



Village of Mettawa



Q3 FY 2021-2022
January 2022

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

The Buzz

Safety Basics & Tips

Many suburbs around Chicago have seen crime rates increase in recent months. As a preventative measure, we urge all Mettawa residents to be aware and practice smart safety.

At the Village level, resident and property safety continue to be top priorities for Village officials. The Mettawa Public Safety Patrol (Howe Security), overseen by the Public Safety Commissioner, Trustee Carol Armstrong, has kept a responsive eye on our community.

Trustee Armstrong also maintains strong ties with the Lake County Sheriff's department, two fire protection departments (Countryside and Lincolnshire) and the Village Alert System (Blackboard Connect).

At the individual level, Trustee Armstrong emphasizes that residents play a powerful role in community security. She says, "Let's all get back to basics, keep our eyes and ears open, and look out for each other."

Together we can help deter crime in our Village. You can start by reviewing our top 3 basic tips.

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TIP 1
Use "No Solicitors" signs

TIP 2
**Don't open the door to strangers:
Call 911**

TIP 3
**Request free Mettawa Public
Safety house checks**



Mayor's Note

Happy New Year!

I hope 2022 is filled with health and happiness for you and your family.

Our Village is stepping into this new year in good financial health. The Village Board and I share a strong dedication to fiscal responsibility and work hard to reduce financial burdens on our residents. As a result, Mettawa is the only municipality in Lake County (and one of only a few in Illinois) that has maintained a low (\$135,000) tax levy for over twenty years.

As your Mayor, I regularly talk to residents about many topics, and public safety is one of my top priorities. I am supporting key budget allocations for increased public safety funding to contribute to greater security and provide our community with greater peace of mind. We have also improved cyber security for the Village by making our cyber insurance more robust. This change will better protect our online resources, including emails, online networks, and data storage.

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

(847) 573-1460

TIP 1: Install “No Solicitors” sign

We recommend placing a “No Solicitors” sign on your mailbox and/or door. The Village provides these free signs to residents by request to the Village Clerk.

Did you know that solicitation is not allowed in Mettawa without a Village-issued solicitation permit? These permits are extremely rare (in the past six years, Mettawa has only issued one), and if/when a permit is issued, the Village will notify residents.

Without a permit, it’s not legal for people to come to your door to offer goods and/or services. This means that if anyone knocks at your door to offer window upgrades or roofing services, or any other solicitations, they are breaking the code of the Village’s ordinances.

TIP 2: Take control: Don’t open the door

If a stranger comes to your door, do not open the door to speak with them and do not let them into your house.

Keep your door closed and locked. You can talk through the door to communicate. If they can’t hear you, ask them to call you. If you have an installed camera/speaker system use it. Anytime you don’t feel safe, or if something just seems “off,” call 911.

This same principle applies to anyone anywhere on your property. Even if you have an alarm, if you see a person or group of people who do not belong on your property (or your neighbor’s property) call 911.

Also exercise precautions with standard service providers. At times, Comcast or Nicor associates may come to your door or onto your property for valid reasons. Instead of opening the door, ask them to call you. You can also call the firm directly to validate their activity. Please note that the Village will notify residents ahead of time when a utility visits an area.

Remember, if you see something unusual, don’t open the door; call 911.

TIP 3: Going out of town: Schedule Mettawa Public Safety house checks

Mettawa Public Safety will do complimentary house checks by request. Before you go out of town, just let them know you’d like to be added to the schedule.

You can call Mettawa Public Safety at

(847) 404-6272. We invite all residents to take advantage of this valuable free house check service.

Public Safety Officer Antonio Soto notes, “Don’t be afraid to call us. We’ll check your house whether you’re gone a day, a month or even years. We’ll even help with packages and garbage cans, but we don’t do window cleaning!”

Most municipalities require residents to pay out-of-pocket for security checks, but the Village offers it to residents at no charge. One phone call is a small price to pay for increased safety and peace of mind.

SUMMARY: We all play an important role

The Village is working with Mettawa Public Safety and the Lake County Sheriff to increase their presence and vigilance in our Village, and research studies have shown that vigilant, involved communities show reduced crime rates.

You can help. Take proactive measures, like adding motion lights or a security camera doorbell. Stay aware and look out for yourself and your neighbors. Together we can make a difference. ❁

St. Marys Road Construction

The completion of construction on St. Marys Road has been paused for the season. However, the end is in sight. We expect efforts, including land restoration, to resume in the spring. The Village will continue to provide updates at the Public Works Committee meetings.

We’re on the Road to Safer Streets

Since the new traffic calming signs wer installed in December, many speeding tickets have been issued.



Our area is also being patrolled more frequently by the Lake County Sheriff department. Anyone who speeds will likely receive a ticket regardless of resident status. Don’t let this be you! When the sign flashes “TOO FAST,” take note and slow down. ❁

Administrator's Report

By Mandi Florip, Village Administrator



It's the time of year when we work on financial planning. I'm pleased to announce that the Village has once again approved the tax levy for 2021, holding it at the same level it has been for the last twenty some years. Mettawa is proud to be one of the only municipalities in

the state to keep the tax levy at a steady rate without increase. Budget planning has begun for the fiscal year 2022-2023. We are assessing capital improvement projects and looking at financials. A full draft budget will be presented to the Finance Committee during its March meeting. It should be quite similar to the current budget. After the meeting, a proposed budget will be posted on the Village website. On April 19, 2022, the final budget will be presented to the Village Board at a public hearing. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions. ❁

New Trees at Oasis Park

Since the first tree was planted at MacLean Preserve at Oasis Park in November 2021, the Village has received many resident requests for tree plantings on the berm. In response, six "trial run" trees have been planted, including three Eastern Red Cedar and three Arborvitae. "If these native trees thrive in this location, we'll plant more in the future," says Trustee Denis Bohm, the chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee. ❁



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. Approved a Resolution to Determine the Amount of the Tax Levy for 2021 Tax Year
2. Approved the 2021-2022 Insurance Policy with ICMRT (presented by MGA Insurers, Inc.) in an Amount Not to Exceed \$13,709
3. Approved Lucas Landscaping and Design Proposal for the Right-of-Way Tree Removal Project in the Amount of \$6,750
4. Approved the Lake County Sheriff's Office Special Detail Agreement in the Amount Not to Exceed \$16,800
5. Approved of an Ordinance Authorizing the Levy and Collection of Taxes for the Corporate and Municipal Purposes of the Village of Mettawa for the Year 2021
6. Approved of a Resolution Approving the Release of Certain Executive Session Minutes of the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Mettawa
7. Approved the Termination of the Accounting and Financial Services Agreement with Dorothy O'Mary
8. Approved the Settlement Agreement Between Michael Brady and the Village of Mettawa
9. Approved a Resolution Authorizing and Approving a One Time Compensation Bonus for Village Clerk Sandy Gallo
10. Approved a Resolution Setting Forth the Regular Meetings of the President and Board of Trustees and All Subsidiary Bodies of the Village of Mettawa for 2022
11. Approved a Resolution Authorizing the Village President and the Village Clerk to Execute a contract with Hilton Garden Inn to Provide for Meeting Rooms Space for Regular Meetings of the Village Board and All Village Committees and Commissions During 2022

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 will be held virtually until further notice.

For Zoom attendance, meeting I.D. and passcodes,
please refer to specific agendas on the Village website.

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, February 9

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

Tuesday, February 15

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

Tuesday, March 1

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

Wednesday, March 9

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

Tuesday, March 15

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

Tuesday, April 5

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

NEXT VILLAGE BOARD MEETING:
February 15, 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