

Village of Mettawa



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

April 2015 Q4 FY 2014-2015

FROM THE OFFICE OF CASEY URLACHER, MAYOR

the buzz



NATURE NOTES:

Phosphorus-containing fertilizer

Our Libertyville neighbors recently made headlines by banning the use of phosphorus-containing fertilizer (with some exceptions). Vernon Hills and nine other communities in Lake County have also enacted similar rules which are designed to help protect water quality in lakes, streams and ponds. Other communities, such as Green Oaks, have deferred taking action.

Why do these fertilizers cause problems? They are commonly used to feed lawns, but after a rain, the resulting run-off drains into waterways. Once there, the excess of phosphorus nutrient promotes the overgrowth of algae and weeds — bully plants which use up crucial oxygen supplies and choke the growth of native plants, fish, and other animals. It can also support toxic cyanobacteria blooms.

The Village of Mettawa does not plan to regulate the use of phosphorus-containing fertilizers. Nevertheless, it's clear that these products negatively impact the natural environment, and we do recommend that residents avoid using them whenever possible.

MAYOR'S NOTE

BY CASEY URLACHER

Spring Greetings

First and foremost, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation of Cathy Nelson and her six years of service to Mettawa as our Village Clerk. Thank you, Cathy, for your many contributions and tireless efforts. Until a new Village Clerk is appointed, Bob Irvin has assumed these duties, and we anticipate a seamless transition.

I'm very pleased to announce that Mettawa residents will soon have the opportunity to purchase Lake Forest beach parking passes at the resident rate. 50 passes will be available on May 1st.

We recently had two successful Committee of the Whole meetings with many residents attending and contributing valuable feedback. As always, I'm grateful to the many people in this Village who donate their time and efforts to help make our community the special place that it is and will continue to be.

Don't hesitate to contact me at any time with your questions, comments or ideas.

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Parks and Recreation

Mettawa Trail at Oasis Park The Parks and Recreation committee recently approved new plans for the portion of the Mettawa trail which currently runs in a straight line along the west side of Oasis Park bordering Bradley Road. The new pathway will meander eastward through the open lands of Oasis Park. The redesign retains the trail's entry points at the park's north and south boundaries, but calls for the the existing trail between those points to be removed and the land replanted. Work on this portion of the trail will likely begin this summer.

Mettawa Trail extension along Route 60

The Village has reapplied to ComEd for a \$10,000 grant to help fund the extension of the Mettawa trail along Route 60. Funds have also been budgeted for this project, which should certainly move forward this year.

Public Works

Village Hall The Village Board continues to review options for a potential Village Hall. February's Committee of the Whole meeting allowed residents to weigh in on this topic with comments and feedback. Several municipal -owned properties were discussed as potential locations for a Village Hall, and a potential leasing option in Green Oaks received some interest as well.

The Public Works Committee has recommended Village-owned property at the southwest corner of St. Mary's and Route 60 as a potential building site. The Whippoorwill Preserve property at Riverwoods and Route 60 was also considered, but presents some challenges in terms of road-building requirements. The Board has approved a budget of up to \$7000 to evaluate the approximately four-acre parcel at Route 60/St. Mary's from a engineering and site work perspective. This study will enable the Village to gather information about wetlands, easements and utilities before making an informed decision.

The discussion about Village Hall options will continue at the April 8th meeting of the Public Works Committee, and we urge all interested residents to attend.



Open Space Plan



The Open Space planning process has been making progress.

In February, our open space consultant, WRD Environmental, made its first presentation to the Parks and Recreation Committee. In March, WRD made its second presentation at the Committee of the Whole meeting and received valuable feedback from the residents in attendance. These comments are being incorporated, and the Parks and Recreation committee will review the plan at its April meeting.

Once the Open Space Plan has been approved, WRD will formalize it and create informative booklets. We can anticipate a comprehensive document which reflects Mettawa's rural setting and vision, and creates specific and achievable goals and guidelines for Village-owned properties. The recommendation and cost estimates for each potential project should influence the Village's future planning and budget decisions.

Old School Road railroad crossing

Despite last year's improvements, the railroad crossing at Old School Road remains rough. Therefore Canadian National Railroad will completely rebuild the crossing this summer. The construction materials have arrived and are being stored in their yard. Notifications will be sent out to Mettawa residents and surrounding communities before this project begins.

Village Clerk position in transition

Long-time Village Clerk and resident Cathy Nelson turned in her resignation at the March Board Meeting. At that time, the Board approved the appointment of Bob Irvin as Deputy Village Clerk, and he will handle all clerk duties until a new Village Clerk is appointed.

Cathy served as the Village Clerk since 2009. In this demanding role she often served as the most public face of the Village, fielding a wide variety of questions from residents and non-residents alike, and helping to ensure that our Village could function as smoothly as possible. Thank you, Cathy for your dedicated service, and welcome back to "civilian life!"

Construction in Village

Mettawa has seen a small but significant surge in building activity in 2015.

The Abbvie Building (formerly HSBC) has formulated plans for major renovations on three floors. Construction activities continue at Impact Networking's headquarters just east of I-94. At Deerpath Farm, one house is currently being built and another site has received permits. On Bradley Road, Always Faithful Stables has begun work on a horse carousel structure, a shed, and a new single-family home (replacing the previous house). A caretaker house and stable have been approved for construction at St. Marys Road property south of Route 60, and three additional residences in the Village are under construction and/or near completion.

Beach passes available to residents

Thanks to a new agreement with Lake Forest, fifty Mettawa residents will have the opportunity to purchase Forest Park Beach parking passes for the low fee of \$85. This year only fifty passes will be made available to our residents on a first-come-first-served basis starting on May 1, 2015. Interested parties should fill out the special application form (which will be available on the Village of Mettawa website) and take it to the Lake Forest Public Services building on Field Drive. The availability of these passes is a goodwill gesture on the part of our Lake Forest neighbors. See you at the beach!

Reminder: BMW Golf Tournament

The Village would like to provide a friendly reminder of the BVM Golf Tournament which will take place at Conway Farms on September 14-20, 2015. We welcome the tournament to our area and are pleased to be part of the planning efforts.

Please note that we do expect the tournament to significantly increased traffic on local roads, and suggest that Mettawa residents may find it beneficial to consider strategies in advance of this time period. More details about traffic impact and parking will be provided in advance of the tournament.



Administrator's report

By Bob Irvin, Village Administrator

It's often been my experience that it pays to focus on the details. Such is the case with my recent audit of the Village's ComEd bills, which revealed repeated overcharges for some non-existent streetlights. Subsequently, ComEd issued a \$5000 reimbursement check to the Village to compensate for two years of overbilling. In addition to the refund, they will no longer bill us \$2500 annually for these non-existent streetlights.

Neighborly relationships have been another focus of my recent activity. Last month, the Village amended its intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with Lake Forest in two ways which should benefit our Village and its residents in multiple seasons. We have formalized an existing agreement to store our road salt at Lake Forest's storage facility. What's more, Mettawa residents will now have the opportunity to purchase Lake Forest beach passes at the low to resident rate of \$85.

Closer to home, I've been working with Lake County to help bring new water service to fifteen Mettawa properties. The Village will be responsible for the installation of these new water lines, but Lake County will be applying for a low interest loan (to cover construction costs) on the Village's behalf. The Village cannot be the formal loan applicant because the county owns the current distribution systems, which supply Lake Michigan water from the Central Lake County Joint Action Water Agency (CLCJAWA). An IGA with Lake County will clearly spell out all responsibilities. A Special Services Agreement (SSA) will also be formed to help pay for this project.

Last but not least, I've been working on the 2015-2016 budget. We expect most operating expenses and revenues to remain the approximately the same as in the prior fiscal year with a decrease in capital improvements. The proposed budget is available to review on the Village website. Please don't hesitate to contact me with your ideas or questions. ☎



Village of Mettawa

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

Casey Urlacher, Mayor
Bill Armstrong, Trustee
Mary Brennan, Trustee
Jeff Clark, Trustee
John Maier, Trustee
Jan Pink, 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

Tuesday, April 7

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

Wednesday, April 8

5:30 p.m. Parks & Recreation Committee

6:30 p.m. Public Works Committee

Tuesday, April 21

6:30 p.m. Finance Committee

7:00 p.m. Open Lands Planning Ad Hoc Panel

7:30 p.m. Village Board

Tuesday, May 5

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

Wednesday, May 13

5:30 p.m. Parks & Recreation Committee

6:30 p.m. Public Works Committee

Tuesday, May 19

6:30 p.m. Finance Committee

7:00 p.m. Open Lands Planning Ad Hoc Panel

7:30 p.m. Village Board meeting

Tuesday, June 2

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

Wednesday, June 10

5:30 p.m. Parks & Recreation Committee

6:30 p.m. Public Works Committee

Tuesday, June 16

6:30 p.m. Finance Committee

7:30 p.m. Village Board

Tuesday, June 23

7:00 p.m. Open Lands Planning Ad Hoc Panel

Please note that this list may be incomplete and some meetings are 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: 7:30 P.M., TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2015