



Village of Mettawa



Q1 FY 2019-2020
JULY 2019

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

The Buzz

Village Bond Rating Upgraded by Moody's



Excellent rating reflects steady successful financial stewardship

On May 30, 2019, Moody's Investor Service upgraded the Village of Mettawa's bond rating to Aa1 (from its previous Aa2 rating). This new Aa1 rating is only one step beneath the highest rating available, Aaa. Mettawa is one of the smallest municipalities to achieve an Aa1 rating from Moody's.

Multiple factors were considered before this upgrade was awarded. It reflects the Village's strong stewardship of funds both in the past and looking forward into the future. Moody's Credit Opinion Summary for the Mettawa upgrade highlights the Village's "robust financial position and lack of pension exposure," and noted that "the Village also has significant operating flexibility given its home rule revenue raising authority, entirely contracted staff and large discretionary expenditures." The report also anticipates that "the Village's financial operations will remain very strong."

The new Aa1 rating will enable the Village to secure more advantageous interest rates than municipalities with lower ratings. Municipalities rated Aa1 are eligible for near-prime rate loans. This means that it will be much easier for the Village to borrow money at excellent interest rates because Mettawa will be a very desirable entity to the bond market and investment community. In other words, this upgraded rating is a boon that can represent interest savings worth tens of thousands of dollars. In contrast, government entities with the rating Aa2 rating could

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Mayor's Note



Hope you all are staying cool this summer. It's almost time for our annual Village Picnic, and Jeanna and I am looking forward to it. Please save the date for Saturday August 24, 11 a.m.—2 p.m., and plan to come for some outdoor socializing. Bring the whole family for food, fun and entertainment!

You'll have a chance

to enjoy custom balloon designs and get some free "tattoos" on the spot. Corky's will be serving up burgers, hot dogs and chicken, and we'll have cold beverages too. Hope to see you there!

We can be very happy about the Village's upgraded bond rating (*see article*). Mettawa is one of the smallest municipalities to have achieved this excellent rating. We're proud to run a tight budgetary ship.

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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pay considerably higher rates.

Trustee John Maier, the Chairperson of the Finance Committee, said, "Our Village should be very proud of this rating. It shows that the Village is fiscally responsible and making its money work efficiently." He noted that the Village uses its cash flow to cover many expenses, reliably pays its debts, and has selectively used Special Service Area (SSA) taxes for area-specific services and improvements in order to avoid raising taxes across the board for all residents. He also noted that "our Village is always looking to obtain cost efficiencies."

Moody's Investors Service is a bond credit rating business that provides international financial research on bonds issued by commercial and government entities. It ranks the creditworthiness of government entities with a scale of ratings from Aaa to C, with Aaa being the highest quality and C the lowest quality. The full summary may be viewed online: <https://bit.ly/2Sz11jj>. ❁

Zoning Updates

REWRITE OF ZONING ORDINANCE: The Zoning, Planning and Appeals Commission (ZPA) has continued to make progress with the zoning ordinance rewrite project. The ZPA completed about 2/3 of its review at its June 25th workshop, and expects to complete its review during a second workshop at the regular ZPA meeting on August 6th. Carmiros (the zoning consultant) will then compile all of the recommendations into a new document which will be presented for review at a public hearing in the fall, then presented to the Village Board for approval. Meeting dates will be emailed to residents and posted on the Village website.

Most of the proposed changes to the zoning ordinance are structural. The rewritten code will be modernized and more logically organized so that it will be easier to locate and understand information. For example, information about all zoning districts will be compiled in a table so that it will be much easier to see and compare. It also uses graphics to illustrate concepts such as setbacks. Other recommendations include rezoning the Tollway Oasis as a commercial zoning district. This change will correct a long-standing code oversight that designated this area as R2 residential after the area's annexation 21 years ago.

GRAINGER ANNEXATION & REZONING: At its June meeting, the Village Board approved the rezoning

Village Picnic!



SATURDAY AUGUST 24

11 a.m.—2 p.m.

Rain or Shine! The festivities will be fun for all at Saint Basil Serbian Church (27450 N. Bradley Road).

of the Grainger property from R1 (residential 5 acre) to OH (office/hotel). This rezoning process is being driven by the legalities of the annexation process. Illinois state law requires annexed properties to be automatically assigned to the most restrictive zone, which in Mettawa is R1. The Village's annexation agreement with Grainger required the assignment of a more practical zoning district, OH. This change allows Grainger to continue to exist and operate with the same zoning entitlements that they have had since 1994 in Lake County, including the ability to build up to 1.5 million square feet (their current square footage is 890,000 SF). Currently, Grainger has no plans to build any additional office space.

This rezoning was also required for the Village to close on the parcels of land that it is acquiring as part of the annexation agreement. These parcels total 114 acres and include 100 acres along Everett Road on the east and west sides of Riverwoods Road, and 14 acres at the SW corner of Route 60 and Riverwoods Road. The Village will be taking possession of this land in late September or early October.

CHICKENS: At its July meeting, the Village Board approved a zoning ordinance amendment to allow residents to keep chickens on residential lots or parcels of at least 160,000 square feet in size. The new Section 12.199, entitled "Keeping of Chickens," limits residents to six chickens, includes specifications for coop location and construction, requires residents to obtain a one-time permit from

Costco Gas Station will close for August

Costco's gas station will be temporarily **CLOSED FOR CONSTRUCTION** during the entire month of August.

Administrator's Report

By Bob Irvin, Village Administrator



The Village continues to run smoothly with its finances in good shape. The Village's bond rating was recently upgraded by Moody's to Aa1 from Aa2 (see article). Please note that tax rebate applications were mailed to residents in mid-July. If you've

been a Mettawa resident at least since January 1, 2017, you may qualify for this rebate and I urge you to apply before the deadline of October 1, 2019. This year the total pool of surplus funds to be distributed is \$600,000, which represents a healthy \$100,000 increase over last year. This rebate is primarily funded by tax revenue contributed by businesses located within the Village, including the Lake Forest Oasis and Costco. I'm looking forward to the annual Village Picnic on Saturday, August 24, 2019. See you there, rain or shine. ❁

the Village, and details other regulations. Permit applications and full regulations are available on the Village website. ❁

Oasis Park is Blooming

Three plantings were recently completed at Oasis Park. A new butterfly/pollinator garden was installed east of the Mettawa Trail to provide nectar and pollen for native bees, butterflies and honeybees, and support the Monarch butterfly's lifecycle with milkweed. About 350 plants and 21 native species were planted, including Common and Butterfly Milkweeds, Smooth Blue Aster, Blue Wild Indigo, and Rattlesnake Master.

The wetland areas beside the trail received 150 native plants of 12 species, including Swamp Milkweed, New England Aster and Monkey Flower. The oak and maple grove now enjoys 220 new plants of 9 species including May Apple and Virginia Bluebell. All 3 areas were planted with plugs that should reach maturity sooner than seeds, but it will still take several years for them to mature. This fall some native trees and shrubs will also be planted.

Trustee Denis Bohm and the Parks and Recreation Committee deserve special thanks for their hard work in making these important plantings happen. ❁

Village Board ACTIONS

Highlights of recent Village Board actions during the last quarter are listed below. For a complete list of actions, please refer to the meeting minutes which are always available online at mettawa.org.

1. Approved an agreement with Clarke Environmental for mosquito abatement services
2. Approved an agreement with Bob Haraden for hay farming on Village property
3. Approved an agreement with Blackboard Connect for emergency notification service
4. Approved an ordinance declaring surplus funds for property tax rebates
5. Approved a Village whistleblowing policy
6. Approved the rezoning of the Grainger headquarters property to the Office/Hotel District
7. Approved an ordinance regulating the keeping and raising of chickens
8. Approved a proposal from Forest Builders for installation of a storm sewer along Bradley Road
9. Approved a proposal from Perfect Cut for dead tree removals in Oasis and Whippoorwill Parks
10. Approved the comprehensive replacement of Village street signs after a complete sign inventory review

Tax Rebate

**applications must be postmarked
by October 1, 2019**

Application and guide available
online in the News section of the
Village website:

<http://www.mettawa.org>

Village of Mettawa

26225 North Riverwoods Boulevard
Mettawa IL 60045

Casey Urlacher, Mayor
Denis Bohm, Trustee
Mary Brennan, Trustee
John Maier, Trustee
Jan Pink, Trustee
Pam Sheldon, Trustee
Tim Towne, Trustee
Pam Fantus, Treasurer
Bob Irvin, 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

MEETING CALENDAR

Tuesday, August 6

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

Wednesday, August 14

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

Tuesday, August 20

6:30 p.m. Finance Committee
7:30 p.m. Village Board

Saturday, August 24

11:00 a.m. Village Picnic

Tuesday, September 10

7:00 p.m. ZPA Commission

Wednesday, September 11

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

Tuesday, September 17

6:30 p.m. Finance Committee
7:30 p.m. Village Board

Tuesday, October 1

7:00 p.m. ZPA Commission

Wednesday, October 9

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

Tuesday, October 15

6:30 p.m. Finance Committee
7:30 p.m. Village Board

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.

CONTACTS

Casey Urlacher, Mayor
Bob Irvin, Village Administrator
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:
<http://www.mettawa.org>

NEXT VILLAGE BOARD MEETING:
August 20, 2019, 7:30 p.m.