Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As we prepare for the holiday season and celebrations, your Board just concluded quarter two of our fiscal year 2010-2011. Below is an overview of Village activities during the past quarter.

FINANCE:

We are pleased to report that your Village continues to be in good financial standing after concluding the first six months of our budget year, ending April 30, 2011.

1. For Q2 we again reported over $100,000 in cash surplus year-to-date. This positive net position is the result of many cost containment actions implemented over the past 18 months. These savings, coupled with improving sales tax revenue, have allowed us to manage the Village well, add a new part-time Village Administrator while adding free garbage collection as a new service for residents.

2. CDW recently extended their lease on the Riverwoods Blvd. building that carries their logo. This extension was in question 3+ years ago which gave rise then to concerns of a precipitous decline in our Village sales tax should CDW move out of the Village. We are pleased that CDW, a good neighbor, has made the decision to extend their contract to stay in Mettawa.

3. White Lodging, the owner of the Hilton and Marriott Hotels, recently went through re-financing of their properties which resulted in extraordinary real estate transfer tax revenue for the Village in November. This income gave the Board an opportunity to approve a second 2X tax refund to those who had previously been approved for the first tax rebate payment this year.

4. The Board's approval of the second tax rebate payment (which will be paid in December) will produce a 4X tax rebate for homesteaded residents in 2010.

PICNIC

Over 200 Mettawa residents and guests joined together to enjoy a celebration of Mettawa’s 50-year anniversary as a Village with the first-ever Village picnic. We were fortunate to have the use of Tim and Moppy Towne’s property, which included carriage rides, horse demonstrations and plenty of space for games and diversions for the kids who participated. The food was a hit, served by the Klassman family, and the music by the Tschaikowskys. The past (Ed Fitzsimons) and current Mayor’s speeches were short but full of history, and the fun abundant. Many residents donated their time for this event with tents and help to make this a special day. Costco made two special birthday cakes for the occasion and Serbian Church members brought special Serbian food for all to sample.

We were pleased to recognize, with the presentation of a Lake County Resolution, Ms. Alyce Lavelle as the Village’s oldest resident who celebrated her 103 birthday anniversary a few days after the event. She has lived in area of the Village with her daughter, Jeanine and son-in-law Bill McCole, for nearly sixty years.

Resident Linda Phillips, who is serving as our Village Historian, interviewed many current and former residents, and researched the Lake County historical files in an effort to capture Mettawa’s history. Linda’s historical brief is included with this newsletter for your enjoyment. We thank Linda for her efforts on all our behalf.
We all would do well to learn from the residents of the very first Village located in our area and presided over by Chief Mettawa. The American Indians were wise about their use of the land that sustained their lives. At that time, all Indians held a common point of view when governing their Village people and environment:

“In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations.”

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Strategic Plan that was begun last year will be on the December Board meeting agenda for approval. This first-ever plan has had many contributions made by residents, from the initial Planning Session and then followed-up by many individual ad-hoc committee meetings. The committees refined the initial goals into objectives and then into actions. Once the Plan is approved by the Board, it will be published on our web-site for all to see; and it will serve this administration as a compass through 2012 and beyond. We wish to thank all the residents who participated and contributed their input to this Plan.

ROADS AND TRAILS COMMITTEE

1. **BRUSH CUTTING:** A R&T committee initiative of trimming the brush along our roads to help keep our Village roads safe from obstructed views was undertaken over the past month. We hope you agree that this action makes our Village look more neat in appearance and safe along our roadways.

2. **NEW VILLAGE TRAILS:** Work is nearly completed on the new trail on Old School Rd., between St. Mary's and the Forest Preserve entrance. We ensured as many valuable trees as possible were saved during construction. You should know that with Board approval a new culvert pipe which was installed along about 50% of the area, thereby eliminating what was once a dangerous deep ditch along the roadway. When completed, the deep ditch will disappear and a proper gentle drainage swale with gravel shoulder will exist.

   We have yet to let a contract for landscaping of the area which may add tree plantings and make this area a low-maintenance native landscaped area that will beautify this corridor of the Village. We hope you are pleased with the design and installation.

3. **SNOW PLOWING AND SALT PURCHASES:** The Village approved a contract with the same snow-plowing contractor used by the Village last year. This year we purchased our salt under a State-negotiated purchasing agreement, producing a better discount for the purchase of salt, saving us money over last year’s purchase.

   The Board also approved an agreement to store our salt at Lake Forest’s Municipal Services building, located just east of the tollway. This is a convenient and cost-effective location in comparison to the Lake Bluff salt-storage location we used last winter season.

COSTCO

The new Costco store opened just before Thanksgiving. While this location was the basis of resident controversy, it is now one of our commercial neighbors which we support. Working through the Board, we were successful in guiding Costco into the use of higher berms and denser landscaping that will eventually shield the site from residents to the west. We are pleased with the construction and have been told that this Costco is unique in that they used 1/3 more landscaping materials than any other store. Opening day set a record for Costco’s Mid-Atlantic region. The Village will begin receiving sales tax revenue in 90 days. Revenue through the State is paid to the Village 90 days in arrears.

SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMISSION

1. **SOLICITORS:** Watch for more information soon on this project 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.

2. **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH:** This new program was approved at the November Board meeting and will soon be implemented throughout the Village.
A reminder for the holidays…please be aware that you can put your house on “house watch” with the Sheriff’s department (847-549-5200) for those times you may be gone.

GARBAGE
After two weeks and one holiday, we all seem to have made a successful transition to the new Garbage service managed by the Village through our franchise contractor LAKES (847-366-8582). Thank you for your assistance.

OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT

Oasis area: The Village, working with the Illinois Tollway Authority, continues to work to improve the impact of the Oasis on nearby residents located to the North and in Hamilton Estates and The Enclave communities off Bradley road.

Last year the ITA agreed to help the Village reduce light and traffic nuisance for residents living nearby the west Oasis facility. Last fall, at their cost, the ITA installed shields on several overhead lamps with new landscaping of the Oasis property at the west parking lot.

This summer the damaged sight-walls along the south-bound exit ramps and south-bound entrance ramps at the Oasis were replaced with beautiful wooded walls that are more attractive and will last longer than the previous plastic-composite walls. These too were paid for by the ITA.

Now, as an added, free bonus, next spring the ITA has agreed to install trees along the south ramps walls and with planting extensions nearly down to the HSBC property. Two different trees will be planted. Twenty-two Maples that turn bright red in the fall will be planted inside the walls and sixty-two Black Alders will be installed to extend the sight wall function, farther south. Both of these planting will improve the aesthetics of the Oasis area.

NEW NEIGHBORS: A new barn and residence is in the planning stages for property on the north-west corner of Saint Marys and Old School Road. This area is approximately 24 acres and is accessed from Old School Rd.

This new horse facility will be developed by the Price family who will be keeping and breeding Andalusian horses for dressage and show jumping. The Andalusian has been recognized as an individual breed since the 15th century and of Spanish breeding. The facility is being designed by the prestigious Blackburn architectural firm. This should be a real gem of a facility when completed.

TRUSTEE FILING

Time for Village elections again next April! So, notice is given that petitions for the April election for the office of Village Trustee of the Village of Mettawa will be accepted for filing at 26209 N. St. Mary’s Road, Mettawa, Illinois. Petitions will be accepted by the Village Clerk at that location between 9:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. December 13 through 18; and between 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on December 20, 2010.

We invite you to attend our Village Board meetings. 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 on this newsletter and our management of the Village.

Kind regards,

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