



Village of Mettawa



Q4 FY 2019-2020
April 2020

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

The Buzz

MacLean Preserve at Oasis Park

Mayor Barry MacLean honored

The newly renamed MacLean Preserve at Oasis Park honors former Mayor Barry MacLean's many years of service to the Village. The name change resolution was approved by the Village Board during its April 21st meeting.

New stewardship program

This park will be continuing its exciting transformation into a beautiful natural landscape preserve. The care of this public space requires more than careful maintenance; it also requires thoughtful plantings and the ongoing nurturing of native plants. The Village recently signed a contract with Pizzo & Associates to provide expert landscaping and stewardship, including strategic plantings (see below). Pizzo's services come backed by years of experience and a performance guarantee. Some of its other local clients include Lincolnshire and Lake Forest Hospital. We anticipate that this new stewardship program will deliver praiseworthy results.

Fresh plantings

The property's butterfly gardens and landscape will be enhanced by a great deal of seeding and many native plugs will also be planted. In addition, the Village Board has also approved the purchase of 25 more trees to be planted along the south end of the trail, including hawthorns, autumn blaze maples, swamp white oaks, river birches and serviceberries. The labor required for the installation of these trees has been generously donated by resident Rocco Fiore.

Mettawa residents can look forward to enjoying the growing beauty of the MacLean Preserve at Oasis Park for many years to come. ❁



Mayor's Note

Happy Spring!

I hope you all have had a chance to get outdoors during this spring and enjoy the fresh outdoor air in rural Mettawa.

The Village recently honored former Mayor Barry MacLean by approving the renaming of Oasis Park to the MacLean Preserve at Oasis Park. A bench and plaque will also be installed in his honor this spring.

Keep your eye on this special place because it will be growing even more beautiful with brand new landscape plantings and new trees along the Mettawa trail. I'd like to give a special thanks to Village resident Rocco Fiore who is donating the labor to install these new trees. It's an open space that we can all enjoy.

We understand you are receiving a number of pandemic updates from various sources. The Village will continue to provide important updates on our website.

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



Village meetings now telephonic

All scheduled Village meetings are now being held telephonically due to the pandemic. However, some meetings, discussions and approvals will necessarily be delayed until it is possible for in-person meetings to resume. Please check the Village website for all meeting agendas, minutes and other updates.

Meetings to discuss zoning and animal regulations are now on hold

The recommendations by the Zoning, Planning and Appeals Commission (ZPA) regarding zoning and animal regulations are available on the Village website. The Village did hold special meetings on February 4th and March 2nd to discuss the recommendations and take public input. The remainder of these meetings have been put on hold for the time being (due to the pandemic). While many Village meetings may successfully be held telephonically, the highly interactive nature of this process requires in-person meetings. Therefore these meetings will be rescheduled and continued at a future date (TBD).

Vernal pond restoration

Residents may have noticed a newly visible vernal pond in the area between Riverwoods Boulevard and Bradley Road. This valuable natural habitat area is being restored, and the Village Board recently approved the purchase of native plant plugs for this project. MOLA volunteers may plant the plugs this spring, if possible.

Construction alert

Route 176 is now being resurfaced from Route 41 to just west of St. Marys Road. This project should be completed by September.

Census reminder

If you have not yet filled out your census form and submitted it by mail, online or by phone, it's not too late — please make sure to participate. A complete and accurate count of all residents is very important for Mettawa because the results impact the Village's shared revenues, such as funds from income tax and motor fuel tax and are also used to draw congressional and state legislative districts. ❁



nature notes

The Village encourages residents to avoid using phosphorus-containing fertilizers

Phosphorus is a simple nutrient that supports lush, healthy growth in plants, but it's also a harmful chemical that contributes to the pollution of groundwater, streams, rivers and lakes when it's used in fertilizer and escapes through water run-off.

While fertilizer run-off is often seen as an agricultural problem, the truth is that landscaping run-off creates a major threat to the natural environment in populated areas.

For example, the excess phosphorus that leaches from lawns into groundwater and waterways can cause algae to overgrow in choking green blankets. The resulting oxygen-poor conditions are seriously harmful and even deadly to plants and animals.

Many local municipalities have banned the use of phosphorus-containing fertilizers. The Village of Mettawa does not plan to regulate the use of these fertilizers, but encourages residents to consider other options whenever possible.

- Try testing your soil. The test will tell you which nutrients are present and/or needed.
- Try natural high-phosphorus alternatives, such as rabbit/chicken manure or bone meal. Manures decompose quickly into soil and bone meal releases nutrients slowly; both options help reduce high runoff levels.
- Compost can improve soil health by making clay soil less sticky while adding carbon and nitrogen without introducing significant amounts of phosphorus. ❁

Administrator's Report

By Bob Irvin, Village Administrator



The Village Board approved the fiscal year 2020-21 annual budget at its April Village Board meeting.

The new budget maintains the same tax rates as the previous year, and there are no new taxes. In fact, the Village property tax levy will remain the same for the 22nd consecutive year. The property tax rebate program provides for \$600,000, equal to last year's amount. More information about the program will be provided in June or July.

The largest single expense is completing the purchase of the 114 acres of Grainger property. Priorities for public services include addressing all of the road shoulders on roads maintained by the Village and repairing or improving several locations on Village trails. Additionally, several road drainage areas will be addressed.

The approved budget is available on the Village website. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. ❁

Village Office

Location & Hours

700 East Park Avenue, Suite 113
(Life Storage), Libertyville, IL 60048

Office Hours:
Weekdays 9 a.m. — 12 noon
For entry, call 847-573-1460

Official Village Mailing Address

Please continue to mail all correspondence to:
The Village of Mettawa
26225 N. Riverwoods Blvd.
Box M
Mettawa, IL 60045

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 the purchase of native plugs to be planted around the vernal pond on the property along Riverwoods Boulevard
2. Approved the Oasis Park name change to MacLean Preserve at Oasis Park
3. Approved an ordinance authorizing the adoption and publishing of the Village Zoning Map
4. Approved an ordinance providing the authority to the Mayor to declare a state of emergency
5. Approved the FY 2020-21 Village of Mettawa Budget
6. Approved an amendment to the Village Investment Policy
7. Approved a multi-year stewardship program with Pizzo & Associates for MacLean Preserve at Oasis Park
8. Approved the purchase and installation of 25 trees in the MacLean Preserve at Oasis Park
9. Approved annual maintenance with Forest Builders for road shoulders and trails
10. Rejected the bids for the berm project on the Village property located at the southwest corner of Route 60 and St. Marys Road
11. Approved supplemental plantings in the butterfly gardens in the MacLean Preserve at Oasis Park

Beach Parking Permits Delayed

Passes for parking at the Lake Forest beach are currently not available for purchase due to the pandemic, but should be available at a later date. The Village will notify residents via email when this date is announced, and any updates will be posted online, too. ❁

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

IMPORTANT NOTE:

All Village meetings will be held telephonically until further notice. For dial-in numbers and passcodes, please refer to specific meeting 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, May 13

6:00 p.m. Public Works Committee

7:00 p.m. Parks & Recreation Committee

Tuesday, May 19

6:00 p.m. Finance Committee

7:00 p.m. Village Board

Wednesday, June 10

6:00 p.m. Public Works Committee

7:00 p.m. Parks & Recreation Committee

Tuesday, June 16

6:30 p.m. Finance Committee

7:30 p.m. Village Board

Tuesday, July 2

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

Wednesday, July 8

6:00 p.m. Public Works Committee

7:00 p.m. Parks & Recreation Committee

Tuesday, July 21

6:30 p.m. Finance Committee

7:30 p.m. Village Board

CANCELLED:

*The ZPA meeting on Tuesday, June 2
has been cancelled.*

**NEXT VILLAGE BOARD MEETING:
May 19, 2020, 7:00 p.m.**

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:

mettawa.org