

WELCOME

# CITY OF COUNTRYSIDE BUSINESS GUIDE

“CHICAGO’S WESTERN GATEWAY”

## COUNTRYSIDE FACTS

- Population 5,895
- 200,000 residents live within 10 minute drive
- \$72,700 average HH income within 10 minute drive
- 40,000 ADT on LaGrange Road corridor
- TIF District established in 2010
- 10 Auto dealers carrying 13 motor vehicle brands
- 3 Motorcycle dealers carrying 6 motorcycle brands



Welcome to the City of Countryside, a great place to do business. Our city is a friendly, dynamic, and prosperous place to do business. Countryside has much to offer prospective businesses and developers including superb regional access and location to Chicago, more than 40,000 vehicles per day traveling on our major thoroughfare LaGrange Road, a large industrial park and several choice locations along LaGrange Road.

The City's mission is to provide high quality, cost effective services to citizens and the business community and to deliver those services in a unified, profession, honest and respectful way. The City of Countryside is located in Cook County, Illinois, northwest of Interstate 55 (Stevenson Expressway) and Interstate 294 (Tri-State Tollway) in the Chicago.

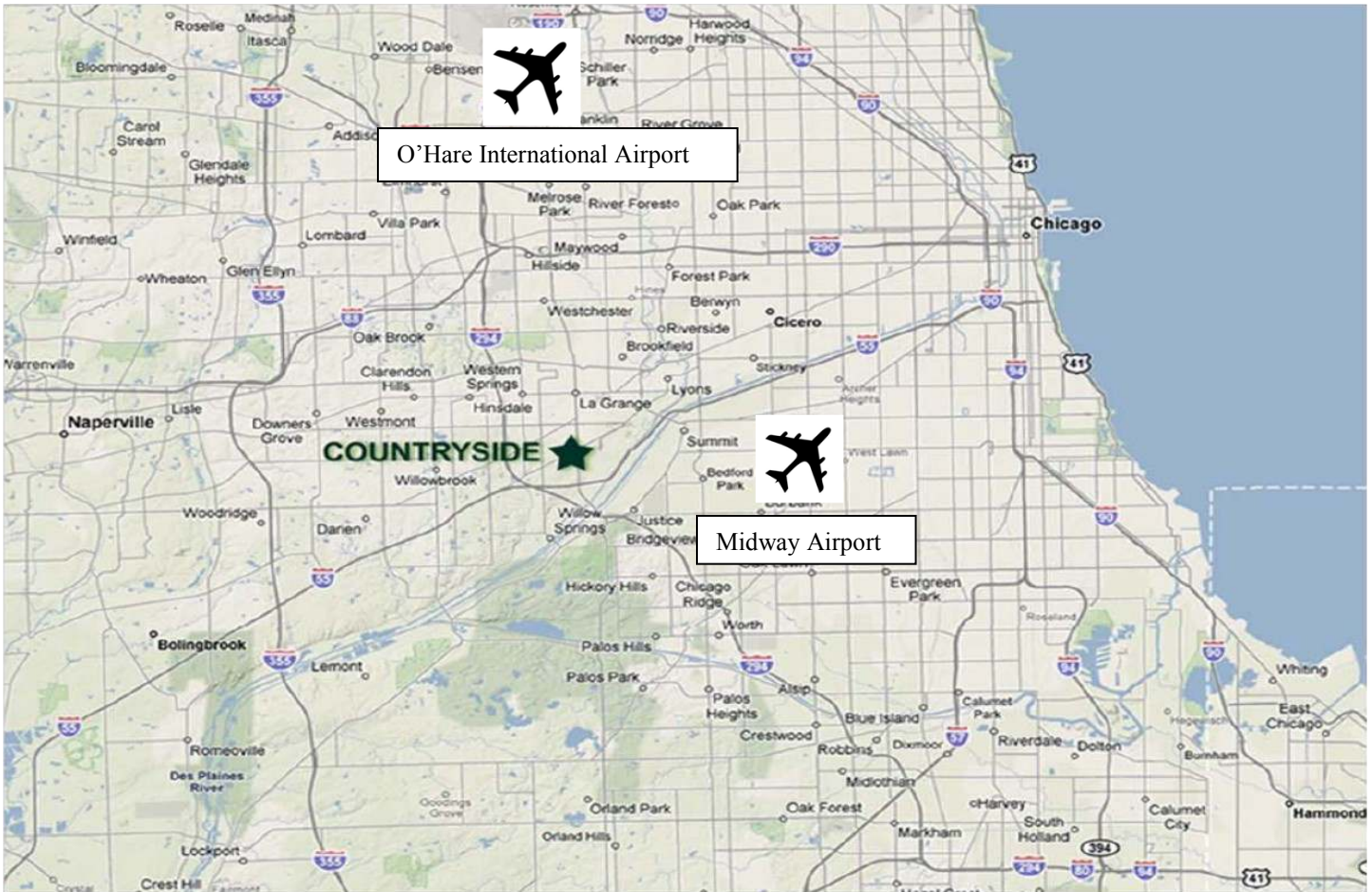
**Shop. Stay. Play. Motor. Dine.**

### COUNTRYSIDE

5550 East Avenue  
Countryside, Illinois 60525  
[www.countryside-il.org](http://www.countryside-il.org)

Phone: 708-354-7270  
Fax: 708-354-9445  
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 4:30

# Countryside, Illinois



- Midway Airport: 8.5 Miles; Chicago Loop: 15 Miles; O'Hare Airport: 21 Miles
- Conveniently located minutes from Downtown Chicago and off I-55 and I-294 close to Midway Airport
- Destination for hotels, shopping centers, and numerous auto dealerships in the western suburbs

## Average Daily Traffic Counts

(Source: IDOT Website)

1. LaGrange Road N. of Plainfield.....	26,000
2. Plainfield Road W. of LaGrange.....	10,200
3. LaGrange Road S. of 55th Street.....	33,600
4. 55th Street W. of LaGrange Road.....	20,200
5. 55th Street E. of LaGrange Road.....	23,800
6. LaGrange Road S. of Joliet Road.....	34,600
7. Joliet Road W. of LaGrange Road.....	18,300
8. Brainard Ave N. of Joliet Road.....	6,900
9. Willow Springs Road S. of Joliet Road.....	11,400
10. Willow Springs Road N. of Joliet Road.....	8,700
11. Brainard N. of Plainfield Road.....	6,900



# Demographics

## Basic Variables

Population	5,895
Households	2,511
Owner Occupied	1,919
Average Household Size	2.35
Total Population Median Age	44

## Educational Attainment

% High School Graduate	73.1%
% Associates Degree	81.4%
% Bachelor's Degree or Greater	88.6%

## Household Income

Average Household Income	\$72,911
Median Household Income	\$58,920

## Business Summary

Total Employees	6,000
Total Establishments	850

## Race & Ethnicity

Asian	1.6%
Black	3.1%
White	88.5%
Other	5.1%
Multi- Race	1.5%
Hispanic Ethnicity	16.4%
Not of Hispanic Ethnicity	83.6%

# Steps to Open Your Business

The City of Countryside would like to welcome your new business and let you know that we are here to help you succeed in any way that we can. The process of opening a new business can be a complex and difficult task. We have put together this handout to help guide you through the steps required to get your business open and operating as quickly as possible.

There are two phases to the business license issuance process. Neither one is dependent on the other, but both must be completed prior to operating your business. The two phases are: 1) Approval of the business license application by the planning and zoning department and 2) Community Development Department inspection approval of the property.

1. **Zoning-** Contact the Zoning Department to verify that the type of business you would like to operate is permitted.
2. **Business License Application** - Download application from [www.countryside-il.org](http://www.countryside-il.org), fill out and submit Business License application and turn into Clerk's office.
3. **Building Permits** – Contact the building department to determine if additional building permits are required. If you will be doing any demolition and or remodeling work, building permits will need to be reviewed and issued. The building department's goal for turn around time for plan review comments is 10 business days.
4. **Inspections** - The Community Development Department performs inspections of all properties prior to opening for business. These inspections include visits which must be scheduled for the building inspector, fire inspector and Cook County Health Department. All of these inspections are typically done when your business is set up, stocked and ready to open to the public. Call the building department at (708) 354-1860 to schedule your business license inspection.
5. **Business License and Certificate of Occupancy** – Once you have passed all inspections and all building permits are closed, the City will issue your business license along with your certificate of Occupancy.



**OPEN!**



# Temporary Signs

The City recognizes the importance for businesses to promote their services throughout the year. The City has two ways a business can utilize temporary signs.

1. **Special Event Temporary Sign Permit** – These types of signs can be used for grand openings or special sale events. The signs are allowed up to a 40 day period 9 times a calendar year. **NO FEE for permit.** An application along with details on the proposed signs are required for submittal approval.
2. **Daily Promotional Sign Permit** – Portable free standing sign
  - No more than one sign shall be permitted for each front side of the building or portion of the business.
  - Signs for buildings and businesses with fifty (50) linear front footage or less shall be limited to a maximum of six (6) square feet.
  - Signs for buildings and businesses with fifty one (51) linear front footage or more shall be limited to a maximum of thirty two (32) square feet.
  - The sign shall be located on the subject property in such a manner as to not create a visual obstruction.
  - The sign must be removed after normal business hours or no later than nine o'clock (9:00) P.M. and may not be replaced earlier than six o'clock (6:00) A.M.
  - A sign six (6) square feet or less is fifty dollars (\$50.00) per quarter and thirty two (32) square feet or less is one hundred twenty five dollars (\$125.00) per quarter.
3. **Electronic Message Boards** –These types of signs are only permitted by the granting of a special use. Contact the Zoning Officer at (708) 485-4775 to discuss the approval process.



# Building Permits

A building permit is required when any structural change or major alteration is made to a building or when any new construction is undertaken. Normal maintenance does not require a permit in most cases. Separate permits for plumbing, electrical and mechanical work are also required when applicable.

## Examples of work that require a permit:

- New structures of any description, including buildings, storage sheds
- Demolition of rooms
- Gutters, downspouts, retaining walls, room additions and extensions or enlargements of existing rooms
- Any work involving structural changes or extensive rehabilitation of a building.
- Roof replacement requires a building permit when the roof sheathing is replaced.
- Removal of any walls
- Installation or repairs to fire alarm, fire sprinklers
- Replacement of any plumbing fixtures
- Seal coating or any repairs to parking lots
- Installation of exterior light fixtures
- Temporary or permit signs

## Current Codes

State of Illinois Plumbing Code

2015 International Fire Code

2015 International Mechanical Code

2014 National Electrical Code

2015 International Residential Code

2015 Illinois Energy Conservation

2015 International Building Code

Illinois Accessibility Code

2015 International Fuel Gas Code