



Village
of
Mettawa

April 2025, Q4 FY 2024-2025
Quarterly Newsletter

The Buzz

A Warm Welcome to Matt Witten, Our Newest Village Board Trustee

We're so pleased to announce that our newly elected Trustee, Matt Witten, will be sworn in as a Trustee on May 20, 2025. Matt has been a Mettawa resident since 2016 and has served on the Zoning, Planning, and Appeals Commission (ZPA) since 2021.

His lovely family (below) includes his wife Kourtney, 10 year old son Jameson, 8 year old daughter Mackenzie, and 3 year old son Everett.



They were initially drawn to Mettawa for its space, privacy, and natural beauty. As he says, "We were drawn to what seemed like a great and unique community, and that ended up being an understatement."

His appreciation for Mettawa motivated him to give back to the community by contributing his time and

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Mayor's Note

Giving Back to Mettawa Residents

Something feels so optimistic about spring when things start to grow. I'm excited to share a

very positive update: the Village Board has decided to raise the property tax rebate to \$850,000.

As your Mayor, my priority is to put residents first, and your Village Trustees prioritize this too. This action is a testament to our commitment.

The Board has been fiscally responsible for decades. The Trustees considered multiple factors before making this decision, including easing the burden of property taxes that have gone up, the current economic situation, and the fact that the cost of living continues to grow.

The Finance Committee did a year-long study of the financial impact of a tax rebate increase to make sure all future Village projects can be completed. They also took into account changes in municipal tax collection.

At a time when most municipalities are adding a grocery sales tax, I'm proud that Mettawa is making no changes to the way we collect taxes. Instead, we are giving back to our residents.

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

curlacher@mettawa.org

(847) 573-1460

energy. After serving as a ZPA Commission member, it seemed like a natural next step to serve as a Village Trustee.

Beyond his contributions to the Village, Matt emphasizes teamwork and cooperation both at work and on the playing field. As Senior Director with WWEX Group, a transportation & logistics firm, he leads a sales team of 40 people. He also coaches youth Lacrosse in Libertyville and is deeply dedicated to supporting the growth and development of this sport. Welcome to the Board, Matt! 🌸

Thank You to the Village Board Members

Our current Village Board members deserve a round of applause for their long-term dedication to Mettawa. Together, they bring 74 years of collective experience to their duties.

Board Members	Years of Service
Mayor Casey Urlacher Recently reelected	12
Treasurer Amy Weiland	4
Trustee Carol Armstrong Recently reelected; also served as Treasurer	6
Trustee Wendie Clark Also served as ZPA Commissioner	8
Trustee John Maier Recently reelected	16
Trustee Deb Pelech Also served as ZPA Commissioner	7
Trustee Swab Smolic	2
Trustee Tim Towne	15
Trustee Matt Witten Newly elected; also served as ZPA Commissioner	4

We'd also like to extend an appreciation to all Village Board members and Commissioners, past and future, for their volunteered time and important contributions to our community. 🌸

It's Time for Culvert Clean-up

If your property includes a culvert, consider adding culvert debris removal to your list of spring tasks. By tidying up these unsightly clogs, you'll help water flow freely and avoid future overflows and messes. 🌸

Need to Burn Some Brush? Call the Fire Department First

Spring is also a popular time for burning dry debris. It's important to note that burning is not allowed without notifying the Libertyville Fire Department (LFD). Their 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 neighboring properties, and never leave a fire unattended.

To determine if it's a good burning day, call LFD at this non-emergency phone number: **(847) 362-5664**. 🌸

Lake Forest Beach Parking Passes and Program Classes are Available

Once again, Mettawa residents can purchase a Lake Forest beach parking pass for \$85. This permit allows parking in the Upper Lot of Forest Park Beach. If interested, 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 details, call the Lake Forest City Finance Department at 847-810-3622.

Mettawa residents also enjoy the opportunity to register for any classes listed in the Lake Forest Parks and Recreation Program Guide at a resident rate. 🌸

Comprehensive Plan Update

The Village of Mettawa continues to move forward on schedule to complete a new Comprehensive plan by November 2025. This new plan will help guide the village over the next decade. It is an important tool for managing and preserving Village goals while accommodating any changes in our community and the Village's vision.

This work began in February. Since then, the plan consultant, Teska Associates, Inc., has met with Village officials and staff, focus groups, and various stakeholders to gather input. They also have walked the land, and connected with many Village residents and businesses to better understand their goals and what they value in Mettawa.

The feedback has been consistent: our community appreciates Mettawa's spaciousness, rural character, and proximity to nature. Many mention the convenient location with convenient access to major roads. Everyone is satisfied with Village services and public safety, and residents want to see ongoing trail maintenance and traffic management.

The interviews have also revealed an overarching appreciation for the Village's efforts to acquire, steward and preserve land. The feedback shows a lot of consistency about our Mettawa community values: a rural setting with large lots and access to open space and trails.

We look forward to continuing this valuable exercise with the consultant over several more meetings. The final updated Comprehensive Plan will likely be presented for approval at the Village Board Meeting on November 18, 2025. 🌸

Administrator's Report



Village Administrator, Mandi Florip

Annual Budget Approved: The Village Board approved the annual budget for fiscal year 2025-26 at its meeting on April 15th. The 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 27th 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.

No Grocery Tax: During the 2024-2025 legislative session, the House of Representative and Senate voted to remove the grocery sales tax historically collected by municipalities. The bill includes language that allows municipalities to impose a 1% tax if they choose. The Mayor and Board of Trustees have elected not to impose this tax for the time being, as we are in a financially strong position.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions. ❁

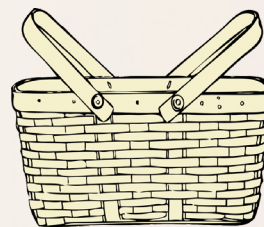
Village Board Actions

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.

1. Approval of Davey Tree Company Proposal for the Tree Inventory at MacLean Preserve at Oasis Park in the Amount of \$250
2. Approval of Davey Tree Company Proposal for the Oak Trees Treatment at Whippoorwill Park in the Amount of \$6,475
3. Approval of Davey Tree Company Proposal for the Removal of Dead Trees at Oak Hill Lane in the Amount of \$12,750
4. Approval of Davey Tree Company Proposal for the Oak Trees Treatment at Oak Hill Lane in the Amount of \$7,324
5. Approval of Signarama Proposal for the Trail Sign Replacement in the Amount of \$1,039
6. Approval of the Security Service Agreement for Howe Security Inc

7. Approval of the Village of Lincolnshire Hourly Rate Increase to \$124.52
8. Approval of Dunlap Lawn Service for the Right-of-Way Maintenance for 2025 in the Amount of \$55,100.00
9. Approval of Pizzo & Associates, Ltd 3-Year Stewardship for Four Village Parcels in the Amount of \$170,400.00
10. Approval of an Ordinance Denying an Application for a Rear Yard Setback Variation for the Property Commonly Known a 14655 Westwood Lane, Mettawa
11. Approval of Ordinance Approving a Plat of Subdivision for the Consolidation of Lots 1 and 2 in Jean S. Schulze Subdivision
12. Approval of the First Amendment to Records Storage Management Agreement
13. Approval of Ordinance Authorizing Adoption and Publication of the Official Zoning Map of the Village of Mettawa
14. Approval for the Contract Renewal with Morton Salt at \$86.95 a Ton
15. Approve of the Klein, Thorpe, and Jenkins, Ltd. Fee Increase
16. Approval of the Sikich LLP Accounting Services Statement of Work
17. Approval of an Ordinance Adopting the Annual Budget for FY2025-2026
18. Approval of Davey Tree Experts for the Tree Removal Stumps at Oak Hill Lane in the Amount of \$4,320
19. Approval of Dunlap Lawn Service Proposal for the 2025 Parks Maintenance in the Amount of \$20,460
20. Approval of IT Service Agreement with Tech 151
21. Approval of the Resolution to File Rebuild Illinois Funding ❁

Village Picnic — Save the Date!



We're looking forward to the annual Village Picnic and hope you can join us at Whippoorwill Park on **Saturday, August 23rd** from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Make sure to mark your calendar!

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



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

UPCOMING MEETINGS

For the complete schedule, check the calendar
online at Mettawa.org, or contact the Village Cler

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

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

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

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

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

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

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

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

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

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

Tuesday, July 1, 2025

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

Wednesday, July 9, 2025

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

Tuesday, July 15, 2025

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

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

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

Wednesday, August 13, 2025

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

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

NEXT VILLAGE BOARD MEETING:

May 20, 2025, 7:00 p.m.