

# Village of Mettawa



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

September 2013 • FY Q1 2013

FROM THE OFFICE OF CASEY URLACHER, MAYOR

## THE BUZZ



### September 9-15: BMW Championship

It's time for the BMW Western Championship! Lake Forest and Mettawa welcome this major golf event on September 9-15. It will be held just across the highway at Conway Farms Golf Club. Please

plan to attend if you can. Free for military and Juniors 16 and under (see below for more details\*).

Founded in 1899, the Western Golf Association conducts championships for professional and amateur golfers, promotes the use of caddies, and oversees the Evans Scholars Foundation, which awards college scholarships to caddies with limited financial means. The third of four events in playoffs leading to the FedEx Cup, it will determine the final field of 30 for the TOUR Championship in Atlanta.

We expect the BMW Championship to have a positive effect on the Village in terms of increased sales tax revenue. All Mettawa hotels are sold out for this time period, and Costco will supply gas for all official vehicles. Grainger has donated the use of their lands to this tournament, providing parking for many attendees. Parking off Everett near Riverwoods will likely result in increased traffic. Please consider this when making driving plans during the week, and allow extra time and/or choose alternate routes.

The Village has hired additional security patrols during the tournament, and overall we expect everything to go smoothly. Although Mettawa does not play an official role in this year's event, we are happy to be supportive neighbors to the Village of Lake Forest during this significant event which will help local businesses. [www.bmw-golfsport.com](http://www.bmw-golfsport.com)

*\* Juniors 16 and under can get in FREE when accompanied by an adult. No ticket is needed for Juniors; simply proceed to the gate. Active, Reserve and military retirees can also get in FREE on any day of the tournament with verification of military status.*

## MAYOR'S NOTE

BY CASEY URLACHER

### A strong quarter

It has been a busy time in my first 90 days as your Mayor. During this past quarter, Mettawa has seen quite a few accomplishments, and continues to project a financial surplus. As you've surely noticed, many improvements are being made to various Village properties, with more plans in the works. Our security team continues to help keep our Village safe. This fall we will continue to work hard. As your Mayor, I have been inspired by resident participation and input, and proud to serve such a unique and strong community. I am here to serve you all. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly with your questions or concerns.

[curlacher@mettawa.org](mailto:curlacher@mettawa.org)  
(847) 573-1460

## EARLY GARBAGE PICK-UP

September 13, 6 a.m.

*This one-time early pick-up for residents south of 60 will help ensure that the trucks can avoid Friday gate opening traffic. Residents may wish to put out their containers the night before, and tightly secure the lids to prevent raccoon troublemaking.*

## Tax rebates 2013

Tax rebate time is just around the corner. The official tax rebate form will be sent soon. All residents who have maintained residence in the Village for one year as of the date on the application are eligible for the tax rebate for taxes paid to the Village in 2011. For more information, visit <http://www.mettawa.org>.

## Finances on track

The Finance Committee welcomes our new Village Treasurer, Lisa Dieter. Lisa's expertise

 in investment and money management promises to be a true asset to the Village. Among other activities, she has been investigating the best ways to insure and collateralize our funds. Lisa and Village Administrator Bob Irvin (see page 3) are each developing separate 3-5 year financial projections with the goal of comparing notes and developing a single consolidated report.

Overall, the Village continues to be on solid financial ground, with budget management running smoothly, and on target at this point to meet our goal of a healthy year-end budget surplus. Our top financial priorities continue to be protecting our assets, supporting our tax rebate program for residents, managing our budget spending, and cutting expenses when possible. In all matters we strive to take a long-term view, considering the impacts of our financial decisions at least ten years into the future.

## Recent board meetings

Mayor Casey Urlacher has presided over three monthly board meetings. Residence attendance has been impressive. Attendees have been actively engaged, sharing their ideas and points of view with the board on various projects and issues. We encourage all residents to attend our monthly board meetings whenever possible. It's a great way to meet the neighbors in our unique community, understand issues and decisions, and help to shape the future of our Village for the better.

## HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL WASTE DISPOSAL DAY

**September 28, Lake Forest**

Mettawa residents may bring their chemical waste to Lake Forest for disposal on September 28th. This is a one-day event conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency at the Lake Forest Municipal Services Center, 800 N. Field Drive, on September 28, 8 a.m.—2:30 p.m.

**For more information:** [www.swanncc.org](http://www.swanncc.org)



## Land Acquisitions

We are proud to announce that a 2.41-acre vacant parcel of land is now owned by the Village. This property lies along the west side of Riverwoods Boulevard just north of Mettawa Woods, and across the street from CDW. In addition, the Village will soon own the vacant 19.01-acre property which encompasses the lovely triangular-shaped hay field (south of Costco bordered by I-94 and Riverwoods Blvd.). Currently in final contract review, this parcel should be added to the list of Village-owned open lands in about 60 days.

## 70 acres of open lands: Let's think 40 years ahead

With the addition of these recent and pending land acquisitions, the Village will soon own approximately 70 acres of open lands. These parcels represent an

important part of our future legacy as a rural low-density community—a legacy which equates to a gift by current residents and government to future residents and their quality of life. These land acquisitions are consistent with the resident-developed Strategic Plan of 2010. As we contemplate plans for this land, let's think 40 years ahead of ways to give back to our current and future residents while protecting our rural views and lifestyle. Some residents have already shared ideas, including oak tree replenishment programs, and land preservation via conservation easements. Please share your ideas by contacting Bob Irvin: [birvin@mettawa.org](mailto:birvin@mettawa.org) or (847) 494-0308.

## Parks & Recreation Update

The Parks & Recreation Committee has been very busy with multiple projects to improve our Village and protect our open space.

**Oasis Park** The work on Oasis Park should be completed in 2014. The berm being built along the property's eastern portion will block views of oasis traffic, shield tollway noise, and help protect this parcel as non-commercial open lands. We look forward to seeing the renewed beauty of this site following native plant seeding, tree plantings, and the building of new trails. Oasis Park will be an amenity for all residents to enjoy for years to come.

**Whippoorwill Farm** No doubt you've noticed the greening of the berm along Route 60. Berm construction should be complete by October 2013 and will be seeded with more native plants. Look for a fully green berm in Spring 2014. With MOLA's input, we are working with Tesco to develop a unified plan for the entire Whippoorwill Farm site, which will maximize the existing native plants, and include new trees and trails.

**Teasel Workday** On September 1, Village residents, Trustees, and MOLA members worked with student volunteers from Vernon Hills High School to clear teasel from a Village-managed field. This hard-working group made significant headway against a particularly virulent infestation of teasel. Their valuable effort will help protect the neighboring Whippoorwill Farm Preserve from a teasel invasion.



## INTRODUCING BOB IRVIN

On the job for two months already, Bob comes to us from Lincolnshire, where he served as Village Manager. He holds a B.A. in Political Science from Wittenburg University and Masters of Public Administration (MPA) from the University of Dayton.

Bob arrives with strong financial management skills and a solid understanding of Mettawa's unique low-density goals. From the start, he will be focused on our budget, and is currently working to develop a 3-5 year financial projection (concurrently with Lisa Dieter's efforts). He also has been making an in-depth study of Village code and practices, meeting contractors, and compiling a list of questions for the Mayor and Board.

Bob will specialize in knowing Village business inside and out, so we can better plan ahead for unknown variables and forecast various scenarios. We can expect him to keep a close eye on Village assets, analyze past projects and project future work, and seek strategic ways to cut expenses. For example, two key budget items for his focus will



**BOB IRVIN**  
Village Administrator

be road maintenance and land management, both of which require plans and contracts.

"We don't have a crystal ball to anticipate future board decisions. But, we can develop strategic plans and set some goals with a foundation of understanding the cost implications," says Bob.

"I feel that financial issues are among the most important, and that careful fiscal management is paramount to any municipal plan. I am very conservative when it comes to estimating revenue and spending money. I don't waste money. It's important to protect our assets."

In Bob's 20 years as a Libertyville resident, he's often enjoyed our local trails via bike and foot. He and his wife Kathy have been married for 34 years, enjoy golfing and traveling, and are proud parents of two grown sons. Bob says, "Mettawa is a great, unique community. I'm proud to help protect it."



### ABOUT THIS ROLE

- A village administrator specializes in municipal operations, and handles day-to-day operations and administrative details to support the legislative functions of the Mayor and Board
- Mettawa has a long-time history of resident volunteers, but also relies on professional contractors for key services such as investments, billing, road maintenance and legal advice
- A professional village administrator can help us achieve more streamlined operations and reduce costs

### CONGRATULATIONS & THANKS

**Happy 150th Birthday, Rondout School District !** Many Village residents have fond memories, and we appreciate the school's ongoing contributions to our community. **Welcome to new Village Treasurer Lisa Dieter,** and **thank you to Nick Luca** for his valuable service as our former Village Treasurer for three years. **Congratulations to Dorothy O'Mary,** new Deputy Treasurer who will assist Lisa Dieter. **Thank you to Linda Gardner Phillips,** who will be writing and producing the Village newsletter in addition to her role as Village Historian. **Thank you to MOLA** for an enjoyable Open Space Stewardship Social Gathering in July.

### THE NEXT 90 DAYS: KEY PROJECTS

**ROADS** Work has already begun on the repaving of Twin Drive and Little St. Mary's road and should be complete in about three weeks. Portions of Bradley road will be patched, too. **TRAILS** The trail repair approved by the board will begin this month. **TREES** New young trees are being planted to replace dead and dying trees. **WATER** The effort to bring Lake Michigan water to our residents is back on track, and JAWA construction will begin again soon. <http://clcjawa.com>

**GAS** Northshore Gas is upgrading residential meters and improving gas lines along St. Mary's Rd. and Old School Rd. by installing a new medium-pressure system. **MEDICAL MARIJUANA** As an Illinois municipality, Mettawa must consider potential sites for a medical marijuana distribution center. Despite the low odds of being chosen to host such a site, the Village will hold a special meeting about this topic on September 16th.

## 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

## BMW CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE

### Monday, September 9

7:00 a.m. gates open  
Professional practice rounds  
12:30 p.m. CDW Pro-AM

### Tuesday, September 10

6:00 a.m. gates open  
Professional practice rounds

### Wednesday, September 11

6:00 a.m. gates open  
Gardner Heidrick Pro-Am  
7:00—9:00 a.m. Holes #1 & #10  
12:00 p.m.—2:00 p.m. Holes #1 & #10

### Thursday, September 12

9:00 a.m. gates open  
**BMW Championship Round 1**  
10:15 a.m.—12:16 p.m. Holes #1 & #10 (3-somes)  
2:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m. Coverage on Golf Channel

### Friday, September 13

9:00 a.m. gates open  
**BMW Championship Round 2**  
7:25 a.m.—12:50 p.m. Hole #1 & #10 (3-somes)  
2:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m. Coverage on Golf Channel

### Saturday, September 14

6:00 a.m. gates open  
**BMW Championship Round 3**  
7:25 a.m.—12:50 p.m. Hole #1 (2-somes)  
12:00 p.m.—2:00 p.m. Coverage on Golf Channel  
2:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m. Coverage on NBC

### Sunday, September 15

6:00 a.m. gates open  
**BMW Championship Final Round**  
7:25 a.m.—12:50 p.m. Hole #1 (2-somes)  
11:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Coverage on Golf Channel  
12:30 p.m.—5:00 p.m. Coverage on NBC  
5:00 p.m. Awards Ceremony, #18 Green

## 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 17, 2013