



Village of Mettawa



Q4 FY 2020-2021
April 2021

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

The Buzz

Mettawa to acquire 114 acres of open space

The Village Board approved the steps needed to complete the acquisition of 114 acres of open lands that are currently part of the W. W. Grainger property. These parcels include 100 acres on the east and west sides of Riverwoods Road north of the Everett Road intersection and 14 acres at the southwest corner of Route 60 and Riverwoods Boulevard. The closing is scheduled for May 7th.

This \$5.8 million purchase is being paid for with money from sales taxes and Village reserve funds. W.W. Grainger sales taxes are supplying \$3.8 million and the remaining \$2 million comes from Village reserve funds that have been set aside for purchases like this one.

Parks and Recreation Committee working on five year plan

Trustee Denis Bohm, the chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee (P&RC), has been leading an ongoing effort to develop a 5 year plan for parks and open space in the Village.

In Q1 of 2015, the Village Board approved a comprehensive open space plan for Mettawa that had been produced by WRD Environment. Since then, many of the study's recommendations have been adopted.

During the past 3 P&RC meetings, the committee has used this open space plan as a foundation, focusing on 4 or 5 Village properties per meeting.

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Mayor's Note

Welcome back to springtime

It's been a beautiful spring so far. I hope you all are enjoying the blossoms and fresh air.

I'm pleased to share some good news: the Village recently increased the amount of the property tax rebate to \$750,000 from \$600,000. This increase reflects Mettawa's ongoing fiscal health.

Congratulations to Bob Irvin, our Village Administrator, on his upcoming retirement in May after serving for eight years in this role. Bob's dedicated efforts have deeply contributed to Mettawa's continued success as an efficient and well-run municipality. He has consistently supported our Village and its residents with a clearheaded approach and persistent attention to detail.

We are thankful that Bob will continue to work with the Village for a few more weeks after his retirement to help make sure his transition goes smoothly. It's been an honor to have Bob as part of our team, and he will be greatly missed.

As always, I am here for you. Don't hesitate to contact me at any time with your questions, comments or ideas.

curlacher@mettawa.org

The committee is working to catalog past efforts and plans for future accomplishments (i.e., adding trees, plantings and other improvements). The P&RC will also start discussions and considerations for the 114 acres of land being acquired from Grainger after the Village closes on the new property.

This information is being compiled into a list of goals for parks and open space that can be accomplished over the next 5 years and will provide a reference for determining the budget amounts required to complete the work. ❁

Stormwater study update

Mettawa's stormwater study project continues to make progress. On April 8th, Hey & Associates provided an interim report at a Special Public Works Committee (PWC) meeting.

The firm reviewed 30 self-reported items from residents and many of them overlap with the 6 key areas of concern identified by the Village. Some residents reported private drainage concerns that the Village cannot include as part of municipal action (for example, a broken drain tile within a private yard), but these residents will receive additional guidance from Hey & Associates.

The PWC is reviewing some additional areas to determine if they should be added for further study. One of the largest areas requiring stormwater management attention is near MacLean Preserve at Oasis Park on Bradley Road. Other areas need culvert replacements.

Overall, the PWC is pleased with the quality of the interim report and is looking forward to the delivery of the completed study in early May. The full report will include suggested options and alternatives for stormwater management and estimated costs. ❁

Construction permit reminder

If you are planning a building project, please remember that some projects require a Building Permit. Many maintenance items (i.e., replacing an existing roof or toilet) do not require a permit. Many larger projects (i.e., building an addition, making electrical or plumbing changes) do require a permit. You can learn more by reviewing the Building Permit Guide that is available on the Village website. ❁

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

OFFICIAL RESULTS

Mettawa's municipal elections were held on April 6, 2021 for the positions of Village President and three Village Trustee seats.

The President and Trustees will be sworn in at the May 18th Village Board Meeting.

Village President

<i>Candidate</i>	<i>votes</i>
Jess Ray	105
Casey Urlacher	157

Village Trustees

<i>Candidate</i>	<i>votes</i>
John Bradley	102
Matt Chudy	98
Kristine Preiser	112
Carol Batson-Armstrong	165
Denis Bohm	160
John Maier	173

281 Mettawa voters cast ballots in the election. Lake County reported that countywide turnout in the election was 14.01% and 62% of Mettawa residents voted.

Official results provided online by the County Clerk Office, Lake County, IL

<http://www.lakecountyil.gov>

Beach passes now available

Parking passes for the upper lot at the Forest Park beach in Lake Forest are now available to Mettawa residents for \$85. Passes may be purchased at the Lake Forest Public Services Building at 800 N. Field Drive (just east of the tollway) in Lake Forest. The application is available on the Village website. ❁

Administrator's Report

By Bob Irvin, Village Administrator



The Village Board approved the annual budget for fiscal year 2021-22 at its April 20th meeting.

The most significant change to the new budget is an increase to the property tax rebate to \$750,000 from \$600,000. The budget continues to maintain all Village services with no increases to existing taxes and fees. For the 23rd consecutive year, the property tax levy will remain the same at \$135,000. Over time, the tax rate generally goes down with an increased total assessed valuation when the tax levy remains the same.

This month's Administrators Report will be my last as I will be retiring in May. I have truly enjoyed working for the Village of Mettawa for the past eight years. It has been a wonderful opportunity for me to continue my lifelong profession in local government management. Moreover, Mettawa is a special place in which to complete my 41-year career. Thank you!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. ❁

St. Marys Road resurfacing project

This summer we expect some lane/road closures and temporary detours while St. Marys Road is being resurfaced between Route 60 and Route 176. The Lake County Division of Transportation anticipates work to begin in mid-June and continue through the summer.

Residents can look forward to some pleasant end-results including a smoother drive and wider bike-friendly shoulders (similar to the resurfaced portions of Riverwoods Road and St. Marys Road that are south of Route 60).

We can also expect St. Marys Road to be fully closed for 3 weeks so that the railroad crossing can be replaced and the 400 feet of road north of the crossing can be regraded and reconstructed. During this time, Milwaukee Avenue will be the official detour. ❁

Village Board ACTIONS

Highlights of recent Village Board actions during the last quarter are listed below. The complete list of actions may be found in the meeting minutes that are always available online at mettawa.org.

1. Approved an agreement with Forest Builders for the maintenance of the pollinator gardens in Oasis Park
2. Approved the membership in the JULIE One-Call Program
3. Approved an agreement with Blood Hound for locating electrical lines along Riverwoods Boulevard
4. Approved an agreement with USIC for utility locating services
5. Adopted the Lake County Watershed Development Ordinance
6. Approved an intergovernmental agreement with the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission
7. Approved an amendment to the economic incentive agreement with W.W. Grainger
8. Approved an amendment to the real estate purchase agreement with W. W. Grainger
9. Approved a loan of \$2 million to be used for the purchase of W.W. Grainger property
10. Approved the FY 2021-22 Annual Budget
11. Approved an agreement with Dunlap for Whippoorwill Park maintenance
12. Approved an expression of interest in the Community Solar Clearinghouse Solution Program



Village of Mettawa

26225 North Riverwoods Boulevard
Mettawa IL 60045

Casey Urlacher, Mayor

Denis Bohm, Trustee

Mary Brennan, Trustee

John Maier, Trustee

Jan Pink, Trustee

Tim Towne, Trustee

Carol Armstrong, Village Treasurer

Bob Irvin, Village Administrator

Sandy Gallo, Village Clerk

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

MEETING CALENDAR

IMPORTANT NOTE:

All Village meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice.
Please note that 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.

Wednesday, May 12

6:00 p.m. Public Works Committee

7:00 p.m. Parks & Recreation Committee

Tuesday, May 18

6:00 p.m. Finance Committee

7:00 p.m. Village Board

Tuesday, June 1

7:00 p.m. Zoning, Planning and Appeals
Commission (ZPA)

Wednesday, June 9

6:00 p.m. Public Works Committee

7:00 p.m. Parks & Recreation Committee

Tuesday, June 15

6:00 p.m. Finance Committee

7:00 p.m. Village Board

Tuesday, July 13

7:00 p.m. Zoning, Planning and Appeals
Commission (ZPA)

Wednesday, July 14

6:00 p.m. Public Works Committee

7:00 p.m. Parks & Recreation Committee

Tuesday, July 20

6:00 p.m. Finance Committee

7:00 p.m. Village Board

**NEXT VILLAGE BOARD MEETING:
May 18, 2021, 7:00 p.m.**

CONTACTS

Casey Urlacher, Mayor

Bob Irvin, Village Administrator

Sandy Gallo, Village Clerk

(847) 573-1460

PUBLIC SAFETY:

DIAL 911 FIRST

NON-EMERGENCY:

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 WEBSITE:

mettawa.org