Native American Indian philosophies:
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.

Mayor’s Summary
It has been my pleasure and honor to represent you and the Village as your Mayor for the past four years. I trust you are pleased with what we have achieved together!

Through the collaboration of the Board, Village, Community Members, Contractor organizations, and so many others, we were able to accomplish a tremendous number of improvements within our Village in a short period of time --- from beautifying our parks and trails, to improving our roads, to establishing our capital funds. (For a complete list see attached PDF on accomplishments.)

As we close the four-year term books, (April 30, 2013), we leave the Village with these financial conditions: a forecast budget surplus for this ending fiscal year of $630,000... even given this year’s extra-ordinary expenses including:

- Razing the Korhumel Home and other buildings
- Building new trails at Whippoorwill
- Re-paving several Village roads
- JAWA water expansion

This fiscal year’s surplus means that once again your Board was able to accomplish many improvements within the Village while producing a substantial budget surplus. This has been the result for each of the last four years. When all four year’s results are added together, the Village realized a cash budget surplus of $2,515,584 which went to increase our cash reserves.

The rest of our financial report card concludes with cash reserves of a little over $7M; current assets of $9M; total fixed assets of $26.5M; long-term debt of $1.7M along with an increased Moody’s rating of Aa2. During this same time, we retired $3.2 million of previous debt.

As I complete this last report, I look forward to working along with other residents to preserve our hidden gem that we all love so much. While I will no longer hold the title of Mayor, I remain invested in the health and longevity of Mettawa. I leave my position in the capable hands of Casey Urlacher who I know will continue to build on the work accomplished over the past four years.

With warm appreciation,

Jess Ray
Mayor of Mettawa
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During the last four years, many people and organizations have assisted and enhanced Mettawa, especially those people and organizations listed below who were always available to help support the Village and its residents.

Village Clerk — Cathy Nelson  
Deputy Clerk — Colleen Liberacki  
Two separate Boards:  
2009-2011  
Trustees: Armstrong, Brennan, Falbe, Maier, Nicholson, and Tindall  
2011-2013  
Trustees: Armstrong, Brennan, Clark, Lane, Maier, and Towne  
Treasurers: Tom Lys and Nick Lucca  
Deputy Treasurers: Rita Tavakoli, Dorothy O’Mary and Lisa Dieter  
PT Village Administrator: Deb Waszak Twombly, Tom Borchert  
Zoning, Planning and Appeal Commission: Joe Krusinski (chair); Liz Leonard, Bob Busscher, Orren Pickell, Mark Miller, Matt Miller, Holly Hirsch  
Village Attorneys: John Zimmermann, Jim Ferolo, Greg Smith, Chuck Smith, and Bond Counsel Kelly Kost  
Insurance for Village: Wayne J Wojcik; Sam Jantelezio Insurance Consultants  
Village Historian: Linda Phillips  
Village contributing writer and Webmaster, Wendy Cullitan and Joe Siepka  
MOLA: Cheryl Pytlarz and Larry Falbe (President) and the MOLA Board: Bob Busscher, Keith Gray, Tim Towne, Drew Johnson, and Linda Phillips  
Village Engineer: Ted, Scott, and Jamie Anderson and Yamin Yamin  
Forest Builders – snow plowing and building  
Ciobra Engineering (roads) — Gewalt Engineering (water)  
Village Security: Charlie, Matt, Rick, and Antonio,  
Village Garbage service: Tim Peterson and The Lakes team  
Auditor: Wolf & Co.  
Court Recorder: Joe Melarkey  
Conserve Lake County: Steve Barg, Tim Girmscheid, Sarah Surroz, Nathan Aaberg  
Hamilton Partners: Tim Beechick and Partners  
Commercial Neighbors: Hilton Hotel and Marriott Hotel, HSBC, CDW and Costco, and Grainger along with Impact Networking, Metro Storage, Stage Right, Inc., and Illinois Tollway Businesses  
The Serbian Church  
The Illinois Tollway Authority: Rocco Zucchero  
The Lake County Sheriff’s Department: Mark C. Curran and his staff  
The Lake County Forest Preserve: Ann Maine, Tom Hahn, and staff  
The Lake County Dept. of Transportation: -- Paula Trigg and her staff  
The Lake County Public Works — Peter Kolb and his staff  
Lake Forest Bank and Trust
Who are your neighbors?  
(This is just a small sample of the many diverse and accomplished residents in Mettawa)

Business Leadership

At its recent annual meeting, the Evanston Chamber of Commerce honored John Cahill, President of John J. Cahill Inc., as the 2013 BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR. Mr. Cahill, a former Evanston Chamber Board member and past Village Trustee, heads the oldest family-owned plumbing, heating and cooling business in the State of Illinois. He says he is particularly proud that more than 20 of his current and past employees have worked for the company for 30 years or more. He serves on the advisory board of the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, on the Board of the Grandmother Park initiative and on the Business Advisory Council of Mental Health America of the North Shore.

Philanthropy

Chuck Greenhill is the first person to sit in the cockpit of this World War II era FM-2 Wildcat after it was pulled out of the water at Larsen Marine in Waukegan. Greenhill helped sponsor the salvage effort.

“"This thing would’ve been a piece of junk," said Mettawa resident Chuck Greenhill, a pilot and military veteran who’s helping to fund the project. "Instead, it will become a piece of history that people will be able to see and appreciate." Greenhill funded the similar recovery of a different Navy plane, an F4U-1 Corsair, from the lake in 2010. That fighter is being restored and will eventually be displayed at the National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, Fla.

These two residents may be one of the most active philanthropic couples in Mettawa. They give lavishly of what is most precious: their time and lending their craft to tell important stories that would otherwise go unseen and unheard.

""We believe in working together for a cause….well, a lot of them," said Donna LaPietra. “We are involved to one extent or another with over 60 different organizations during any year — that could range from sitting on boards, to emceeing or chairing events, creating videos or hosting tours of our Mettawa gardens. In the end we choose to be involved because it’s really what makes communities thrive; and the act of giving enriches your own spirit. We are thrilled to let the beauty of our Mettawa home be our backdrop. There is no better way to bring people together than in the joyful frame of mind that comes with being a part of the natural world around us."
Hall of Famers

Brian Urlacher among 2013 NM Hall of Fame Inductees

Urlacher enrolled at the University of New Mexico, majored in criminology, and played for the New Mexico Lobos football team. His coach converted Urlacher into a "Lobo-Back", a cross between a linebacker and free safety, and placed him in a 3-3-5 defense scheme. Urlacher became one of the team’s most productive players during this time. He finished his career with 442 tackles, three interceptions, 11 sacks and 11 forced fumbles. Outside of defense, he caught six touchdown passes, and returned five kicks for touchdowns. He was one of the finalists for the Jim Thorpe Award, and finished twelfth on the Heisman Trophy ballot. Urlacher led the nation with 178 tackles during his junior year and also set a school record for most tackles in a single season. He finished with the third most career tackles in the University of New Mexico’s history.

Don Levin

Chicago Wolves chairman of the board DON LEVIN, (Mettawa Property Owner) former defenseman BOB NARDELLA and late left wing TIM BRESLIN were among the 11 people announced recently as inductees into the Illinois Hockey Hall of Fame.

HEROS

Mettawa Resident

Early one icy day this past February a car flipped over near the Oasis. The driver was trapped inside as the car began to burn. Fearing a possible explosion or harm to the trapped driver, a nearby resident jumped to help rescue the driver from the upside-down burning car, seen to the left. He was aided by two truckers who saw this resident’s actions and joined in this heroic effort. When asked if we could spotlight his good deed in our newsletter, he preferred to remain anonymous; but he is a Mettawa resident.

Mettawa residents are a humble group of people who live outstanding lives and pursue worthwhile endeavors. The character of our Village is nothing more than the sum-total of the residents who live here. With this small but representative group of residents, it easily makes one proud to live in such a wonderful Village.
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. 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.”

Grainger Named to 2011 FORTUNE 100 Best Companies to Work For List

One of only two Illinois-based companies named to this prestigious list, Grainger continues to be recognized as a leading company by its team members, customers and the investment community.

“We are honored that our team’s input has helped us gain recognition as a top workplace in the United States,” said Grainger Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Jim Ryan. “Our company values have always focused on doing what is right for customers, the community and our team. Our people differentiate us from the competition. Their positive feedback shows that employees are proud of Grainger and its direction, and find it a workplace where they can grow professionally. This has been the foundation of our success for more than 80 years.”
Financials – Trustee Maier, Chairman

Currently, we are working within our revenue streams and remain on target to meet our budget projections for the year. We have had four years of surplus budgeting with significant excesses every year, even before Costco came into the Village. While we still have one month left this fiscal year, we are on track to show our fourth year of budget surplus. This year we likely will see a budget surplus of over $500,000 even after a number of one-time expenses for roads, building tear-downs and land acquisition.

**Tax Rebates**

In addition, over the past eight years, we have never missed paying the tax rebate to our residents on their annual Village tax. During the first year of Mayor Jess Ray’s term, we paid a real estate tax rebate valued at one-times residents’ Village tax. This payment was done in the face of a $400,000 deficit and the second worst recession in history. In the second year, residents received two payments which equaled a four-time rebate and in 2011 an eight-time rebate – indicative of the Village’s strong financial standing. Then in 2012, with a healthy Village financial position, residents received two payments within the same calendar year --- paid in November and December valued at ten-times their annual Village tax.

**Contract Bidding**

The implementation of our bidding process, which Mayor Ray incorporated four years ago, has resulted in excellent fiscal control and savings. The Board now reviews a minimum of three bids, providing the Board an opportunity to hire high-quality vendors at competitive prices and ultimately contributing to the Village’s financial well-being.

**Transparency**

Finally, we have remained transparent in terms of how, why and where we spend Village money. Highlights include:

- Improving the Village’s credit worthiness, thus increasing Mettawa’s bond rating by one level
- Negotiating a very low interest $1.9 million bond to purchase the Oasis open land
- Increasing Village Reserves by 80%
- Establishing a Capital Fund with excess reserves for long-term Village expenses
- Installing zero-based, accrual accounting and budgeting procedures to control costs
- Instituting a more integrated accounting approach to budget for various types of proposed public works projects, such as the bulk road salt purchase

With a continued commitment to providing fiscal responsibility and transparency, the Village is in a strong position and should remain financially sound for years to come. Below is a 10-yr. historical trend of the Village’s financials.
The Infrastructure of roads and trails is critical to the quality of life and safety of all residents and visitors. Mettawa has only 6.3 miles of roads for which the Village is responsible and a little over 2.5 miles of trails at this time. Along with these hard surfaces, we monitor drainage within the Village. We are fortunate not to have extensive infrastructure that would require significant maintenance such as sidewalks, parking lots, pools, park equipment, public wells, water treatment plants or fire/police facilities. However, the infrastructure we do have requires proper planning and maintenance schedules to ensure the least cost of ownership over the lifetime of those facilities.

For the past four years, the Public Works Committee has continuously monitored the condition of all infrastructures to ensure we catch any problems early, before they become major issues. This monitoring allows us to properly schedule preventive maintenance and/or replacement activities in a timely fashion. In the future, we may also assume responsibility for any Village Hall that may be established on Village property. This will require additional diligence on our part to ensure that this Village asset is closely managed to minimize fixed cost for the Village in the years ahead.
Trails

We have recently completed the Whippoorwill Trail that connects Bradley Road with the Deerpath Farms portion of the Village trail system. This section of trail was built using a better limestone topping along with proper crowning for drainage. These techniques proved very successful and will be incorporated into all other trails in our inventory as they come due for maintenance or as new sections are built.

We have also established a multi-year contract for mowing and tree trimming along the trail system and roads to help minimize the encroachment of weeds into the trails and keep these species under control along our roadways.

Maintenance and Improvements to Village roads

A number of Village roads normal life spans are coming to their useful end all about the same time. We have already repaved some and are planning for paving all roads to bring them up to a high standard. We are spreading these activities over multiple years for a number of reasons: 1) to spread the financial burden over a longer period 2) to minimize any inconvenience to residents and 3) to establish a staggered maintenance/replacement schedule for the future. We have also taken care to use the best methods and materials we can afford, which may slightly increase costs now but will result in a longer life span for all of our roads, thereby reducing the overall life time cost of ownership.

Last year, we repaved the Lake Forest Meadows subdivision roads and Old School Road west of St. Mary’s. In 2013 we expect to resurface Little St. Mary’s Road and Twin Drive. The Board is still studying options for resurfacing Bradley Road. These options include complete reconstruction utilizing Federal/State funds or less than full reconstruction utilizing Village funds. After these two projects are complete, we will revisit Old School Road east of St. Marys Road, which was treated with a special slurry mixture in 2010 to extend the useful life. This has been a successful test of a maintenance approach and is holding up very well.

We have signed a multi-year contract for plowing our roads. This will enable us to keep the cost reasonable; and stable pricing which allows us to better plan and budget. We used to have a problem getting weeds trimmed once a year; now we do it two to three times a year which keeps our Village roadways looking well-kept and safe for driving visibility.

Extending the JAWA water

Good quality drinking water and water availability for fire protection is an important part of a resident’s quality of life. We were approved by a County agency to expand access within the Village to Lake Michigan water and have aggressively pursued this option for those residents who have expressed a desire to do so. For these waterline extension projects, we utilize a financial vehicle know as a Special Service Area (SSA) combined with borrowing through the use of General Obligation Bonds for those qualifying projects. We want to ensure only those residents who are receiving the new waterline extension are charged for the construction of the lines. Our opportunity to extend the water service in the Village will expire in the next year or so; therefore, we are giving these projects a high priority for completion.
We currently have four Lake Michigan water line projects underway in the Village. Two are privately funded and two will be hopefully funded with bonds obtained by the Village. These projects are located on North St. Marys Road south of Rockland Road (Village project), on Old School Road from Meadowoods west St. Marys Road (private funding), St. Marys Road from Old School south to Little St. Marys with short extensions down Little St. Marys Road and Old School west of St. Marys Road (Village project). The fourth is from Imperial Drive south to and into Sanctuary Estates (private funding). We anticipate all of these to be completed in 2013.

**Land Management**

A special topic at the December Board meeting considered various ideas regarding the future of land management issues. Approximately 40 residents and interested parties attended this first meeting (of what will likely be more) on this important topic. As expressed by many attendees, Mettawa residents love the natural habitat that largely makes up the Village. During the meeting, Mayor Jess Ray welcomed the input of several experts who he had invited to attend along with residents and neighbors in the area of land management/preservation to initiate a dialog with the Board.

The Mayor shared a quote as an analogy to our lands by reminding the meeting attendees what Benjamin Franklin said, “That we never appreciate the value of water until the well runs dry.” Mayor Ray continued, “We, like the Potawatomi who lived here before us, are now the stewards of the land; and during the last few years, the Board has actively acquired properties to further preserve this land that we love. We now own nearly 70 acres within the Village.”

Mayor Ray is aware of what people don’t want regarding development; therefore, he wanted third party experts to present ideas about what the Village should consider for the future and give residents a chance to provide feedback. To that end, he invited experts -- each with an expertise from which they could advise and comment on our community, including Scott Byron Landscaping, Conserve Lake County and Lake County Forest Preserve, Living Habitats, Rocco Fiore Landscaping among others -- to present their ideas. In addition, he underscored that while it is the Board’s ultimate responsibility to design and maintain these common lands in the best interest of the residents, he felt that it might be wise to consider giving Mettawa’s 550 residents some say in the matter.

Andy Otting from Scott Bryon provided an educational presentation about several options Mettawa could consider as they research landscape management and preservation of the Village’s natural habitats. “While it is clear that residents do not want a ‘manicured’ look, all of the residents that evening seemed excited to learn about other landscaping options. In addition, they came to realize that maintaining a natural habitat takes annual attention along with Mettawa’s ongoing commitment to land preservation.” Going forward, Mettawa will need a plan for our open lands and parks to carry us into the future. This will allow us to enjoy all the natural beauty that Mettawa offers.

**Compiled Administration Accomplishments 2009-2013**

A compiled detail report of accomplishments of your Village’s government over the past four years is available in either PDF format or hard copy by contacting the Village Clerk Cathy Nelson at 847-573-1460. The six-page report of accomplishments is sub-divided into resident sections of the Village and by project topics.