

# Plainfield ready for economic upturn

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**PLAINFIELD**—While recounting the village's ups and downs of 2009, Village Administrator Brian Murphy started out with the good news.

He told a Plainfield Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon crowd at White-tail Ridge Golf Club last Wednesday about some local successes, such as expansions at Edward Plainfield and Diageo.

He mentioned two projects under construction: an assisted living facility, The Park at Plainfield, and retail

center Van Dyke Place—which will include a Southern Belle's Restaurant.

A new supportive-living facility, Heritage Woods, is scheduled to break ground this spring, he said.

Then, some bad news.

"This year has been a lot about challenges. And they haven't been all that fun, necessarily," Murphy said. The village's general fund is trending down.

Village officials expect to see shrinking revenue through 2013.

## 'Not out of woods yet'

At one time, development kept the village afloat

financially. Four years ago, 40 percent of the village's revenue came from building permits.

Now building permits make up 4 percent of the village's revenue.

State revenue, such as sales tax and income tax, remains 40 percent of the village's revenue stream, but the state has been slow to pay up.

In response, Murphy said, the village has systematically dissected the way it does business.

Last year officials laid off 28 employees and eliminated some programs.

In the end, Murphy calculated the village can provide essential services such as police and street

maintenance for roughly \$1.30 per resident per day.

"I was pretty happy to hear that particular number, in light of the cuts we've had to make," Murphy said. "That doesn't mean we're out of the woods yet. Or that we're going to wait until things get better."

Now, he said, the village is preparing for the eventual economic upturn.

A top priority is luring businesses to town and making it easy for them to do business there.

The village has talked with representatives from Sonic restaurant, Woodman's Markets and Jersey Mike's Subs about possible Plainfield locations.

Staffers are also brainstorming ways to promote the downtown core, he said. At least the village won't have to spend a lot on road improvements this year.

Public Works Director Allen Persons reported the village's plan includes \$5 million worth of road work—and \$4.5 million of that is covered by grant funding.

Projects planned this year include resurfacing on 135th Street, a traffic signal at Route 126 and Es-sington Road, a pedestrian bridge over the DuPage River on Lockport Street, landscaping and decorative street lights along Route 59 and emergency road repairs at Indian Boundary and County Lane roads and 127th Street and Ridge Road.



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