



Village of Mettawa



Q2 FY 2019-2020
October 2019

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

The Buzz

About the West Skokie Drainage District

A little river that reduces flooding by inviting storm waters to flow south

Some property owners in the Village may have noticed a fee listed on their Lake County tax bill with the curious designation of "D09WSK". This fee is collected by Lake County for the West Skokie Drainage District (WSDD). The funds are used to maintain the Middle Fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River, a small but important natural resource in the fight against flooding. This drainage area was originally established in 1910.

The WSDD is part of a larger waterway that begins near Belvidere Road (just outside Waukegan) and ends near Golf Road (in Morton Grove). The area covered by the WSDD fee includes the river's 11.9 mile subsection that runs from Illinois 137 to a point just south of Deerfield Road.

For much of its length, this unassuming little river is only a few feet wide and looks like a simple ditch. But it plays a very important role in carrying runoff water away from the watershed.

The District takes care of this waterway to make sure that storm water can successfully flow south without undue flooding. Currently, a contractor is clearing the entire channel of brush, trees and debris so that water can flow properly.

The District also operates and maintains a 540 acre foot detention basin in Green Oaks (just north of Atkinson Road). This basin helps reduce flooding downstream.

The three commissioners responsible for the
continued on page 2

Mayor's Note



Mettawa's trees have been full of colors this fall. We can all look forward to seeing even more colors next fall as a result of the recent planting at Oasis Park. Over 50 trees were planted there last month. It's great to see the progress in this park as it continue to transform into place we can all enjoy and be proud of.

I'm pleased to say that the road construction project on St Marys Road and Everett Road is complete. We expect more resurfacing in 2020 on St. Marys Road between Route 60 and 176. Stay tuned for details that will be emailed.

Last but not least, keep your eye on your mailbox: tax rebate checks will be mailed out after the November 19th Village Board meeting.

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



maintenance of this district are appointed by the Lake County Board and meet quarterly at the Deerfield Village Hall. ❁

A map of the WSDD may be viewed online: <https://bit.ly/2BRnYXO>

Tree plantings & removals

Mettawa's green canopy of trees is an irreplaceable natural asset that we continue to support and maintain.

PLANTINGS: Oasis Park was recently planted with a diverse variety of native trees, including: River Birch, Thornless Cockspur Hawthorne, Common Hackberry, Autumn Blaze Maple, Honey Locust and American Linden.

REMOVALS: Some trees decline every year due to age, diseases and damage. Trees in the right-of-way that become dangerous are removed right away, of course, but every 2-3 years, the Village compiles a list of trees that are slated for removal.

The Village also assesses tree stumps that are leftover from prior tree removals. These nuisance stumps often hinder mowing and other maintenance activities. Red paint markings will flag the designat-



ed trees for removal. Based on the results of prior years, the Village expects to get some competitive bids for the current tree and stump removal project. The exact work dates will be announced. ❁

Road resurfacing project

Lake County will soon complete the resurfacing of Everett and St. Marys Roads. The county plans to undertake a similar project in 2020 to resurface the stretch of St. Marys Road between Routes 60 and 176. This construction will slightly widen the roadway shoulders to

provide a safer passageway for bicyclists (similar to the current clearance on Riverwoods Road and St. Marys Road south of 60). Although this effort is smaller than the recently completed project, it does include a railway crossing. Because the county does not have jurisdiction over this crossing it must coordinate with Canadian National Railroad before construction begins. The Village will provide more details when available. ❁

Zoning Update

REWRITE OF ZONING ORDINANCE: In August, the Zoning, Planning and Appeals Commission (ZPA) completed its public workshops which were essential to the ongoing ordinance rewrite project. The resulting proposed ordinance was posted on the Village website in September.

On October 8th, the ZPA held a public hearing to discuss the proposed ordinance, and was able to wrap up most of its deliberation and work at that time. The remainder of the work is expected

to conclude at a subsequent public hearing on November 5th at 7 pm, and the ZPA should complete its recommendations to the Board at that meeting.

These recommendations will be published on the Village website and presented at an upcoming Village Board meeting (either on November 19th or December 17th). The Village will email a reminder of meetings with the chosen date. ❁

Administrator's Report

By Bob Irvin, Village Administrator



The Village recently received its audit for the fiscal year 2018-2019. This audit was unmodified and clean: it accurately represents the Village's financials and reported no issues or inaccuracies. This audit was completed by Sikich LLP, a certified public accounting firm, and it is available on the Village website.

Please note that the constitutionally mandated United States census for 2020 will soon be underway. This census impacts the Village because its results influence Mettawa's revenue. Many shared state revenues (such as income tax & motor fuel tax) are based on population. An accurate count helps our Village collect its share of the revenues. All collected data is confidential and used only in aggregate for statistical purposes. I recently met with census officials to review the process, and we will email updates as we receive them. ❁

Annexation of Grainger property

As part of the Grainger annexation agreement in August, 2018, the Village agreed to purchase 114 acres of Grainger property in two locations. About 100 acres are located near the intersection of Riverwoods and Everett Roads and about 14 acres at the southwest corner of Route 60 and Riverwoods Road. The purchase of the property was subject to several conditions, the last of which was completion of the rezoning of their headquarters property to our Office/Hotel district under a Planned Unit Development, also known as a PUD. The PUD was to carry the same approvals that were agreed to by the Village and Lake County in 1994, and it does just that. However, a complaint has been filed in the Lake County Circuit Court against the Village and Grainger by Tom & Franziska Lys challenging the zoning approvals granted by the Village. Therefore, the closing on the property has been delayed.

The Village firmly believes the zoning approvals were done properly and legally, and will vigorously defend this matter. ❁

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 the appointment of Carol Armstrong as Deputy Village Treasurer
2. Approved a contract with DeMarr Sealcoating to paint pavement markings
3. Approved a proposal from Poul's Nursery for the installation of 53 trees in Oasis Park
4. Approved the installation of a bench and landscaping in Oasis Park honoring former Mayor Barry MacLean
5. Approved the collection of buckthorn removed by MOLA from Village property and right-of-way
6. Approved an ordinance prohibiting the sale of recreational cannabis in the Village
7. Approved an master license agreement with Verizon for small wireless facilities located within the Village rights-of-way
8. Approved the appointment of Carol Armstrong as Village Treasurer
9. Approved the appointment of Pam Fantus to the Zoning, Planning and Appeals Commission

**Costco Gas Station
IS NOW OPEN**

**Village Office
WILL BE CLOSED**

Thursday, November 28

Friday November 29

&

Tuesday, December 24 —

Wednesday, January 1

It will reopen on
Thursday, January 2

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

Carol Armstrong, 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, November 5

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

Wednesday, November 13

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

Tuesday, November 19

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

Tuesday, December 3

7:00 p.m. ZPA Commission

Wednesday, December 11

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

Tuesday, December 17

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

Tuesday, January 7

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

Wednesday, January 8

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

Tuesday, January 21

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:
November 19, 2019, 7:30 p.m.