Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Put away those white shoes; summer is officially over. It is now time for back-to-school schedules, shorter days, cooler nights and football. As we close out quarter one of our new fiscal year (Q1) in 2010, it is time to reflect on our accomplishments and other items of interest.

We are pleased to report that your Village is in good financial standing at the end of Q1 2010.

1. Cash reserves are in the millions and are invested in safe bank accounts.
2. For Q1 we reported over $100,000 in cash surplus on our new budget. This surplus is the result of using zero-balance budgeting for this year’s budget…which took our total budget back to levels seen three years ago. So we are happy with the impact all our cost savings actions and careful control of the budget have had on the Village’s financial standing. My compliments to Trustee John Maier’s Finance Committee, Treasurer Tom Lys and the Board for being fiducially sound with their management direction of your Village’s budget.
3. The Board approved a 2x tax refund for this year and you should be receiving applications soon.

• **Board hires part-time Village Administrator**
  After reviewing thirty-five very experienced candidates, we are very pleased to announce that the Village has added its first Village Administrator, Deb Waszak. Deb has an undergraduate degree in Psychology from Lake Forest College and a Master’s in Public Management/Information Systems Management (with Distinction) from Carnegie Mellon University. She previously served as Village Manager for another Lake County City and prior to that she worked in a lead role for the State of Minnesota. She, her husband and son live in Libertyville. Deb is our first ever part-time administrator, and we look forward to benefiting from her experience and help on such things as applying for various grant money and assisting various boards, committees and commissions to be more successful. You can contact Deb at 224-212-0014 in her home office or at debwaszak@gmail.com

• **New Village Logo**
  In honor of our Village’s 50-year anniversary, a new Village logo has been designed by Ginny Bartholomay to reflect our history as a Potawatomi Indian settlement and our current state of large rural lots, equestrian centers and sustainable open space.

• **Roads and Trails Committee**
  1. **TRAFFIC STUDY**: In an effort to reduce and/or control traffic through our Village, this committee under Trustee Bill Armstrong’s leadership has been working with the Lake County Sheriff’s department who has been tracking traffic volume and speeds on Village roads over several days by hour. This information is being used to help the R&T Committee and the Board to better understand what measures are needed to continue our efforts to make our roads safe for resident use. You may be interested to know that the Sheriff’s radar tracking system registered one driver’s speed at 96mph on Bradley Rd….so this committee has some potentially serious issues to investigate before making their improvement recommendations to the board.
  2. **NEW VILLAGE TRAILS**: Work will again be visible soon on the new trail on Old School Rd., between St. Mary’s and the Forest Preserve entrance. Trustee Jack Tindal is monitoring this as his project under this committee. Our plan is that this trail will be completed this fall for resident use.
  3. **SNOW PLOWING AND SALT PURCHASES**: I know it is scary to think about winter now in this heat, but the R&T committee is busy negotiating salt purchase and storage and snow plowing contracts for the winter season. If any Village home association is interested in using the Village plowing contractor and Village pricing for your private roads, please contact Trustee Bill Armstrong at 1-847-867-1949. Bill can discuss our new negotiated rates for 2010 that can be extended to plow your private roads (this does not include home driveways).
Safety and Security Commission

1. **NEW COMMISSIONER:** Denis Bohm was appointed to fill the remaining term of his wife Roberta who resigned to spend more time to care for a family member. We wish to thank Roberta for the time she volunteered to this commission where she served as its Secretary. We also are grateful to Denis for his willingness to serve the un-expired term on the commission.

2. **SOLICITORS:** Some residents have recently complained about unwanted solicitors at their front doors. After careful investigation by Chairperson Jan Pink and her commission of the previous Ordinance on this topic, the S&SC recommended to the Board that an update to our Village code on Solicitors was in order. Look for more information on this project soon that will allow you to control solicitors at both your front door and entrance of your driveway if you so choose. Approved signs that are consistent in size and wording to the new Ordinance will soon be available through the Village. We will send out a notice when we have this program finalized so you may receive the signs if you wish.

3. **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH:** Mettawa like other communities around us has seen a slight increase in con-games and theft in the Village. To deal with this issue, Trustee Armstrong’s R&T Committee increased our police coverage and separately the Safety & Security Commission made a presentation to the Board last month on the reasons we should become a Neighborhood Watch community, raising the level of our self-protection. This project was viewed positively by the Board, and we will make a final decision on this concept at our September Board meeting based on the final recommendations and associated investments from Jan’s S&S Commission. The motive behind this program is to give residents a contact point in your area to report suspicious cars or activities that the Police need to address. Watch for more information on this program and how you may become involved.

- You may know that last week I sent two email alerts to residents about a team of men working the Village selling cheap driveway paving services and who we believe are the ones who broke into one Village home. The County Sherriff’s Detective squad was called in and is investigating this situation. Many residents responded to my Alert quickly with details of the crew that we forwarded to the Sherriff’s department. This is a good example of watching out for our community. If you want to be on this email Alert list, please send me an email requesting to be added to this list. If you have trouble reaching me on the Village email address below feel free to use my private address at jessdray@gmail.com
- Also one other reminder..please be aware that you can put your house on “house watch” with the Sherriff’s department (847-549-5200) for those times you may be on holiday.

Garbage

Trustee Bill Nicholson’s sub-committee continues to study this program in committee to ensure we offer the same level of service you currently are receiving but at lower costs. Bill and his committee are to be congratulated for the intense effort they have made to sort out all the complicated issues surrounding this project. Also thank you, to those residents who took the time to send us your garbage collection requirements in an email or letter. If you haven’t yet sent us your input on this topic, there is still time as the Committee will be making their recommendation to the Board at the Board meeting on September 21 at 7:30pm held at the Hilton Hotel.

Useful information on the new Roundabout being constructed at Everett and Riverwoods Blvd.
**Open Space Management**

1. **DETENTION POND -- CORNER OF BRADLEY AND RIVERWOODS BLVD.**

The Village began working with HSBC on a redesign and re-planting of this pond last winter. This pond had become dysfunctional and was filled with one flowering weed. The pond was also under-performing as an environmental device to drain and clean storm water quickly, provide native habitat for wildlife and butterflies, while discouraging mosquito infestation. When approached by the Village, HSBC took the position of wanting to be a good neighbor and agreed to work with the Village by agreeing to fund the re-development costs.

Working with a supplied Lake County Stormwater Management design, HSBC began the work last winter by adding soil and reshaping the pond. This spring most of the native plantings were installed by Keith Gray’s Lakes Management firm. These plants were specifically chosen to help infiltrate water deep into the land that helps drain and purify the water which then drains into aquifers or rivers. Like many native plantings which take three years to fully mature, this pond will be more beautiful with each passing year. But for the first full growing season, the Pond’s performance has improved by about 80% of all the objectives we had for this site. Recently, HSBC had their landscape contractor, Brickman, perform a high mow on the pond to encourage more light into the surface and allow for the desirable native flowers to mature without direct competition of typical weeds that could take over if not controlled.

We are very pleased with what HSBC has done with this project which will add beauty to the Village over the years with more animals, birds and butterflies making this native “rain garden” a good working model of what can be done to control water and drainage in the Village.

2. **MOLA’s WHIPPOORWILL FARMS RESTORATION PROJECT (WFP)**

We were pleased to learn that MOLA’s President Cheryl Pytlarz and her Board have been nominated by DePaul University’s Lauren Umek, the main researcher at WFP, for the 2010 Conservation and Native Landscaping Award from the federal EPA organization. This nomination is for MOLA’s restoration project at the corner of Route 60 and Riverwoods Blvd. Lauren felt the collaborative effort of private, public organizations such as HSBC, who are regular volunteers at the site, and an educational institution is quite unique. The Village recently toured the WFP site with the EPA, MOLA and DePaul researchers, to discuss the project. We wish MOLA good luck on receiving this award!

**Village Board – next quarter**

Your Board is already busy with those activities that need management during the next quarter of the Village’s fiscal year. We will be taking some action on the following list, to name a few:

- Contract for a location to store the Village salt
- Completion of the Village Strategic Plan
- Negotiating an extension of the Bradley trail south to connect with Whippoorwill Farms.

We invite you to attend our Village Board meetings to see what this Board is doing for you, the resident, and our Village. We meet every third Tuesday of the month in the Cottonwood room at the Hilton Hotel at 7:30pm.

In closing we encourage your feedback and comments. We are looking forward to seeing you September 11 at the Village’s first ever picnic to celebrate our 50 year anniversary of our founding.

Kind regards,

**Jess D. Ray**

**Mayor**

Village of Mettawa

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