



Village of Mettawa



Q4 FY 2021-2022
April 2022

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

The Buzz

New firm to provide top bookkeeping services

Big bookkeeping changes are underway as the Village recently made the switch from an independent Financial Consultant to a locally based, internationally acclaimed accounting firm, Sikich LLP. We expect this new approach to provide many benefits, including increased efficiency and long-term retention of knowledge.

Sikich is a globally respected CPA firm that provides comprehensive bookkeeping services and a wealth of experience. Our records will continue to be reviewed and overseen by Village Trustee, John Maier, the Finance Committee, the Village Treasurer, the Village Administrator and the Village Clerk.

As accounting rules and regulation continue to evolve, it's important for Village records to remain meticulous and compliant.

Trustee Maier says, "Sikich is a good fit for the Village's needs because it is highly professional CPA accounting firm with a focus on the needs of municipalities and other local entities that range from fire districts and libraries to villages."

Sikich's team structure should also help safeguard against knowledge loss. For example, if team members or Village officials change, the bookkeeping will remain consistent. This professional approach emphasizes transparency and clarity and should help the Village gain a better understanding of its books.

Trustee Maier notes, "We can rely on these accountants to keep up with the latest rules,



Mayor's Note

Hello, Spring!

My family's always happy to see the weather getting warmer this time of year. Hope you and yours are enjoying the refreshing air.

As we step into springtime, it's time for the Village to take care of annual maintenance. You'll soon see busy crews clearing winter debris from our ditches.

Have you heard about the new picnic table that's being installed at Whippoorwill Park in time for summer? It will be a focal point for family time at the park, and will provide our local business employees a nice spot for enjoying an outdoor lunch when the weather warms up.

I'm also pleased to share that Mettawa's property tax rebate will remain at \$750,000 for 2022. Very few communities can give back to their residents so consistently, and we should all be proud of our Village's fiscal health.

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

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and we expect a more efficient auditing process to result from keeping our books in even better order.”

While the Village also relies on Sikich for auditing services, it’s important to note that, as required by law, the two teams working with Mettawa include entirely different people who cannot discuss each other’s work. Sikich is governed by the same CPA and state laws as every other competitive firm, and its work for the Village must be peer reviewed by other firms. For more information, visit sikich.com. ❁

New rumble strip amplifies safety for drivers, walkers, cyclists, and horseback riders

Don’t be surprised if you hear a strange new vibrating sound while driving your car down the east side of Bradley Road or using the nearby Mettawa trail. The Village has installed a new rumble strip to help alert you to potential safety hazards.

What are rumble strips? Also known as growlers, drift lines, sleepy bumps, wake up calls, and waker-uppers, these rough surfaces create a rumbling sound by interacting with rolling tires when a car drives into a caution zone. Rumbles strips use the power of vibration and sound to help drivers and trail users notice potential dangers.

Our rumble strip measures approximately 8 feet long, and was installed by Quality Saw and Seal, Inc., along Bradley Road near Oasis Service Drive in an area where the Mettawa Trail runs right next to the road.

Other options that were considered to improve safety, such as installing a small fence or relocating the trail to the east, were more expensive, less effective and/or could have disrupted ongoing native landscape restoration efforts at MacLean Preserve at Oasis Park.

Thank you to Trustee Denis Bohm Parks and the Recreation Committee (P&RC) for leading this community-focused effort. ❁

Slow down for turtles!

Not every village features turtle crossing signs. However, some of our native fauna residents include turtles. From a turtle’s point of view, open spaces and ample wetlands provide prime real estate.

Most turtles are rather retiring creatures, but in springtime they tend to wander. In an effort to help protect our turtles, Village has installed turtle crossing signs on Old School Road between Oak Hill Lane and Riteway Road.

If you’re driving on Old School Road, please exercise caution to ensure no turtle is in route to the other side. After all, they are slow. ❁



Spring cleanup underway

When spring arrives, it’s time to freshen up our neighborhood’s outdoor environment. If you see Forest Builder trucks and workers around the Village, they’re likely busy taking care of spring cleaning essential tasks, such as filling troublesome potholes, leveling/refilling trail surfaces, and clearing culverts to remove debris and allow the water to flow more freely. ❁

Beach passes now available

2022 season 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 ahead of time at the Lake Forest Public Services Building at 800 N. Field Drive (just east of the tollway) in Lake Forest. The beach pass application is also available on the Village website. ❁

Administrator's Report

By Mandi Florip, Village Administrator



The Village Board approved the annual budget for fiscal year 2022-2023 at its meeting on April 19th.

Our Village Board prioritized keeping the property tax rebate at the same amount as last year, rather

than reducing the amount. The budget continues to maintain all Village services with no increases to existing taxes and fees. Over time, the tax rate generally goes down with an increased total assessed valuation when the tax levy remains the same. For the 24th consecutive year, Mettawa's property tax levy will remain the same at \$135,000.

It is a testament to the Village's fiscal stability and strength that we have been able to hold our levy steady for 24 years and continue to issue a property tax rebate at such a large amount. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions. ❁



VILLAGE PICNIC

Whippoorwill Park
Saturday

AUGUST 20th

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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. Approval of the Dunlap Lawn Service Proposal for the Village's Right-of-Way Maintenance Program for 2022 in the Amount of \$39,825
2. Approval of the Whippoorwill Park Preserve Stewardship with Pizzo & Associates, Ltd. in the Amount of \$34,725 for 2022-2024
3. Approval of Lucas Landscaping & Design Proposal for the Brush and Tree Removal at Riverside Preserve Subdivision in the Amount of \$3,475
4. Approval of the Hey & Associates Inc., Field Study Proposal for Old School and St. Marys Road Recent Construction in the Amount of \$4,000
5. Approval of Quality Saw & Seal Proposal for the Rumble Strip on Bradley Road in the Amount of \$1,975
6. Approval of James Anderson Company Engineering Service Agreement for 2022
7. Approval of Dunlap Lawn Service Proposal for Whippoorwill Park 2022 Maintenance in the amount of \$15,805
8. Approval of an Hourly Rate Increase with Klein, Thorpe and Jenkins for Legal Services
9. Approval of an Ordinance Adopting the Annual Budget for FY 2022-2023
10. Approval of the Poul's Nursery Inc., Watering Contract in the Amount of \$2,400
11. Approval for Forest Builders, Inc. to Clean Out the Village's Ditches in the Amount Not to Exceed \$10,000
12. Approval for Forest Builders, Inc. to Complete Pothole Patching in the Amount Not to Exceed \$2,000
13. Approval for Forest Builders, Inc. to Complete the Annual Trail Maintenance in the Amount Not to Exceed \$15,000
14. Approval of the Chicago Records Management Contract for Records Storage Agreement
15. Approval of Settlement Agreement Between Barry MacLean and the Village of Mettawa
16. Approval to Redesign the Village Website in the Amount of \$10,000

Village of Mettawa

26225 North Riverwoods Boulevard
Mettawa IL 60045

Casey Urlacher, Mayor

Carol Armstrong, Trustee

Denis Bohm, Trustee

Wendie Clark, Trustee

John Maier, Trustee

Jan Pink, Trustee

Tim Towne, Trustee

Amy Weiland, Village Treasurer

Mandi Florip, Village Administrator

Sandy Gallo, Village Clerk



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

All Village meetings are held at Hilton Garden Inn, Mettawa.
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 11

6:00 p.m. Public Works Committee
7:00 p.m. Parks & Recreation Committee

Tuesday, May 17

6:00 p.m. Finance Committee
7:00 p.m. Village Board

Tuesday, June 7

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

Wednesday, June 8

6:00 p.m. Public Works Committee
7:00 p.m. Parks & Recreation Committee

Tuesday, June 21

6:00 p.m. Finance Committee
7:00 p.m. Village Board

Tuesday, July 12

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

Wednesday, July 13

6:00 p.m. Public Works Committee
7:00 p.m. Parks & Recreation Committee

Tuesday, July 19

6:00 p.m. Finance Committee
7:00 p.m. Village Board

**NEXT VILLAGE BOARD MEETING:
May 17, 2022, 7:00 p.m.**

CONTACTS

Casey Urlacher, Mayor

Mandi Florip, Village Administrator
(224) 602-9478

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