

Village of Mettawa



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

October 2015 Q2 FY 2015-2016

FROM THE OFFICE OF CASEY URLACHER, MAYOR

the buzz



VILLAGE PICNIC

Rain couldn't dampen our good spirits

The 2015 Village Picnic was a great success despite the wet weather. About 130 adults and children braved the rain to gather inside the banquet hall of St. Basil's Serbian Church to enjoy live DJ music and delicious hot food while visiting with Village officials and Mettawa neighbors. Watch the calendar for other upcoming Village social gatherings. 🍁



MAYOR'S NOTE

BY CASEY URLACHER

Autumn

Welcome to a beautiful fall season. It was a real pleasure to see so many residents at the Village Picnic on August 29th. Despite the rainy weather, about 130 people came to enjoy fun and food with their Mettawa neighbors. See you next year: same time, same place.

If you'd like to get more involved with the Village, please get in touch. We are looking for volunteers to fill two appointee positions. The Village Treasurer position will be open as of January 1, and a seat on the Zoning, Planning and Appeals Commission is currently open.

The work on a potential Village Hall is making good progress, and we'll soon have information about expected costs. This topic will be discussed at an upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting in December or January (exact date to be announced.)

As always, I am here for you. Don't hesitate to contact me at any time with your questions, comments or ideas.

curlacher@mettawa.org

MOLA SOCIAL: OCTOBER 18, 4-7 pm WINE & HORS-D'OEUVRES

26051 North Farwell Road (in Deerpath Farm)

MEET & GREET YOUR NEIGHBORS & VILLAGE OFFICIALS

LEARN ABOUT **INVASIVE TEASEL & NATIVE SALAMANDERS**

MOLA Workday: October 24, 8:30-11 a.m.

BUCKTHORN REMOVAL AT EQUESTRIAN CONNECTION

RSVP to larryfalbe@aol.com

Fire Sign Replacement

In the July 2015 newsletter, we asked residents living check the visibility and legibility of street address signage. Most Libertyville Township residents should have a red fire sign displaying the street number (in addition to any other signage). Houses on Emma Lane and Trail Drive do not require these red signs due to the visibility of their house numbers and mailbox street numbers. The Village has submitted a compiled list of missing/damaged signs to the Libertyville Fire Protection District (LFPD), which subsequently has committed to install or replace these signs by the end of 2015. No further action is required on the part of Village residents. However, if a new house is built, or if a sign is freshly damaged, it will be the resident's responsibility to notify the LFPD. 🌸

Village Seeks Appointee Volunteers

At the Board Meeting on September 12, the Village announced that it is seeking candidates for two volunteer appointee positions due to two resignations. Matt Miller, a member of the Zoning, Planning and Appeals commission, has stepped aside and our current Treasurer, Lisa Dieter will resign in January. Their resignations will be effective as of January 1, 2016. We thank them both for their significant efforts and service to the Village. If you are interested in filling either of these positions, please contact Mayor Urlacher or the Village Clerk. 🌸

Open Space Plan Approved

The Open Space Management Recommendations were approved at the July Board Meeting. The final version may be downloaded from the Village website's News section, and presents guidelines and recommended goals for Village-owned properties. This comprehensive document is expected to be a valuable resource for the ongoing planning and management of our open space.

Every Village-owned parcel of land was analyzed during the recommendation development process, and Village is now working on prioritizing the suggestions.

The Zoning, Planning and Appeals Commission will be examining zoning and re-zoning of certain properties in its upcoming meetings. Some Village-owned properties and Lake County Forest Preserve District properties could be eligible to be rezoned as "open space" using the new open space zoning designation which was approved last year.

The Parks and Recreation Committee began discussing prioritization of the recommendations at its September meeting, and will continue this work at its October

meeting. Some of the topics being discussed include restoration of land, addition of paths, and expenses. 🌸

BMW Golf Tournament Traffic Report

Area residents may have noted lighter traffic than expected during the BMW Golf Tournament (which took place at Conway Farms in mid-September). This positive development may be attributed both to careful planning and to weather conditions. A later starting time of 11:25 a.m. allowed commuter traffic to flow relatively smoothly in the mornings, despite an increase in the number of cars. Most attendees were shuttled in from parking lots in Waukegan near IL-120. Grainger once again provided parking at Everett and Riverwoods (for BMW owners) but due to heavy rain, this lot was closed Friday through Sunday, and drivers were redirected to Six Flags.

The BMW tournament will return one more time in 2017. We can expect the resulting traffic to be higher than it was this year, but to still be better than it was during 2013's event. 🌸

Updates to Comprehensive Plan 2025

All cities and villages in Illinois are required to develop "a comprehensive plan for the present and future development or redevelopment of the municipality" according to Illinois Municipal Code 65 ILCS 5/11-12-5(1).

Mettawa first adopted a Comprehensive Plan in 1994, and updated that plan in 1998. In 2006, the Village adopted the Comprehensive Plan of 2025. Its purpose is to "advance the welfare of residents by creating a sustainable environment composed of three interrelated parts – social, economic and physical," and to "guide development to support the goals of Village residents." This plan may be downloaded from the Village website.

The Village has begun the process of updating the 2025 plan, and has entered into an agreement with Teska Associates to complete this project. Teska worked on the 2006 version and has all of the information in hand to proceed smoothly.

The Comprehensive Plan must be approved by the Village Board before it is adopted. A draft of the updated plan will first be presented at a public hearing during a meeting of the Zoning Planning and Appeals Commission, then a finalized version will be brought to the Village Board for approval (dates to be announced). We can expect completion by the end of the fiscal year in April 2016. 🌸

Mayor Urlacher welcomed guests to Conserve Lake County celebration

On September 13th, Mayor Casey Urlacher welcomed about 250 guests to Mettawa at Conserve Lake County’s Prairie Harvest Celebration in Deerpath Farm. Conserve Lake County Board Chairman Keith Gray announced that as part of a pilot program, Mettawa Open Lands Association will cover the cost of Conservation@Home consultation and certification for at least ten Village households. To participate, please contact Sarah Surroz: ssuroz@conservelakecounty.org, or 847-548-5989 x 34. ❁

Village Hall Work Continues

The possibility of a Village hall remains a fresh topic while Village officials continue to research and assess costs. The Village Board approved a proposal by architect Frederick Phillips to prepare preliminary construction documents and building cost estimates. The Public Works Committee will review all of the plans and estimates at its meeting on November 11th. In December or January (exact date to be announced) residents will be invited to attend a Committee of the Whole Meeting to discuss this topic.

In June the Village Board approved a potential building site at the southwest corner of Route 60 and St. Marys Road. This decision was made because the Village can better anticipate, evaluate and assess potential costs by keeping a specific location in mind. ❁

Administrator’s report

By Bob Irvin, Village Administrator

Keeping your Village running smoothly is always my top priority. Traffic, budget and long-term planning have been top-of-mind for me lately. As a part of the BMW planning committee, I’m pleased that Mettawa residents were less impacted by traffic this year. In terms of budget, please note that the property tax rate will be set at the December Village Board meeting, and is anticipated to be the same amount as in previous years. Some residents have asked about the schedule for the Route 60 trail extension. We recently received comments from IDOT on our plans about some technical engineering issues, and are preparing the subsequent revisions. Hopefully this project will go out for bid soon. ❁



RECENT VILLAGE BOARD ACTIONS

We are pleased to introduce a new synopsis section in the newsletter. “Recent Village Board Actions” will present the highlights of recent actions by the Village board during the last quarter. Some of the topics below are explored in more detail elsewhere in this newsletter. Please note this section does not include a complete list of all Village Board actions; meeting minutes are always available on the Village website.

Taxes A tax rebate ordinance with a surplus of \$320,000 was approved.

Open Lands Recommendations This document was approved.

Water Main Project An agreement with Greengard for engineering and inspection of the water main extension project (for 15 homes at Old School and St. Marys) was approved subject to the approval of the creation of an SSA. The new SSA will be on the agenda for approval in October.

Village Hall The service agreement with architect Frederick Phillips was extended to cover additional design and cost estimation work.

Comprehensive Plan A service agreement with Teska Associates to update the Comprehensive Plan was approved.

Zoning Some properties were referred to the Zoning, Planning and Appeals commission for review.

Stump Removal \$1500 was approved for stump removal along Mettawa lane as a follow-up to the Ash tree removal project.

Corner of Bradley and Riverwoods A proposal from Tallgrass Restoration to plant native plugs and reseed the one-acre Village-owned parcel of land at the north-east corner of Bradley and Riverwoods Boulevard was approved.

Oasis Park Mowing A proposal by Bob Haraden was approved to mow the overgrown western portion of Oasis Park.

Right of way Mowing A proposal by Brickman Group to mow Village right-of-ways was approved.

Village of Mettawa

26225 N. Riverwoods Blvd.
Box M
Mettawa, IL 60045

Casey Urlacher, Mayor
Bill Armstrong, Trustee
Mary Brennan, Trustee
John Maier, Trustee
Jan Pink, Trustee
Pam Sheldon, Trustee
Tim Towne, Trustee
Lisa Dieter, Treasurer
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

Wednesday, October 14

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

Tuesday, October 20

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

Wednesday, November 11

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

Tuesday, November 17

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

Tuesday, December 1

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

Wednesday, December 9

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

Tuesday, December 15

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

Please note that there will be no meeting of the Zoning, Planning and Appeals Commission in November.

This list may be incomplete and some meetings may be cancelled. Check the Calendar at mettawa.org or contact the Village Clerk for updates.

CONTACT US

Casey Urlacher, Mayor

(847) 573-1460

Bob Irvin, Deputy 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: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2015, 7:30 P.M.