We just completed our first quarter and are off to yet another productive second quarter of the new fiscal year which began May 1, 2012.

As fall approaches, we will be focusing on improving some of our roads and landscaping, getting ready for snow plowing projects, and planning new maintenance projects for next spring.

Our Village Board Committees have been busy this past quarter. You will find their reports in the pages that follow.

We once again are ahead of budget projections this year. Prudent planning and negotiation have resulted in a $91,000 cushion from where we expected to be at the end the first quarter, highlighted in the financial chart above:

Our well-thought-out financial planning has allowed us to budget for a larger tax rebate this year. For more information, please see the story at the bottom of the Financial Committee section.

Within the months to come, our Public Works and Parks Committees will be improving the infrastructure of our Village. Their sections offer a more detailed look at multiple projects underway. Together, we are working hard to keep our Village’s appearance looking top-notch for the PRIDE of all our residents.

New Village Appointments

New ZPA Chair: Joe Krusinski
Founder and CEO of Krusinski Construction Company, Joseph R. Krusinski has more than 50 years of experience in the construction industry and recently accepted the additional role of chair of the Zoning, Planning and Appeals Commission, (ZPA). Prior to launching his own firm, Krusinski was a practicing architect overseeing the design, construction and leasing of retail facilities in a four-state area.

He has been honored with many prestigious awards, most recently the 2012 Chicago Building Congress Award of Honor, as well as the Richard G. Levy President’s Award from the SIOR Chicago Chapter in 2008.

Krusinski holds a bachelor’s degree in architecture from the University of Illinois at Chicago and is a licensed architect in the State of Illinois.

New ZPA Commissioner: Matt Miller
Matt has been appointed to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of ZPA commissioner and Chair, Ginny Bartholomay, who recently moved to Montana with her husband. Matt has lived in the Chicago suburbs since he was seven and became a Mettawa resident after he and his wife purchased land to build their dream home a few years ago. After graduating from Illinois Wesleyan University, equipped with a B.S. degree in Physics and Business, Matt initially worked for several software companies. In 2002, he launched a website designed to help medical professionals stay current on their required continuing education credentials.

New Deputy Treasurer: Lisa Dieter
Lisa has extensive banking and financial planning experience, having begun her career at J.P. Morgan Chase, where she ultimately became vice-president of investments. She then worked as an Investment Management Associate with Mesirow Financial and is now with Morgan Stanley Smith Barney.

Lisa holds a Bachelors of Arts degree in mathematics and music from Illinois Wesleyan University and attained the Certified Financial Planner designation. She is also FINRA licensed, holding the series 6, 7, 63. She graduated from Adlai E. Stevenson High School.

Special points of interest:

- **THE VALUE OF YOUR WATER?** story on page 3
- **2012 TASTE OF SERBIA** story on page 4
- **WATERING YOUR TREES DURING THE DROUGHT!** story on page 4
- **THE VALUE OF NATIVE PLANTS** by Bill Kurtis story on page 5
Quarter I FY 2013 results

With the conclusion of the first quarter of FY 2013, we are financially on target to meet our budget projections this year.

Year-to-date expenses are $63K lower (actual is $640,693 versus budget of $703,217), and revenue for the first quarter is steady (actual is $731,630 versus budget $764,000) and within our forecast expectations.

We ended Q1 in a cash positive position of $91K (net of the two).

We continue to be pleased with the audit work of Wolf & Company, led by John DeLand, who is currently managing our audit for the fiscal year that ended April 30, 2012. Wolf & Company has an excellent reputation and is well known in their niche-market industry serving municipalities.

We expect to complete the audit in September or October at which time it will become a public document, and the board will officially sign off on it. If you are interested in reviewing the details of the audit, we intend to post it on the Village website as soon as it is approved by the Board.

Looking next at the status of our investment reserves, the Village has $7 million as of July 2012. Approximately $3 million will be used for operating expenses, existing Village projects, enhancing trails and upgrading and maintaining roads.

The remaining $4 million will be used towards building our new Village Capital Fund.

As highlighted in the Annual Report, this Capital Fund provides for the necessary resources to protect the Village from any unexpected financial events. We use a fiscally responsible investment strategy that maximizes yield while preserving the principal yet providing liquidity.

We are always looking to the future as we make financial decisions. First, we identify actual operating expenses (i.e. police/security, roads, trails, parks, etc.); and then we determine what to do with any excess cash while being mindful of keeping our community’s tax rates low.

Furthermore, we are committed to making good, clean investments that follow state investment mandates. While our cash flow is high now, primarily due to sales tax received from businesses, such as the Hotels, Costco and the Oasis, we need to be alert to shifts in the economy.

The Capital Fund provides the Village a shelter for cash reserves. Currently, we are researching investing options such as the Illinois Metropolitan Investment Fund set up by multiple municipalities that offers a reasonable return of all capital.

In addition to the Capital Fund, we look for grant funding to offset the expenses of specific projects so that taxpayers are not fully burdened with maintaining infrastructure. For example, we have applied for a Federal grant to offset the cost of the Bradley Road project; the grant will pay for the majority of the costs while the Village will pay a smaller percentage amount.

We will always be driven by two primary goals: making sound fiscal decisions and keeping taxes low.

Our general outlook for the year ahead is positive.

2012 Tax Rebate—Update

As residents of Mettawa, we have all seen our County real estate taxes increase for several years despite the general decline in the area real estate market.

The Village is keenly aware of this which stimulated the creation of our “tax rebate” program several years ago. Because we are intent on not raising Village taxes (now for more than 10 years), Mettawa has become one of the lowest tax-based municipalities in the area. In fact, the average Mettawa homeowner pays the Village a tax of just $0.108 per $100 of their assessed property value.

As you may know, Mettawa’s tax is only one of several line items on your County Real Estate Tax bill. We have little influence over those taxing bodies and the taxes they levy on Mettawa residents. However, to help offset the burden of increasing real estate property taxes from the County, Mettawa implemented a tax rebate program for qualifying residents which we have supported for several years.

Two years ago we amended our rebate pay-out from one to two payments a year. The reason behind the change was the timing of the then established rebate payout. The rebate had for some time been issued in late summer, but this payment always occurred early in the Village’s fiscal year when we couldn’t be confident of achieving our budget objectives.

By waiting to pay out a second rebate near the end of the calendar year, we are further into the fiscal budget and better able to forecast out budget needs for the rest of the fiscal year. With our two-rebate check system in place, we now have the flexibility to increase the second tax rebate payout should we find we are substantially ahead of our Village budget needs.

As long as the Village Board continues to manage the Village budget with good financial controls, we expect to send one tax rebate check in early fall and another one just before the end of the calendar year. Assuming our budget forecast does not change, the first payment this year will be 5x what you paid the Village through your 2010 County real estate tax bill. Then our plan is to issue a second payment of 5x or greater depending on our forecasted year-end financial status.

These rebate checks demonstrate that our Board is acting responsibly, keeping our Village secure and well-maintained while helping lower taxes on residents.
Public Works Committee
TRUSTEE BILL ARMSTRONG, CHAIR barmstrong@mettawa.org

PWC has been working diligently on multiple projects in an effort to preserve and maintain our beautiful community.

Road Repair Work Underway

Mettawa Lane, Meadowoods Rd, Northwoods Rd, Southwoods Rd, Westwoods Rd, Old School Road West of St. Marys Road, all the way to the ending cul-de-sac and possibly Little St. Marys Road, will be scheduled for resurfacing during this calendar year. Currently, the committee is reviewing bids for these projects. After Board approval, we will alert residents when these road-resurfacing projects are to begin to help avoid any delays in your regular activities.

To assist PWC with the larger Bradley Road Project, we have contracted with the CIORBA Engineering Group of Chicago to help us plan and manage the Bradley Road resurfacing project. In the coming weeks, we will meet with State and Federal representatives to discuss the possibility of obtaining Federal grant money to help offset this project expense. If we obtain grant funds, construction will likely begin in late FY 2013, though the exact start will be based on how long it takes for the grant process to be completed.

JAWA Water Expansion

We have nearly completed the JAWA Water Access Project for several homes along the north Village boundary of St. Marys Road. We intend to move forward once the Lake County Public Works Department responds to our proposed Inter-Governmental-Agreement (IGA). This type of agreement is critical in order for the Village to install water lines past properties outside of Mettawa’s corporate limit. Also included in our proposal is a clause to recover some of our project costs for those who wish to connect to this new line at a later date. As proposed, the IGA will provide a way for the Village to recapture expenses, through “County connection fees” collected from any non-Mettawa property owner who wishes to connect to the water line, regardless of when they choose to participate.

As soon as this stage of the IGA process is complete, a Mettawa Village public hearing will be held to establish a Special Service Area, (SSA) that will allow us to levy taxes on Village properties that are participating in the new waterline access with JAWA. Currently, final engineering plans for this first new Village waterline extension are complete and under review by the Lake County Public Works Department who will help determine a more accurate estimate of the actual costs of this particular waterline expansion.

Once Board approval is granted, (following a public hearing), the Village will move quickly to obtain a financial bond covering the engineering, legal and construction costs so we can initiate construction of this project.

Separately, we are also working with the Lake County Public Works Department on two other water extension projects:

- an approved route for water access into the Sanctuary Estates Subdivision along St. Marys Road, and...
- an expansion project with a group of residents who live along Saint Marys Road, north of the railroad track who wish to fund and manage the construction of a private water main. This waterline, if approved, will run from a connection on Old School Road at Northwoods Road; west along Old School Road to St. Marys Road; south to the railroad tracks; and then east to Meadowoods off Northwoods Road, thus creating a looped water line.

If additional residents wish to participate in this new waterline project, ‘spur lines’ will be added for a “connection fee.” Residents living in this area have preliminary documentation of the plan. The next step is to approach the Lake County Public Works Department to obtain County approval for the projects. After County approval, the Village will review the engineering before granting approval of these water-line installations.

Trail Access—Safety Comes First

Since motorized vehicles can spook horses and increase the possibility of injury to either horse/ rider or bystanders, the Village Board determined at the July Village Board meeting that no motorized vehicles will be allowed on the trails. A major concern is that many people ride on the trails and motorized vehicles could impede safety. This decision puts the safety of our residents first, for the benefit of all.

Neighborhood Entrances

Finally, we are glad to report that we are meeting with the Meadowoods Road residents regarding Village easement improvements to ensure they understand proposed landscaping options from local contractors. In addition, our committee is eager to learn what type of landscaping residents prefer at the entrance to their street.
The P&R Committee has been working diligently on multiple projects during the last quarter in an effort to enhance and maintain Mettawa’s natural beauty:

**Korhumel Home Site**
After much analysis, the Board has agreed that it is simply too costly for the Village to remodel the Korhumel house or barn for potential use as a Village Hall; therefore, we have accepted a bid to raze the buildings.

After the razing of the house, the deconstruction of the barn and garage will follow. This was a prudent Board decision that allows the Village to avoid possible commercial development of the land. The area will be preserved as part of Whippoorwill Farms Park.

**Oasis Park**
Now that we have acquired the last 5-acre parcel, the Oasis Park is a full 20 acres. We are looking to construct berms to block out views of the Oasis from Bradley Road. In addition, we plan to develop an additional “people-and-horse friendly” loop trail around the park while preserving the center area for native plants, hay and grass.

Watch for updates on this wonderful property.

**The Crest**
Novak Construction has purchased the 40-acre site at the northeast corner of St. Marys and Old School Road, now called the Crest. Novak intends to develop eight, 5-acre lots as part of this new subdivision. Once we receive engineering approval, we expect their access bridge and road construction to start this fall.

**Bradley Road and Riverwoods Blvd.**
Currently, we are researching the possibility of designing an educational landscape whereby we can show people a working wetland, a native prairie, and a wooded savannah. There will also be a transition between the three areas in a landscaped plan for that corner. If the Board approves this initiative, residents will have examples of how these three landscape approaches might work in their own property.

**Whippoorwill Trail**
We installed an eight-foot limestone path across to HSBC and Capital One connecting the Whippoorwill Trail to the woods. Additionally, we installed another emergency pathway off Bradley Road through the woods to Whippoorwill Trail, and a third pathway at the dead-end of Bradley, joining the trail to create easy and safe access for both pedestrian and equestrian traffic. We invite you to enjoy our new trails.

**Additional Highlights of Joint PWC activities**

- **Culvert Status:** We have completed a plan to identify all of the culverts in the Village thus making us better prepared to handle future drainage problems.
- **Tree Cutting:** Tree maintenance along the trails and road system is continually being monitored.
- **New Project on Ponds:** Soon we will initiate a study of all retention ponds to determine ways to enhance access and maintenance.
- **Berms at Whippoorwill Preserve:** A new berm is under construction at Whippoorwill Farm Preserve to screen out the traffic from Riverwoods Blvd. It will wrap around, westerly along Rte. 60. We hope you will continue to enjoy this wonderful open space in our Village.

**Water for your trees ...what you can do!**

How much water does a new tree typically require?

While there is no standard watering amount that is suitable for all new trees, there are general watering guidelines that can be followed. One commonly used formula suggests 18 gallons of water per week for every 1 inch of tree caliper. For example, a single 1 inch caliper (trunk diameter) tree would require approximately 18 gallons of water per week.

*Can’t I just apply water frequently with a sprinkler?*
Watering a tree lightly, even on a regular basis, is insufficient. Most of the water applied will be lost due to run-off and/or evaporation. And most importantly, light applications of water will force roots to the surface, leading to shallow rooting and poor root anchorage.

*Why do newly planted trees need so much water?*
Newly planted trees lose much of their root system during digging. Because of this, they are less effective at taking up water, and thus require much more water than established trees.

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**Eat, Drink, and Dance the Day Away!**

**Taste of Serbia Festival, Labor Day Weekend**

One of Lake County’s biggest ethnic festivals!

- Basil of Ostrog Serbian Orthodox Church in Mettawa will host their annual Taste of Serbia Festival, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 1 and 2.

The church’s goal is to introduce the community to Serbian cuisine and culture. Traditional culinary specialties, music, and beverages will be featured.

Few know that Serbian immigrants first settled in Lake County over 100 years ago and are one of the areas oldest ethnic groups.

Back by popular demand are favorite entrées, such as slowly roasted organic pork and lamb made over an open BBQ pit. This time tested traditional method of cooking ensures a crispy outside, and juicy, tender meat inside. The grill area features “chevapchiche” - char grilled ground beef and pork sausages, pork tenderloin shish kabobs, and pleskavica – a Serbian style spicy beef and pork patty with peppers and onions. Try the ‘Hungry Serb’ combination plate for a taste of all three grilled specialties.

You’ll think your ‘Baba’ (grandmother) made the traditional stuffed cabbage rolls, ‘palachinka’ (crepes), and a variety of ‘pita’ (cheese, meat, and apple strudel). Pastries like krem pita (a whipped cream vanilla custard between flaky pastry), baklava, and tortes will delight your taste buds. Finish it all up with a whipped cream topped iced Serbian chocolate coffee.

The beer garden will feature both American and Serbian beers and wines, and of course, “Slivovitz”, their well known Serbian plum brandy.

Last year, over 800 stuffed cabbage rolls, 1000 pounds of meat, and 1200 bottles of Serbian beer were served to 2000 people!

**Music and ‘koło’ dancing will be non-stop!**

Visit the church and learn about orthodox traditions and Serbian culture from Parish Priest, Father Djuro Krosnjar.

There is fun for all ages, including a Kiddie area with giant inflatables and games. Stop by the bookstore for music, books, jewelry, or icons. Enjoy a stroll to check out the vintage cars and specialty vendors.

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Village Culture

A GRASSROOTS EFFORT
By Bill Kurtis for the Daily Splash

I often wonder what the first French explorers thought when they saw the grassland that washed up against what we now know as the Chicago megopolis.

Starting at the edge of the onion patch for which we were named, an ocean of grass stretched to the horizon broken only by occasional groves of oak trees. It was so unusual the Frenchmen had no name for it. Was it a meadow, park, desert? “Prairie” seems so right today, but the name wasn’t easy to come by in the days when a man on horseback could get lost in the green undulating motion of the grass, suggesting the land was moving underneath.

Many city dwellers have never seen a real prairie. Easterners who come looking for it are often disappointed saying, “It’s just a bunch of weeds.” Perhaps for that reason — and because we’ve plowed up 99.9 percent of it to plant corn carbon, much like the ocean. In order to survive scorching global warming. The tallgrass prairie is a hidden reserve of first, consider what it does for the greenhouse effect and has been overlooked. But its value is remarkable.

Moving to the forest preserve, the 3,000 acres of Nachusa Grasslands near Dixon, Ill. or Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie near Joliet, at 19,000 acres it is one of the largest remnants we have.

Many species as the rainforest. And yet, the tallgrass prairie is thought to have had as much as the rainforest. And yet, the tallgrass prairie is thought to have had as many species as the rainforest.

Do yourself a favor and visit one of the remaining patches of tallgrass prairie around Chicago. It may be in a backyard, a forest preserve, the 3,000 acres of Nachusa Grasslands near Dixon, Ill. or Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie near Joliet, at 19,000 acres it is one of the largest remnants we have.

MOSQUITOE ABATEMENT
The upsurge to this year’s drought is the lack of significant mosquito breeding. Regardless, the Village contracted with Clarke Environmental to help reduce breeding habitat. One of the keys to mosquito control is larval management. Larvae occur in specific wet areas and can be controlled by modifying the habitat through drainage or with insecticides applied to larval breeding sites. Treatments provide control before the biting adults appear.

As a result of our treatments, we have been able to lessen the number of spray applications. However, a monitoring program is in place and adult control spray applications have now taken place. In addition, the monitoring program identified a small concentration of West Nile virus in our area. This is not surprising given the fact that the entire Lake County region has seen an increase in West Nile presence due to drought conditions. However, Mettawa has joined with the Lake County Health Department who is paying for additional larval treatment to ensure adequate coverage. Since the Committee has taken extra steps to keep our wetlands and prairies well protected, residents can continue to enjoy walking the trails and forest preserves.

SECURITY –
After one year of launching Mettawa’s Security Patrol Program, we have made great strides in enhancing the safety of all residents. It has been highly effective for Security Patrol to work in tandem with The Lake County Sheriff. To date, “Ruse” burglaries have all but vanished from the Village, even though these burglars are still present in the north and northwest suburbs. If you ever find yourself in need of help, always contact the Sheriff first by calling 911.

In addition, our Security teams are assisting disabled motorists by managing traffic to keep residents and non-residents alike safe. Our Patrol Officers often wait until tow trucks or the Sheriff Department arrives depending on need.

The Committee is pleased to report that the communication, understanding and relationship between Mettawa’s Security Patrol and Lake County Sheriff’s department is providing residents with a very high level of protection.

New Cell-Phone Use Ban Begins Sept. 1

Pending a state-wide ban on the use of hand-held cell phones while driving, the Lake Forest City Council passed an ordinance on May 21, 2012.

The issue has been discussed by LF’s Council since the fall of 2011.

According to Acting Police Chief Jim Held, “The ordinance will be enforced at the officer’s discretion. From September 1-30 (the first 30 days), warnings will be issued unless there is another reason to issue a ticket to the driver, such as a traffic violation.”

Beginning October 1, drivers will be ticketed for violating the hands-free cell phone ordinance. If there is no other offense involved, drivers will be required to attend an administrative hearing held at City Hall in Lake Forest. If there is another offense involved, violators will be required to attend a branch court or Waukegan court complex hearing.

Fines are $100 for the first offense, $200 for the second offense, and $300 for each offense thereafter.

Nearby cities that have passed ordinances against hand-held cell phone use in vehicles include Highland Park and Evanston.

With permission of Gazebo News
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**

**Mettawa Residents enjoy the sweetness of beekeeping**

Beekeeping is an important Lake County tradition. In fact, many local residents have become beekeepers not only for fun, but also to reap the health benefits from locally produced honey.

Soon after Franziska and Tom Lys purchased land in Mettawa, they became hooked on beekeeping after Jess & Marcia Ray invited them to a free Beekeeping Seminar in their home. “We were very excited about the idea of making our own honey, so I bought our first beehive as a birthday present for my husband,” said Franziska. “In our first year we produced 54 pounds with only two hives, now we average 125 pounds; and we usually harvest late summer or fall.

**The Many Benefits of Locally Produced Honey**

Honey has many benefits, such as local food production, essential pollination of crops and garden flowers, and even the treatment of seasonal allergies. People with allergies who eat locally produced honey containing vitamins and anti-bacterial components decrease their chances of suffering from seasonal allergies.

“We have a lot of friends who think our honey tastes better than anything they have ever tasted before,” adds Tom. “Our own variety is a clear golden color. I like the fact that the honey always tastes a little different every year depending on what plants are available to the bees.”

One third of the U.S diet depends on honeybee pollination. Honeybees provide 80% pollination for vegetable, fruit, seed, and flower crops. They also pollinate forage crops fed to dairy and meat animals, like alfalfa, which farmers use to feed meat and dairy cattle. This means that there is a real correlation between bee pollination and the production of meat and dairy products.

**The Sting: Fewer Health Benefits with Mass Produced Honey**

Unfortunately, approximately three fourths of honey produced in the U.S. has had the pollen (which provides most of the health benefits) removed, primarily to save money during mass production resulting in “ultra-filtered honey” that won’t crystalize.

This process significantly diminishes the quality of honey. In fact, many major producers of commercial honey flunk the quality standards set by most of the world’s food safety organizations. China is also known to illegally ship ultra-filtered honey into the U.S because it’s inexpensive.

“I like to have my own honey because I know what’s in it — no sugar water or chemicals. Since it’s local, it may also help prevent seasonal allergies from plants in our region,” concludes Franziska.

While we are unclear as to the exact number of apiarists in our community, it would seem that more Mettawa residents are enjoying the sweetness of beekeeping. If you are a beekeeper, please let us know; email Jess Ray at jray@mettawa.org.