

Village of Mettawa



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

January 2014 Q3 FY 2013-2014

FROM THE OFFICE OF CASEY URLACHER, MAYOR

the buzz



Mettawa get-togethers

All residents are invited to the Village's new series of informal get-togethers. Sponsored by the Mayor and Village Board, these casual weekend gatherings have been created to provide residents with a friendly forum for catching up on Village happenings, asking questions of the Mayor and Board, and providing input. Each event will also offer good opportunities to enjoy some time with your neighbors. The first coffee, on Saturday morning, January 11, was attended by Mayor Urlacher, Trustee Roger Lane, our Village Administrator Bob Irvin, and many Village residents. Look for more upcoming events to be announced on the website.

Open space planning:

Committee of the Whole meeting:

Saturday, January 18th, 2014

9:00 a.m., Hilton Garden Inn

All residents are invited to attend this meeting on January 18th to provide input about how the Village landscapes and maintains its properties. The Village of Mettawa now owns nearly 90 acres of open land, including several new purchases (see page 2). These multiple parcels require thoughtful decision-making and planning. The Village Board will discuss our open space and consider resident input during this Committee of the Whole meeting (a meeting of the Village Board in its entirety in which no formal action can be taken).

Welcome, new Mettawa residents!

In the last six months, at least eight people have joined our rural community. Mettawa extends a warm welcome to all new residents! We are glad to have you here.

Another resident survey, coming soon

The new resident survey will arrive in your mailbox soon. Please register your opinion by completing and returning it. The results will be compared to last year's results for new insights (most questions remain the same, irrelevant questions have been removed, and a few new questions added.)

MAYOR'S NOTE

BY CASEY URLACHER

A smooth six months

Mettawa has been running smoothly during my first six months as mayor, including this past quarter. Much of this positive momentum is due to the teamwork of our strong Village board, as well as the contributions of our Village's hard-working Administrator, Clerk, and Treasurer. I'm glad to see so many residents attending board meetings and working together to improve our unique village. If you are looking for ways to get more involved, we welcome your interest and efforts, and the open Deputy Treasurer position would be one great way to contribute (contact me or Lisa Dieter for more information). Again, I am here to serve you all. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly with questions, comments or ideas.

curlacher@mettawa.org
(847) 573-1460

SAVE ON ELECTRICITY

opt-in to reduce your bill

Mettawa residents and small businesses are reminded that they are eligible to opt-in to receive electricity savings via the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Clean Air Counts—Energy Saving Program (CAC-ESP). Participants benefit from a low 5.49¢/kWh rate with ComEd or any other provider. This rate is 8.35% lower than the current ComEd rate.

For more information:

www.mettawa.org/news/energy-saving-program.html

Finances healthy

The Village continues to thrive as a financially healthy municipality, and



our surplus goals remain on-target. Our Village Treasurer, Lisa Dieter (left), Village Administrator, Bob Irvin, and other

Village officials have been working to develop a solid, highly accountable budget for 2014-2015. Please note that all qualifying residents should have received their tax rebates by now (please contact the Village Clerk with any questions).

Land acquisition

We are proud to announce that the Village now owns the vacant 19.01-acre property south of Costco which is bordered by I-94 and Riverwoods Blvd.

Its boundaries encompass a lovely triangular-shaped hay field punctuated by an iconic lone oak tree. This parcel joins a portfolio of approximately 70 additional acres of Village-owned open lands, and with them, represents an important part of our identity and future as a rural village. All residents should consider attending the upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting, which will be held on January 18th, to discuss the future of this and other open spaces in Mettawa.

Real estate activity

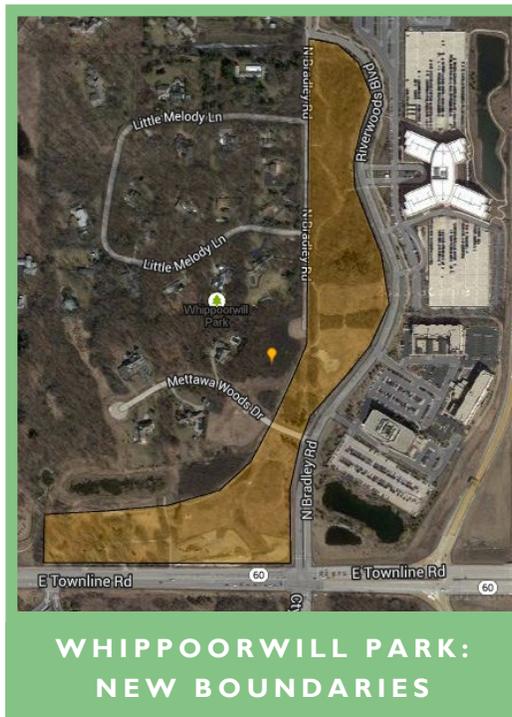
Between June and December 2012, the Village recorded ten separate real estate sales and one new construction residential permit, and also expects six houses to be built in the coming year. Three of these recent sales are Village acquisitions: 701 Riverwoods Road, 25960 N. St. Marys Road, and the Riverwoods Boulevard “restaurant property.”

Conservation@Home certifies 11 homes



Since launching the Conservation@Home program in 2011, Conserve Lake County has certified eleven homes in Mettawa and presented each with a garden sign to recognize their contribution to clean water, rich soil, and resilient ecosystems that support people and

water. Property visits, advice and certification/sign are free. For more information, visit <http://www.conservelakecounty.org> or call 847-548-5989.



Parks & Recreation update

The Parks & Recreation Committee, headed by Trustee Tim Towne, has been very busy with multiple projects to improve our Village and protect our open space.

Whippoorwill Park expands

A newly enlarged open lands park at the “Mettawa Gateway” is now fully owned and/or managed by the Village. This beautiful region, now collectively referred to as Whippoorwill Park, begins on the western border of the former Korhumel estate. It proceeds east through the Preserve area at the corner of Route 60 and Riverwoods Blvd., then follows the Mettawa trail north across Mettawa Woods Dr into the open lands which are bordered by the western edge of Riverwood Blvd., the eastern side of Bradley road, and their northern triangular intersection. Nearly a mile of the Mettawa trail runs through Whippoorwill Park’s expanse of various landscapes and ecosystems.

Open Lands Restoration In November, Whippoorwill Park benefitted from a successful controlled burn performed by Integrated Lakes Management (ILM) to inhibit the spread of invasive species and support the growth of native plants. This event builds upon the momentum of last fall’s Teasel Workdays (resident volunteers hand-cut and cleared invasive teasel).

We plan to defeat teasel in Whippoorwill Park, but it will take several years of work. Expect more strategic burns, augmented by an integrated campaign of mowing and spraying to combat the particularly virulent teasel infestation in the north-central area.

Berms Progress presses on for the berm construction project at Oasis Park. In the spring, when weather permits, Whippoorwill Park’s berm refinement work will resume.

THE NEXT 90 DAYS: KEY PROJECTS

ROADS The Bradley road repaving project should have costs and dates soon. See pg. 3

TRAILS The Village and the City of Lake Forest are exploring a cooperative plan for a new pedestrian/bike path using the highway bridge to link trails in both communities. See pg. 3

VILLAGE HALL Plans for a Village Hall and its location remain a current topic. Look for the relevant question on the resident survey.

OPEN SPACE PLANNING Decision-making about open space land holdings will be discussed at the Committee of the Whole meeting on January 18th.

Administrator's report

By Bob Irvin



I am pleased to report that the Village of Mettawa is in good shape financially and becoming stronger organizationally. The past three months have

been both challenging and fun.

A good deal of my time has been spent reviewing agreements and contracts. Although we are not a large village, we have a lot of contractual agreements, and I'm

always looking for opportunities to improve efficiency.

In addition to developing the 2014-2015 budget with Village officials, I've been compiling a comprehensive list of all Village assets, detailing potential improvements, and estimating their financial impact.

Each year the Village must be audited. The audit of FY 2013 was excellent, and also suggested some reporting improvements. I've been implementing these to aid the clarity and usefulness of our budget and financial data. For example, we can better track spending by breaking out capital improvement expenditures, separating line item expenses and grouping by work area. In the future we'll be able to provide more details about categories such as snow removal.

An amendment to the Village code currently under consideration by the Village Board will help reduce costs. The change eliminates a situation in which the Village paid certain fees and expenses for private projects. These fees would be paid out of pocket by applicants. For example, if a resident or developer applied for a zoning variation or special use permit, they would



be responsible for paying the cost of such things as engineering review, zoning, review, legal drafting of ordinances and publication notices. The Village Board will consider the ordinance at its January meeting.

The repaving or reconstruction of Bradley Road is approaching the final stage. We are all hopeful of the improvements being made in 2014, but it could extend to 2015. We've put a lot of effort into ensuring it continues as a small local road, and also that our residents are minimally inconven-

ienced during the repaving efforts. The Village Board is considering two alternatives. One is repaving the road with local funds and the other is using local matching funds with a grant through the Illinois Department of Transportation. IDOT should approve our plans (and exemptions) by the end of this month. At that point we will be able to estimate costs and timetable. Also, be aware that Lake County has made plans to widen the shoulders during the repaving of Riverwoods Road between Costco and the Everett roundabout. The project should significantly increase safety for drivers, cyclists and foot-traffic, and will be bid out in early 2014.

I've had some good meetings with other local groups, too. The Southeast Lake County Shared Service Group enables municipalities to explore sharing contracts for cost savings. The BMW golf tournament debriefing meetings were quite positive (see below), and we've also been talking to the City of Lake Forest about a potential cooperative trail to safely join our communities by crossing the highway at the Route 60 bridge's existing pedestrian walkway.

BWM Championship follow-up

The BWM Western Championship was a great success, and we have received very positive feedback and emails from golfers, the organizers, and Lake Forest and Mettawa residents, some of whom enjoyed the convenience of attending a world-class golf event just around the corner.

The Western Golf Association (WGA) was pleased with the accessibility of the site, which contributed to an impressive spectator turnout. They have expressed interest in holding the tournament in this location again in 2015, and we expect to hear that decision by the end of the month.

Mettawa served as a very good neighbor during the tournament, despite dealing with some inconveniences. Our 20+ residents living along and south of Route 60 must be commended for their fortitude during a week of increased traffic. On the

bright side, the Village benefitted from increased tax revenues. Our local hotels were completely filled for the time period during and surrounding the tournament, and Costco business thrived as well.

Following a post-tournament debrief (held at a Mettawa resident's home), the WGA understands Mettawa's important issues and concerns. They have already assured us that we should expect to see improvements, too. These could include decentralized parking in additional areas, and a switch to non-diesel shuttles refueling at Costco. The WGA has also offered to meet with any resident to discuss concerns. If the BMW Championship returns, which we hope it will, a special Village committee will liaison with the event to help address resident concerns, and help our Village realize more benefits, too.

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

CALENDAR

Saturday, January 11

9:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.
Resident coffee get-together

Saturday, January 18

9:00 a.m.
Committee of the Whole meeting

Tuesday, January 21

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

Tuesday, February 4

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

Wednesday, February 12

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

Tuesday, February 18

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

Tuesday, March 4

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

Wednesday, March 12

5:30 p.m. Parks & Recreation Committee meeting

6:30 p.m. Public Works Committee meeting

Tuesday, March 18

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

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, JANUARY 21, 2014