



# Village of Highland Winter 2009 Newsletter

## TAX BILLS ARE READY

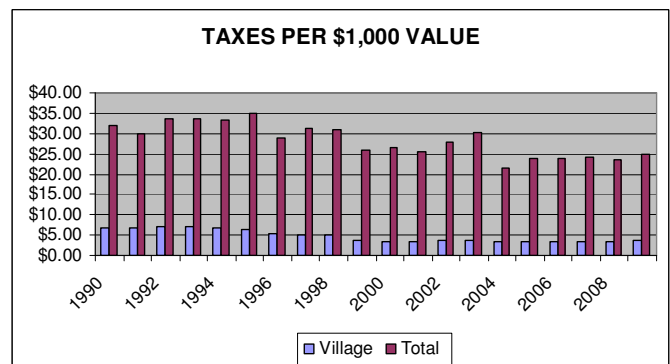
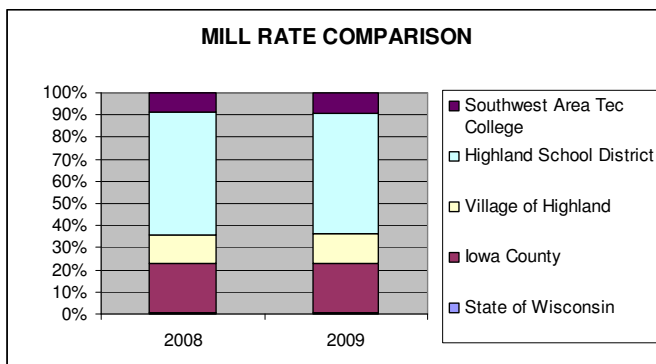
The Village of Highland held a Public Hearing Monday, November 2, on the amended 2009 budget and the proposed 2010 budget. The major driver for the increase in 2009 property tax bills is the Levy Limit to cover debt service for the STH 80 project. Levy Limit rules allow a municipality to increase the levy limit to cover the debt service increase from the previous year's debt service. The Village of Highland General Account borrowed \$300,000 from the WI State Trust Fund at 4.75% for the STH 80 project -- \$100,000 is for the storm sewer system by Don's Tire and west on Dodgeville Street and \$200,000 is for street construction parking lanes, some sidewalks and street lights. Since only \$100,000 was borrowed prior to September 1, 2009 the 2010 debt service will be \$8,581. The remaining \$200,000 was borrowed after September 1, 2009 and \$21,604.60 debt service will be reflected in the 2011 budget.

The first chart below depicts the various taxing jurisdictions and their portion of the total mill rate. The State of Wisconsin's mill rate is less than 1%. The second chart shows taxes per \$1,000 assessed value from 1990 to 2009.

The tax roll listing is posted at [www.villageofhighland.net](http://www.villageofhighland.net). Copies are also available at the Village Office.

Please submit the payment coupons at the bottom of the bill with your payment. If you choose to pay on the installment plan, the **SECOND INSTALLMENT IS DUE BY JULY 31, 2010 AND GOES TO THE 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. To pay by credit card, visit [www.officialpayments.com](http://www.officialpayments.com) or call 1-800-2PAY-TAX. Official Payments, the service provider, charges a nominal fee for this service.

**OFFICE HOURS FOR COLLECTION OF TAXES** are Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. to noon, 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Village Hall, 530 Main Street. The Office will be closed on Christmas Eve afternoon, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve afternoon and New Year's Day. For your convenience, there is a drop off box outside the Village Hall. You may also mail your tax payments to the Village of Highland, PO Box 284, Highland, WI 53543-0284.



## DOGS TO BE LICENSED

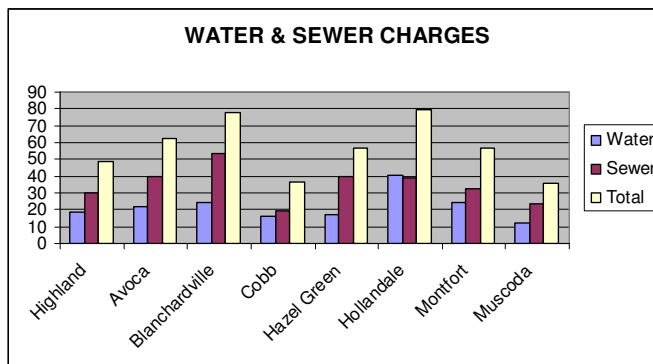
Wis. Stats. 174.05 requires the owner of a dog more than five (5) months of age on January 1, or five (5) months of age within a license year **to annually pay the dog license tax and obtain a license**. Licenses are issued when the Municipal Clerk receives verification of rabies vaccination. Rabies vaccination is important to promote health, safety and general welfare of animals and the people around them. If you own any dogs, please remit a copy of rabies vaccination and the dog license fee to the Village office. Fees for neutered males and spayed females are \$5.00; fees for unneutered males and unspayed females are \$10.00. We have rabies vaccination records for dogs licensed in 2009. **Vaccination records are only needed if there is an update from last year or if this is a new dog to be licensed.** A dog license form is posted on the Village Web site [www.villageofhighland.net](http://www.villageofhighland.net)

## WATER AND SEWER RATES

A sewer rate increase will be implemented January 1, 2010 to cover the debt service, upgrading the metering equipment and increase in day to day operation and maintenance expenses. The Village borrowed \$100,000 from the State Trust Fund for STH 80 sewer main and replacement. An average household using 4,000 gallons water per month will see about \$5 increase per month.

In 2010 the Village Board will review whether to accept the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the water rate increase previously approved by the PSCW.

The chart shows monthly water and sewer rates assuming 4,000 gallons usage per month.



## 2010 WATER AND SEWER RATES MONTHLY SERVICE CHARGE

Meter Size	Water	Fire Protection	Sewer	Meter Size	Water	Fire Protection	Sewer	Meter Size	Water	Fire Protection	Sewer
5/8" meter	\$8.50	\$2.95	\$17.00	3/4" meter	\$8.50	\$2.95	\$17.00	1" meter	\$15.00	\$7.10	\$21.00
1 1/2" meter	\$25.00	\$15.00	\$38.00	2" meter	\$46.00	\$24.00	\$58.00	3" meter	\$80.00	\$44.00	\$96.00

Plus **QUARTERLY** volume charge for water: First 8,333 gallons @ \$2.47/1,000 gallons; next 25,000 gallons @ \$1.70/1,000 gallons; over 33,333 gallons @ \$1.40/1,000 gallons. Plus volume charge for sewer @ \$4.60/1,000 gallons.

## GARBAGE AND RECYCLING RATES

Beginning January 1, 2010 a monthly fee of \$7.00 will be charged for garbage collection and \$3.85 for recycling collection per residential dwelling – an increase of \$2.55 per month. Commercial accounts have separate contracts with Town and Country Sanitation with the fee reflected on the monthly utility billing from the Village. Please call Town & Country Sanitation 1-800-626-1915 for any collection of special items.

## THE 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 Census form will be 10 questions, the shortest in history, and should take less than 10 minutes to complete.

**Census data directly affects how more than \$300 billion per year in federal and state funding is allocated to municipalities.** Spending just a few minutes to fill out your census form will help insure that the Village of Highland receives its fair share of federal and state funding.

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.

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 rate 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 Highland.

**PLEASE, PLEASE, 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.**

## WELCOME TO HIGHLAND

The Village of Highland welcomes new people and businesses to Highland. We apologize if we miss someone in the listing but hope that they know they are welcome in the Highland Community. We welcome our new home owners and/or renters Andrea Wurster-Vizzari, James Snyder & Whitney Wienkes, Teresa Tomas, Andrew Gottschall, Deb Korb, Clifford & Margaret Aide.

## CHRISTMAS TREE REMOVAL

Village Maintenance men will be collecting Christmas trees on Monday, December 28, 2009 and Monday, January 4, 2010. Place your Christmas tree at the curbside. Trees must be free of metal tree stands and ornaments.



*We wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!*  
**Highland Village Board and Employees**