

November 2008

## VILLAGE NEWS

### Village Board Approves Tax Levy

The Village Board has approved and adopted the 2009 Village Budget. The Village Board set the tax levy at \$ 1,628,937.00, which is an increase of \$31,939.00, or 2%. The resulting tax rate will increase from \$5.56 per thousand of assessed value to \$5.67 per thousand of assessed value.

Enclosed for your review is a sample tax bill for the Village of Chenequa. The Village of Chenequa has been under self imposed and state imposed caps on how much we are able to increase our village taxes for several years now. In 2004 the Village froze the tax rate with 2003 levels. In 2005 there was just over a (1/2) one-half percent increase and state imposed limits of 2% thereafter. The Village has been holding the line on taxes for several years now and the enclosed sample tax bill is being distributed to show you where your tax dollars go and how the taxes are distributed. You may be writing the check to the Village of Chenequa at tax time but the tax dollars are distributed to many other government sources. The local schools including Waukesha County Technical College make up over 60% of the taxes you are paying. The State of Wisconsin and Waukesha County also receive their revenues from this tax bill assessment.

<i>Historical Adopted Village Tax Rates &amp; Percentages Based on Assessed Values</i>								
Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Village Tax Rate	5.04	5.22	5.22	5.25	5.31	5.42	5.56	5.674
Village's % Increase		3.05%	0%	.57%	2%	2%	2%	2%

### Election News

The General Election held November 4<sup>th</sup> went smoothly and the turn out was spectacular. Each of you can take pride in knowing your vote was counted in this very important event. The village has 410 registered voters and we had 386 people vote. That means our turnout was over 94%! There were a total of 71 votes cast for Barack Obama and 307 votes for John McCain.

### Village Trustee Elections

Four seats on the Village Board have terms that will expire April 2009. The four incumbents are Bryce Styza, President, Jo Ann Villavicencio, Timothy Tyre and Andrew Gehl. Trustee Tyre has advised the Village Board that he will not be seeking re-election in April 2009. Bronson Haase has indicated he will run for the open trustee position being vacated by Dr. Tyre. Village residents interested in taking out nominations papers may do so beginning December 1, 2008. Forms may be picked up at the Clerk's Office.

### Holiday Office Closings

The Village Hall will be closed Thursday, November 27<sup>th</sup> and Friday, November 28<sup>th</sup> for the Thanksgiving Holiday. We will also be closed Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>,

Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> and Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>. If you need to contact someone regarding a non-emergency issue you may call 367-2600 and our dispatch center will have an officer make contact with you.

### Elmbrook Humane Society

**Have you found a stray or injured animal?** Residents of the Village of Chenequa who are experiencing an animal related issue should call Elmbrook Humane Society during normal business hours at 262-782-9261 or use our after hours number 262-893-8189, for evenings and weekends. In addition to companion animal adoptions and surrenders, EBHS is available for the pick up of stray animals, injured wildlife, and to handle animal related emergencies and complaints 24-hours a day. Do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any assistance to you. Please see our website for additional information regarding the shelter and our Humane Officer services at [www.ebhs.org](http://www.ebhs.org).

### Tax Collection

All documentation necessary for the processing of property tax bills will be received soon and the bills will then be in the printing process. It is anticipated that the tax bills will be mailed in early December.

Tax payments may be made at the Chenequa Village Hall during normal business hours, which are Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **The office will not be open Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>.**

Tax payments may also be mailed to the Village Hall or dropped in the drop box located to the right of the Village Hall main entrance. After processing payments, receipts will be mailed to you. Payments postmarked on or before December 31, 2008 will be receipted as a 2008 payment. Any payments found in the drop box at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, January 2, 2009 will also be receipted as a 2008 payment.

### Dog Licenses

Soon it will be time to renew dog licenses for 2009. **Please remember that you must submit a copy of your dog's current rabies certificate along with your application.** We cannot issue a dog license until we have a copy of the rabies certificate in our office. A copy of the Application for Dog License is enclosed.

### Waste Collection

Please make special note of the following garbage collection dates for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's. Pick up for those weeks will be as follows:

*Saturday, November 29, 2008*

*Saturday, December 27, 2008*

*Saturday, January 3, 2009*

### Goose Fencing

Reminder: Goose fencing along shorelines should be removed by November 30<sup>th</sup> to comply with Village Code.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS**

### *Background Checks*

Many of our Chenequa residents hire people for miscellaneous duties around their homes. Due to recent events, the Police Department strongly encourages you to check their criminal backgrounds and obtain their full name and date of birth. Under the Wisconsin Open Records Law you can access Wisconsin Circuit Court Records through a web site. This web site is: <http://wcca.wicourts.gov/index.xsl>.

### *Vacation House Watch*

If you are leaving town for more than a couple of days and would like the Police Department to make a periodic check of your home, please call the Village Hall and let us know when you will be away. If you return early, please call us so you are not surprised by a visit from an officer.

## **HIGHWAY/FORESTRY NEWS**

### *Winter Roadway Procedures and Reminders*

**As part of the 2008-2009 budget process, the Village Board of Trustees has decided that a fee increase to help offset the snow plowing expenses is warranted. The fee for 2008/2009 plowing season will increase to \$100.00 per property being plowed.**

The 2008/2009 Snowplowing/Sanding Agreement and Release of Liability form is attached. If you wish to have the Village maintain your roadway/driveway in accordance with the Winter Roadway Maintenance Policy, your signed agreement must be returned to the Village Hall along with **\$100.00** by December 30, 2008. **Failure to do so will remove your address from the plowing list effective January 1, 2009.** For snow plowing updates call our information line at 367-4681 ext #320. A message will be left on this line stating when plows will be out. Please review the snow plowing policy outline on the enclosed Snow Plowing/Sanding Agreement and Release of Liability 2008/2009 form.

### *Fall Plant Care*

This fall before the ground freezes, give your trees and shrubs a long drink of water. The dry weather puts additional stress on plants, which leaves them more susceptible to insect attacks and other plant problems. Evergreens especially require watering to prevent the winter burn or browning of the needles during the early spring. Mulching will also help to insulate the ground from temperature extremes. It will prevent the frost from penetrating as deep which could damage shallow roots. Mulch depth should be 2-4 inches deep and away from direct contact with the trunk.

### *Removal of Invasive Plants*

Fall is an excellent time to cut and remove invasive plants such as buckthorn and honeysuckle. Buckthorn identification is easier in the fall. Its dark green leaves stand out against the fall coloration of our native plants. Chemical applications used against buckthorn, which are still actively growing are less likely to be applied to non-target plants. Also, the herbicides used to kill brush are more effective in the fall. For more information or assistance in plant identification call the village forester. Shoreline cutting does need village approval prior to beginning the work.