



# Village of Mettawa



Q2 FY 2023-2024  
October 2023

**QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

## The Buzz

### Exciting news: Mettawa buys 113 acres from W.W. Grainger, plans to protect and restore open lands

The Village is delighted to announce an important land acquisition. Mettawa has purchased 3 parcels totalling nearly 113 acres from the W.W. Grainger company, and now this land will be securely protected from future development. This transaction stems from mutual agreements originally reached in 2018 and reflects a vibrant partnership between Mettawa and Grainger.

The purchased land includes the northeast and southeast corners of Riverwoods Road and Route 60 (near Costco), and the large field at the southwest corner of W. Everett Road and Riverwoods Road.

This acquisition is even more significant because it strategically protects key intersections from future development. The Village now owns three of four corners at the intersection of Route 60 and Riverwoods as well as the two corners north of the intersection of Everett and Riverwoods. All of these areas will remain undeveloped as protected natural spaces.

The Everett-Riverwoods parcel has been renamed the "Mettawa Savanna." Previously zoned for 26 residential lots, this large open field will be restored to a native savanna landscape.

"What an amazing asset for our Village," says Trustee Wendie Clark, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee. Plans are in place for a 2-3 year clean-up and restoration process of the Mettawa Savanna.

Trustee Clark notes that "the first reclamation work has begun with getting the land mowed!" After cutting brush and buckthorn, soybeans will be planted to help revitalize the land. Eventually the field will evolve into a full savanna landscape filled with native grasses and plants.

*Continued on Page 2*



## Mayor's Note

### Growing good relationships and open lands

Thank you to the Mettawa residents and Village Officials

whose participation in our rural community helps make it such a gem. It was great to spend time with our neighbors at the Village picnic in August, and I also appreciate the many residents who attend and provide input at our various Village meetings too.

We all can be especially proud of the strong partnership between Mettawa and Grainger that's made it possible to bring more protected open space under the care of the Village, including the Mettawa Savanna.

Many people worked very hard to ensure that this huge accomplishment could happen. Our Village will reap the benefits for years to come, including a fiscally sound future, beautifully preserved natural views and healthier landscapes for plants, wildlife and people.

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](mailto:curlacher@mettawa.org)

(847) 573-1460



## Mettawa acquires land

Continued from Page 1

### A long-term vision

This successful land purchase blossomed from a long-term vision. Mayor Urlacher and the Village Board wanted to build a mutually beneficial relationship with Grainger, our long-time corporate neighbor, bring the company back into the Village (after it was part of unincorporated Lake County for 27 years) and protect its many acres of vacant land from future development.

Mayor Urlacher was the constant force behind developing a strong relationship between the Village and Grainger, and fostering productive discussions. The Village Board provided active support for this growing partnership. The law firm, Klein, Thorpe, and Jenkins, also played an integral role in preparing documents and negotiating the terms.

In 2018, as result of many people's coordinated efforts, Grainger and the Village agreed to annex the company's 152-acre corporate headquarters into Mettawa with agreements that also enabled the Village to buy Grainger-owned properties and enter into an economic incentive agreement.

### A smart financial decision

In 2023, the Village completed the land purchase after carefully considering many factors. The final agreements support the Village's best interests and reflect a mutually beneficial collaboration with Grainger.

Mayor Urlacher notes, "I'm so proud that we've made this happen. Slow and steady wins the race! These agreements set up the Village for long-term financial stability and we're protecting open space as we have always done in Mettawa and will continue to do."

The Village will pay for this property by splitting sales tax with Grainger 50%-50% for a period of 20 years. After that, the Village will receive 100% of Grainger sales tax for an expected total of \$1.2-1.4 million per year.

### A good corporate neighbor

Grainger is a leading business-to-business broadline distributor that offers more than 30 million products globally. Its corporate headquarters in Mettawa are Gold-level LEED certified, and contain the world's first LEED-certified data center.

Mayor Urlacher says, "Mettawa continues to be so proud to welcome Grainger to the Village." ❁

## Administrator's Report

By Mandi Florip, Village Administrator



The Village is working to distribute \$750,000 in Tax Rebates to the qualified Village residents who applied for their rebates by the deadline of October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Thank you for submitting your materials in a timely manner.

All received applications have been processed and the checks will be sent out by Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. Please feel free to contact me with any questions. ❁

## New partnership for road safety

The Lake County Sheriff's Office continues to be the responding agency for Mettawa: they receive and respond to all 911 calls and will maintain an active presence in the Village.

The Village and the Lincolnshire Police Department (LPD) are collaborating on a pilot program to reduce speeding on Mettawa streets. Both municipalities are excited by this opportunity to work together.

In late summer, LPD began traffic enforcement throughout Mettawa. We've already seen results: for example, in September, LPD issued a total of 67 citations and warnings for speeding in Mettawa. We hope the additional police presence will help increase overall road safety, especially as winter approaches.

As a reminder, Mettawa Public Safety provides security services to the Village, including complimentary house watch services. If you are going out of town and would like to schedule a house watch, simply contact them at (847) 404-6272. ❁

**Lake County Sheriff's Office**  
**Emergency: 911**  
**Non-emergency: (847) 549-5200**

## Winter tree removal project

Once again, the Village will remove dead or damaged trees this winter. Watch for working crews in parks and along roadside right-of-ways. ❁

## Halloween hours: 4-8 p.m.

Each year on October 31<sup>st</sup>, most North Shore communities expect trick-or-treaters between the hours of 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. If you'd like to opt out, please consider turning off your outdoor lights during this time. ❁

# 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](http://mettawa.org).

1. Approval of the Lowest Bidder, Chicagoland Paving Contractors Inc., for the Little St. Marys Road Culvert and Paving Along with Paving the Portion of Little Melody Lane in Mettawa in the Amount of \$255,000
2. Approval of the Lowest Bidder, Forest Builders Inc., for the 2023-2024 Snow Plowing Services
3. Approval of an Ordinance Adopting by Reference the Lake County Watershed Development Ordinance.
4. Approval of the FY2022-2023 Annual Financial Report
5. Approval of American Vector for the Culvert Cleaning Project in the Amount Not to Exceed \$20,000
6. Approval of Dunlap Tree Experts for the Right-of-Way Tree Removal Project in the Amount of \$15,850
7. Approval of Dunlap Tree Experts for the Park Tree Removal Project in the Amount of \$10,100
8. Approval of the New Name for Grainger Purchased Property
9. Approval of Eubanks Environmental Proposal Second Buckthorn Treatment at Oak Hill Lane in the Amount of \$1,872
10. Approval for an Additional Funding for the Website Design in the Amount of \$5,000
11. Approval of the Petition for Stormwater Management Commission Certification and Petition for Isolated Wetland Certification 🌿



# Village of Mettawa

26225 North Riverwoods Boulevard  
Mettawa IL 60045

**Casey Urlacher, Mayor**  
**Carol Armstrong, Trustee**  
**Wendie Clark, Trustee**  
**John Maier, Trustee**  
**Debra Pelech, Trustee**  
**Swab Smolic, Trustee**  
**Tim Towne, Trustee**  
**Amy Weiland, Village Treasurer**  
**Mandi Florip, Village Administrator**  
**Sandy Gallo, Village Clerk**

[www.mettawa.org](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

## MEETING CALENDAR

All meetings are being held in-person at the Hilton Garden Inn.  
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.

### **Tuesday, October 17**

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

### **Tuesday, November 7**

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

### **Wednesday, November 8**

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

### **Tuesday, November 21**

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

### **Tuesday, December 5**

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

### **Wednesday, December 13**

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

### **Tuesday, December 19**

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

**NEXT VILLAGE BOARD MEETING:**  
**October 17, 2023, 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**

**Lakeshore Recycling Systems, LLC**  
(847) 366-8582 or (815) 675-0400

**VILLAGE WEBSITE:**

[mettawa.org](http://mettawa.org)