Dear Friends and Neighbors,

According to Punxsutawney "Phil," the famous groundhog, Spring will come early this year. This was easy to believe with the recent warm spell we enjoyed that had snow melting all over the Village, pussy-willows in bloom and honeybees out for a quick exercise flight. Whether Phil is right this year or not, Spring isn’t far away; and more of Winter is behind us than before us. The official meteorological start to Spring (Vernal Equinox) occurs on March 20, 6:21 P.M. this year.

March also marks the eleventh month of our current (2011) fiscal year. Recently we began budget planning for the new 2012 Fiscal Year which will begin May 1, 2011.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

Your Board continues to manage the Village in a manner that conserves funds while maintaining a high level of focus and service for residents.

1. **FOR ENDING Q3...** we reported over $300,000 in cash surplus year-to-date.
2. **AUDITS...** we are now current on our three years of past-due audits that were in delinquency two years ago. From now on, we will be on time with our audits, which are not only required by State Statute but a safeguard for the residents of this Village. You have the right to ensure your Board is following conforming rules of accounting for the Village's financial actions. Congrats to Trustee Maier and his committee for bringing us current with these important financial reviews.
3. **2012 FISCAL-YEAR BUDGETING...** the Finance committee and I are beginning to review current year budget variances as we prepare for the budget planning for the new fiscal year. We will again use the zero-based budgeting approach which worked very well for the Village this fiscal year when we first installed this process.
4. **NEW VILLAGE TREASURER...** we wish to welcome Nick Lucca as our New Village Treasurer. Nick is taking over from Tom Lys. Tom’s teaching/travel schedule at Northwestern conflicted with Village Board meetings; and he felt it best to turn over the reins to the next resident volunteer. We wish to thank Tom for his efforts; and we appreciate Nick’s willingness to assume the role.

**GARBAGE COLLECTION**

Many residents have been complimentary to the Village on the smooth transition to the new Village-managed garbage service. These compliments go to our officials who worked so hard on the vendor selection, transition-planning, and resident follow-up. I know there were some who questioned why we would chose to change a proven service; but this new service not only decreases resident expenses but allows us to better control the use of heavy trucks on our roads. Not all non-Village neighbors have moved to our new vendor; but we expect they will over time, thereby further decreasing heavy truck traffic on our Village and area roads.
ROADS AND TRAILS COMMITTEE

1. SNOW PLOWING:
Trustee Armstrong and his vendors did a fantastic job dealing with the third worst snow blizzard in area history. While many organization’s plows waited for the blizzard to be over before they attacked the snow, our Village plow service was plowing through the night so our roads never became impassable or the snow too heavy with which to deal. Many residents were personally contacted by Village Officials to ensure they were not trapped by the snow. We also aided some residents with suggestions on plowing service options for their properties. Some residents alerted us to driving dangers on our roads to which we quickly responded. So, overall…our first challenge of dealing with record levels of snow became a record of good decisions and quick response.

2. SALT STORES:
This year we contracted to use the Lake Forest public works facility just over the tollway to store our purchased salt. This new storage arrangement has worked well for us and our plowing vendor this year. With this arrangement, we have been able to increase the management of our salt storage. This past summer we estimated our needs for the winter and purchased salt from a State purchasing program, thereby saving us on the cost of our salt while giving us the flexibility to buy more should we need it. Currently, we have used 67% of our stored salt. Most of the salt demands for the season are over because as temperatures rise it takes less salt to melt the snow and ice. Currently, our stores appear adequate for the balance of the winter season.

CENSUS:
Here is a common question I get at most governmental meetings I attend: how many residents are there in Mettawa? Now I can give them an accurate answer. The 2010 Census data are now in, and the number of residents in Mettawa according to that data is 547. Many are surprised with this number. As it turns out, Mettawa accounted for one of the fastest percentage growth communities in Lake County since 2000. However, the growth for our Village is expected to be much slower going forward as less land is available for development.

MOLA RECEIVES AWARD
Congratulations to Cheryl Pytlarz and the MOLA Board for their vision and to all who have helped Whippoorwill Farm Preserve (WFP) for becoming a model project of native restoration in a residential/commercial community setting. The award from Chicago Wilderness was given to MOLA and the Village as a testament of what a group of neighbors including HSBC can accomplish for the good of a community’s environment. This project space was previously a Buckthorn thicket with little use or beauty. Now it is being transformed back to an earlier time when open land allowed our senses to enjoy nature and a more simple life. More work is scheduled to improve the site to its full beauty.

Mettawa is committed to open space for all Village residents and neighbors to enjoy, and we are pleased to have participated with MOLA in this award-winning project.

NEW NEIGHBORS:
We wish to welcome the latest new residents who have chosen Mettawa for their new home:

- Lutz & Claudia Schlicht, Meadowoods Lane
- Marianne Borie: Farwell Road
SWALCO ASKS LAKE COUNTY RESIDENTS TO HELP RECYCLE AND REUSE THEIR SHOES!

Every year, millions of athletic shoes end up in landfills. SWALCO has an ongoing program to recycle worn out athletic shoes and turn them into a material that is used to create sports surfaces like basketball courts, tennis courts, running tracks, and playgrounds. Last year, more than 33,000 shoes were recycled and approximately 3,000 gently worn pairs of shoes were donated to a local shoe charity. If you have used athletic shoes to donate, you can drop them off at the following locations:

- Vernon Hills Public Works Department, 490 Greenleaf Dr., Vernon Hills, IL (847) 367-3726
- Vernon Hills Park District, 635 Aspen Dr., Vernon Hills, IL (847) 996-6800

To learn more about the program, or to sign up to be a collection site, please contact Merleanne Rampale at MRampale@swalco.org

VOTE FOR VILLAGE TRUSTEE

Voting begins soon to elect three Village Trustee positions that are open this election. There are four resident candidates running for three open Trustee positions.

Once every two years some portion of your Village Board is up for election. Once every two years it is your right to have a say on whom you want to represent you in governing the Village of Mettawa. Make it a point to find out who is running for these three important Village positions so you know their attitudes and positions on Village issues. Your vote makes a difference.

Remember that we are a small Village; and all our elected officials volunteer to serve you and the Village for four years with no pay. Therefore, it is important we have Board members who have the time and interest to research and study various issues that arise each month, making the best decision for the Village and you as a resident.

Knowing the candidates and Village Board members is important for you and your family. Don’t overlook these important dates to vote your direction on who should represent you on the Village Board.

| Last day to register to vote: | March 8, 2011 |
| Early Voting: begins | March 14, 2011 |
| Voting Day: ends | April 5, 2011 |
| ends March 31, 2011 |

As always 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.

This newsletter is available to you via email, which saves the Village money. To be placed on the Village email list for Newsletters and other alerts for safety and traffic, please send an email to me at: jray@gmail.com; also please copy Deb Waszak at debwaszak@mettawa.org.

In closing, we encourage your feedback and comments on this newsletter and our management of the Village.

Kind regards,

Jess D. Ray
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