



Village of Mettawa



Q2 FY 2020-2021
October 2020

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

The Buzz

New grant reimburses Mettawa residents for buckthorn removal

This cost-share opportunity covers 50% of approved expenses (up to \$3000) for removal of buckthorn and other invasive shrubs

The health of Mettawa's woodlands is so important that the U.S. Forest service is now offering financial support to residents who remove buckthorn, honeysuckle and other invasive shrubs and tree species with qualified, pre-approved contractors. Through a new cost-share grant administered by Openlands, and in partnership with the Village of Mettawa and Mettawa Open Lands Association (MOLA), approved applicants will be reimbursed for half of their costs, (up to \$3000). \$20,000 has been allocated for Mettawa; this means that a total of \$40,000 will be spent if all of the grant funds are used.

We encourage interested residents to apply early. Winter is the only appropriate season for much of this work and the funds will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis. *If you're interested in taking advantage of this program, here are 3 simple steps:*

1) Schedule an ecological consultation. This free session with Openlands (see below) is no-obligation. An ecologist will spend an hour with you on your property to assess woodland health, learn about your landscape, and provide a summary report. You may find this session helpful even if you do not apply for financial support.

2) Hire a contractor. Evaluate proposals from your choice of three pre-approved Openlands contractors.



Mayor's Note

Beautiful Fall

I hope that all of you are enjoying fall and staying safe.

I'd like to remind everyone about the upcoming elections on November 3,

2020. Early voting is available at many local sites, including at the Lake Forest City Hall and the Lake County Central Permit Facility. These sites are open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m – 5:00 p.m. and Saturday – Sunday 9:00 a.m – 5:00 p.m. through November 1, 2020. There are four state mandated early voting sites in Lake County that will provide extended hours on November 2, 2020.

Vote by mail ballots may also be dropped off postage-free in multiple drop box locations. Most of these are available until November 1, but four are available through November 3. For example, the drop box located outside the entrance to the Juvenile Branch Court at 24647 N. Milwaukee Avenue in Vernon Hills is available 24/7 until it is locked at 7 p.m. on November 3.

For more information and a full list of sites, dates and hours, please contact the Village Clerk or the Lake County Clerk.

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



We regularly hear the same reaction from those who have removed buckthorn, honeysuckle or other invasives from their woodlands:

"It looks so much better now, and it is easier to walk on my property. I also see more sunshine, wildflowers, songbirds and butterflies."

— Sarah Surroz
Director of Lake County Program, Openlands

3) Get reimbursed up to \$3000. Once your project is approved and completed, you will be reimbursed by Openlands for half of your costs, to \$3000.

Healthy woodlands provide many benefits for people. They help promote flood control, clean air, cooler temperatures, clean water, beauty, and stress relief. They also provide an environment where wildlife can thrive. Invasive shrubs and trees reduce these benefits and cause long-lasting damage to soil, wildlife and the entire eco-system.

Because Mettawa is located within Lake County's largest remaining woodland, our residents' actions can make a big impact on the health and strength of this living treasure.

For more details about this new cost-sharing opportunity and/or to schedule your free ecological consultation, go to openlands.org/beautiful, or contact Mary Fortman, Landscape Ecologist, at (312) 863-6286 or help@openlands.org. ☈

Stormwater management study

At its October meetings, the Village Board approved the selection of Hey & Associates to undertake a comprehensive study of stormwater management in the Village. In September, the Public Works Committee (PWC) reviewed materials from eight firms and interviewed four finalists. The PWC unanimously voted to recommend Hey & Associates.

This highly qualified, Volo-based company has successfully completed multiple projects in and around Mettawa, including work for the Lake

Municipal Elections

April 6, 2021

**Petition filing period:
December 14-21, 2020**

**The Village of Mettawa will be accepting candidate nomination papers for the following positions:
Mayor and three (3) full-term Trustees.**

All candidates seeking office at the consolidated elections on April 6, 2021 must file petitions with the Village of Mettawa during the petition filing period, December 14-21, 2020. Filing will conclude at 5 p.m. on Monday, December 21.

Petition packets are available at the Village office weekdays during office hours, and can be mailed to residents upon request. The Village office will be open on regular business days beginning on December 15 (9:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.) with additional office hours of 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 21.

If you have any questions about petitions, filing or objections, please contact the Village Clerk at (847) 573-1460 or the Lake County Clerk's office at (847) 377-2400. ☈

County Forest district at the Adlai E. Stevenson Home Preserve and other adjacent forest preserves. The company's Principal, Tom Polzin also lives in our area.

The Village will meet with Hey & Associates to provide the information needed to scope and price the comprehensive project.

Once approved, the study will proceed and should examine overall stormwater management with careful review of culverts, detention ponds and other relevant areas. It will also identify problematic areas, benefits of mitigation and potential costs. The firm will also assist the Village in applying for relevant grant funding.

We will share more updates about this evolving project in emails and in the January newsletter. ☈

Administrator's Report

By Bob Irvin, Village Administrator



We are currently in the process of administrating the popular Tax Rebate program. The application period concluded on October 1, 2020, and the Village received 147 applications.

The checks for qualified applicants should be approved at the November 17th Village Board meeting, and should be mailed by November 20th. The 2020 Tax Rebate checks will total \$600,000.

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



We Appreciate Our Volunteers

The Village would like to recognize the trustees and residents who volunteer their time to serve as elected and appointed officials on committees and commissions. Thank you!

Trustee Volunteers:

Finance Committee

John Maier (Chair), Mary Brennan, Tim Towne

Parks and Recreation Committee

Denis Bohm (Chair), Jan Pink, Tim Towne

Public Safety

Mary Brennan

Public Works Committee

Jan Pink (Chair), Denis Bohm, Pam Sheldon

Resident Volunteers:

Treasurer/Finance Committee

Carol Armstrong

Zoning, Planning and Appeals Commission

Joe Krusinski (Chair), Debra Pelech, Liz Leonard, Orren Pickell, Mark Meluso, Wendie Clark, Pam Fantus and Cathy Murphy (whose term ended earlier this year). ☺

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 MacLean Preserve at Oasis Park soil amendment proposal from Pizzo & Associates
2. Approved the cancellation of the TruGreen agreement for Whippoorwill Park
3. Approved the FY 2019-20 Annual Financial Report
4. Approved the lowest responsible bid from Dunlap Tree Experts for the removal of several dead trees throughout the Village
5. Approved an agreement with ILM for the removal of woody invasive growth in Whippoorwill Park
6. Approved the replacement of the Tindall Trail sign on Old School Road
7. Approved an extension of the cable television franchise agreement with Comcast
8. Approved an intergovernmental agreement with twelve other municipalities for the recertification of railroad quiet zones
9. Approved an ordinance creating a comprehensive taxes, fees, fines & penalties schedule in the Village Code
10. Approved an agreement with Forest Builders for the installation of pollinator gardens in Whippoorwill Park
11. Approved the selection of Hey & Associates to perform a stormwater management study

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 virtually until further notice.

For Zoom attendance, meeting I.D. 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, November 10

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

Wednesday, November 11

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

Tuesday, November 17

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

Tuesday, December 1

7:00 p.m. ZPA

Wednesday, December 9

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

Wednesday, December 15

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

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:
November 17, 2020, 7:00 p.m.**