



Village of Mettawa

Village Quarterly Report

Q2 (Aug-Oct.), 2011/12

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Now that Thanksgiving is behind us, our thoughts begin to focus on the activities at hand: buttoning-up the yard and garden for winter; decorating for the holidays; tuning the snow thrower and shovels for snow; and getting ready for a New Year celebration. Or it may be that you moved to a warmer climate until the weather breaks in May!



While we were blessed with a relatively mild fall, we now notice darkness appearing closer to 4:30 p.m. The “Longest Night of the Year,” better known as the *winter solstice*, takes place this year on December 22. If there is any upside to this date, it is this: following the winter solstice, the days begin to grow longer and the nights shorter in preparation for

Spring! OK, a little too much optimism?



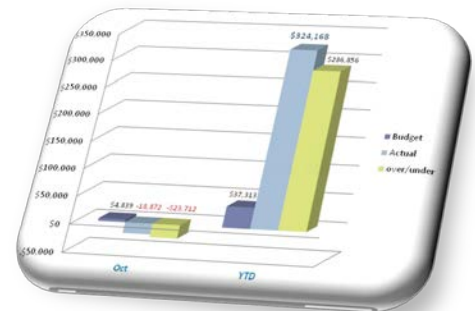
To brighten your day, you will find some positive Board actions in this quarterly report.

Please accept best wishes from the Village Board, Clerk, Commissioners, and contractors to you and your family for a very enjoyable Holiday and New Year celebration.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Village Finance Committee, chaired by Trustee Maier, was busy with many projects this past quarter.

- ◆ The FC worked on a number of bond-related budgets for the PWC team regarding the possibility of extending JAWA water to the west side of the Village. More below...
- ◆ The month-end financials for the month of October were a bit under plan (-\$24K) given our “extra” construction and road treatment expenses received in the same month, coupled with a small dip in sales revenues.
- ◆ Given our strong financial position after the fiscal six-month mark, the FC recommended, and it was approved by the Board, to issue a second tax-rebate to be paid yet in 2011. This rebate, expected to arrive in mid-December, will mark a new high in Village Tax rebates, equaling a rebate of 8X to residents for 2011. *(Please note that these rebates are not “entitlements.” Rather, they are the result of the Board’s actions to reduce expenses while wisely managing sales tax revenues, including the new COSTCO sales taxes which warranted the extra payment.)*
- ◆ **Ending Q2, the YTD Village financial position was cash positive \$324,168 while Village expenses were under budget plan.**



PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

The Public Works Committee, chaired by Trustee Armstrong, has also been quite busy over the last quarter with a number of Public Works Committee projects. Here is an overview of their activities for Q2:



JAWA WATER EXPANSION

Working with Gewalt Engineering, the PWC continues to develop estimated resident costs associated with providing water lines for Lake Michigan water access. West-side residents have and will be contacted for their input and desire to access Lake Michigan water. Residents wanting access to the water will incur the associated hookup costs. The committee is working hard to identify those resident areas where Lake Michigan water is in demand prior to engaging a second level of engineering planning, which will be expensive. In the end, many residents, happy with their well water, have already determined the hookup costs to Lake Michigan water are too costly at this time. The Village is doing all that we can to bring water to those who need it.

VILLAGE ROADS

Engineering Study:



Ciorba Engineering recently documented a Village-wide inventory and repair assessment of our roads. This report suggested a repair priority to maintain Village roads to standards. Not all road conditions are the same in the Village; therefore, the required maintenance is not the same. The recent bonding/sealer that was applied to east Old School Rd. and Riverwoods Blvd. is not the recommended solution for other roads in the Village which are in need of a more substantial repair. Repairs to the other roads are being studied and financially modeled for possible improvements in the summer of 2012.

Culvert Improvements ...

along our roadways have been needed for some time. In some cases, the culverts have been compromised to a point where repair and grading work were needed immediately. Culvert repairs along and under Bradley Road, Old School and St. Marys (south of 60) Roads are being dealt with before winter conditions stop any construction work. The goal is to do the repairs on these culverts before the Spring rains flood these areas again.

Road Signs:

Several residents have complained over the years that some of our street signs are not visible to their guests or other visitors to the Village. While we were addressing this issue the PWC and Village Engineer were also reviewing new "sign standards" for our Village signs. Our first prototype of our new street signs can be seen in a couple of locations in the Village. The sign pictured to the right happens to be the new "standard" at the intersection of Old School and Bradley Roads. You'll see that the street names are affixed to the top of the stop sign rather than to telephone poles, which made the signs too high to see. Expect to see a continuation of installation of the new signs.



Stop Light at Route 60 and St. Marys



This past spring, we saw an increase in power outages due to the inclement weather. These power outages significantly impacted the traffic control sign at the intersection of St. Marys Road and Route 60. Weather forecasters suggest we may be in for another similar winter-spring pattern to last year's. With this in mind, we have been searching for a better solution to this traffic light problem. We have contacted the County, State and our State Representative for a backup solution to this light. We have identified a State Transportation project team that has designed a new LED model stoplight with a battery backup program that could be a good solution. Right now we're in the midst of determining what it might take to install the solution as soon as we can.

IEAP Emergency Refund:

The Board made a refund application to the IEAP for last Spring's disaster snow storm. We were entitled to apply for this grant to cover extra plowing and salting needed for the heavy snow fall, deemed a disaster by the State. A \$4,300 refund was recently received as our portion for this grant application. This is another example of your Board being fiscally responsible. To our knowledge, this is only the second grant the Village has ever received..

VILLAGE TRAILS

Bradley Road Trail Extension (Whippoorwill Trail)

This new stretch of trail, funded by Hamilton Partners, is now completed; however, this trail will eventually be extended and will link to trails near the Whippoorwill restoration area, connecting to the current existing trails at Deerpath Farms. This next trail extension will need to be funded by the Village and may (assuming Board approval) begin this winter, weather permitting.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

This committee, chaired by Trustee Towne, has been working extremely hard researching the various alternative dispositions for the recently donated Korhumel property. The committee's research was the basis of discussion in the recent "Committee Of The Whole (COW)" meeting held at the Hilton Hotel ballroom for resident input on this project. These activities were accomplished by the PRC along with the management/supervision of new trails and other substantial projects.



Korhumel Property

The consensus and direction from those who attended the COW: (29 residents and about 34 overall were in attendance)

1. Keep the property - (this did not mean that everyone was in agreement if the buildings should be saved or not).
2. Investigate a few more options: use of the barn in some fashion, investigate further the options using the property in cooperation with Not-For-Profit Organizations.
3. Provide for a Village Hall...with no direction on location.

After vigorous debate among and with residents and Board members, votes were taken from the residents on their support of the various options. The resident votes were as follows:

(some residents voted more than once)

- Option 1: Immediately sell property as is - 1 vote
- Option 2: Remodel and repurpose house for Village Hall - 7 votes
- Option 3: Remodel barn for Village Hall - 21 votes
- Option 4: Rent house and/or barn together or separately - no votes
- Option 5: Demolition of all buildings - 11 votes
- Option 6: Corporate retreat and/or joint use with Village offices - no votes
- Option 7: Defer final decision and brainstorm, meanwhile, list for sale or rent – 1 vote
- Option 8: Demolish and repurpose the property as a spot for equestrian rest stop - no votes
- Option 9: Tear down and resell property - no votes

Additional options discussed:

- Option 10: Negotiate for use as offices in conjunction with a nonprofit 501C -15 votes

Mayor Ray asked how many residents felt the Village should keep the property and **all residents voted "yes."** Discussion ensued regarding the need for a Village Hall; and after a poll of the audience, **19 agreed** the Village should have a Village Hall.

You can see from this spread of voting that this is a very complex issue. It was agreed at our last Board meeting to make no decision regarding the disposition of this property through the winter to allow for additional research and planning. It was agreed more consideration and thought is needed before a final decision could be made by the Board.

OTHER INFORMATION

ELECTRICITY CONSOLIDATION

I recently sent out an additional note to residents urging them to take advantage of the discount they can receive on their electricity bill from ComEd. I have explained this program many times, and all I can say is do your own homework; and unless you have a special low rate on electricity or have already signed up for a discount program, you have nothing to lose and money to gain by signing up



for this program endorsed by the Village Board. It is the judgment of the Board to offer this program as a way to maximize energy savings immediately for our residents.

GARBAGE



It has been a little over a year since the Village Board approved a new service for residents -- garbage collection using Lakes Disposal Services as our provider. Last year, when we were soliciting your input on this new service, I had discussions with many residents about the “wisdom” of creating a new service when none was requested. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" was the advice I heard many times.

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Well, after a year of this new service, I'm happy to report that as recently as a few weeks ago I was complimented by an initially reluctant resident for the Board's decision to implement this new garbage service. This resident had been very skeptical of the level of service our contractor would provide and was also not too keen on being given a recycling bin.

After nearly a year, this resident was almost “glowing” with compliments of the new garbage pickup services Lakes has provided. He also took the time to tell me how pleased his children were with him for finally beginning to recycle! He confided in me that it wasn't as difficult as he always imagined and wondered why he hadn't recycled before.



Just a reminder, garbage collection is always delayed one day when a holiday occurs during the week. If there is ever a question on pick-ups you can contact Lake's Disposal at (815) 675-0400.

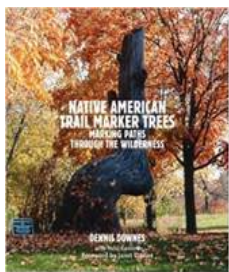
METTAWA'S TRAILS OF LIVING HISTORY

By Linda Gardner Phillips, Village Historian

Mettawa's living history of countryside trails is a unique marker of our present, past, and a gateway to the larger world. The Mettawa Trail system came into existence, thanks to the tireless efforts of Jack Tindall; and it connects our community to other area trail networks. As our paths continue to grow, the Village has been adding signs to provide directions for pedestrians, bicyclists and equestrians.

Many Village residents still remember the pleasures of riding horses on trails which crossed property lines and ran along the east side of the Des Plaines River. Riders could freely explore Mettawa this way into the mid-1980s. Throughout most of the twentieth century, an extensive bridle path network crisscrossed the entire North Shore area. In 1929, equestrians could start in Highland Park, ride northwest to Everett Road, and then continue north to Belvidere road -- all without leaving the trail. These paths were often marked with arrow-engraved stones and tree-mounted medallions.

Did you know that an even older trail system also runs through Mettawa? The Pottawatomie's in this Region tended their trails here for generations. How did they know where to go? Instead of signs, they looked for Trail Marker Trees -- living trees purposefully shaped over time by human hands to point the way. By 1835, most of the Potawatomie had been forced to leave Lake County; and since then, many Trail Marker Trees have been lost to age, development or simple lack of knowledge. However, some of these historic trees still survive.



Now a beautiful new book by local author and national expert Dennis Downes -- *Native American Trail Marker Trees: Marking Paths Through the Wilderness* -- provides a fascinating exploration into this avenue of history. It includes a foreword by the Chicago TV host and historian Janet Davies (ABC 7); she discovered a trail marker tree on her own property after being introduced to Downes' research.

Downes developed his interest in Trail Marker Trees as a boy growing up in nearby Northbrook. As an adult, he drove over 200,000 miles over three decades to document remaining Trail Marker Trees and research their important role in Native American history.

Also a renowned artist, Downes has created sculptures of Trail Marker Trees. Perhaps you have seen his large bronze near the entrance to the Lake County Discovery Museum in Wauconda? Downes' inspiring research covers nineteen states (and Ontario), but the largest chapter of his book focuses on Illinois, with a special section on Mettawa. There's much to learn here: Did you know that our first Mayor, James R. Getz, was a student of Trail Marker Trees (and President of the Lake County Historical Society)? That many of these



MEET YOUR VILLAGE SAFETY TEAM

Rick Eckenstahler



Rick currently serves Mettawa as a full time officer. He brings a wealth of knowledge and information regarding the relationship between local villages, private security and police departments. Rick joined our team after 30 years of employment with the Lake County Sheriff's office where he worked his way up to Chief of Operations which is the position he held from 1998 until his retirement. His knowledge and contacts have helped lead to a strong and effective working relationship between Mettawa and the Lake County Sheriff Department.

Antonio Soto



Antonio retired from the United States Navy in 2010 after 25 years of security service. He was the first officer assigned to the Mettawa Security Team and has worked in this position since May 2011.

Matt Jesse

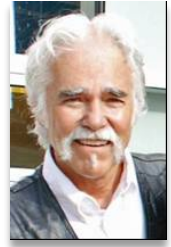


Matt has been working with the Mettawa Security Team since October 2011. Matt's primary assignment has been providing Security to the North Chicago Bank.



trees exist within a 20-mile radius of Mettawa? That at least two Trail Marker Trees still grow in Mettawa today (and probably more)?

Perhaps your property contains one of these national treasures. This colorful and interesting book provides a powerful link to an almost forgotten chapter of Mettawa history and would be a great addition to your library.



For more information:

Dennis Downes Website: <http://www.downesstudio.net>

WGN interview: <http://www.wgntv.com/video/gallery/66156214/News/Native-American-Trail-Marker-Trees#pl-62892575>

WTTW interview: <http://chicagotonight.wttw.com/2011/11/01/trail-marker-trees>

AREA HOUSE WINS DESIGN AWARDS

Orren Pickell wins Crystal Key Award for Mettawa Home

The Village congratulates Orren Pickell Designers and Builders for winning a Crystal Key Award for a Custom Home at 25300 Nektosha Way in Mettawa. The property is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lys.



After the Lys purchased the property of their dreams, the homeowners of this majestic location began the enviable task of designing and building a home that would do justice to the surroundings.

Working with Mettawa resident architect, Thomas Heinz, they envisioned a contemporary farmhouse that would not only suite their taste and lifestyle but also take fullest advantage of the sweeping 37-acre, prairie-like location in an ecologically friendly environment.

The dramatic architectural lines of the home were intentionally designed to be the focal point of the property, with minimalist exterior color contrasting beautifully with the natural splendor of the landscape. The homeowners selected concrete floors, a metal roof and an "ultra-fine" stucco exterior to further demonstrate their desire for an understated impact.

The home utilizes a geothermal heating system, high-efficiency foam insulation and windows to lessen the impact on the environment, and several acres of protected wetlands have been preserved on the property. Inside, oversize sliding glass doors invite magnificent views throughout the home, with glass railings at the staircases that enhance the unobstructed floor plan.

This residence is an exquisite example of contemporary design and construction, inspired by the conscientious and gracious family who truly appreciates their role as caretakers of the property. They even developed the name of their street from two words in Pottawattamie.

The Home Builders Association of Greater Chicago Key Awards was created in 1972 to recognize excellence in housing design, architecture, interior merchandising, remodeling and landscaping. It has since evolved into one of the premier housing programs in the country.

NEW RESIDENTS:

We wish to welcome the following new residents to the Village:

- JOSEPH NITISS & KAREN CARRUTHERS** **25220 SHAGBARK RD**
- CASEY URLACHER** **27250 N. ST. MARY'S**
- JOSEPH & VAISHALI LAFITA** **27387 N. ST. MARY'S**
- DEAN SHAFFER & LINDA PETERS** **14866 SANCTUARY LN**
- THE HAN MA UM ZEN CENTER** **854 RIVERWOODS RD**

We hope they will enjoy their new home and lifestyle available in Mettawa.



Mettawa Security Reminders

HOME ADDRESS AND FIRE DISTRICT IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS should be posted and clearly visible at the public roadway access to your property and at the actual entry point to your residential property. It is also recommended that address numbers be posted on the residence itself. Clear/unobstructed posting of an address will improve law enforcement, fire and rescue service and public safety response time, should emergency services be needed.

(Recently, new red vertical fire protection address signs were installed in the Libertyville Fire Protection District. This was the result of the actions taken by the Safety and Security Commission.)



"NO SOLICITORS" SIGNS should be posted at the entry points to your property; they must be positioned to be clearly visible. Signs that are covered by foliage can make enforcement action more difficult and provide a defense challenge for solicitors or trespassers. *(Standardized wood engraved Village "No Soliciting" signs are available for purchase through the Village Clerk provided you live on a property with a long driveway.)*

IF YOU HAVE A BURGLAR ALARM SYSTEM FOR YOUR RESIDENCE, make sure that it is in proper working order. Posted signs warning that your home is protected by an alarm service are meaningless for intruders if the system does not activate when a breach occurs or the system is not used. Contact and key holder information should be on file with the alarm company and the Lake County Sheriff's Office.

IF YOU LEAVE YOUR RESIDENCE FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME, take measures to make it appear that someone is home.

- Have someone pick-up your mail, newspapers and delivered packages.
- Placing interior lights on timers that correspond with your normal household routine.
- Have someone take care of your garbage pick-up and trash container retrieval; per regular schedule.

All residents are encouraged to utilize house watch services provided by the Lake County Sheriff's Office (847) 549-5200 and Mettawa Public Safety Patrols (847) 404-6272. Request your neighbors to keep an eye on your property while you are gone is also recommended. Neighborhood Watch programs often deter suspicious persons and activity before crimes are actually committed.

RUSE TYPE BURGLARIES are on the rise across Lake County and the Chicago-land area. You can protect yourself and family:

- Refuse to open your door to strangers.
- Communicate with strangers from behind a locked door or from a window.
- Refuse to allow anyone to lure you away from your residence.
- If they approach you while you are outside your home, 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**. Carry your cellular telephone with you when you are outside of your home so that your communication is not delayed.
- Allow the Sheriff's Office and Mettawa Public Safety to determine if unexpected visitors to your property have a legitimate reason for being there.

REMEMBER RUSE BURGLARS AND REPAIR FRAUD CON- ARTISTS WILL:

- Try to coax you out of or away from your home to look at property boundaries or trees around your residence that may or may not need to be repaired.
- Try gaining entry into your home by stating that they need to read a meter, check a utility device or obtain hot water for a repair.
- Promise services for prices that are too good to be true.
- Claim to need money for a family emergency or serious incident.
- Claim to work for a utility company or local contractor. (Legitimate utility employees and contractors will be able to produce appropriate identification.)
- Park their vehicle where it will be difficult for homeowners to view the make and model or license plate number.
- Have other burglary suspects hiding in their vehicle that will exit when the homeowner walks away from their residence or is distracted.
- Usually exit property abruptly when asked to produce identification, a work order or when a homeowner states that they are calling the police.

HORSE OWNERS AND THOSE WITH EQUESTRIAN PROPERTIES should check their fence lines regularly for openings and weakened areas. Unsecured horses and livestock present a serious safety concern for the horse from motorists travelling on Village roadways. *(The Mettawa Security Team has received training to harness a loose horse and secure them in a nearby paddock.)*

Kind regards,

Jess D. Ray, Mayor

Village of Mettawa
1-847-482-1630