the buzz

Oasis Park improvements

After a long planning process, the transformation of Oasis Park is now underway. Residents can expect to see improvements, restoration and trail relocation efforts taking place very soon.

Until this time, Oasis Park has not benefitted from concentrated restoration efforts, despite some mowing by the Village and helpful teasel removal by MOLA volunteers.

The Village recently received a $14,375 grant from Lake County Stormwater Management Commission to improve a specific drainage area at the very north of the park. This wetland area (actually part of the headwaters of the Chicago River), will be cleaned up before being seeded with native grasses and other native plants. As these plants grow and mature (which could take a couple of years), they will bring added beauty to this area and also contribute to a healthier and more robust drainage system by helping to filter the water.

The recently approved Tallgrass Restoration Services proposals will deliver a prescribed burn and an herbicide application to fight invasive plants. New native plants will be introduced via seed broadcasting and the plug planting. In addition, the western area along the current Mettawa trail, will be cleaned up by removing stumps and dead trees.

Eventually the relocated trail will run through the park. Our contractor, R.A. Mancini, has been awaiting final approval from the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Village anticipates this to arrive soon. We have already received a critical letter from the Illinois Historical Commission which stated that this construction project poses no issues of concern from a historical perspective.

These efforts should help the Oasis Park come into its own as a newly beautiful and more usable open space.

Mayor’s Note

BY CASEY URLACHER

First of all, I’d like to extend congratulations to Mary Brennan, John Maier and Denis Bohm on their re-election as Village Board Trustees. As always, all residents are welcome and invited to the monthly meetings of our Village Board and Committees. This spring and summer we can expect a lot to happen at Oasis Park, including the trail relocation project, a prescribed burn (weather permitting), and some plantings. Work will resume on Mettawa Trail extension along Route 60 in the next few weeks. Please remember that Beach Passes are still available to Mettawa residents for $85 (see the Village website for more info). As always, I am here for you. Don’t hesitate to contact me at any time with your questions, comments or ideas. Enjoy the spring!

curlacher@mettawa.org
(847) 573-1460 📞
MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS
OFFICIAL RESULTS

Mettawa’s municipal elections were held on April 4, 2017 for the position of Mayor and three Village Trustee seats.
KMG = Keeping Mettawa Green party
CMT = Conserving Mettawa Traditions party

Votes: Mayor
193 Casey Urlacher (KMG)
62 Tom Lys (CMT)

Votes: Trustees
178 Denis M. Bohm (KMG)
183 Mary E. Brennan (KMG)
184 John H. Maier (KMG)
68 Cathy Nelson (CMT)
59 Bob Price (CMT)
61 Terre Cohen Tripoli (CMT)

Official results provided online by the Office of the County Clerk Office, Lake County, IL:
http://www.lakecountyil.gov

MOLA volunteers in action

Volunteers for Mettawa Open Lands Association joined forces to spread native seeds on March 11th at the Village-owned Whippoorwill Farm Preserve at the corner of Riverwoods and Route 60. Adults and children gathered to spread seed mixes specific to three different ecosystems. On March 18th, MOLA volunteers continued a project along Bradley Road which was begun in 2016. With the help of a Fecon forestry mower and its operator (donated by ILM), MOLA was able to rapidly clear and shred large quantities of buckthorn to reveal new views into a meadow owned by Equestrian Connection. MOLA membership, socials, and volunteer days are open to all. For more information visit http://mettawaopenlands.org

Forest Preserve trail construction

The Lake County Forest Preserve District is completing work on a new trail which runs along Everett Road. This trail will connect Riverwoods Road to the Daniel Wright Forest Preserve. Planning for this project began twenty-five years ago when Grainger dedicated a strip of land for a future trail.

Zoning workshops

May 9th will mark the fourth workshop held by the Zoning, Planning and Appeals Commission (ZPA) to continue an in-depth review of the zoning code. These workshops were planned after the Mayor requested a review of the current code to address various discrepancies and questions, and to discuss ways in which the code might be improved. Any potential changes will be formally considered at a public hearing before being submitted to the Village Board. All interested residents are invited to participate in these zoning code workshops.
Administrator’s report  
By Bob Irvin, Village Administrator

The Village Board recently approved the budget for the new fiscal year (2017-2018) which begins on May 1, 2017. Residents will be pleased to note that this year’s budget includes no tax increases, and that the amount set aside for the tax rebate program has increased to $500,000 (from $325,000). The property tax levy amount will remain the same for the 19th consecutive year, and revenues are expected to be the same as in the current year. New revenue includes the $14,375 grant from Lake County Stormwater Management Commission to improve drainage at Oasis Park (see article, page 1) The new budget sets aside money from the general fund for capital improvement expenditures, including the Oasis Park trail relocation project, and $25,000 which has been carried over from the previous year to cover the completion of the trail extension project along Route 60. Please feel free to contact me at any time with your questions.

Street lighting
The Public Works committee is examining the possibility of a need for street lighting at various intersections throughout the Village. More information will be available as the committee completes its study.

VILLAGE BOARD ACTIONS

This list presents highlights of recent actions by the Village Board during the last quarter. For a complete list of all Village Board actions, please refer to the meeting minutes which are always available online at mettawa.org.

The Board recently approved:

1) Budget for fiscal year 2017-2018 (more info in Administrator’s Report*)
2) Right-of-way maintenance contract with TGF Enterprises of Libertyville
3) Oasis Park maintenance and improvement agreement with Tallgrass for Oasis Park grant project*
4) Oasis Park proposals for maintenance and improvements with Tallgrass for projects including prescribed burn and herbicides*

*See newsletter article

SAVE THE DATE

VILLAGE PICNIC
AUGUST 26, 2017

LAKE FOREST
BEACH PASSES AVAILABLE
$85 resident rate

Upper lot parking passes for Forest Park Beach:
application and more information available online at mettawa.org, or visit:
Lake Forest Public Services Building
800 N. Field Drive, Lake Forest, IL 60045

Village Office Location & Hours
700 East Park Avenue, Suite 113
(Life Storage), Libertyville, IL 60048
Office Hours: weekdays, 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
For entry, call (847) 573-1460.

Official Village Mailing Address
Please continue to mail all correspondence to:
The Village of Mettawa,
26225 N. Riverwoods Blvd., Box M,
Mettawa, IL 60045
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.

**MEETING CALENDAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 9</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Zoning, Planning &amp; Appeals Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 10</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Public Works Committee</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Parks &amp; Recreation Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 16</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Finance Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Village Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, June 6</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Zoning, Planning &amp; Appeals Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, June 14</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Public Works Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Parks &amp; Recreation Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, June 20</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Finance Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Village Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, July 11</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Zoning, Planning &amp; Appeals Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, July 12</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Public Works Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Parks &amp; Recreation Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, June 18</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Finance Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Village Board</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Please note:** This list may be incomplete and some meetings may be cancelled. For updates, check the calendar online at mettawa.org or contact the Village Clerk.

**CONTACT US**

**Casey Urlacher, Mayor**

**Bob Irvin, Village Administrator**

**Sandy Gallo, Village Clerk**

(847) 573-1460

**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, MAY 16, 2017, 7:30 P.M.