The Buzz

2020 CENSUS
You can respond starting March 2020

About the Census  Every ten years, the Census is conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, a non-partisan government agency that counts the population in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories. This count is mandated by the Constitution, and the 2020 Census will mark the 24th time since 1790 that the United States has counted its population.

“Who should participate?” Everyone is required by law to participate in the census (even if you recently completed another survey from the Census Bureau).

“Why is the Census important for Mettawa?” A complete and accurate count of all residents is important for Mettawa.

Profile

CAROL ARMSTRONG
Village Treasurer

Welcome to our new Village Treasurer, Carol Armstrong! Carol is a long-time Village resident and dedicated conservationist who has a great love for our community: “I have always been interested in Mettawa. It’s a very unique and diverse community.”

Mayor’s Note

Happy New Year!

As we begin 2020, I’d like to say thank you to the various people who help our Village run smoothly.

This includes all of the residents serving on the Village Board, Committees and Commissioners as well as the Village Administrator and Village Clerk. I’d also like to express my appreciation for the many residents who take the time to get involved by attending Village meetings and/or volunteering with MOLA.

I enjoyed seeing many neighbors at the Village gathering in December to honor Barry MacLean. He served Mettawa for 35 years as a Trustee and 14 years as Mayor. Thank you to the Rojas family for hosting this event at their beautiful home.

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

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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.

“How can I submit my information?” After receiving your invitation to participate, you can respond in three ways: 1) online, 2) by phone, or 3) by mail. Online is recommended as the easiest and fastest method. If your household does not respond, a census representative will attempt to reach you at your home.

“Is my information confidential?” Yes. The Census Bureau is bound by federal law to protect your information, and your data will be used only for statistical purposes. Please note: The Census Bureau will NEVER ask you for your Social Security number, money or donations, anything on behalf of a political party, or your bank or credit card account numbers. If someone claims to be from the Census Bureau and asks you for one of these things, it is a scam. You should not cooperate and can report it to the Census Bureau by calling 800-923-8282.

To verify the identity of a Census representative, first, check for a valid ID badge. It will include their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date. You can also call 800-923-8282 to speak with a local Census Bureau representative.

“It is possible to help out with the Census?” Yes. The Census Bureau is inviting interested individuals to apply for a temporary paid position as a census taker, supervisor and others. For more information visit 2020census.gov/en/jobs/job-details.html

Want to learn more? Visit 2020census.gov

ZPA Finalizes Zoning Recommendations

The Zoning, Planning and Appeals Commission (ZPA) has finalized its recommendations for revisions to the zoning ordinance and animal regulations. The ZPA’s review of Mettawa’s zoning ordinance has been an ongoing project since the middle of 2016.

Zoning Project Timeline

2016-2017 In mid-2016, the Mayor initiated a review of Mettawa’s zoning ordinance. Between December 2016 and July 2017, the ZPA held a series of four public workshops to discuss potential changes.

2017-2018 The ZPA made a formal zoning ordinance recommendation to the Village Board in November 2017. In February 2018, the Village Board held a Special Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting to discuss these recommendations and obtain resident comments. Some amendments were approved at the Board meeting in February. In May, the Village hired the zoning consulting firm Camiros to review the existing ordinance.

Winter 2018-2019 In November 2018, Camiros presented its technical report at a COW meeting, and resident input was gathered. The ZPA made new recommendations at the December Board meeting. In January 2019, the Board retained Camiros to help rewrite the zoning ordinance.

Spring 2019 In April, the Village held a special public workshop to discuss chickens in the Village. In July, the Village Board approved an ordinance regulating the keeping of chickens.

Summer 2019 The ZPA held two workshops to review and discuss Camiro’s zoning ordinance draft.

Fall 2019 In October, the ZPA held a public hearing to discuss the proposed revisions. In November the ZPA sent its final recommendations to the Village board, and the documents were posted on the Village website.

Special Village Board Meeting
February 4th, 7 p.m.

The Village Board will hold a Special Meeting to discuss proposed amendments and animal regulations ordinance on February 4, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Cottonwood Room at the Hilton Garden Inn. Documents for the meeting are posted on the Village website in the “News” section.
**Administrator’s Report**  
*By Bob Irvin, Village Administrator*

Budget preparations are now underway for the fiscal year 2020-2021. The Public Works Committee and the Parks and Recreation Committee will be reviewing budget options during their February and March meetings. A full draft budget will be presented to the Finance Committee during its March meeting and should closely resemble the current budget and expect no new tax increases or proposals to increase taxes.

The budget will be presented to the Village Board at a public hearing in April 2020, and is expected to be approved at that time.

The 2020 census will soon begin. This population count impacts some important shared revenues received by the Village such as income tax and motor fuel tax, so it’s important that all Mettawa residents are included. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions.

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**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 Village meeting schedule for 2020
2. Approved an agreement with the Hilton Garden Inn for Village meetings in 2020
3. Approved amendments to agreements for administrative and financial services
4. Approved an agreement with Dunlap Tree Service for the 2020 right-of-way maintenance program
5. Approved the installation of a street light by Commonwealth Edison at the southeast corner of St. Marys and Old School Road
6. Approved the Village insurance policy with the ICMRT
7. Approved the annual tax levy ordinance and maintained the same rate for the 21st consecutive year
8. Approved an amendment to the FY 2019-20 Budget
9. Approved the payoff of the 2011 bonds used to purchase part of Oasis Park
10. Approved a special use permit for a guest house for the property located at 27555 N. Penny Lane
11. Approved a contact with Canopy Tree for the Village right-of-way tree and stump removal program
12. Approved a proposal from ILM for the removal of woody invasive vegetation in Whippoorwill Park
13. Approved a resolution commemorating the public service of former Village Treasurer Pam Fantus to the Village

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**Carol Armstrong, continued from Page 1**

that is very honoring of the earth.” Carol and her beloved late husband Bill moved to the Village 27 years ago. Bill served as Village Trustee for 8 years, and Carol worked closely to assist our previous Treasurer, Pam Fantus to review the applications for the Tax Rebate and other Treasurer tasks. Carol's background includes being a board member absorbing a great deal of business operations experience with a 501c3 as well as the President of her church Parish Counsel. A retired nurse practitioner, her other interests include beekeeping, MOLA, volunteering, traveling and of course, spending time with her sporty grandchildren and her dog.

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**Tree and Stump Removal**

Canopy Tree will begin removing dead/dangerous trees & stumps within Village right-of-ways in early February and will finish by the end of March.

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**Beach Passes**

Parking passes for the upper lot at the Forest Park beach in Lake Forest will be available to Mettawa residents for $85 beginning on April 1st at the Lake Forest Public Services Building at 800 N. Field Drive. More information will be posted on mettawa.org.

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**MOLA UPDATE**

In March, MOLA will be sending out their survey. In April everyone is invited to attend MOLA's Family-friendly Seeding Event — no chainsaws! The date will be announced soon.
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, February 4
7:00 p.m. Special Village Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 12
6:00 p.m. Public Works Committee
7:00 p.m. Parks & Recreation Committee

Tuesday, February 18
6:30 p.m. Finance Committee
7:30 p.m. Village Board

Tuesday, March 3
7:00 p.m. ZPA Commission

Wednesday, March 11
6:00 p.m. Public Works Committee
7:00 p.m. Parks & Recreation Committee

Tuesday, March 17
6:30 p.m. Finance Committee
7:30 p.m. Village Board

Tuesday, April 7
7:00 p.m. Zoning, Planning and Appeals Committee

Wednesday, April 8
6:00 p.m. Public Works Committee
7:00 p.m. Parks & Recreation Committee

Tuesday, April 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.

NEXT VILLAGE BOARD MEETING:
February 18, 2020, 7:30 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