

Village of Mettawa



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

August 2014 Q2 FY 2014-2015

FROM THE OFFICE OF CASEY URLACHER, MAYOR

the buzz

New corporate neighbor:

AbbVie moves into Mettawa

Welcome to our new corporate neighbor, AbbVie, a global pharmaceutical company. Abbvie has moved into the northernmost building on Riverwoods Boulevard which was previously occupied by HSBC and Capital One, and will soon be the sole tenant. Right now about 250 AbbVie employees (some of whom are Mettawa residents and neighbors) are onsite, but this number will grow to about 2000 in 2016.

AbbVie began as a part of Abbott Laboratories, and has been a separate company since January 2013. It's key research areas include immunology, kidney disease, liver disease, neuroscience, oncology and women's health. Some of the best-known drugs that it produces include Tricor, Niaspan, and Humira, a biologic-type treatment for auto-immune diseases which Forbes magazine named as one of "pharma's biggest blockbusters" in 2013.

<http://www.abbvie.com>

MAYOR'S NOTE

BY CASEY URLACHER

Good Momentum

2014's second quarter has seen a lot of activity, ranging from construction projects to open space planning. First of all, I'd like to extend congratulations to Bob Irvin for one year on the job as Mettawa's Village Administrator (as of July 8, 2014). Thank you, Bob, for your many multifaceted efforts on Mettawa's behalf. We are pleased to have strengthened our relationship with the Lake County Sheriff, and have successfully procured a \$100,000 State of Illinois grant for the Bradley Road construction project. Our open space planning process continues with strong resident involvement and guidance. It was great to see so many Mettawa neighbors at the Village Coffee held earlier this August at the Leahy's beautiful residence overlooking a native prairie, and I look forward to enjoying the Village picnic with you on August 23rd. I am here to serve you all, and invite your questions, comments or ideas.

curlacher@mettawa.org

VILLAGE PICNIC!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2014. 11 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Serbian Church at Bradley and Old School Roads

All Residents are Invited

RSVP to clerk@mettawa.org or Cathy at 847-573-1460

Public Works updates

Riverwoods Road The Lake County Division of Transportation has nearly finished the construction project on Riverwoods Road between Costco and Half Day Road. Most of the work has already been completed on the Mettawa portion between Costco and Everett Road. The final touch-up, which should be completed by mid-September, includes the widening of the road shoulders to make them more bike-friendly.



Bradley Road Mettawa has received a \$100,000 grant from the State of Illinois which will reduce the Village's expenses for the repaving of Bradley Road. Peter Baker and Son, a Lake Bluff-based paving contractor, had the lowest-responsible bid and was selected as contractor for this project. The signed contract requires all work to be finished within 60 days after the starting date. This project's start has been delayed in order to support smooth completion of the Oasis Park berm project, but we expect work to begin very soon and be completed by October 1, 2014.

During this project, residents can expect to see trucks and construction activities. The road will be repaved one side at a time, so use will be limited to one lane in some areas. This construction effort should not impede anyone from accessing their property. However, Village residents may find it more convenient to find alternate routes if possible.

Mettawa Trail The Village continues to work on the plan to extending the Mettawa Trail west along Route 60 from the western boundary of Deerpath Farm to St Marys Road. Discussions are being held with Lake County, and the engineering plan has been sent to the Illinois Department of Transportation for approval. We are hopeful that the trail extension will be installed this fall.

Village Hall The Public Works Committee continues to explore options for a potential Village Hall, including possible locations. Preliminary work has been moving forward smoothly.



Railroad Crossing Repairs The plan to make repairs to the railroad crossing at Old School Road has been reassessed by its owner, Canadian National. Originally CN intended to simply even out the crossing by milling and/or replacing some timbers, but now a complete replacement has been scheduled for 2015.



Parks & Recreation update

Whippoorwill Park New trees can be seen on the berm growing alongside the previously seeded native grasses and plants. These plantings will enhance the appearance of the berm. More plantings can be expected in the future as part of the Village's Open Lands plans (see below.)



Oasis Park Berm construction in Oasis park is nearing completion. Next steps include the spreading of topsoil and seeding. The landscape design should be completed in August.

Permit activity picks up

The Zoning, Planning and Appeals Commission has been quite busy during the past three months reviewing resident requests for special use agreements for barns and stables.



Two requests have been approved (one to replace a barn destroyed by fire, and another to enlarge an existing barn which will house the same number of horses).

A third request, to allow limited boarding of additional horses at a resident's stable, is pending.

There's also been an increase in building permit activity, including renovations and additions. One house will be going up at Scott's Crest, and two houses should soon be under construction at Deerpath Farm.

Open Space

The Open Space Advisory Committee has been meeting regularly to assist in the selection of an open lands planner for the Village.

Four firms were chosen to deliver Open Lands Planning and Preservation Presentations to the

Village Board at the Committee of the Whole meeting held on July 19th. The presenters included WDR Environmental, Conserve Lake County, Tallgrass Restoration, and Teska Associates with Stephen Christy. This interesting meeting was attended by residents as well as Board and Committee members.



OPAC’s subsequent recommendation to request a design by WDR Environmental with Stephen Christy was approved by the Village Board on August 19.

The Village can look forward to the long-term fruits of the Committee’s efforts: a professional open space plan which considers the big picture of our rural community’s Village-owned properties and creates specific goals and guidelines for individual parcels.

Ash Trees

About 150-170 ash trees still stand on Village-owned properties and right of way.

These trees, most of which are dead or dying due to the invasive Ash Borer beetle, pose a safety hazard and must be removed.

The Public Works Committee considered proposals for Ash tree

removal, as well as the removal of other over-hanging trees, and its recommendation was passed by the board on August 19th. A schedule for removal will be announced.



Above: Compass Plant (which can reach a height of nine feet), and Ash Borer Beetle (approximately actual size).

Administrator’s report

By Bob Irvin, Village Administrator

During the past three months, I’ve seen many of our efforts to improve Village operations and resident support come to fruition. The next quarter should produce more tangible results stemming from these improvements, too.

By this time, you may have noticed an increased number of patrol cars within Mettawa Village boundaries. Our new contract with the Lake County Sheriff began on June 1st, and signifies a solidified relationship between the Village and this law enforcement agency. They will continue to provide response and emergency services to our residents, with any extra patrols at the Sheriff’s discretion. This new contract also allows the Village to share in any revenues (from traffic violation tickets, for example), which should help offset some of the cost. In 6-12 months we will review the contract and our experiences in order to better understand its overall impact.

As discussions continue about a potential new Village Hall (through either a lease of office space or construction of a building), many questions have come up about

short- and long- term costs. I have been working with the Public Works Committee on crunching numbers, examining potential expenses, and analyzing the sustainability of ongoing costs. One important point to note is that, over the long term, the utility costs of a municipal structure would be minimal, as intergovernmental agreements allow the utilities (including gas and electric) to be provided free of charge to the Village. An intergovernmental agreement is a franchise contract in which, in exchange for using village land, utility companies provide free service to a municipality for municipal purposes. Without a dedicated municipal building, our Village cannot take advantage of this amenity. You can expect this topic to be discussed at future Public Works Committee meetings and Village Board meetings.

I continue to seek cost-savings opportunities for the Village whenever possible. The Village has received a \$100,000 grant from the State of Illinois which will directly fund the Bradley Road repaving project.

The perks of my job include not only the satisfaction of helping the Village by streamlining municipal administration, but also becoming better acquainted with the people who live here. I look forward to seeing you all at the Village Picnic at the Serbian Church on August 23.

Village of Mettawa

226225 N. Riverwoods Blvd.
Box M
Mettawa, IL 60045

Casey Urlacher, Mayor
Bill Armstrong, Trustee
Mary Brennan, Trustee
Jeff Clark, Trustee
Roger Lane, Trustee
John Maier, Trustee
Tim Towne, Trustee
Lisa Dieter, Treasurer
Cathy Nelson, Village Clerk
Bob Irvin, Village Administrator

<http://www.mettawa.org>



The Village of Mettawa strives to preserve and nurture our authentic rural and horse-friendly environment and to ensure the highest quality of family life for our residents

Mailing Address Line 1

Mailing Address Line 2

Mailing Address Line 3

Mailing Address Line 4

Mailing Address Line 5

MEETING CALENDAR

Tuesday, September 3

7:00 p.m. Zoning, Planning & Appeals Committee
7:30 p.m. Open Lands Planning Ad Hoc Panel

Wednesday, September 10

5:30 p.m. Parks & Recreation Committee
6:30 p.m. Public Works Committee

Tuesday, September 16

6:30 p.m. Finance Committee
7:30 p.m. Village Board

Tuesday, September 30

7:30 p.m. Open Lands Planning Ad Hoc Panel

Tuesday, October 7

7:00 p.m. Zoning, Planning & Appeals Committee

Wednesday, October 8

5:30 p.m. Parks & Recreation Committee
6:30 p.m. Public Works Committee

Tuesday, October 21

6:30 p.m. Finance Committee
7:30 p.m. Village Board meeting

Tuesday, October 28

7:30 p.m. Open Lands Planning Ad Hoc Panel

Tuesday, November 4

7:00 p.m. Zoning, Planning & Appeals Committee

Wednesday, November 12

5:30 p.m. Parks & Recreation Committee
6:30 p.m. Public Works Committee

Tuesday, November 18

6:30 p.m. Finance Committee
7:30 p.m. Village Board

Please note that this list may be incomplete.
Check the Calendar at mettawa.org or contact
the Village Clerk for updates.

CONTACT US

Casey Urlacher, Mayor

(847) 573-1460

Cathy Nelson, Village Clerk

(847) 573-1460

Office hours: M-F 9-11 a.m. & 3-5 p.m.

Public safety

DIAL 911 FIRST

Non-emergency numbers:

Lake County Sheriff: (847) 377-4000

Village Security Patrol Car: (847) 404-6272

Garbage & Recycling

Lake's Disposal Services, Inc.

(847) 366-8582 or (815) 675-0400

Village of Mettawa website

<http://www.mettawa.org>

NEXT BOARD MEETING: 7:30 P.M., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2014