I am pleased to present you with our 2012 Village Annual Report.

This report, produced at the end of each fiscal year, along with the quarterly newsletters, is created to keep you aware of all the projects, programs and financial health of the Village.

How did we do financially?

Our Village operates on a twelve-month fiscal year that runs from May 1 to April 30 of the following year. The Fiscal year is named for the ending year.

Last year, FY 2011, we ended the year with more income received than expensed on projects...to the tune of a $500,000 cash positive position.

While we increased our income budget projection for FY2012, we under-forecasted how well certain income areas would improve after the recession. The areas that performed especially well over budget— to Mettawa’s benefit – this year:

- Hotels
- CDW
- Building Permits
- COSTCO
- Real Estate Transfer Tax (property sale)

Overall, I am extremely pleased with the Board for managing the Village with such tight fiscal controls that resulted in a cash positive position again, this time at just over $1 million, while our expenses were 18% under budget. This result is outstanding considering we paid the highest tax-rebate amounts ever, acquired new open space, and improved the infrastructure of the Village with trails, road maintenance, culvert repairs, while engineering the ability to expand JAWA water availability to more residents. I hope you are as delighted as I am!

Ending Year Financial Audit

Illinois State law requires that soon after the close of each fiscal year we audit twelve month’s worth of financial data to validate that we have met the rules of governmental accounting, (GAGAS) along with general accounting, (GAAP)

“Financial Audit” is a post audit primarily concerned with providing reasonable assurance about whether financial statements are presented fairly in all material respects in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. —excerpt from the IL. State Code

This year we have already begun the FY2012 audit. Finalizing an audit soon after the close of a fiscal year has been one of our objectives for some time. As a Board, we feel it is critical to undertake the finished year’s audit while information and recall is still very fresh.

You may recall that when I took office the Village was three years behind on required audits and out of compliance with the State. I am pleased to report that during the past three years we have caught up on all Village audits. In addition, last year, we hired new auditors to ensure the future speed and thoroughness of our audits and make certain that we meet State regulations. This year we will be in compliance once again.

New Village Website is Launched

After considerable work, we have completed the redesign and rewriting of our Village Website. Our objective was two-fold: to make the site easier to navigate and to keep the information more relevant, while highlighting all that Mettawa offers to current and potential residents. It was a time-consuming, challenging assignment to showcase everything we love about Mettawa, while maintaining an emphasis on resident privacy. Please visit www.mettawa.org...if the old site comes up, you likely need to refresh your browser. Enjoy!
New 2013 Fiscal Year Budget

About a month before we end our fiscal year, it is State and Village mandated that we adopt a new budget for the ensuing Fiscal Year. The closing for FY2012 year showed the Village beating the budget forecast for another year: YTD expense spending was $369,856 under budget, leading to a YTD cash positive position of $1,034,414. 

Finance Committee Accomplishments for fiscal year 2012

- Finished the fiscal year slightly over $1,000,000 under a budget that included an increase in infrastructure expense
- Negotiated a low interest rate bond issued for the Oasis property acquisition
- Currently have a “quick ratio” of more than 4-1
- Provided a Tax Rebate: the largest rebate in Village History
- Established a new “capital fund” for excess reserves
- Invested in several years worth of operating budget reserves which allows us to manage legal, zoning or other issues which may compromise the Village’s Goals and Objectives
- Selected, through a formal bid process, a new Village Auditor
- Used zero-based and accrual accounting and budgeting for 2012 fiscal year to control costs
- Instituted a more integrated accounting approach for budgeting of various types of proposed public works projects for the Village

Mettawa welcomed nearly twenty residents into the Village in FY2012

Our Fiscal Year 2013 began May 1st

The Board has a legal obligation to produce, and make public our annual budget for the next fiscal year beginning May 1 of each year. The law requires that we post, review and approve the new FY budget in April, at the latest. Our goal as a Board is to operate within our budget and manage our expenses wisely so that we can show “actual” expenses below the plan or “budgeted” expenses for the fiscal year. Again, the Board performed well controlling our expenses by completing the year 18% under our FY 2012 budget.

FY2013 budget is a balanced budget with an estimated year-end cash positive position of $27.00.

Income projections for FY 2013 are expected to be roughly the same as FY2012. While expenses are projected to be 24% higher than in FY2012, due to the following “budgeted” projects:

- Increase in FY2013 Tax Rebates to Residents
- Implementation of infrastructure repairs for Village roads and trails
- JAWA / water service engineering expansion studies
- Increased security patrol schedule for Village
- Expanded mosquito control
- Increase maintenance and improvement of Village property

New “Capital- Fund” Established

Through the efforts of the Finance Committee, the Village has established a new “Capital Fund” to finance the Village’s capital expenses in the future.

This fund was established to differentiate funds from the standard “reserve” funds maintained to support the operational budget of the Village, as needed.

The Village’s primary objective is to maintain a prudent level of financial resources to protect against unpredictable financial events while maintaining a strong credit rating. This will become increasingly important and is, in part, dependent upon the maintenance and management of a healthy annual Village Budget.

The new Capital Fund has been established and will be managed to provide the stability and flexibility necessary to respond to unexpected adversity and/or opportunity.

Our investment strategy is to maximize yields without sacrificing risk or liquidity.
Public Works Committee

TRUSTEE BILL ARMSTRONG, CHAIR

PWC has been busy all year long with several infrastructure projects.

Public Works Committee Accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2012

- Improvements made to the detention pond at the corner of Bradley/Riverwoods Blvd.—weed control.
- Installation of a new fence section at the same corner for aesthetic purposes.
- Collaborated with the Illinois Tollway Association to plant additional Spruce trees at the north and south ends of the Oasis ramps. Eventually, these trees will shield the views and minimize noise from the Tollway for many of our residents...plus add some beauty!
- In response to concerns from residents that the landscaping on the center islands along Riverwoods Blvd was posing a visibility risk for turning cars, lower profile landscaping was installed.
- If you have recently driven along west Old School you likely will have noticed work underway to clean and restore the culverts from St. Marys down to the west curve where the culverts connect to drains to the river.
- Unfortunately, many White Pines and other landscaping on the Costco site didn’t survive the winter; so, the committee worked closely with them to restore the landscape with the goal of it staying the best-looking Costco store in their chain.
- Last year Lake Forest landscaped the middle islands on Rt. 60 created when the State improved the road near the bridge. Mettawa will landscape a small middle island just west of the bridge with low maintenance, attractive trees and plants that will enhance the Village.
- Some of you may recall two years ago when the traffic light at the intersection of St. Marys and Rt. 60 was out on multiple occasions for extended periods of time. Thankfully, the Village has contracted with the State to replace the current light with a newer version using iLED technology, which will include battery back-up so we don’t have to experience similar outages again.
- The program to put street names on top of stop signs is nearly complete. This approach keeps streets less cluttered with signs and makes it easier for visitors to find their way around the Village.
- Engineering work is ongoing as we aim to bring Lake Michigan water to more residents’ homes in the Village. We are currently working on three sections which have been engineered; and, for these three sections, the legal and financial budgeting will be addressed next.
- Our engineering study continues on Bradley Road; and, in the meantime, the Village has applied for a grant to help fund the resurfacing work. Other road work already completed includes the bonding and filler coating applied to Old School and Riverwoods Blvd., plus pot-hole repairs. The committee is in the process of determining which streets will be improved next. Re-striping the roads for better safety has taken place.
- Trail improvement occurred as a result of the collaboration between the PW Committee and the P&R Committee. These improvements included:
  - The completion of a new Bradley Rd. trail through the woods along the south end of Bradley.
  - A new trail extension which runs from the south-end of Bradley Rd., traverses the Whippoorwill properties and connects to the trail and roads in Deerpath Farms. This trail is ready for use, but not yet completed.
  - The application of new top dressing to existing trails along Old School and Bradley using limestone screening was completed. This material is less affected by on-going wear and tear.

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**REVAMPED MENU**

The Village is pleased to welcome Mr. Jason Smith who joined the Hilton Garden Inn as General Manager last fall.

A North Carolina native, Smith is an industry veteran with more than 12 years of expertise as a General Manager.

Since relocating to Mettawa, one of his top priorities has been to enhance the hotel’s restaurant.

“It has always been important to me to keep the focus on the future. Over the past few months, I have worked closely with our chef to ensure that the cuisine is not only prepared with the highest quality, freshest ingredients, but that we also provide a genuine hospitality experience for guests.”

Mr. Jason Smith

As a special incentive for our Mettawa neighbors and Village staff, the Hilton is offering an exclusive 15% discount for residents and their guests beginning in July,” adds Smith.

In February, Smith hired Cristina Dahlsted, a professionally trained chef with a fine dining background, to be the new Food and Beverage Manager. Over the last few months the two have worked closely together to create the new menu that will be unveiled in early July. Smith is excited for guests to experience the “new” Great American Grill which he says, “will offer classic, fresh cuisine in a friendly, casual atmosphere with a wide variety of offerings ranging from the signature Mobley burger (named after Conrad Hilton’s first hotel) to a selection of fresh fish, beef tenderloin, special salads, and unique weekly specials.”

“We are confident that people will truly enjoy the enhanced Great American Grill!”

Residents need only let their server know they live in Mettawa to receive the special discount.
The P&R Committee has concentrated on the maintenance of our Village parks and open space. To avoid high maintenance cost, it remains the collective thinking of our Board that it is best to install “passive” open space parks rather than built-out parks which require heavy maintenance.

Parks and Recreation Committee Accomplishments for fiscal year 2012

- Korhumel-Donated Home Site: Work continues by the Committee and the Board to evaluate this property as a possible site for a Village Hall. However, at this point, most cost estimates do not sync with the potential benefits, so other alternatives are being explored. The Board will make a decision on the outcome of the home-site soon.

- Oasis Park: We continue to discuss the best design for this park and ways to shield the Oasis lights and trucks from residents. New ideas will be announced soon.

- Village Owned Land Inventory: This inventory was undertaken to learn more about Village owned land. It has been determined that the Village currently owns approximately 50+ acres of land within the Village that is designated as a park or open space.

- Future Land Use: A great deal of research and planning has been done this year by the P&R Committee about the future use and therefore design of our Village Parks and open space.

- In FY2013, you will begin to see the results of this committee’s research, study and planning. Look for new announcements this summer!

Mosquito Control ...what you can do!

Mosquitoes require water to breed. Adult mosquitoes lay eggs in stagnant or slow moving water, or on moist soil or leaf litter in areas likely to collect water. By eliminating these water sources, you can keep new generations of mosquitoes from taking up residence in your yard. What can you do to keep mosquitoes at bay in your yard?

1. Keep gutters clean and unclogged. Be sure your downsputs drain properly, without leaving puddles in the drainage area. You may need to reroute your downsputs or add extensions to carry water away.
2. Walk your property after a rain, and look for areas in the landscape that are not draining well. If you find puddles that remain for four or more days, re-grade the area.
3. Ornamental ponds should be aerated to keep water moving and discourage mosquitoes from laying eggs. Alternately, stock the pond with mosquito-eating fish.
4. Dump anything that holds water twice per week if it has rained. Birdbaths, non-chlorinated wading pools, and pottery.

Equestrian Connection Charity Race: Great Success!

Mettawa was honored to host the Equestrian Connection’s recent “Run to Ride” Trail Race/Walk in Mettawa Preserve. Over 200 people participated in the event, which featured a 5k/10k and 1/2 marathon on the new scenic trails of Mettawa that run through the Old School Forest Preserve and Deerpath Farms. The event raised vital funds to benefit the families of disabled individuals who need assistance to pay for therapy.

“IT was wonderful to have the race in our very own neighborhood,” said Diana Schnell of the Equestrian Connection. “I can’t tell you how impressed the runners were with the great trails, scenic course and incredible hospitality.”

“We benefited greatly from this race and raised enough money to sponsor riders for camps and for therapy. We also had new volunteers register to help us and even a dance therapist who wishes to work with our camps. Thank you so much!”

All proceeds from the race benefit the Janus Charity Challenge triathlon series where Equestrian Connection may win additional scholarship funds for riders. The Equestrian Connection provides a vital community service in Lake County.

Additional race sponsors included Hilton Garden Inn, Deerpath Farms, Sunset Foods, Starbucks, the Noodle Bar and Running Right, Highland Park.

No other therapeutic horseback-riding program in the country that addresses the wide-range of services as the Equestrian Connection. Their vision is to continue to improve the quality of life for those with disabilities, emotional illness and paralysis, by providing services that fill voids and address unmet needs with the use of highly trained horses, skilled and experience therapists and an understanding pool of volunteers.

The race finished at Equestrian Connection where Sunset Foods sponsored the annual barbecue for all runners and volunteers. All in all everyone had a great time at this wonderful community event!

To learn more about how you can support the Equestrian Connection, please visit their website: www.equestrianconnection.org.

In addition, mark your calendar: same time next year, Mettawa hopes to host next year’s race, too!
When Frank Cucco set out to start his own company in the basement of his home in 1999, his goal was never to be the "best place to work". But, he and his business partner, Dan Meyer, did create a list of all the things they hated about the other companies where they had previously worked.

"To this day, we still refer to the list to make sure that we remain true to our original philosophy. By eliminating the things we disliked, we have created a company culture that people enjoy. I believe our employees like to come to work each day!"

Impact Networking has grown into a $30 million business with 135 employees who all have access to Cucco to discuss work or personal issues.

Cucco is thrilled with the company's location in Mettawa. "When we moved to Mettawa four years ago, we never thought that a building would enhance our business profile, but our location has made a huge impact on business."

Cucco has been so pleased with the location and the ease of working with the Village that he intends to move the company's home offices to Mettawa. And, to stick to his original list.

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).
- From a safe location, obtain witness information (suspect and vehicle description, license plate #, etc.) for police follow-up.
- NEVER CONFRONT the unidentified visitors.

Commission Accomplishments this fiscal year:

- Facilitated the installation of Neighborhood Watch signs for specific developments at the borders and within the Village limit
- Security patrols broadened to include weekends and evenings
- Increased equipment on Patrol truck to handle loose horses
- Increased lettering on Patrol Truck for greater visibility
- Produced new "No Solicitation" ordinances and signs for use by residents to prevent unauthorized door-to-door solicitation
- Installed Blackboard Connect as an “alert” system to reach residents, via their home phone, email or cell phone in case of an emergency or other vital information

"In every deliberation, we must consider the impact on the seventh generation..."

— Great Indian Law

Many residents volunteer and serve the Village because they believe our community is special and worthy of the protection of our natural beauty and open lands.

An active and proud Mettawa spirit shows when people attend meetings, volunteer their time, pick-up litter on our roads, remove illegal advertising signs, trim their grass on Village roadways and plant attractive vegetation on their property to keep our Village looking beautiful.

Ultimately, these efforts coupled with Village programs will increase the desirability of Mettawa as a great place to live. Many of you have taken the time to accomplish some or all of these things, and we thank you for your interest in keeping Mettawa a beautiful and serene place to live in Lake County. Thank YOU for keeping the Mettawa Spirit alive!

In keeping with Mettawa’s Indian heritage, below are some of the philosophies followed by Native American Indians:

- I will give back to my community by donating my time and talents when I am able.
- I will cultivate friendships with other neighbors for mutual support and strength.
- I will consider the effects of our decisions on behalf of the next seven generations; in this way, our children and grandchildren will inherit a healthy community.

If each of us can do these things, then others will follow and ours will be a proud and admired community.
**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.**

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**THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW**

**Village Mosquito Control for 2012**

This summer Mettawa will again provide mosquito treatments along Mettawa roads.

**New this year are two options:**

1) If you live along a private road or have an extended driveway you will be allowed to have your private road and extended driveway, treated by the Clarke Mosquito truck at no additional cost to you….but you must first register for this additional spraying.

2) 10% Discount on spraying of your property under new a Village program with Clarke. *(ask for Mettawa pricing)*

To participate in the program for treating extended driveways and private roads, please contact Clarke directly at (630) 894-1774 or email: mettawa@clarke.com

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**Electricity Savings**

You can still sign up for this energy savings program and reduce your electric bill. Why not get the savings benefit too?

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

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**Electronics Recycling**

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.

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**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

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**Village of Mettawa**

26225 N. Riverwoods Blvd.
Box M
Mettawa, IL 60045

Jess Ray
Mayor
Bill Armstrong
Trustee
Mary Brennan
Trustee
Jeffrey V. Clark
Trustee
Roger Lane
Trustee
John Moair
Trustee
Tim Toome
Trustee
Cathy Nelson
Village Clerk

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We are on the web
[www.mettawa.org](http://www.mettawa.org)