



Village of Mettawa



Q4 FY 2022-2023
April 2023

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

The Buzz

Retiring Village Officials Leave a Lasting Legacy of Service

Village Board Trustee Jan Pink and Zoning, Planning and Appeals (ZPA) Chairman Joe Krusinski will both retire in May. These honored Village residents have given many years of dedicated service to Mettawa as volunteer officials. We proudly celebrate their time and contributions to our community.

Jan Pink

A resident since 1978, Jan and her husband Ron were introduced to Mettawa's peaceful way of life by a friend.



They loved the 5-acre lots, trees and wildlife, and decided to make the Village their permanent home. Over the years, they built two houses here.

Jan recalls, "When I first saw a doe and her two fawns in our backyard, it was surreal, like a movie." Her husband Ron told her, "We don't need a second home in Florida or

Wisconsin, because you have it right here."

Jan added, "Another reason we love living here is that we have had Great Danes all our lives. More people knew our dog, Angel, than Ron or me. She loved it as much as we did."

Over the past ten years, Jan served in many important roles: Village Board Trustee, Safety and Security Commissioner, Parks and Recreation Committee member and Public Works Committee Chairman. One of her proudest achievements was when Mayor Urlacher announced that Grainger was coming back into the Village."

We asked Jan what initially inspired her to get involved with the community. She emphasizes the importance of contributing: "I believe in giving back to the Village, the area you live and love. I feel that

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Mayor's Note

Appreciating our Resident Volunteers

Springtime in Mettawa is always a beautiful season of change that includes new flowers and often some cloudy and rainy days.

This spring, our Village government will experience some transitions, too. In May, we will welcome two new Trustees, Debra Pelech and Sweb Smolic. We will also honor two Village officials who are retiring after many years of service, Jan Pink and Joe Krusinski. Please join me in honoring them on May 16th at the Village Board meeting.

Village officials are community-minded volunteers who play a crucial role in helping our Village run smoothly. Over the years, Mettawa has benefitted so much from the dedication and hard work of our Trustees, Commissioners, and Committee members. Among other achievements, they've helped maintain Mettawa's ongoing fiscal health and unique rural environment.

We also appreciate every resident who has taken the time to attend Village meetings, provide input and feedback and/or volunteer time and energy to various community projects.

Looking ahead, I hope you all will join me at the Village picnic in August. Save the date for Saturday, August 19th, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Whippoorwill Park.

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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it is a resident's responsibility to volunteer. Not to be paid, just to actually volunteer your time and service."

Jan leaves these words of wisdom for future Village officials: "Never have a personal agenda. Always do what is right for the majority of our residents."

Joe Krusinski

A Village resident since 2006, Joe is an Executive Member of Krusinski Construction Company. He moved to Mettawa with his wife Kay after living in Lincolnshire for 30 years. They were the first to buy



land and build a custom home at Deerpath Farm, paving the way for others to appreciate the "idyllic environment we are blessed to have in Mettawa."

The mayor at the time, Mayor Jess Ray, quickly recruited Joe onto the ZPA Commission. As Joe recalls, "It was hard to say no to Jess, and he said the ZPA met on very rare occasions as matters arose ... a bit of an understatement on his part!"

Joe also notes, "I am very proud of the fact that Mayor Urlacher asked me to continue in my role as Chairman of the ZPA. I am also very pleased that I have enjoyed a trusting relationship with the Village Mayor, Trustees, attorney, and staff these many years on the ZPA. It goes without saying that I cannot thank the past and present ZPA Commissioners for their efforts and enormous contribution of time to complete the work of the ZPA."

One of Joe's major accomplishments was leading a collaborative effort over countless hours to enhance and upgrade the zoning codes and make a final recommendation to the Village Board for the Mettawa Zoning Ordinance. He says, "I am personally very proud of our work and share that pride with all those that contributed to it."

Noting the parallels between business processes and municipal efforts, Joe leaves these words of wisdom for future Village officials:

1. Collaborative effort sometimes requires compromise,
2. Everyone needs to abide by the reached agreements,
3. Everything can change over time as needed in order to keep driving improvements.

Jan and Joe, thank you both for your valuable contributions and years of service. ❁

Congratulations to Newly Elected and Re-elected Trustees

On April 4th, a Consolidated Election was held and the Village had four seats to fill. These new and returning Trustees will be welcomed and sworn in at the Village Board meeting on May 16th:



Debra Pelech (two year term)

Wendie Clark (four year term)

Tim Towne (four year term)

Swab Smolic (four year term)

Election results are available for viewing online at the website of the County Clerk Office, Lake County, Illinois: <http://www.lakecountyil.gov> ❁

Litter, keep out!

Both Mettawa Village Code and the Illinois Litter Control Act prohibit littering. Despite being illegal, litter is an issue that can be hard to control. If you see something, say something. Together we can try to make a difference. For more information, see the [Village Code of Ordinances, Chapter 7, Article 2](#). ❁

Considerations for Spring Cleanup

When spring arrives, it's time to freshen up our neighborhood's outdoor environment. You'll soon see trucks and workers around the Village tackling potholes, refreshing trails, and clearing Village culverts to remove debris and allow the water to



flow more freely.

If your property includes a culvert, we encourage you to add culvert cleaning to

your spring tasks too. A little time spent clearing debris now can help you avoid inconvenient overflows later.

Please note, burning is not allowed without contacting/notifying the Libertyville Fire Department. They assess the season/dryness and wind speed and will tell you if it's a good day to burn or not. NEVER start a fire close to the trees, the neighbors property or leave it unattended. ❁

Administrator's Report

By Mandi Florip, Village Administrator

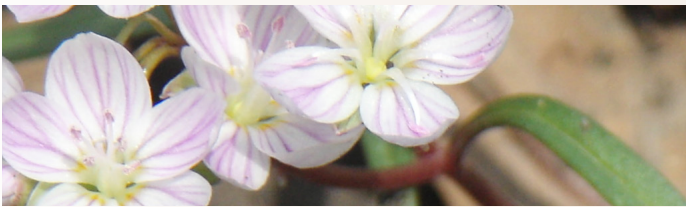


The Village Board approved the annual budget for fiscal year 2023-2024 at its meeting on April 18th.



Our Village Board prioritized keeping the property tax rebate at the same amount as last year, rather than reducing the amount. This budget continues to maintain all Village services with no increases to existing taxes.

Over time, the tax rate generally goes down with an increased total assessed valuation when the tax levy remains the same. For the 25th consecutive year, Mettawa's property tax levy will remain the same at \$135,000. It is a testament to the Village's fiscal stability and strength that we have been able to hold our levy steady for 25 years and continue to issue a property tax rebate at such a large amount. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions. ❁



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. Approval of an Ordinance Amending Ordinance 868 Declaring Surplus Funds and Directing Local Tax Reimbursements Pursuant to the Illinois Fiscal Responsibility Law and the Village's Home Rule Authority
2. Approval of Omni Commercial Lighting to Install the Light Fixtures on Riverwoods Boulevard in the Amount Not to Exceed \$24,000
3. Approval of Dunlap Lawn Service Two-Year Agreement for the Right-of Way Mowing Program in the Amount of \$49,700
4. Approval of an Ordinance Granting a Special Use Permit for an Accessory Structure (a Garage) Having a Gross Interior Square Footage Greater than 2,000 Square Feet for the Property Commonly known as 250 Little Melody Lane
5. Approval of an Ordinance Granting W.W. Grainger Minor Subdivision of the Property Commonly Known as, 1 Grainger Parkway and 14121 W. IL. Route 60 into the Two Lots, One of Which will be Acquired by the Village as Provided in the Grainger Annexation Agreement
6. Approval of the Lake County Sheriff's Law Enforcement Special Detail Agreement for the Next Three Months
7. Approval of an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No 871 of the Village of Mettawa, Lake County Illinois
8. Approval of the James Anderson Company 2023 Agreement
9. Approval of Davey Tree Proposal for Whippoorwill Park Tree Treatment in the Amount Not to Exceed \$6,142
10. Approval of Dunlap Lawn Service Proposal for Whippoorwill Park Maintenance in the Amount Not to Exceed \$16,780
11. Approval of Signarama Proposal to Replace Whippoorwill Park Trail Sign in the Amount of \$815
12. Approval of David Eubanks Proposal for the Buckthorn Removal on the Village Lot 27570 N Oak Hill Lane in the Amount of \$10,704
13. Approval of Davey Tree Proposal for Eight Eastern Cedar in the Amount of \$4,800
14. Approval of the Klein, Thorpe, and Jenkins, Ltd. Fee Increase
15. Approval of the Ordinance Adopting the Annual Budget for FY2023-2024
16. Approval of Forest Builders Inc. to Clean the Ditches in the Amount of \$10,318
17. Approval of Forest Builders Inc. to Complete the Patching of Potholes in the Amount of \$2,400
18. Waiver of Competing Bidding and Approval of Forest Builders Inc. to Perform the Shoulder Maintenance in the Amount of Not to Exceed \$20,600
19. Approval of the Dunlap Tree Expert for Additional Trees Removed at Oak Hill Lane in the Amount of \$2,800
20. Approval of Forest Builders Inc for the Annual Trail Maintenance in the Amount of \$14,600 ❁

Village of Mettawa

26225 North Riverwoods Boulevard
Mettawa IL 60045

Casey Urlacher, Mayor
Carol Armstrong, Trustee
Wendie Clark, Trustee
John Maier, Trustee
Deb Pelech, Trustee
Jan Pink, Trustee
Tim Towne, Trustee
Amy Weiland, Village Treasurer
Mandi Florip, 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

All meetings are being held in-person at the Hilton Garden Inn.
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 10

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

Tuesday, May 16

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

Tuesday, June 6

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

Wednesday, June 14

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

Tuesday, June 20

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

Tuesday, July 11

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

Wednesday, July 12

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

Tuesday, July 18

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

NEXT VILLAGE BOARD MEETING:
May 16, 2023, 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

Lakeshore Recycling Systems, LLC
(847) 366-8582 or (815) 675-0400

VILLAGE WEBSITE:

mettawa.org