

Heritage Woods of South El
Accepts All Income LevelsContact us TODAY to
schedule a tour or click here<http://bma-mgmt.com/heritagewoodssouthelgin/>

Carpentersville grants would bolster downtown, fight disasters and bugs

By Jacob Hurwith For The Courier-News Jan 19, 2011 7:58PM



Print



E-Mail



Share



Like



A fully developed Emerald Ash Borer Beetle waits to fly off to find a mate. | Sun-Times Media File

CARPENTERSVILLE — The village will apply for three separate grants that would help it further develop the downtown and prepare for disasters ranging from severe storms to insect infestations.

The grant applications were approved by the village board this week. They include:

Downtown development: This would come through the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning program in the way of assistance improving the village's Old Town area.

Old Town is undergoing several significant improvements that may result in the development of a "downtown district." Should Carpentersville be chosen, CMAP would

provide resources that could help enhance the downtown image, officials said.

"Numerous activities for improvement must occur in the Old Town area in order to make it a viable downtown business district," said Jan Murphy, economic development and special projects coordinator for the village. "Planning assistance from CMAP will aid village stakeholders."

Should the grant be approved, CMAP could help expand existing plans to develop the downtown area, help determine a plan for land that cannot be developed, and conduct studies on important local issues such as flooding in certain areas or projecting future housing supply and demand.

Disaster preparedness: This grant would come through the Illinois "Ike" Disaster Recovery program.

The program is named after Hurricane Ike, which struck the Texas coast in September 2008 and whose impact was felt in areas of Kane County. Even though there wasn't any major damage to the village, village engineer Scott Marquardt will apply for this grant for "pre-disaster mediation."

Eligible projects that can be applied for include water and sewer system maintenance, storm drainage systems, and generators for public utilities. Staff is evaluating using the money for existing drainage improvement projects or future flooding mitigation projects, particularly on the southwest side of Route 25 and Helm Road.

The grants range between \$50,000 and \$750,000 each.

Emerald ash borer: The EAB beetle is a pest that is devastating ash trees in various areas of northern Illinois. Even though the EAB has not been found in Carpentersville so far, infestations have been confirmed in nearby communities, including West Dundee and Huntley.

Ash trees make up a significant percentage of the village's parkway trees, typically in the newer areas of town. To help prepare for an infestation here, village staff will apply for an Illinois Technical Assistance Grant and Illinois Urban Restoration Grant.

Between these two grants, a total of \$1 million is allotted statewide.

Village President Ed Ritter and the rest of the board strongly supported this grant process, saying it is never too early to prepare for a potential crisis.

“We are looking forward to have some idea of how to handle this,” Ritter said. “We need to be ready to have some sort of strategy just in case.”