



Village of Mettawa



Q1 FY 2020-2021
July 2020

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

The Buzz

Wildflowers blooming: Mettawa receives grant

New native plantings in Whippoorwill Park

Mettawa recently received a coveted \$9,000 grant for Pollination Conservation from the 2020 ComEd Green Region Program. The funds from this grant will significantly contribute to the improvement of Whippoorwill Park by enabling the Village to install beautiful and useful native plants known to attract honeybees and other crucial pollinators.

Pollinator gardens

Area A will be a carefully planned and maintained landscape. About 1,000 square feet, it is located in the southwestern portion of the park and bounded by the Mettawa Trail to the north, the spruce tree canopy to the east, and the paved trail, grassy area and deciduous trees to the west. This plot will be transformed into a beautifully arranged selection of native plants, including butterfly weed, poke milkweed, coneflowers, woodland sunflower and a witch hazel tree. This area will be regularly watered and weeded.

Open space enhancements

Area B includes about 2,600 square feet in the park's northeastern corner (near the intersection of Mettawa Woods Road and Riverwoods Boulevard). This natural open landscape will be enhanced with 890 new native plant plugs. After the planting and some supplemental waterings, very little maintenance is expected for this area.

ComEd partners with Openlands to provide grants to selected public agencies in order to support quality open space in Northern Illinois. Other local recipients for 2020 include the Village of Northbrook, the Glen Ellyn Park District, and the Forest Preserve District of Kane County. Plans and illustrations of Mettawa's Whippoorwill project are available on the Village website. 🌸



Mayor's Note

Summertime

I hope you all are having a healthy, fun summer. I'm looking forward to hearing from some of you in the conference calls for our Village meetings.

If you haven't yet participated in the 2020 Census, please do visit 2020census.gov to respond online. Your input is very important because the census numbers impact the revenue that our Village receives from the State of Illinois. Our Village's response rate is currently only 64.1%. That's well below the response rate of our neighboring communities. Note that responding online helps you avoid getting a knock on the door from an in-person census representative. It's an easy way to contribute to your Village and stay safe! The in-person home interviews were delayed due to the pandemic, but can now be expected to occur between August 11 — October 31, 2020.

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

Rare red wildflower

This year Mettawa residents may have noticed an unusual red flower in bloom at the north-east corner of Bradley Road and Riverwoods Boulevard. The rare Royal Catchfly is currently on the Illinois Endangered Species list, and is one of only two prairie plants that are red (the other is the slightly more common Cardinal Flower). Thank you to Trustee Denis Bohm for this exceptional sighting and photo (at right). ❁



Stormwater management study in the works

After heavy rains in May, the Public Works Committee (PWC), led by Chairperson Jan Pink, has been extensively discussing the possibility of undertaking a more unified (vs. patchwork) approach to stormwater management throughout the Village.

In June, the PWC recommended hiring a consultant to undertake a comprehensive study of the Villages's stormwater management. The Village Board approved this proposal at its recent June meeting.

As a result, the PWC is currently seeking a qualified consultant to review the Village's overall stormwater management situation and provide recommendations and potential costs.

A request for qualifications was recently sent to eleven firms, and the committee expects to narrow these choices down to 3 or 4 firms that possess a proven track record of success in this area. After interviewing these candidates, the PWC will make a recommendation to the board.

Mettawa has hired consultants for similar broad-reaching projects in 2011 (water main extensions review) and 2015 (open space properties review).

We will continue to provide updates on this important and evolving project. ❁



Railroad quiet zone to be recertified

Ten years ago, the Village of Mettawa coordinated with 12 other local municipalities to develop a certified quiet zone along the EJ & E Railroad. The quiet zone prevents trains from sounding their horns at crossings.

In Mettawa, the railroad crosses St. Mary's Road just north of the Des Plaines River Trail overpass.

The Federal government requires railroad quiet zones to be recertified every ten years. Vernon Hills is coordinating this effort that requires a brief study and the installation of notification signage. ❁

Covid-19 impact on Village meetings & revenue

In June, the Village decided to continue holding scheduled meetings telephonically in order to comply with the Governor's pandemic executive orders. These telephonic meetings will continue until further notice.

The Zoning, Planning and Appeals Commission (ZPA) meeting in August will be held online via Zoom (see below). Please check the Village website for all meeting agendas, minutes and other updates.

The pandemic has also caused a reduction to Village revenues. The hotel tax revenue is \$91,000 under budget and the hotel industry estimates that they will not return to normal occupancy until 2021. The sales tax revenue also dropped slightly in April (despite a gain in March compared to last year). ❁

ZPA meeting to discuss church zoning

On August 11, the ZPA will hold a virtual meeting to consider the proposal by St. Basil's Church for a zoning text amendment and special use permit. Residents can find more information about their proposal on the Village website and are encouraged to submit any comments or concerns to the Village Clerk in advance of the meeting. ❁

Administrator's Report

By Bob Irvin, Village Administrator



The Village Board once again approved the popular Tax Rebate program in the amount of \$600,000 for 2020.

I'd like to remind all qualified residents to submit their application for the 2020 Tax Rebate program as soon as possible in order to ensure it is received for proper processing by the deadline of October 1, 2020.

I suggest sending applications well in advance of October 1st will help avoid any potential delays in the mail.

I'd also like to again encourage all residents to participate in the 2020 Census. Getting an accurate count is critical to Village revenues because the population tally is tied to the amount of state revenue that our Village receives. The easiest way to participate is to self-report online at 2020census.gov.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions. ❁

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 an agreement with Clarke Environmental for the 2020 mosquito abatement program
2. Approved an agreement with Bob Haraden to harvest the hay on the Village property at 701 Riverwoods Road
3. Approved a maintenance agreement with Perfect Cut for Whippoorwill Park
4. Approved an agreement for emergency contact services with Blackboard Connect
5. Approved the 2020 Property Tax Rebate Program in the amount of \$600,000
6. Approved an agreement with Copenhaver Construction for stormwater improvements on Old School Road
7. Approved an addendum to the agreement with Dunlap Lawn Service for additional right-of-way mowing
8. Approved the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to seek qualifications from engineering firms to conduct a stormwater study
9. Accepted the Commonwealth Edison Green Region grant for Whippoorwill Park pollinator gardens
10. Approved participation in the EJ&E Railroad quiet zone recertification process
11. Approved revisions to the Village's sexual harassment policy
12. Approved a proposal from Perfect Cut for additional maintenance in Whippoorwill Park

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.

Tuesday, August 11

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

Wednesday, August 12

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

Tuesday, August 18

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

Tuesday, September 1

7:00 p.m. ZPA

Wednesday, September 9

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

Wednesday, September 15

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

Tuesday, October 6

7:00 p.m. ZPA

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

**NEXT VILLAGE BOARD MEETING:
August 18, 2020, 7:00 p.m.**