

# here & there



## Belleville, Illinois

In the early 1800s, Southern Illinois was home to many French settlers - *Belleville* means “beautiful city” in French. German immigrants began settling in Belleville in large numbers during the 1830s. They brought with them their simple brick architectural designs - which can still be seen in the city’s older neighborhoods of Old Belleville District, Hexenbukel and Oakland - as well as their talents in beer brewing. At one time, there were as many as seven breweries in Belleville.

By 1870, an estimated 90 percent of the city’s population was German-born or of German heritage. Many of these immigrants were graduates of and professors from German universities who came to be known as *Die Lateiner* or “Latin Farmers.” Meeting regularly in one another’s homes, they discussed and shared ideas. The first public school system, including the nation’s first kindergarten, began because of the strong emphasis placed on education.

The Belleville Historic Preservation Commission began in 1972, and one of its earliest accomplishments was having more than 700 of Belleville’s commercial, industrial and residential sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Belleville continues to be Illinois’ largest historic district.

In this issue, we compare housing costs for four-bedroom homes with similar square footage.

### HERE Decatur, IL

Population: 71,437  
 Median HH Income: \$32,233  
 Drive Time to Work: 15 minutes  
 Median Home Value: \$71,900



161 S. Lake Shore Drive  
**Price: \$259,900**

Bedrooms: 4  
 Baths: 3.5  
 Square Footage: 3980

Open floor plan on wooded lot with beautiful lake views.

### THERE Belleville, IL

Population: 41,410  
 Median HH Income: \$35,979  
 Drive Time to Work: 23 minutes  
 Median Home Value: \$70,500



361 Covered Bridge Road  
**Price: \$435,000**

Bedrooms: 4  
 Baths: 3.5  
 Square Footage: 4086

Custom brick traditional home with walk-out lower level, manicured landscape.

Belleville community information provided by the Belleville Chamber of Commerce. Real estate information can be found at [www.realtor.com](http://www.realtor.com).