Welcome to a newly designed Quarterly Newsletter. These quarterly newsletters take a great deal of my time to compile and write. It was my thought that with a more structured newsletter format, it might take me less time to develop and for you to read.

A newsletter formatted version would enable you to focus on only those items in which you have an interest...just like a newspaper.

Rather than pay a professional at this stage to have it developed, I created the design. Please tell me what you think. After I receive your feedback, changes can be made...I hope you enjoy this style!

We also have begun a project to redesign our web-page. Resident comments have suggested it was in need of a redesign.

We spoke to many organizations interested in helping us with the website redesign and in the process learned that it is normal for websites to be updated every 3-4 years. These updates normally add functionality and/or helps sites take advantage of newer software functionality.

For website redesign work, we ARE using outside help; but we are going about the changes in our normal cost-effective way.

In Memory of Trustee Jack Tindall
by: Bill Nicholson

Jack Tindall was a very special person with very strong values. First and foremost were his faith and his wonderful family. He also lived and breathed to protect Mettawa, the community he cared so much about.

Jack joined our board in 1995 and served as Trustee for 16 remarkable years and was Mettawa’s Chief Administrative Officer. No one in the history of the Village has put in more time and effort to see that Mettawa remained rural. Even before joining the board, he worked tirelessly to mitigate the threat of commercial development, in a manner that would be consistent with the lifestyle we all value so much. He was one of the founding members of Mettawa Open Lands and had the foresight to identify the properties and borders that put the Village at greatest risk. While he was not a fan of commercial development he recognized the need to understand it and control it. In so doing he was at the forefront of every major issue threatening the Village. Although not widely known, it was not unusual for Jack to spend more than 50 hours some weeks on Village matters—all the while running a successful manufacturing company. His passion was the Mettawa Trail. He saw the trail system as a real benefit to residents but also as a way to establish boundaries that would be very hard for developers to break.

I would often get a call from Jack who needed “just 5 minutes” to go over an important issue that he had identified. An hour later he was still describing a detailed and effective way to deal with issues impacting the Village. Even in moments of controversy, no one could ever question his sincerity, dedication and effectiveness in keeping Mettawa safe. For me, he was the heart and soul of the Village. Being very modest, few fully knew how hard he worked and how much he cared. We are all better off because of Jack Tindall. He was a dear man and a great friend who is deeply missed.
The close of the ninth month of our current 2012 fiscal year shows the Village beating our budget forecast for another quarter: YTD expense spending is $95,950 under budget, leading to a YTD cash positive position of $436,271.

Recently some residents have asked us to show further information on where Village money comes from and where it is spent. These following two graphs show estimated ending balances on Income and Expense for FY2012 by category. You can see in the first chart that most of our revenue is generated by Sales and Property Taxes...with Property taxes being a very small portion of our income.

Looking next at expenses, the largest category share of spending is for resident services, like tax rebates, garbage, roads, trails, etc. The next largest share is to support the running of the Village. The biggest chunk of these expenses are devoted to Legal, Engineering and Administrative Costs.

Our Focus on Fiscal Responsibility

The Board has realized good savings for the Village budget since installing a formal bidding process nearly three years ago for projects over $20,000. The bidding process, while more complicated and costly to manage administratively (writing bids, compiling bidder lists, printing bid specs, placing notice of bids in the newspaper, fielding questions from bidders, a formal “official bid opening” meeting and then checking references coupled with final negotiations) has allowed us to save money through a very competitive market. There are some benefits to our economy!

These competitive times help our Village dollars go farther; and as a result, we can accomplish many more projects while these conditions exist. However, eventually the pendulum will swing back to a robust economy when the bidding process may not yield the huge cost benefits we have seen recently.

A recent example of this competitive market was a bid for the trail expansion (see P&R article) that was initially estimated by many contractors to cost $150,000 to install, but through the bidding process, a new vendor was identified and their bid came in at $75,000 with equal work quality.

So while the economy creates a very competitive bidding process right now we will push for completing as many projects as we can wisely afford so to improve the Village environment.

Over time, however, given State regulations, as outlined in the sidebar, it remains to be seen what benefits the bidding process will yield in the future.

Financial Audits

The Village Treasurer, Nick Lucca, along with the Finance Committee recently completed the FY2011 financial audit.

The Auditor of Record for the Village, who had worked on our audits for many years, was used to catch-up the three-year delinquent audits we inherited. When those audits were complete however, it was the universal recommendation that a new Auditor be hired. Last year after the bidding process was managed, Wolf Financial Group was chosen by the Board as our new Auditor.

The recently completed Audit, using a new Auditor, was an exhaustive process for the Treasurer, financial consultant, Clerk and Finance Committee chair; but in the end, the Village has established a new water-mark of tighter controls and financial management.

Illinois law mandates an almost union-like pricing model onto Municipalities that can add unnecessary costs to our bidden projects. Many Villages in this hard economic time find this type of policy to be onerous.

Residents may not have been aware that the Illinois Department of Labor requires any landscaping or other project maintenance work, to be bid and paid for with public funds, follow the States Prevailing Wage Act.

For example, removal of trees on public property is automatically covered under the law, as is tree removal on private property when it is paid for through public funds.

All workers on projects covered by Illinois’ Prevailing Wage Act are entitled to the prevailing wage: this is the concept behind the Act. There are no exemptions on the classifications of workers or the types of workers.

With this policy the State is ensuring “fair” pricing throughout the State; but in some cases, it eliminates our Board’s ability to negotiate vigorously.

Regardless, it is the law and we must follow the guidelines.

Excerpt from Municipal League Newsletter

“..."This is like a backdoor unfunded mandate."
Mount Prospect Village Manager Michael Janonis said at a recent village board Committee-of-the-Whole meeting at which the impact of the prevailing wage requirement was discussed. “

COMPLYING WITH STATE LAWS

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PWC has been working very hard on two major projects that were identified during the Strategic Planning exercise of over a year ago:

JAWA Lake Michigan Water Expansion to those residents currently on wells. About 40% of the Village is now on either shallow or deep wells. These are expensive to install/maintain; and in some cases, the shallow wells produce unpleasant, odorous water.

About six months ago, the Village contracted with an outside Engineer (GWALT Engineering) to help determine how best to route the water lines and complete an estimate for various areas of the Village currently without Lake Michigan water.

Where density or terrain made it logical to group potential home-sites, the study divided home-sites into seven sections.

Many residents have already been called or visited to discuss their desire to have Lake Michigan water. They had to consider the costs they would bear for the waterlines to be run to their homes. Many of the residents in the sections we have contacted so far have had little interest to switch from their wells, as there was, in their opinion, little benefit for the cost. Many residents have deep wells (100'-150') which reach a very large underground lake aquifer with excellent water. For these residents the alternative cost for Lake Michigan water is too high.

However, there are two areas where residents feel differently; and they may vote to move from their wells to the JAWA water project. This PWC Engineering program has many steps yet to cover, including Board approval, before we complete this Strategic Plan initiative.

Repaving Bradley — Last year we hired an consulting engineering firm (Ciobra) with many years’ experience and expertise building and maintaining roads. We first completed a survey of the Village roads and documented a priority road list for repairs. Two roads were treated last year with a binding solution, which adds life to the road...you saw this work done last year on Old School and Riverwoods Blvd. roads.

Now the Committee is exploring how and when to repave Bradley Road; now that core samples have been taken to determine the integrity of the ground and base condition of the old road beneath.

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NEW VILLAGE ATTORNEY

We are very pleased to welcome Jim Ferolo to the position of Mettawa Village Attorney, effective January 17, 2012. Jim is a Partner with the legal firm of Klein, Thorpe and Jenkins, Ltd., a Chicago Law Practice.

James V. Ferolo graduated from Northwestern University in 1989 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree double majoring in Economics and Political Science. He was recognized for academic excellence in Political Science earning membership into Pi Sigma Alpha (Political Science Honor Society).

He received his Juris Doctor degree from Loyola University School of Law in 1992. While attending law school, Mr. Ferolo was a member of the Dean’s List, served on the staff of the Loyola University Chicago Tax Reporter, and was named a Semi-Finalist in the Loyola University Intra-School Moot Court Competition.

During his third year in law school, Mr. Ferolo served as a Judicial Extern for United States District Court Judge James Alesia and as a Student Intern in the United States Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Illinois.

Mr. Ferolo was admitted to the bar of the State of Illinois in 1992. He is a member of the Illinois State Bar Association and the Chicago Bar Association. He has been admitted to the bars of the State of Illinois, the United States District Court for the Northern District and the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Jim is married with three children and lives in Vernon Hills.

Jim can be reached at:
(312) 984-6433

Parks & Recreation & Engineering

TIM TOWNE, CHAIR

The P&R Committee has had a number of projects active over the past quarter:

Korhumel-donated home site: Architectural design work continues to determine if the Barn could be retrofitted into a Village Hall. This was an action called for by residents who attended a COW meeting on this topic late last year.

Trail Extension/ Everett Rd. Whippoorwill Trail, (WT), The Board has approved an extension trail to be built to connect the WT trail, (through the south Bradley Rd. woods) to the existing trail along 60 in Deerpath Farms. More work is also expected to clear the area on either side of the trail to improve visibility.

Oasis Park: A design contract for this passive park was recently let and we await the final design for Board approval. The goal is to use berms and landscaping techniques to modify the Bradley trail eastward off the road while developing a additional loop trail around this 17-acre park while leaving the middle for prairie flowers, hay production, or grass.

Building/remodeling work is alive with twelve residential and one commercial permits we are managing.

On January 12, 2012, I accepted the resignation of John J. Zimmermann as our Village Attorney. Since then he has agreed to a contract with the Village as Special Counsel.

John served continually as our Village Attorney for the past 29 years. He was the only third Attorney to serve the Village over the past 51 years, servicing five different Mayors.

During John’s tenure he helped the Board file as a Home Rule municipality in 1990. He also counseled the Village in adopting key revenue concepts to fund preservation efforts; hotel-motel tax with Home Rule, real estate transfer; telecommunications taxes and sales tax rebate agreement with CDW. John was the chief negotiator for the Village in key preservation projects: Korhumel Estate, Johnson Tree Farm, Riverside Preserve/White Birch Farm, Deerpath Farm and Taylor Property; and on key annexations, such as Korhumel, Boulton, Oasis.
**Sustainability** is a concept broadly defined. It can apply to plans, programs, and designs and should be a goal at all scales of planning. It is a concept that relates to the social, economic, natural and man-made environments. The United Nations Bruntland Commission defined sustainability as “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” Another term, sometimes used interchangeably with sustainability is “green.” However, green programs and plans focus not on the three-pronged approach of environment, economy, and society but more narrowly on environmental concerns. Green plans and programs are likely to focus on such things as green infrastructure, open lands, and recycling.

Green infrastructure looks to influence and support human communities (like Mettawa.) Elements of focus of this concept include wetlands, surface and ground water, woods and native landscapes, streetscapes, parks and open space. Some Village examples are:

- Soils compacted during construction which cause long-term costs in damaged vegetation and increased runoff, leading to flooding problems and water pollution.
- Pesticides use can contaminate ground, surface water, and shallow wells…and yet more are currently applied to suburban lawns and gardens than to agricultural plots.

Incorporating an element of green infrastructure into our comprehensive planning process for land use, and land preservation, can produce benefits related to: stormwater management and flood reduction which would have benefits to Mettawa and its residents. Put another way, green planning is good planning with a greater consideration of natural environmental elements during every phase of plan development. Green planning sees the big picture and should strive for each planning decision to contribute to more environmentally sensitive and sustainable projects. "

DON’T BE A VICTIM OF RUSE BURGLARY— HOME REPAIR FRAUD

With spring approaching, warmer weather will return and unfortunately so will ruse burglars and home repair con artists. Residents of Mettawa and several other communities throughout Lake County, were the victims of ruse burglars and home repair fraud in 2011. Awareness, safety and security planning and timely communication with Lake County Sheriff and Public Safety Officials can help prevent these incidents.

Things to remember:
- Do not open your door to strangers or uninvited visitors.
- If you have an unwanted/unidentified person at your door or on your property, call the Lake County Sheriff’s Office (911) immediately. **After calling the Sheriff’s Office you can also call Mettawa Public Safety Patrol (847-404-6272).**
- Obtain witness information (suspect and vehicle description, license plate #, etc.)

Glenview Police Composite of Ruse Offender in their area. M/H, 20’s, 5’5’, 175 lbs., wearing a gray champion sweat shirt, blue jeans for police follow-up, from a safe position or location.

- **DO NOT CONFRONT** the unidentified visitors, or attempt to pursue them if they exit your property prior to police arrival.

REWARDS

When we create a sustainable community, the environment gives back:
- Cleaner water and air
- Greater energy efficiency
- Habitat conservation and biodiversity
- Lower costs and improved performance from stormwater-management
- Better living conditions
- Better management of our drinking water from wells
- Increased choices of physical exercise activity
- Esthetic character and identity of the rural environment

More on this topic as we progress our research, and planning.

"In every deliberation, we must consider the impact on the seventh generation..."  
— Great Indian Law
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.

**THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW**

**Energy Savings**

Currently only 1 of every 4 residents has signed up for this energy savings program. Estimates for those who have already signed up will realize a savings of $22,000 as a group. Why not get the savings benefit too?!

[www.integrysenergy.com/Marketing/MEC/default.aspx](http://www.integrysenergy.com/Marketing/MEC/default.aspx)

**Electronics Recycling**

New “No Solicitors” signs are now available for those with long driveways. These signs are supported by a new Village Ordinance preventing people from soliciting the sale of items house-to-house without first registering online with the Village and receiving a permit. Political campaigners are exempt. Call: Forest Builders @ 847-482-1553 to purchase a sign. Cost vary from $75-170.

Last year Illinois Governor Quinn signed legislation that took effect January 1, 2012, making it illegal to put electronics in your weekly garbage collection. Therefore a special arrangement has been made with LAKES DISPOSAL to make a special collection on the 1st Friday of each month for Electronics if you call them to schedule a pick-up 24 hours in advance of the pickup on Friday. Call to schedule:

**2012 LIST OF COVERED ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS FOR RECYCLING**

- Televisions
- Monitors
- Printers
- Computers (laptop, notebook, netbook, tablet)
- Electronic Keyboards
- Facsimile Machines
- Videocassette Recorders
- Portable Digital Music Players
- Digital Video Disc Players
- Video Game Consoles
- Small Scale Servers
- Scanners
- Electronic Mice
- Digital Converter Boxes
- Cable Receivers
- Satellite Receivers
- Digital Video Disc Recorder

For more information, visit [www.integrysenergy.com/Marketing/MEC/default.aspx](http://www.integrysenergy.com/Marketing/MEC/default.aspx)