 if you have any questions or concerns.
Community Events

The State Treasurer’s Office came to the City Hall on November 3, 2011. Representatives were available to verify if any Countryside residents and/or businesses had any money or unclaimed property that they might have been entitled to. As a result of this event, 60 searches were performed with a total of 21 claims.

Children’s Christmas Party

A good time was had by all.

Leaf Raking for Countryside Seniors

The group visited 30 homes to help seniors clear their properties.

A Shining Star!

Kareena Lange, from Countryside, placed second in the statewide Illinois American Legion essay contest on “Americanism: Our Heritage and Culture”. She competed with all high school freshmen and sophomores in the State Class II Division.

Kareena was a freshman at Lyons Township High School when the American Legion Auxiliary announced her first place win at the local level in February 2011. She continued competing and winning in other divisions that led her to the state finals in the Auxiliary’s state convention in Peoria in July. The Auxiliary honored Kareena’s second place win with a scholarship and a celebration.

Presently, Kareena is a sophomore honor student at LTHS who plays basketball, softball, and has played violin for the orchestra. She is also active on her sophomore class board.

Kareena considers herself fortunate having had her grandfather serve as a Marine, as well as many uncles and cousins who also served throughout the US military for the benefit of our great nation. She is therefore very grateful to all those who put their lives on the line to keep our country safe, which inspired her to write a thoughtful essay on “Americanism”.

9 WINTER / 2012
Officials:

Mayor
Ed Krzeminski

Clerk
Sharon Sweeney

Treasurer
Steven Jasinski

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

City Hall Contacts

City Hall:
Main: (708) 354–7270
Fax: (708) 354–9445
Hours: Mon. – Fri. 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Police Dept.:
Main: (708) 352–2171 (non-emergency)
Fax: (708) 352–1032
Emergency: 911

Clerk’s Office:
Main: (708) 354–7270
Fax: (708) 354–9445

Public Works:
Main: (708) 354–3390
Fax: (708) 354–9445

Water Billing:
Main: (708) 485–2465
Fax: (708) 354–9029

Community Development:
Main: (708) 354–1860
Fax: (708) 354–9029

Recreation:
Main: (708) 485–2595
Fax: (708) 354–9445

Websites to Know

City of Countryside
www.countryside-il.org

Cook County Clerk
www.cookcountyclerk.com

Pleasantview Fire Protection
www.plvw.org

West Suburban Chamber
www.westsuburbanchamber.org

Countryside Business Association
www.shopcountryside.net

Flagg Creek Golf Course
www.flaggcreekgolfcourse.org