

# Years apart

## Bannockburn, Lincolnshire at opposite ends of median-age spectrum

BY TAYLOR GOLDENSTEIN  
Staff intern

Only two miles separate Bannockburn and Lincolnshire, but the expanse between the towns' median ages isn't nearly as proximate.

New U.S. Census Bureau statistics reveal Bannockburn's median age to be 28.9, while Lincolnshire's sits at 53.5. The towns, respectively, have some of the youngest and oldest median ages of all towns in the Chicago area.

Town officials, who find themselves at both ends of the spectrum, attribute the disparity to small communities within their communities.

In Bannockburn, it is Trinity International University, a private Christian college, with a divinity school, graduate school and law school. In Lincolnshire, it is Sedgebrook, a retirement campus that offers assisted and independent living, among other services.

"The numbers are different (in Lincolnshire and Bannockburn) because Bannockburn has a university located within the village," said Maria Lasday, village manager of Bannockburn.

"Therefore, you have to take into account all the students that go there."

Overall, there are 3,000 students at Trinity. Last fall, associate registrar David Skinner said 765 students lived on the Bannockburn campus. Bannockburn has an overall population of 1,583.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, college students are supposed to be counted at their usual place of residence, defined as where one is living the majority of the year. Therefore, Trinity students should have completed census forms as being Bannockburn residents, whether this actually came to fruition is unknown from the data.

"If there's a high concentration of college students, that's going to affect the median age," said Steve Laue, information specialist for the U.S. Census Bureau.

With an average age of 82, about 600 senior residents at

Sedgebrook could have had a similar effect on the median age in Lincolnshire, a town with a population of 7,275.

Yet homeowners staying put and older buyers moving in also may be linked to the median age gap.

"Lincolnshire's average age increase since the 2000 census has had largely to do with our growth in condominiums, town homes that are attractive to empty nesters and the Sedgebrook retirement community," said Village Manager Bob Irvin.

In addition, Irvin said, Lincolnshire residents tend to remain in town throughout their years, benefitting from diversity in housing options.

"(Sedgebrook) can't skew the numbers that much," said Paul Spence, director of sales and marketing at Sedgebrook and a Lincolnshire resident.

"I live in Lincolnshire myself and I know most families have children that are grown and have moved out of the house."

"Lincolnshire residents are long-term residents," Bannockburn, on the other hand, has been attracting a younger crowd.

"We've seen a lot of young families moving into Bannockburn," Lasday said.

She believes this may have to do with the village's one-institution school district.

"(Bannockburn School) is one of the best elementary schools in the state," Lasday said. "So I think that might be a factor."

"A lot of people who come to talk to me, the reason they want to be (in Bannockburn) is because the school district is so good."

The numbers are also influenced by international students at Trinity who bring their families with them.

JoAnn Desmond, superintendent of Bannockburn School, said that approximately 15 percent of students in the district are the children of Trinity International students.

"It does provide us with a dimension of diversity we would not get if we were only educating children within our

### Age discrepancy

Nearly 37 percent of Lincolnshire residents are 65 or older, while just 9 percent of Bannockburn residents fall in that category. On the flip side, nearly 27 percent of Bannockburn residents are 21-24, while just more than 2 percent of Lincolnshire residents fit that profile.

Total population	Lincolnshire	Bannockburn
	7,275	1,583
Percentage of residents		
15-19	6.3	13.9
20-24	2.3	26.6
25-29	1.4	11.1
62+	36.9	9.0
65+	33.0	6.3

### Household breakdown

More than half of all Lincolnshire households (51.8 percent) have a dweller 65 years of age or older, while just more than 18 percent of Bannockburn households can say that. Lincolnshire also has double the number of householders living alone than Bannockburn does.

Total households	Lincolnshire	Bannockburn
	3,017	358
Percentage of households:		
With own children under 18	24.6	32.1
Non-family households	62.8	78.5
Householder living alone	29.9	14.4
Female	20.8	7.8
65 and older	18.0	0.6
With an individual under 18	25.2	32.7
With an individual 65 and older	51.8	18.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

demographic boundaries," Desmond said. "We have children from all over the world coming to our school."

Almost all international students come with their families, said Gary Cantwell, vice president of communications and marketing at Trinity.

Despite speculation on the reason for the towns' different median ages, businesses and services do not necessarily tailor to any age demographic in either village, according to business leaders.

"In actuality, there has not been a huge increase in services for (the senior) age group," Irvin said. "At one time, we did look at some senior programs, but they weren't well-attended. So we kind of scaled back on that."

Similarly, businesses in Bannockburn appeal to all

### Generation gap

Information from the U.S. Census Bureau notes that Bannockburn has one of the youngest median ages of Chicago suburbs, while neighboring Lincolnshire has one of the oldest.\*

#### YOUNGEST TOWNS

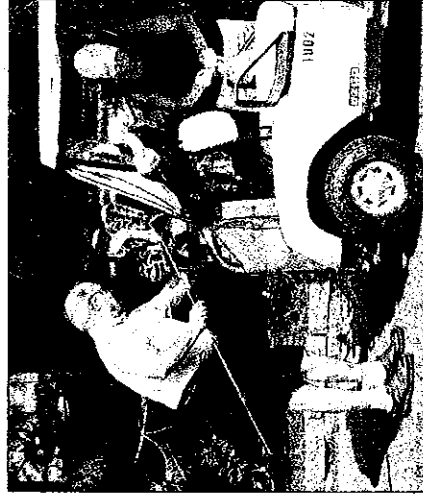
Town	Median age 2010
North Chicago	22.8
Bannockburn	23.9
Ford Heights	26.3
Cicero	27.8
Stone Park	27.9
Park City	29.1
Harvard	29.2
Carpentersville	29.4
Round Lake Heights	29.8
Sauk Village	29.9

#### OLDEST TOWNS

Town	Median age 2010
Oak Brook	54.5
Indian Head Park	54.2
Lake Barrington	53.6
Lincolnshire	53.5
Palos Park	52.7
Bull Valley	51.5
Palos Heights	50.9
Olympia Fields	50.5
Burr Ridge	50.0
Inverness	49.7
Chicago	32.9

\*6-county towns with populations greater than 1,000

Photo: Press



Sedgebrook Retirement Community resident Ed Lobus plays a round of golf Tuesday with fellow resident Joan Oberfell at Crane's Landing at the Lincolnshire Marriott Resort. The large number of Sedgebrook residents in Lincolnshire's population has driven u