



Village
of
Mettawa

April 2026, Q4 FY 2025-2026
Quarterly Newsletter

The Buzz

Introducing ZPA Commissioner Dan Gorris

We're so pleased to welcome Dan Gorris to the Zoning, Planning, and Appeals Commission. Dan was appointed to the ZPA in June of 2025.

Dan and his wife Leslie have been Mettawa residents for the past 12 years. They moved here from Skokie to be closer to their kids and grandchildren. They quickly fell in love with the country lifestyle, trails and open lands.

Dan says, "I jumped at the chance to become a member of the ZPA. I'm a little old school and feel that we are the only custodians of this little gem of a community, and should do everything we can to ensure that any changes made conform to our goals."

Dan brings a distinguished history of civic service to his new role as ZPA Commissioner. For over 30 years, he was a member of the Lincolnwood Police Department, and retired as the Chief of Police. As Chief, his responsibilities included attending all Village Board meetings and also Zoning Board meetings for topics with Police Department impact.

His wife Leslie was the Administrative Assistant to the Skokie Village Manager and was responsible for preparing the Board and Committee packets.

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Left: Dan and Leslie Gorris



Mayor's Note

Wishing everyone a very happy spring!

In a season that often brings a lot of rain, I'm happy to report that the Village of Mettawa now has better drainage than ever thanks to the recently completed swale project at the MacLean Preserve at Oasis Park (see the article on page 2). Thank you to The Public Works Committee for its many efforts to make this project a success.

I'm excited to announce that work will soon begin on a new fence at Whippoorwill Park. This site gets more beautiful every year.



Please mark your calendars for the Village Picnic on Saturday, August 22, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. It's a great time to enjoy the outdoors and spend time with Village Officials and fellow residents. This picnic is always a highlight of my year.

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



Dan says, "I always believed in living a life of significance and service. I have served on my church council, coached youth and high school baseball and football, and college softball. I currently volunteer at the Equestrian Connection, where I am developing a fondness for Horses."

In his free time, Dan enjoys working with live edge slabs of wood and relaxing at their Wisconsin cabin. He also plays and manages senior baseball 70+. Since 2009, his team has won 11 National titles. Welcome to the ZPA, Dan! 🌸

About the Zoning, Planning and Appeals Commission

Since the Village of Mettawa was founded in 1960, zoning has been an important focus for our community. Today, every resident lives within a mile of a forest preserve and near the Mettawa trail.

The Village of Mettawa's Zoning, Planning and Appeals Commission (ZPA) has been a driving force in protecting our rural lifestyle. This public body helps administer and guide the Village's land-use and zoning regulations. All ZPA Commissioners are resident volunteers.

The ZPA reviews all zoning-related requests and development proposals, evaluates them against the Village Code and adopted plans, and makes recommendations (and findings, when authorized by Village Code) to the Mayor and Board of Trustees.

Transparency and consistency play key roles in the ZPA process. Through public meetings and hearings, the ZPA provides a forum for applicants and residents to present information and comment on proposed zoning actions. 🌸



Swale Grading Project Has Improved Drainage and Prevented Flooding

In October 2025, the Village completed an important swale grading project at MacLean Preserve at Oasis Park. The new swale will improve the regional drainage system and provide storm water storage during 100-year rain events.

This swale grading project began last fall after Oasis Park was identified as a key location for stormwater storage in Mettawa's upper watershed area. Construction was completed along the west drive to Oasis Service Road.

Trustee Tim Towne, the Chairman of the Public Works Committee, confirms that the new swale has already resulted in much better drainage. He says, "The new drainage swale at Oasis Park is working great. During the recent heavy storms, the water receded much faster with a great reduction on any drainageway flooding. We are very pleased with the improvement!" 🌸

Improve Your Property's Drainage by Cleaning Your Culvert

If your property includes a culvert, it's always a good idea to do a "culvert spring cleaning."

By removing culvert debris, you help water flow freely without undue barriers. This helps protect your property (and your neighbor's properties) from future overflows and messes. 🌸

Enjoy Lake Forest Beach Parking Passes and Recreation Classes

Did you know that Mettawa residents can purchase a Lake Forest beach parking pass for \$85?

This windshield sticker allows you to park your car in the Upper Lot at Lake Forest Beach Park. To get your permit, simply complete an application and return it with payment to The City of Lake Forest. You can find the application and guidelines online at mettawa.org.

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. 🌸

Administrator's Report



*Village Administrator,
Mandi Florip*

Annual Budget Approved:

The Village Board approved the annual budget for fiscal year 2026-27 at its meeting on April 21st. 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 as valuation when the tax levy remains the same. For the 28th 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 28 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. ❁

Illinois Primary Statewide Results

The State of Illinois held a primary election on March 17, 2026 to determine the major-party nominees (below) for the general election to be held in November 2026.

U.S. Senate (open seat)

Democratic nominee: Juliana Stratton (Illinois Lieutenant Governor). *Republican nominee:* Don Tracy (former Illinois Republican Party chair)

Governor

Democratic nominee: JB Pritzker (incumbent; uncontested). *Republican nominee:* Darren Bailey.

Attorney General

Democratic nominee: Kwame Raoul (incumbent; uncontested). *Republican nominee:* Robert Fioretti (uncontested).

Secretary of State

Democratic nominee: Alexi Giannoulias (incumbent; uncontested). *Republican nominee:* Diane Harris.

Comptroller (open seat)

Democratic nominee: Margaret Croke. *Republican nominee:* Bryan Drew (uncontested).

Treasurer

Democratic nominee: Michael Frerichs (incumbent; uncontested). ❁

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 Proposal from Dunlap Lawn Service for the Village's Right-of-Way Maintenance for Two-Years, Each Year in the Amount of \$47,125
2. Approval of Rustic Wood Fencing for the New Open Fence at Whippoorwill Park in the Amount of \$2,749.26
3. Approval of Dunlap Lawn Service for the Village's Parks Maintenance for Two-Years, Each Year in the Amount of \$26,735
4. Approval to Go Out to Bid After Legal Review for the Old School Road Trail Project
5. Approval of an Ordinance Proposing the Establishment of Special Service Area Number Sixteen of the Village of Mettawa, Lake County, Illinois and the Imposition of a Tax at a Rate Sufficient to Pay the Cost of Providing Special Service in and for Such Area
6. Approval of the Klein, Thorpe, and Jenkins, Ltd Hourly Fee Increase
7. Approval of Sikich LLP Accounting Services Statement of Work
8. Approval of an Ordinance Adopting the Annual Budget for FY2026-2027
9. Approval to Waive Competitive Bidding for Clark Mosquito Management Agreement for 2-Years, 2026 Cost in the Amount of \$ 31,605
10. Approval of the Proposal from Green Concepts to Seed the Old School Road Parcel Westerly Side in the Amount \$ 2,685 and Riverside Grading in the Amount of \$6,750
11. Approval of the Proposal from Green Concepts to Continue the Flagstones at MacLean Preserve at Oasis Park Bench Path in the Amount of \$1,154 ❁

Save the Date!
Village Picnic
Saturday, August 22nd

We're already looking forward to the annual Village Picnic. Please plan to join us at Whippoorwill Park on Saturday, August 22nd from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Village of Mettawa

26225 North Riverwoods Boulevard
Mettawa IL 60045

Casey Urlacher, Mayor
Carol Armstrong, Trustee
Wendie Clark, Trustee
John Maier, Trustee
Sweb Smolic, Trustee
Tim Towne, Trustee
Matt Witten, 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 Clerk.

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

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

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

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

Tuesday, June 2, 2026

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

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

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

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

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

Tuesday, July 7, 2026

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

Wednesday, July 8, 2026

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

Tuesday, July 21, 2026

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

Tuesday, August 4, 2026

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

Wednesday, August 12, 2026

6:00 p.m. Public Works Committee

Tuesday, August 18, 2026

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

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

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

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 19, 2026, 7:00 p.m.