



# Village of Mettawa



Q4 FY 2023-2024  
April 2024

**QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

## The Buzz

### New Village Property Restoration

#### Recent open space progress at the corner of St. Marys Road and West Old School Road

While driving along St. Marys Road, you may have noticed some recent changes to the landscape at 15085 West Old School Road. About 16-20 feet of buckthorn was removed along the perimeters of the property.

The Village recently acquired this parcel. The Parks and Recreation Committee proceeded with cleanup almost immediately, focusing primarily on the invasive buckthorn overgrowth that had overtaken the land.

Parks and Recreation Committee Chairman, Trustee Wendie Clark, notes, "It was nearly 1.5 acres of buckthorn! Now that it's been cleaned up we're ordering some Norway Spruce and Red Maples to plant along the St Marys Road side. We plan to let the grass grow and see what else comes up. Perhaps

15085 West Old School Road

*Continued on Page 2*



### Mayor's Note

#### Spring forward

There's something special about springtime when our landscapes are blooming.

As April marks the end of our fiscal year, I'm especially

pleased by all of the open space our Village has acquired. In this fiscal year, the Village Board purchased 118 acres of open space to continue to preserve the low-density rural residential community we all want Mettawa to remain. By purchasing and restoring multiple parcels, the Village Board has invested in Mettawa's long-term beauty.

I'd like to take a moment to extend a special thank you to all of you who help keep our community vibrant, including the volunteers on the Parks and Recreation Committee and the Public Works Committee. Your efforts do not go unnoticed.

The Village Board has discussed hosting a shredding day for Mettawa residents. The event is being planned for the end of June. However, we first need to know if residents are interested. For further details, read our Friday emails communications.

Looking ahead, save the date for our Village picnic on Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Whippoorwill Park. I look forward to this event all year, and truly enjoy the chance to spend time outdoors with neighbors.

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

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in the fall we will add some oak trees to the property.”

Trustee Clark shared more good news about this restoration project, “We qualified for recognition by the Lake County Forest Preserve for a flag showing the Old School property is buckthorn free.”

### **Open space restoration continues at Mettawa Savanna**

The ongoing restoration project at the Mettawa Savanna project has also made great progress. This land is now free of buckthorn. Soon the the remaining few piles of metal and brush debris will be removed and a Village gate will be installed.

Trustee Clark notes, “We expect the farmer, Bob Haraden, to plant organic soybeans as soon as the weather cooperates.”

### **New Village map will include Everett Pond and Mettawa Savanna**

New Village maps are being created to reflect the boundaries of all current municipal properties, including the two recently aquired sites at the intersection of Everett Road and Riverwoods Road. These parcels have new names: Everett Pond (on the northeast corner) and the Mettawa Savanna (on the northwest corner). ❁

### **Springtime is Culvert Cleaning Time**

Spring brings flowers, fresh air, frogs and sometimes a little bit of mud. Spring-cleaning isn't just for indoors, it's a great opportunity to tidy up outdoor spaces too.

For the many residents, spring cleaning includes cleaning culverts. Removing culvert debris helps water to flow freely without unsightly clogs or soggy buildup.

If your property includes a culvert, do yourself a favor by adding culvert cleaning to your spring tasks. Removing debris now can help you improve water flow and avoid messes later. ❁

### **Burning? Ask the Fire Department**

If you plan to burn, please note that burning is not allowed without notifying the Libertyville Fire Department. The LFD experts assess the season,



dryness and wind speed and can tell you if it's a good day to burn or not. Make sure to never start a fire close to trees or a neighbors property, and never leave a fire unattended. ❁

### **Public Works Committee Projects**

The Public Works Committee takes on a lot of important work every spring.

For example, the Village recently finished removing dead trees from right-of-ways. This yearly project significantly improves roadside safety and aesthetics.

This spring we'll see more improvements to our village infrastructure, including crack sealing on roadways and renovation of ditches and culverts.

Crack sealing protects Village roads from further water damage and, more importantly, protect the underlying roadbed.

The Public Works Committee Chairman, Trustee Sweb Smolic, explains, When time comes to resurface all of our village streets, it will be a lot less expensive if the roadbed underneath is not damaged.”

Last fall, all ditches and culverts were cleaned professionally to remove decades of mud and gravel buildup. Trustee Smolic notes, “This year we will be repairing and replacing any village culverts that need it.” ❁

### **Lake Forest Beach Passes and Program Classes**

Once again, Mettawa residents have the opportunity to purchase a Lake Forest beach parking pass for \$85. The permit provides Upper Lot Access to Forest Park Beach. Simply complete an application and return it with payment to The City of Lake Forest, 800 N. Field Drive, Lake Forest, IL 60045. For more information, call the Lake Forest City Finance Department at 847-810-3622.

Mettawa residents can also register for any of the classes in the Lake Forest Program Guide at a resident rate. ❁

# Administrator's Report

By Mandi Florip, Village Administrator



The Village Board approved the annual budget for fiscal year 2024-2025 at its meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

Our Village Board prioritized keeping the property tax rebate at the same amount as last year, rather than reducing the amount. This budget continues

to maintain all Village services with no increases to existing taxes.

Over time, the tax rate generally goes down with an increased total assessed valuation when the tax levy remains the same. For the 26<sup>th</sup> 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 26 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 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 Sikich LLP Auditing Contract for the Period of 2024-2026
2. Approval of Dunlap Tree Experts for the Land Clearing at 15085 Old School Road in the Amount of \$7,700
3. Approval of Dunlap Lawn Service for the 2024 Parks Maintenance
4. Approval of Davey Tree Experts Proposals for Tree Treatments at Whippoorwill Park and Oak Hill Lane Parcels in the Amount of \$30,708
5. Approval of Linda Gardner Phillips's Newsletter Editor Rate Increase
6. Approval of An Ordinance Amending the Mettawa Code of Ordinances, Chapter 7, "Offenses and Miscellaneous Regulations," to Provide for an Administrative Adjudication System
7. Approval of Klein, Thorpe, and Jenkins Fee Increase
8. Approval of Sikich LLP Accounting Services Statement of Work and Engagement Letter
9. Approval of an Ordinance Adopting the Annual Budget for FY2024-2025
10. Approval of Forest Builders, Inc. Proposal for Bradley Road Culvert Replacement in the Amount Not to Exceed \$4,900
11. Approval of James Anderson Company to Complete Surveying and Drafting Plans for the Old School Road Ditch Drainage in the Amount Not to Exceed \$15,000
12. Approval of Forest Builders, Inc. Proposal to Remove Metal Debris at Mettawa Savanna in the Amount of \$1,200
13. Approval of Dunlap Tree Experts Proposal to Remove Trees at 15085 Old School Road in the Amount of \$5,400
14. Approval to Teska Associates Proposal for the Parks, Trails, and Open Space Maps in the Amount of \$800
15. Approval of an Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the Village of Mettawa Providing for the Regulations of Chartered Transportation Services
16. Approval of Officially Name the Village Lot 701 Riverwoods Road, the Everett Pond South, East Grainger Parcel as Everett Pond
17. Approval of Officially Name the Village Lot 1 25960 N. St. Marys Road as Riverside
18. Approval of Davey Tree Experts Complete Tree Inventories at 24880 N. Riverwoods Road and 25960 N. St Marys Road in the Amount of \$3,750
19. Approval of an Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the Village of Mettawa, Chapter 9, Building Code, Article III Residential Buildings 🌸



# 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**  
**Sweb 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](http://Mettawa.org) or contact the Village Clerk.

### Wednesday, May 8

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

### Tuesday, May 21

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

### Tuesday, June 4

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

### Wednesday, June 12

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

### Tuesday, June 18

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

### Tuesday, July 9

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

### Wednesday, July 10

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

### Tuesday, July 16

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

### Tuesday, August 6

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

### Wednesday, August 14

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

### Tuesday, August 20

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

### Tuesday, September 10

7:00 p.m. Zoning, Planning and Appeals

## 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)

**NEXT VILLAGE BOARD MEETING:**  
**May 21, 2024, 7:00 p.m.**