From the Mayor’s Desk . .

Now that the holidays are over and another year is behind us, take time out to think of what you are thankful for. I am thankful that the City had an excellent summer concert series, the Countryside City Center is filling up with stores and restaurants, and that there has been an increase of residents coming to council meetings to see how your government works. There are still a lot of challenges in front of us, but I am thankful that the democratic process of citizens, as well as their elected officials, openly express their points of view, is alive and well in Countryside. We should all be grateful for and respect this process because this is what makes Countryside a City of ALL the people.

The Intergovernmental Agreement between Southwest Central Dispatch (SCD) and the City of Countryside has been approved. SCD serves 12 other communities which are: Burr Ridge, Chicago Ridge, Clarendon Hills, Crestwood, Hinsdale, Indian Head Park, Lemont, Palos Heights, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Willowbrook and Worth. The switch from Countryside Dispatch to SCD in Palos Heights, will take a few months to complete. The City Council also approved $100,000 for the purchase of radio equipment, radio transmitters/receivers, radio antennas, radio equipment racking, the database server replacement and web server. This is to comply with a FCC mandated Narrow Banding Project.

Election Day is coming up on April 9th and it is a fundamental right and responsibility of the 3,376 registered voters in Countryside. During every council meeting, your aldermen vote on issues that could affect your everyday life. On April 9th, you can voice your opinion by voting for the candidate you feel best represents your values and desires for the future of our City. There are men and women in the armed services that have given the supreme sacrifice to defend this right. April 9th is when you should respect their sacrifice by taking a short time out of your hectic day to cast a ballot. Every single vote matters.

2012 - Year in Review

The City is seeing signs that things are improving in our local economy at a much faster pace than the state or national economy. The chart lists a comparison of some key indicators:

- The sales tax increase is directly related to new businesses such as BMW motorcycles and Illinois Harley Davidson as well as an overall improvement in the local economy.
- Building permits experienced approximately a 3% increase in the number of permits. Major renovations have been undertaken by the Autobarn VW and Subaru dealerships, Illinois Harley Davidson, Taco Bell, and McDonalds during 2012.
- The total number of business is up approximately 4%. The City features the new businesses in each newsletter. Please try to support our local establishments.
- The most significant job creation during 2012 occurred at Cooper’s Hawk (60), Illinois Harley Davidson (32), Helping Hand (20), Weight Watchers (20), BC Osaka (10), and Core Fitness (10).

The City expects these key indicators to continue to move in a positive direction primarily due to future development occurring in 2013. The City Center development will be in full swing, Westfield Ford will begin a major renovation of their dealership and several other potential developments are in preliminary stages. 2013 is looking good for Countryside!
### Ward Reports

#### Ward 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alderman James Jasinski</th>
<th>(708) 828-3563</th>
<th><a href="mailto:jjasinski@countryside-il.org">jjasinski@countryside-il.org</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alderman Robert Pondelicek</td>
<td>(708) 354-5001</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bpondelicek@countryside-il.org">bpondelicek@countryside-il.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Popeye’s Chicken recently installed new signage.
- Work on the LaGrange Road street lights began this fall with all of the underground electrical work completed in November. The construction crew began installing the 12 decorative light poles on December 26th. This project was paid by a grant awarded to the City by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO).
- Alderman Jasinski would like to remind Ward 1 residents who are interested in the proposed Community Garden to contact Bryan Swanson at (708) 485-4775 for more information.

#### Ward 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alderman Karen Michalczyk</th>
<th>(708) 917-2573</th>
<th><a href="mailto:kmichalczyk@countryside-il.org">kmichalczyk@countryside-il.org</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alderman John Von Drasek</td>
<td>(708) 482-7663</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jvondrasek@countryside-il.org">jvondrasek@countryside-il.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The project for installing the new above lift station went out to bid this past fall. However, due to the fact that the scope of the work requirements from the MWRD have changed, this project will need to be re-bid. It is anticipated that the costs of the new scope of work will be less than the original bid amounts. The project will re-bid in the spring.
- In November, a sidewalk was installed along the 6500 block of Joliet Road. There is now a continuous sidewalk along the south side of Joliet Road to Willow Springs Road.
- Ettleson Hyundai recently installed a new signage promoting their new location.

#### Ward 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alderman Sean McDermott</th>
<th>(708) 354-2350</th>
<th><a href="mailto:smdermott@countryside-il.org">smdermott@countryside-il.org</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alderman Scott Musillami</td>
<td>(708) 334-5803</td>
<td><a href="mailto:smusillami@countryside-il.org">smusillami@countryside-il.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Wonderful progress is being made on the Andrew Whiting Memorial Park in the Triangle Area. Please stop by to see this ongoing historic project.
- The LaGrange Motel, a long standing business has closed. The property is under consideration for redevelopment.
- The former Flame Restaurant property is being marketed actively by CBRE Real Estate.
- The two storm sewer projects that started this fall have now been completed. The first project was designed to alleviate the flooding issues to the neighbors who live on 55th Place, with the rear of their properties backing up to Hallowell and James property. The second project would alleviate the flooding issues for the residents who live in the Terry Lane/Barton Drive/Longview Drive area of Ward 3. The contractor is finishing up the remaining landscaping portion of both projects.

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Happy Holidays to our residents and your families, and best wishes for a healthy and successful 2013!
Economic Development Updates

City Center Update

The City Council approved a plan unit development “PUD” for the Countryside City Center in December. The PUD includes a Texas Roadhouse restaurant on Joliet Road and a multi-tenant building on LaGrange Road which will be home to Starbucks, Vitamin Shoppe and a final tenant to be determined. This PUD will substantially follow the Design Standards established for this development.

The Design Standards were developed by a committee of residents, staff and elected officials who did extensive research and met multiple times to develop a unique look to this development. The focus is on incorporating brick and stone into the architecture, upgraded landscaping, pedestrian friendly walkways, and bike racks to encourage alternative modes of transportation. The entryway signs which were recently electrified are a good example of the design standards. The City is hopeful that elements of these Design Standards will be incorporated by private developers in other areas of the city.

Autobarn VW Grand Opening

The new Autobarn Volkswagen dealership hosted a grand opening on Thursday, October 25th. The new building was completely renovated into Volkswagen’s new (white box) design. The new dealership features a stunning showroom and a waiting area that is equipped with flat screen TV’s, wireless internet and iPads.

Pictured (from left): Alderman Musillami, Alderman Michalczyk, City Clerk Sharon Sweeney, Alderman McDermott, Gina Fisher (Owner), Alderman Von Drasek, Assistant City Administrator Sharon Peterson and Chris Klbecka (Operations Manager).

Westfield Ford is Due for an Overhaul

Westfield Ford’s facility at 6200 S. LaGrange is 45 years old and ready for a complete overhaul. The City entered into a redevelopment agreement with Westfield Ford for a complete renovation of their facility which will incorporate “green” elements, include a Quick Service lane and additional service bays. The project is estimated to cost approximately $5 million and will generate 15-20 sales, customer service, and service department jobs.

Welcome to Countryside

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caribou Coffee</td>
<td>5545 S. Brainard (inside Jewel Foods)</td>
<td>Coffee Shop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dahme Mechanical Industries</td>
<td>441 E. Plainfield Road</td>
<td>Warehouse for heating, air conditioning, and plumbing parts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dynamic Transport</td>
<td>915 W. 55th Street, Suite 203</td>
<td>Dispatches for non-emergency medical transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight Watchers</td>
<td>114 Countryside Plaza</td>
<td>Weight management center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
City Reduces Its 2012 Property Tax Levy by $500,000!

The City began its FY14 budget project well in advance to allow ample time to discuss at length the municipal property tax. The City of Countryside only first started to levy a property tax in 2009 when the global and national economies took a severe turn for the worse and additional revenues were needed to support essential city services. Now, four years later, with increased retail sales and greater sales tax revenue coming to the City, elected officials have decided to reduce the 2012 property tax levy by $500,000 or 34%, compared to the last three years in order to help its residents and businesses keep their hard earned cash.

Since the economic meltdown in or around 2008, the City lost a substantial amount of sales tax revenue from the closure and relocation of some key businesses. City officials knew something had to be done to keep the loss of these key businesses from creating a downward domino effect. Elected officials had the foresight that the city become involved and save this highly important retail area by purchasing the vacant and blighted parcels for future redevelopment. The goal was simple: rejuvenate the area to generate the sales tax dollars needed.

A tax increment financing (TIF) district was formed in 2010 after elected officials and staff completed their due diligence and assessment of the retail area. TIF districts provide municipalities a mechanism to spark development that otherwise would not occur in a blighted area. Since the adoption of the TIF, a new Harley Davidson dealership has opened and Hooter’s, Texas Roadhouse, Starbuck’s and other retailers have planned openings in 2013. The City believes that all this redevelopment is now creating a “reverse domino” effect compared to the one back in 2008.

The obvious question most are probably thinking is, “What does all this mean to the average Countryside resident or business?” Besides helping the City to gradually reduce the municipal property tax to its pre-2008 level, the redevelopment improves the quality of life for Countryside residents by providing increased dining and shopping options, and it should also have the long term effect of gradually increasing property values and attracting additional traffic which will result in higher retail sales and greater revenue to the City. Countryside is already beginning to see positive results from the redevelopment and this is despite the fact that the commercial district redevelopment project has not yet been completed.

Sales Tax Rate Decreases Effective January 1, 2013

The sales tax rate in Countryside for general merchandise purchases decreased from 9.0% to 8.75% effective January 1, 2013. This .25% decrease in the sales tax rate is due to a roll back in the Cook County home rule sales tax rate.

To provide further information on the rate change, Cook County passed an ordinance on February 25, 2011 to roll back their home rule sales tax rate from 1.25% to .75%. This roll back took place in two steps, a .25% decrease on January 1, 2012 and another .25% decrease on January 1, 2013. Please be aware that this rate change does not affect the lower sales tax rate assessed on certain purchases such as qualifying food, drugs, and registered property (vehicles).

A detailed breakdown of the sales tax rates assessed on merchandise purchased in Countryside is shown in the table on the right.

If you have any questions about this change to the sales tax rate, please contact the City’s Finance Department at (708) 354-7270.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>General Merchandise</th>
<th>Qualifying Food/Drugs</th>
<th>Vehicles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prior to 12/31/12</td>
<td>After 1/1/13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of IL</td>
<td>6.25%</td>
<td>6.25%</td>
<td>1.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Home Rule</td>
<td>1.00%</td>
<td>0.75%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Home Rule</td>
<td>0.75%</td>
<td>0.75%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Transportation Authority</td>
<td>1.00%</td>
<td>1.00%</td>
<td>1.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals:</td>
<td>9.00%</td>
<td>8.75%</td>
<td>2.25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The City automatically receives 1% from the State from the three categories above.
Chief Michael Ruth resigned in November to accept a position as Police Chief for the City of Elmhurst. We thank him for his service and wish him much success!

Mayor Krzeminski has appointed Deputy Chief, Scott Novak as the Interim Police Chief until a final appointment is made. Novak is a 19 year veteran of the Countryside Police Department.

A search committee has been appointed by Mayor Krzeminski for the recruitment of the next Police Chief. Interviews will begin in January.

Police Updates

Police Department Welcomes 2 New Police Officers

Officers Ryan Jakubowski and Paul Lanzi were officially sworn in by Mayor Krzeminski at the October 10, 2012 City Council Meeting.

Congratulations Citizen’s Police Academy 2012 Graduates!


Dispatch Center Update

The City of Countryside is moving closer to upgrading their police communications system by joining forces with Southwest Central Dispatch. Following a series of police radio malfunctions rendering our police officers with the inability to communicate with their dispatcher, city staff researched several possible solutions including outsourcing dispatch functions to a consolidated central dispatch center or upgrading the current police two-way radio communications system.

The 20 year old VHF system currently in use by Countryside police officers experience reliability and coverage difficulties throughout areas of the city and particularly with radio signals that are not able to penetrate buildings. Updating the current VHF system poses substantial infrastructure challenges. In addition, the cost of the long-term plan is substantially higher than the cost of joining Southwest Central Dispatch who uses a UHF system where the infrastructure to provide coverage to Countryside is already in place.

The consolidation of services with Southwest Central Dispatch aligns with a growing municipal trend toward efficiency improvements and cost savings for residents. A partnership with Southwest Central Dispatch provides the benefit of shared technology costs and a radio system that meets the communications needs of our police force. It will improve the quality of service and drastically reduce costs.

The police station will remain staffed 24 hours a day with personnel assigned to the front desk. The non-emergency telephone calls and 9-1-1 calls for service will continue to be answered and dispatched without unnecessary interruption or delay. The transition to a consolidated dispatch will be seamless and services will be improved. In many other communities, the transition to Southwest Central Dispatch was hardly noticed.

Deputy Chief Appointed Interim Police Chief

Chief Michael Ruth resigned in November to accept a position as Police Chief for the City of Elmhurst. We thank him for his service and wish him much success!

Mayor Krzeminski has appointed Deputy Chief, Scott Novak as the Interim Police Chief until a final appointment is made. Novak is a 19 year veteran of the Countryside Police Department.
Here come the plows … No parking on city streets after 2” of snowfall.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>User Category</th>
<th>2012 Rate</th>
<th>2013 Rate</th>
<th>Increase Per 1,000 Gallons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single Family Residential</td>
<td>5.65</td>
<td>5.86</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi Family Residential</td>
<td>7.58</td>
<td>7.79</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Users Under 20K gallons</td>
<td>8.77</td>
<td>8.98</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Users Over 20K gallons</td>
<td>9.87</td>
<td>10.08</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contractual Municipal Customers</td>
<td>4.44</td>
<td>4.86</td>
<td>0.42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you have any questions about the new water rates, please contact the City’s Finance Department at (708) 354-7270.

New Water Rates Effective January 1, 2013

The City of Countryside purchases its water from the Village of McCook, which in turn purchases from the City of Chicago. Effective January 1, 2013, the City of Chicago has increased the cost of water by $.37 per thousand gallons and this entire amount, plus an additional $.05 per thousand added by the Village of McCook, will be charged to the City of Countryside.

The Water Committee met during December to discuss the increased cost of water, and it was recommended that to lessen the burden of this increase to Countryside residents and businesses, only 50% of this cost, or $.21 per thousand, would be passed through to Countryside customers, excluding those municipal customers that have contractual agreements with the City. The City Council approved the new rates which are summarized in the table above.

Water Main Break Notification Procedures

If a break occurs during normal waking hours, city staff will generally attempt to notify the affected homes and businesses in person. However, if the break affects a large number of properties, a “Reverse 911” call will be initiated. If the break occurs after 10pm, the Water Department will make repairs and generally request a “Reverse 911” call in the morning (5am) if repairs are not complete.

The Reverse 911 system is an important tool for notifying residents of all kinds of problems or conditions. It is important to remember that Reverse 911 calls go only to “listed” phone numbers. If you have an unlisted phone number and want to be added to the call list, contact the police non-emergency number at (708) 352-2171.

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

Don't forget to disconnect any hoses that may have been connected to outside spigots to prevent frozen pipes.
### Upcoming Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Senior Citizens Club</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Plan/ZBA Commission</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 City Council</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Senior Citizens Club</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Flagg Creek Admin. Board</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 City Council</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Senior Citizens Club</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Plan/ZBA Commission</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 City Council</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Senior Citizens Club</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Flagg Creek Admin. Board</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 City Council</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Senior Citizens Club</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Plan/ZBA Commission</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 City Council</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Senior Citizens Club</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 City Council</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Code Corner

The City would like to notify all residents and businesses of these newly passed ordinances which are effective immediately.

- **12-59-0**: Allows dogs to be walked in the Countryside Park December 1 thru March 1.
- **12-67-0**: Requires long grass and weeds over 10" in height to be cut within five business days of notification.
- **12-70-0**: No parking allowed on the west side of Rose Avenue 44 feet from the stop sign at Lorraine Drive and no parking allowed on the north side of Lorraine Drive 65 feet from the stop sign at Rose Avenue.

For more information on this and other ordinances, please contact the City Hall at (708) 354-7270.

### 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.
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 and the following information:

- 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, please contact the Clerk’s office at (708) 354-7270. Forms are also available on our website.

Safe Routes to School

Earlier this year, Governor Pat Quinn announced the City of Countryside was selected as a grant recipient of $133,360. The grant was part of the $21.7 million in Illinois Safe Routes to School funds awarded to 229 schools and communities across the state. The funds were awarded to improve the experience and encourage children to walk and bike safely to and from Ideal Elementary School. Safe Routes to School is a 100-percent federally-funded program of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration. The Safe Routes to School program utilize the five "E's" in seeking to improve the school walking and cycling environment: Engineering, Education, Enforcement, Encouragement and Evaluation.

Three projects were approved for financing: The construction and repair of sidewalks, the installation of new and improved school/traffic signage and a non-infrastructure award to promote Safe Routes to School in the City. At this point in the program, the focus is on evaluation and educating the public and students on safety.

Please remember it is important to participate in surveys and public input sessions. The information obtained from these types of assessments is used to evaluate the progress and success of the program. We ask for your involvement in upcoming events and any suggestions or volunteers are greatly appreciated.

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.
Community News

Ettleson Hyundai Wins Best of 2012 Award

Congratulations to Ettleson Hyundai for receiving the Best of 2012 “Favorite New Auto Dealer” in its Readers Choice Awards from Suburban Life Publications. Each year, Suburban Life Publications features a poll that allows its readers to vote for their favorite businesses, services, events and organizations.

Ettleson Hyundai has been serving the Chicagoland area since 1968, and has more than 200,000 satisfied customers. With their vast selection of models available, they are certain to have a vehicle that will fit any customer’s needs.

Say Goodbye to the Oldest Business in Countryside

The LaGrange Motel was originally built in 1951 and had 18 rooms. In 1969, 20 additional rooms were added along with a swimming pool. In 1978, the Toth Brothers, Jim and Richard “Dick” purchased the motel.

The motel’s last day of business was October 15th. The property has been purchased by Continental Motors and will be demolished to make room for additional parking for the dealership.

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 Park Place of Countryside on Thanksgiving Day.

Approximately 240 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 gift card and a shopping bag overflowing with non-perishable goods.

SPONSORS

Anthony Hair Design
Braman Insurance Services
Busy Builders Inc.
Café Salsa
Casa De Montecristo
Continental Mitsubishi & Toyota
Continental Motors Group

Countryside Rotary Club
Ettleson Auto Group
Flagg Creek Golf Course
Heat Engineering Company
House of Color
Hunt Printing & Graphics
Impact Dance Studio

Infinity Signs & Printing
Inland Bank
Jack Phelan Dodge
Ledo’s Pizza
Mark’s on 66
Marry Me Jewelry
Mobil Gas Station

Republic Bank of McCook
Sharon Blain Commerce
State Bank of Countryside
Unity Party for Progress
Westfield Ford

A Special Thank You To...

All of the sponsors and volunteers, and to Joe Tiscareno and the staff of Park Place of Countryside.

Beautification Committee Update

If you are interested in procuring a garden plot, or want to learn more about the community garden, you can email Madel Rocio Campos at rociocampos44@yahoo.com (Spanish speaking), Jane Ecker at vjecker@comcast.net, Bryan Swanson at bswanson@countryside-il.org, or call Penny O’Neill at (708) 354-6844.

The Beautification Committee will be having an informational meeting on Wednesday, January 16, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall in the 2nd Floor meeting room. Please email or call us if you plan on attending the informational meeting.
Community Happenings

Andrew Whiting Memorial Park

A ground breaking ceremony was held at the park site (5539 Peck Avenue) on November 9th. A group of city officials joined friends and former neighbors to break ground for the future park where the Whiting home once stood.

Gurrie Middle School - Selected as a Demonstration School

The Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) has selected Gurrie Middle School as a Demonstration School after an extensive screening process. Per School District 105’s website, Gurrie was selected because it exemplifies the Tenets of the ASCD Whole Child Initiative as listed below:

☑ Each child enters school healthy and learns about and practices a healthy lifestyle;
☑ Each child learns in an environment that is physically and emotionally safe for students and adults;
☑ Each student is actively engaged in learning and is connected to the school and broader community;
☑ Each student has access to personalized learning and is supported by qualified, caring adults;
☑ Each student is challenged academically and prepared for success in college or further study and for employment and participation in a global environment; and
☑ Schools implementing the Whole Child approach use collaboration, coordination, and integration to ensure the approach’s long term success.

Gurrie was one of only six Chicago area schools to receive this prestigious recognition. The City of Countryside congratulations School District 105 on this significant accomplishment and its commitment to the children of our community.

Harvest Fest

We had great weather and a fabulous turnout for the event. There was a magician, face painters, crafts and much more!
Community Events

Leaf Raking for Countryside Seniors

The group visited 26 homes to help seniors clear their properties.

Children’s Christmas Party

On Saturday December 1st, Countryside children enjoyed the annual Children’s Christmas Party at the William Tell Holiday Inn from 10:30 to noon. Children were able to get their picture taken with Santa, enjoy cookies and juice, and dance and sing to Christmas tunes of Macaroni Soup, an interactive early childhood music specialist.

The morning wrapped up with Mayor Krzeminski raffling off Christmas gifts to the children. A fun time was had by all!

Easter Egg Hunt

SAVE THE DATE

Date: Saturday, 3-30-13
Place: Countryside Park
Time: 10:00 a.m.

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

Billy Rosinia, General Manager/Head Pro at Flagg Creek was the recipient of the Illinois PGA Senior Player of the Year. Not only has he been a frequent winner in the Illinois PGA tournaments over the years, he has also qualified for and played in several Senior PGA Tour events across the country as well as the Western Open at Cog Hill. Flagg Creek has several times earned the honor of the “Best 9-Hole Course in Chicago” bringing honor and prestige to Countryside. This has made Flagg Creek one of the most successful courses in the Chicago area.
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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**City Hall Contacts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Main</th>
<th>Fax</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</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>
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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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</tbody>
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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)