

Study shows decrease in Batavia's affordable housing

Published: Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2013 5:30 a.m. CST

BATAVIA – The amount of affordable housing in Batavia has decreased since 2000, according to a study conducted by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning.

The results of the study were presented Monday to Batavia officials.

The study also included the cities of Geneva and St. Charles as well as the village of North Aurora.

According to the study, about 75 percent of owner-occupied homes in Batavia were in the affordable category in 2000.

Affordable housing is defined as being less than 30 percent of a household's income.

In 2011, that number dropped to about 65 percent, according to the study.

The study also projects that Batavia will grow to a population of 33,867 by 2040, up from the city's 2011 population of 25,828, which is the latest population count for Batavia.

Batavia Mayor Jeff Schielke said the study will be useful in helping city officials plan for the future.

He noted that the former Siemens property between McKee and West Wilson streets along Van Nortwick Avenue remains undeveloped.

“The Siemens property really stands out as something that could be real special for Batavia,” Schielke said.

Two meetings were held in 2005 with residents to get their ideas of how they would like to see the land redeveloped.

During those meetings, residents stressed the need to keep the land north of McKee Street as open space.

The city supports that use as a part of a position statement for the property, which also calls for single-family homes, as well as offices and neighborhood shops, on Van Nortwick.

The housing study is supported by CMAP and the Regional Transportation Authority, along with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, the Metropolitan Planning Council and the Illinois Housing Council.