

VILLAGE OF COBB TAX NEWSLETTER

December 2009

TAX BILLS

Enclosed are your 2009 Real Estate and/or Personal Property Tax statements. Please take a few minutes to read your tax bill, especially noting the due dates and collection times and locations. The amount of the Lottery Credit is \$87.73 and the First Dollar Credit is \$76.90 for properties located in the Village of Cobb/Iowa-Grant School District this year.

Wisconsin Statute 74.11(12) establishes payment priority so the Personal Property tax bill shall be satisfied first. Any partial payment shall be applied in the following order: 1) personal property tax, 2) special charges -- including delinquent water, sewer, garbage and recycling charges, 3) special assessments 4) special taxes, and 5) real estate taxes.

Please submit the payment coupons at the bottom of the bill with your payment to the appropriate tax collecting location. Your first installment or total amount can be paid to the **Village of Cobb ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 31, 2010**. Payments can be made in person, deposited in the drop slot in the door at the Village Office, and via mail until January 31, 2010. If you have escrow funds, please remember to endorse checks which are payable to the homeowner **and** the Village of Cobb prior to sending payment. **If you choose to pay on the installment plan, the SECOND INSTALLMENT IS DUE BY JULY 31, 2010 AND GOES TO THE IOWA COUNTY TREASURER AT THE COURTHOUSE, 222 N IOWA STREET, STE 101, DODGEVILLE, WI 53533.** Any tax that is delinquent shall begin to accrue interest at the rate of 1% per month beginning February 1; part of the month is treated as a full month. Please be aware that reminder notices are not sent out prior to the July 31st payment deadline. **Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with all mail payments to the Village of Cobb and Iowa County Treasurer for returning a paid receipt.** The Village is in the process of setting up an account with Official Payments, the same service provider used by Iowa County, to accept credit card and e-check payments for taxes and utilities. The provider charges a nominal fee for this service. If you are interested in this service, please contact the Village Office. More information will be provided at a later date.

OFFICE HOURS FOR COLLECTION

The Village office hours are Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The Village Office is located at 501 Benson Street. Please see the enclosed schedule for holiday hours. **Also note that the Village office will be open for tax collections on Saturday, January 30th from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.** For your convenience, there is a drop slot in the door at the Village office. You may also mail your tax payments to the Village of Cobb, PO Box 158, Cobb, WI 53526-0158.

ANIMAL VACCINATION CLINIC

The Village will again be hosting a low cost animal vaccination and licensing clinic in conjunction with the Iowa County Humane Society and Dodge-Point Mobile Pet Vet. **The clinic will be held at the Village Office, 501 Benson Street, on Saturday, January 30, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.** Additional clinic information will follow in the Dodgeville Chronicle, made available on the Village website, and posted around the Village when the material becomes available from the Iowa County Humane Society.

TAX ROLL LISTING FOR VILLAGE

Copies of the Village of Cobb tax roll listing are available for pickup at the Village Office and as a PDF document on the Village website at www.villageofcobb.com found under the "Tax Information" tab.

CHRISTMAS TREE REMOVAL

Village Maintenance will be collecting Christmas trees on Wednesday, December 30, 2009 and Wednesday, January 6, 2010, weather permitting. Please place your Christmas tree at the curbside for pickup. Trees must be free of metal tree stands and all ornaments.

DOG/CAT LICENSES

DOG/CAT LICENSES EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31ST OF EACH YEAR . . . Iowa County has a Humane Officer who responds to all calls regarding unlicensed animals and/or any other pet concerns reported. Wisconsin Stats. 174.05 **requires** that all dogs over five (5) months of age be licensed and Village Ordinance **requires** that all cats over five (5) months of age also be licensed. **Village Ordinance also limits the number of dogs owned to 2 per household.** A dog/cat license application is enclosed. Please feel free to copy the form, if needed, contact the Village office for additional forms, or forms are also available on the Village website at www.villageofcobb.com. A **current rabies vaccination is required** at the time your license is obtained. Rabies vaccination records for dogs/cats licensed in 2009 are in the computer system. **Vaccination records are only needed if there is an update from last year or if this is a new animal to be licensed.** The cost of a license is \$10.00 for a neutered male/spayed female dog or cat and \$15.00 for an intact male/female dog or cat. A \$5.00 late fee will be assessed to animals not licensed by April 1, 2010. If you no longer have your dog or cat, please let the Village Office know so we can update our records. Citations will be issued to owners with unlicensed pets. A reminder that all dogs and cats are required to be tied or contained in a proper enclosure at all times. Animal Ordinances will be enforced and residents violating any animal ordinance will be fined by the Iowa County Sheriff's Department. Please be a responsible pet owner and remember to keep all animals in your own yard and properly dispose of waste.

COBB PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

The Cobb Public Library will be starting **delivery of library materials** to those in the village that have difficulty getting to the library. This home delivery program will start in 2010, and it will be staffed by volunteers. The library asks that you call 623-2554 to sign up for delivery of books (regular or large print), movies, books on CD, and magazines/newspaper. A volunteer will then come to your home to deliver the requested items. The items will be checked out the same length of time as our lending policy states: books/books on CD = 3 weeks, magazines = 3 weeks, and movies = 1 week. The library hopes to reach more village residents through this service. The Cobb Public Library hours are as follows:

Monday	4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Tuesday	9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday	4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Thursday	9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
	Saturday		9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

ADOPT A HYDRANT

Please shovel the snow from all hydrants near your home, and the home of an elderly or disabled neighbor near you. Should a fire unfortunately occur, the delay that would take place while the fire department is seeking to locate a hydrant, remove snow, and hook up hose lines could cause a loss of life and/or property.

WATER RATE INCREASE

The Village will be applying for a Simplified Rate Case to the Public Service Commission for a water rate increase in 2010. Due to debt service payment obligations from the Highway 18 reconstruction project, additional revenues are needed. The current rate increase factor is 3.8 percent and the current benchmark rate of return is 7.4 percent. The target date of the effective date for the increase will be April 1, 2010. Watch for further details.

The Village bills water, sewer, garbage, and recycling on a quarterly basis. If you would prefer to pay your bill on a monthly basis, monthly budget plans are available. Contact the Village Office for more information.

2010 CENSUS

The 2010 Census is a count of everyone living in the United States. Forms will be mailed in early March and should be returned fully completed and mailed back to the U.S. Census Bureau by April 1, 2010. The 2010 Census form is the shortest in history and contains only 10 questions. **Census data directly affects how more than \$300 billion per year in federal and state funding is allocated to municipalities.** The Census affects your representation in state and local government. The data is used to define legislative districts, school district assignment areas and other important areas of government. Please be sure to complete your Census form to help insure the Village of Cobb receives its fair share of federal and state funding. For additional information regarding the 2010 Census, be sure to check out their website at www.census.gov.

There is some concern for Iowa County as we had really low return rates in 2000. Dane, Lafayette, Green, Grant and Richland all had higher return rates than Iowa County. Over one half of Iowa County municipalities had a 30% or higher rate of non-return in 2000. Rate of return directly affects funding to Iowa County and to the Village of Cobb.

IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO RETURN YOUR CENSUS FORM WHEN YOU RECEIVE IT IN MARCH. LOW RATE OF RETURN GENERATES LESS FUNDING FROM FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT WHICH IN TURN AFFECTS YOUR TAXES. PLEASE BE SURE TO COMPLETE AND RETURN YOUR 2010 CENSUS.

VILLAGE PUBLIC NOTICES & VILLAGE WEBSITE

Reminder – If you are interested in receiving Village of Cobb public notices via email, please send a request to the Village Clerk's Office at villageofcobb@charter.net. Many positive comments have been received from those currently using the email notification system. The following are examples of notices sent through the email message notification system: flushing hydrants dates, flu clinics, trick or treating information, no parking on streets for maintenance work, holiday garbage/recycling pickup schedule reminder, library event information, various public notices, etc. Be sure to check out the Village website at www.villageofcobb.com. Please feel free to offer suggestions to improve the site and/or information you would like to see added to the website. Be sure to check back often as the website is a work in progress.