

Plainfield population still rising

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PLAINFIELD -- By now, people living and working in Plainfield are used to ranking among the top of census lists.

It's happened again. Plainfield had the fourth-largest population increase in the state from 2006 to 2007, according to estimates released today by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Plainfield grew by more than 3,000 people between July 1, 2006, and July 1, 2007, the bureau reports. The village trailed only Chicago, Joliet and Elgin in numeric growth in the same time period.

Since 2000, Plainfield's population has increased by 171 percent, the bureau reports. It ranks third in the state in numeric growth and 11th in the state in percent growth since 2000.

Plainfield's population is 37,334, certified after a special census conducted in the summer and fall of 2007.

"We have been identified as a quality place to move to," said Plainfield's Community Development Director Jim Testin.

"People are impressed to see projects moving forward, such as improvements to the downtown," he said. "It's still a very active place."

Plainfield's neighbors Oswego and Yorkville were ranked fifth and sixth in the state in numeric growth from 2006 to 2007, with estimated populations of 28,978 and 15,193 as of July 1, 2007.

Other statistics

The city of Yorkville had the state's second-largest percent increase in population from 2006 to 2007, growing an estimated 20.57 percent. Oswego ranked 7th (11 percent) and Plainfield 9th (10 percent) in the state in percent population increase since as of July 1, 2007.

"The wave has moved west. We're the next community west," said Yorkville Mayor Valerie Burd. "We have a lot of open space. People just want to breathe a little easier."

A special census put Yorkville's 2005 population at 11,204, Burd said. City staff, who are preparing for another special census, estimate it's more than 16,000 now.

"There's a lot of potential here; we're kind of a jewel in the rough," Burd said, adding that the growth has prompted the city to look at improving and adding local transportation options. "It's a farming community that's growing into a suburb."

Surging suburbs

The village of Manhattan ranked sixth in percentage of population growth from 2006 to 2007. Manhattan grew at a 11.9 percent clip as it reached 6,706.

Mayor William Borgo said the village is doing a special census because it believes the population may be close to 7,000.

The housing slump has slowed residential construction, but Manhattan still issued 160 building permits in a one-year period ending April 30, the mayor said. Meanwhile, the village is building a million-gallon water tower, new deep well and radium treatment plant -- all scheduled to be put into use this fall -- as it continues to improve the infrastructure in preparation for future growth. The village of Shorewood ranked 12th in the state for numeric growth from 2006 to 2007, adding 1,176 residents for a July 1, 2007 estimated population of 14,810.

It may not be growing as rapidly as other communities, but the village of Bolingbrook reached a milestone last summer: topping 70,000 residents. Since 2000, Bolingbrook has grown by more than 14,000 people.

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