

# Village of Stockbridge

## Newsletter

December 2010

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### 2010 Tax Bills

The Village Board held a public hearing on the proposed 2011 Village Budget. Immediately after the budget hearing the Village Board came into session and adopted the 2011 Budget, which sets the levy for 2010 tax bills. The final total Village Levy for 2011 is \$240,376. This represents a 1.57% increase over last years levy. The total assessed value for the Village for 2010 is \$65,847,874. This equates to a mill rate of \$3.605074 per thousand of assessed value. Please keep in mind that this is the Village levy only. It does not include amounts for schools, Calumet County, Fox Valley Tech., or the State. Calumet County will be mailing tax bills about mid-December.

#### **OVERVIEW: ASSESSMENTS & TAXES IN A DECLINING MARKET (information submitted by Grota Appraisals)**

Village Officials and the Assessor's Office staff continue to monitor the significant changes that are occurring in the national, regional and local real estate markets. Since 2006 was the last revaluation year for the Village, many property owners have expressed concerns as to how the unchanged assessments for the year 2010 in this declining market will impact their 2010 tax bills. The answer is that there is little, if any, direct impact on the individual property tax bills for existing homes and businesses. As long as uniformity and equity between property values is maintained in a non-revaluation year, an individual property

owner's share of the overall tax burden within our community will remain about the same in a declining (or increasing) market. That is to say that an individual property owner's share or apportionment of the overall tax burden (via their tax payment) relative to other property owners' share of the tax burden will not change in non-revaluation years other than as affected by any new construction added or property removed from the tax rolls. The total cost to pay for all of the governmental services provided for in our approved annual budgets, called the tax levy, is not specifically impacted by either a good or bad economy [other than in the decisions that are made as to what services to provide, including any proposed additions or cuts].

Under Wisconsin law and as prescribed in the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP), mass appraisal is an ad valorem assessment process with checks and balances to aide in the uniform and equitable valuation of all properties within a municipality. The Assessor's Office completed our last revaluation with these principles in mind. The Department of Revenue has created a very insightful "Frequently Asked Questions" publication to help property owners understand the relationship between assessments and tax bills in a declining market, <http://www.dor.state.wi.us/faqs/slf/declmkt.html>. Please take a few minutes to read through the questions and answers in this document to help

understand how tax equity is maintained in a non-revaluation year, even when the current market is in decline. Essentially, we realize that we are all in the same boat and that we will do our best as your Village officials and staff to get through this economic storm.

### **YARD WASTE**

The yard waste dumpster remains until the final week of November & has had extensive usage. If full, please be patient & do not leave your bagged material beside the dumpster. Please clean up after using the facility.

If you need to dispose of a real Christmas tree, please place it at the far end of the tennis court parking lot. These will be removed at the end of the season.



### **ICE & SNOW REMOVAL REMINDERS**

We will soon be forced to put away our rakes and take out the snow shovels like it or not. Please remember all sidewalks must be shoveled and be free of ice and snow within 14 hours of a snowfall.

Remember that you not only cause a traffic hazard, but that it is against the law to blow your snow out into a public right of way. If you place your driveway snow out into a Village Street, you may be surprised by a visit from the County Sheriff's Office with a citation in hand.

### **VILLAGE UTILITY UPDATES**

The Utility Commission has been working throughout the year on checking, cleaning and upgrading

the collection system of the sewer system. They are progressing with the five-year rotation plan to have all mains and manholes addressed. All of South Military and West Lake Street mains and manholes were televised and cleaned this summer. Much of the main infrastructure was installed in the 1960's so anticipated repairs are being addressed as they arise.

The Village water system, including well/wells, treatment facility and pump house, standpipe and mains were all installed and became operational in 1995. At that time the initial water rates were established by the PSC and the utility has existed on those rates since that time with no additions to cover ever-increasing costs of operation. The Utility Commission is currently investigating the process to request a rate review and change by the PSC. It is their thoughts that we must be prepared to not only meet the day-to-day costs of the utility, but also be prepared to meet increasing costs to maintain a fifteen-year-old system as well as take us well into the future.

### **NEW CLERK-TREASURER**

As I am sure most of you are aware, this is my last year as Clerk-Treasurer. Our new Clerk-Treasurer, Lisa Averkamp, will be assuming the position on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Please welcome her. I ask that you be patient as there is a lot to learn about our community.

I would like to say "thank you" for the opportunity to serve you, and have the chance to get to know many of you better. I will miss our sometimes weekly, sometimes monthly, and

sometimes yearly chats. The last twenty-six years have flown by and I value many of your acquaintances and friendships.

I would like to thank the many board members and three Village Presidents that I have served with, along with those individuals who have offered their time to serve as plan commission members, board of appeals members, and election workers. I value your time, interest and efforts on behalf of your community.

*Karen Ott*



### **VILLAGE OFFICE HOURS**

While I will retain my all day Monday office hours with other days in the early mornings, Lisa has already started her scheduled office hours of Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with a break during the lunch hour. Any exceptions to these hours will be posted on the front door. Please stop and meet her, if you do not already know her.

A reminder on office hours before elections - Elections are always held on Tuesdays. Any time there is an election the Village Office will remain open on the Monday before the election until 5:00 p.m, which allows you the opportunity to vote via absentee ballot up until that time. Anytime you need an absentee ballot, please contact the clerk. You may vote immediately in the office or via the mail. Please understand that there are rules that we must follow for the issuance of absentee ballots, and if the voter or the clerk does not follow these rules, the ballot cannot be counted.



### **VILLAGE WEBSITE**

We again wanted to make all the residents aware of the Village website. The URL address is [www.villageofstockbridge.org](http://www.villageofstockbridge.org).

Please take some time to review the content of the site, as we feel it is a great way to keep the residents informed of valuable community information.

It is still a work in progress, so please be patient as new information is added. There will soon be an additional tab to address Frequently Asked Questions, so keep your eye out for that.

We are interested in hearing what you think of the site and if you feel there could be some improvements or additional information added. We would also like to extend the opportunity for Village residents to let us know of any upcoming community-minded events that you would like to see added to our online community calendar.

You can let us know of your events and/or comments regarding the site by stopping into the office, giving us a call at 439-1700 or emailing us at [villageofstockbridge@tds.net](mailto:villageofstockbridge@tds.net).



**GARBAGE & RECYCLING  
COLLECTION/DISPOSAL**

During the budget process the Village Board must also make a determination as to the charge for garbage and recycling pickup and disposal. This is a difficult calculation as the cost is ever changing with the cost of fuel. The tax the State of Wisconsin has placed on every ton of garbage that is taken to a landfill must also be factored in. Of course, tonnage is also an ever-changing factor. The Board has calculated that the yearly charge of \$120 per residential household is hopefully sufficient to meet these needs for 2011. The rates have not changed.

**2011 TRASH & RECYCLING SCHEDULE**

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>EXCEPTIONS</u>
JANUARY	6, 13, 20, 27	
FEBRUARY	3, 10, 17, 24	
MARCH	3, 10, 17, 24, 31	
APRIL	7, 14, 21, 28	
MAY	5, 12, 19, 26	
JUNE	3, 9, 16, 23, 30	PICK-UP MOVED TO 3RD
JULY	8, 14, 21, 28	PICK-UP MOVED TO 8TH
AUGUST	4, 11, 18, 25	
SEPTEMBER	1, 9, 15, 22, 29	PICK-UP MOVED TO 9TH
OCTOBER	6, 13, 20, 27	
NOVEMBER	3, 10, 17, 25	PICK-UP MOVED TO 25TH
DECEMBER	1, 8, 15, 22, 29	

**VILLAGE GARBAGE & RECYCLING COLLECTION IS ON THURSDAYS, WITH EXCEPTIONS DUE TO HOLIDAYS (See noted dates above)**