

# Housing



## Real Estate

Batavia's location along the banks of the Fox River, beautiful terrain, charming downtown and extensive municipal services are just a few reasons why Batavia is a great place to live, work or play. The small town atmosphere combined with picturesque surroundings make it an ideal location for home buyers looking for a great value compared to many other Chicago suburbs.

While the nation is experiencing uneasy market conditions, local realtor Kathy Barkei of Realty Executives Fox Valley says "the market may be slower than it has been but it's more normalized."

Batavia's housing market is diverse, from single family homes at just over \$100,000 to homes listed at over \$2 million. On any given day a Multiple Listing Service (MLS) search will yield a variety of single family homes, townhomes, condominiums and multi-unit structures, as well as business and residential land.

Today's economic conditions are making it difficult for some families to make ends meet and as it has been

reported, foreclosures happen everyday through the U.S. In an effort to help Kane County residents, the Kane County Board has recently launched "Help for Homeowners" a program designed to ensure that residents are aware of the services available to assist during difficult times. A website established by the county provides an overview of the many resources available, from emergency repair assistance and property tax exemptions, to property tax freeze options and foreclosure prevention counseling. The County will offer free "Homeowner Clinics" throughout the year to provide more information.

However, there is positive activity in vibrant markets like Batavia. In 2008 the average price of a home is just over \$300,000 and the average residential rent is \$1,600. Barkei adds that she sees a trend with home sales being up but the prices remaining the same. "Batavia is still a healthy real estate market," she says.

For more information about "Help for Homeowners," visit [co.kane.il.us](http://co.kane.il.us).

### HISTORICAL FACT:

Families came to "Big Woods" early on to begin a new life and for the opportunity to claim free land.



Conde House

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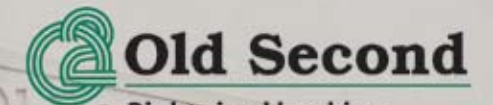
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