

THIRD QUARTER UPDATE FOR 2022

How can three-fourths of the year be over??? As we enter the fall season the temperature sure seems to be right on target. I start my day out with a coat or sweater and by noon I'm ready for my summer attire. We have had a very busy and exciting couple of months.

July Highlights:

The Council passed an ordinance restricting open burning in the downtown area. Over the past several years this has been discussed. With the age of the downtown buildings council decided to enact this ordinance. Many neighboring villages and cities have had horrific fires destroy part of their downtown. We hope this will be one preventative measure to possibly prevent this from happening here.

The Village has submitted a pre-grant application for the downtown revitalization grant. Property owners applied in the late spring and three buildings were chosen to move forward with the pre-application process. This \$250,000.00 grant will help to restore the outside of buildings, a new roof and inside HVAC and electrical systems. We hope to hear in late November if McComb will be approved to complete the final application.

As we begin to think about winter and snow removal, last year we recognized the need to upgrade our large truck and one of the snowplows. However, the supply chain put this purchase on hold. The Village finally found a new F-550 truck in the Cleveland area. Kalida Truck will be installing a switch-N-Go system. This system will allow for us to easily switch from salt to a regular bed. It will also allow for cleaning the underneath where salt may begin to corrode areas. The truck will be here and ready to use this winter. The Village plans to sell the old one once the new one arrives.

The Village Government Committee has been working on a Village Student Committee. The goal of this project is to enlist six high school students within the McComb School District to learn about local government and find ways to serve within the community. Applications are available online at the McComb Village website and at the high school office. With the upcoming graduation requirements including community service this would be a great opportunity for our youth.

The Village would like to thank Northwest Stars 4-H Club for weeding and mulching at the park. They certainly did a fantastic job and made our entrance to the park look so much better.

Council worked toward finalizing our plans for the Villages 175th birthday in August. We had a booth at the Cookie Festival and handed out free tote bags and pencils. We also had T-shirts for sale. The Cookie Festival was a great success and I know my grandkids enjoyed every minute of it. A special thanks to the Cookie Festival Committee and Hearthside for all their work and donations!

As I mentioned in June, Mark Blass, McComb Ventures, LLC applied for rezoning the underdeveloped Hartley Addition from agriculture to single family homes, duplexes/triplexes, and townhouse apartments. McComb's Subdivision Regulations were nearly sixty years old (1963) and Council decided it was definitely time to move forward and update them. The Village had assistance from Hancock County Regional Planning and hired Steven Darmofal from TD Engineering, LLC to update the Subdivision Regulations to today's standards. Steven came highly recommended from Van Buren where he was involved with their subdivision upgrades.

August Highlights:

The Village has also been challenged with the task of updating our zoning map. The last one we believe may have been revised in 2000. In-September of 2019 we updated our Zoning Ordinance. Some of the new zoning designations did not currently exist on the map the Village was using. This made it very difficult for Mr. Like in determining some of the zoning questions. Once Council and the Zoning and Planning Committee approves the projected updated map, letters will be sent to all residents with any noted change in their zoning. There will also be a public hearing for reviewing the map and answering questions residents may have. Please note that changing any zoning does not affect taxes. The auditor does not even know or list your zoning status. There will be more updates in the next quarterly update.

The Village celebrated their 175th anniversary in August. Brisket Brothers Bar and Grill sponsored a free meal and samplings of their BBQ ribs, brisket, and chicken at the pool. They also provided a free swim day at the pool as well as a free movie in the park. This day was enjoyed by many and thanks to them for their sponsorship. On Sunday, all four churches within the Village came together for a

community church service. A special thanks to the American Legion for sharing their building with us and especially for the air conditioning. The final planned celebration was held at the school as part of the fall "Meet the Teams." Mrs. Deb Ewing shared slides and presented some history of the Village. We celebrated with cake and ice cream provided by sponsorship dollars from The Community Foundation. Water was also donated by Hearthiside for the evening. It certainly was fun hearing about some of the town's history and how things have changed. Mrs. Ewing's slide presentation can be viewed on the Village's website.

As we continue to work to improve the streets in the Village council applied to combine with the county and other villages to participate in the bidding for next year's paving. Hopefully, we can continue to pave additional streets. By going through OPWC we will be getting \$97,548 worth of paving for \$48,774. The rest of North Todd, Vista Meadows, Panther Lane, and North Walnut Street will be paved.

You may have noticed the Safe Routes to School cross walk pole was taken out by a semi-truck early on a Sunday morning. A special thanks to Chief Blunk for her due diligence in securing camera footage from different sources in the Village. She was able to determine the semi who left the scene. The company has agreed to pay for the replacement of the pole. However, it is projected to take between 14-16 weeks to get a new one.

As August ended so did the 2022 pool season. This summer seemed to have many warm days and only a couple of weather-related closings. For the most part the splash pad was working all summer. We did have to replace the pump and were only down a couple of days. There were many pool parties in the evening and even the Village employees and council along with their families enjoyed an evening cookout and swim. A special thank you to all the lifeguards, assistant managers, and manager for a very safe and successful season. The Village did pay off our pool loan early and currently we are setting up a capital improvement fund for future needs. We have one of the best pools around and want to continue to have one for our community.

September Highlights:

September brought many projects being finished. Liberty Street was paved and NWWSD continued to camera and line the lead sanitary pipes within the Village.

The Council set Trick or Treat for the Village for October 31 from 6-7 p.m. The Lion's Club will again host a costume contest following Trick or Treat. The contest will not be held on Main Street this year. It will be hosted at the school on the sidelines of the football field. The fire station is also preparing their annual haunted house beginning at 5:30 p.m. on the 31st. This is hosted by PMP and NWHJFD.

The Village applied for the Hancock Park District Grant requesting for monies to build a 12 x 12 concession stand at the back of the park between diamonds 3 and 4. There is also a new set of swings located at the back of the park. The swings were provided through a past Hancock Park District grant.

The Village officially purchased the building directly to the east of the Administrative Office. Once a few renovations are made it will house the Police Department and the Village Tax Administrator. We are very fortunate to purchase a building with such proximity to the office. We believe this will serve the Village needs for many years to come.

The Council will begin working on short-term and long-term goals next month. We would like to establish both a five-year and ten-year plan for the Village. It has been very rewarding to check off items that we have been working toward and achieving what we set out to do.

In-closing, we would like to thank Brenda Mygrant and Greg Shannon for their service to the Planning and Zoning Committee. Both have stepped down and they will be missed. Also, a special thank you to Brad Brown who served on council. Brad resigned from his position on September 26.

May you have a safe and enjoyable fall season!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cathy".