



April 2012

Village Voice

The Newsletter of the Village of Chatham

Village Board

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Meetings

Planning Commission
 Third Thursday of the month
 7:00 p.m.
 Village Hall
 117 East Mulberry

Village Board
 Second and Fourth Tuesday
 of the month
 6:00 p.m.
 Village Hall
 117 East Mulberry

Mayor's Message - State Income Tax

By Tom Gray, Village President and Sherry Dierking, Chief Fiscal Officer

Balancing budgets can be difficult during these trying economic times whether it is the budget for a business, a village or your personal finances. The State distributes a portion of the income tax collected to municipalities based on population. Beginning in fiscal year 2009 (May 1, 2008 thru April 30, 2009), the Village of Chatham along with all municipalities in Illinois began experiencing significant decreases in the amount of state income received per capita. In addition, when the State increased the income tax rate effective January 1, 2011, municipal governments did not receive any additional funds from this increase.

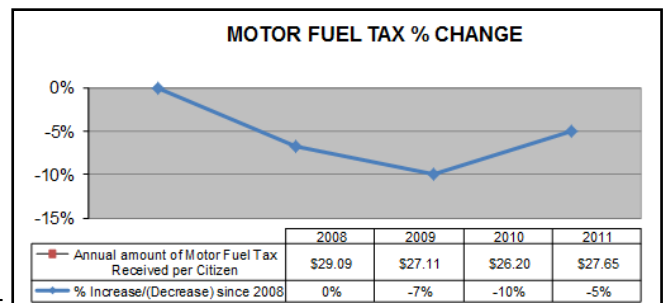
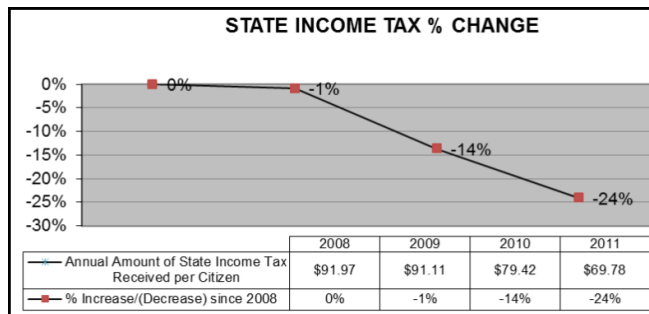
Over the past 3 years, the amount of state income tax per resident the Village has received has decreased by 24%. For 2008, Chatham received \$946,631 in income tax distributions and

\$145,557 in local use tax distributions. For fiscal year 2011, the total distribution decreased by almost \$70,000. State income tax is one of the significant revenue sources in the Village of Chatham's General Fund. Basic services that are paid for out of the General Fund include police, streets, cemeteries, parks and recreation and administration. A reduction in a significant revenue source

such as the state income tax makes it difficult for the Village to maintain the same level of service to the Village's residents. The graph above depicts the reduction in the annual amount of income tax received per resident.

The State also distributes a portion of the motor fuel tax (MFT) revenues it collects to municipalities based on population. This revenue source has decreased as well as shown in the graph to the right. Although not as significant as the decrease in state income tax, the reduction in motor fuel tax receipts affects the amount the Village can spend on annual street resurfacing projects and for the purchase of salt used on the streets during the winter. In 2011, Chatham received \$11,000 less MFT funds in 2011 than in 2008.

The reduction of these two revenue sources greatly affects the Village's ability to provide services to its citizens. Only through budget cuts and sales tax generating retail growth has Chatham been able to weather this economic storm. The Village Board will continue to control the budget and look for opportunities to promote retail growth to maintain the level of services our community "family" has enjoyed for many years.



From The Chief

By Chief John R. Holm

For this quarter's topic I want to cover a subject that has been discussed heavily in the media recently, **Distracted Driving**. During my research on this particular subject, I have read several tragic stories from all parts of the United States of fatal traffic accidents that have been caused by distracted driving. It made me realize that the first step for the Chatham Police Department to start meeting this problem head on, is to try and educate to our drivers of the dangers of distracting driving. There are several types of things that distract drivers from where their attention should be, but the most serious is texting while driving. The following information from the Official U.S. Government Website for Distracted Driving, www.D!STRACTION.gov, explains exactly what is considered Distracted Driving and some of the most recent facts and statistics that are continuing to climb at an alarming rate.

What is Distracted Driving?

Distracted driving is any activity that could divert a person's attention away from the primary task of driving. All distractions endanger driver, passenger, and bystander safety. These types of distractions include:

- Texting
- Eating and drinking
- Grooming
- Using a navigation system
- Adjusting a radio, CD player, or MP3 player
- Using a cell phone or smartphone
- Talking to passengers
- Reading, including maps
- Watching a video

BUT, because text messaging requires visual, manual, and cognitive attention from the driver, it is by far the most alarming distraction.

The best way to end distracted driving is to educate all Americans about the danger it poses. On this page, you'll find facts and statistics that are powerfully persuasive. If you don't already think distracted driving is a safety problem, please take a moment to learn more. And, as with everything on Distraction.gov, please share these facts with others. Together, we can help save lives.

Got questions? Visit our FAQ at www.distraction.gov/content/get-the-facts/faq.html

Want even more information? Look at sample research reports at www.distraction.gov/content/get-the-facts/research.html

Key Facts and Statistics

- In 2009, 5,474 people were killed in crashes involving driver distraction, and an estimated 448,000 were injured. (NHTSA)
- 16% of fatal crashes in 2009 involved reports of distracted driving. (NHTSA)
- 20% of injury crashes in 2009 involved reports of distracted driving. (NHTSA)
- In the month of June 2011, more than 196 billion text messages were sent or received in the US, up nearly 50% from June 2009. (CTIA)
- Teen drivers are more likely than other age groups to be involved in a fatal crash where distraction is reported. In 2009, 16% of teen drivers involved in a fatal crash were reported to have been distracted. (NHTSA)
- 40% of all American teens say they have been in a car when the driver used a cell phone in a way that put people in danger. (Pew)
- Drivers who use hand-held devices are 4 times more likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves. (Monash University)
- Text messaging creates a crash risk 23 times worse than driving while not distracted. (VTTI)
- **Sending or receiving a text takes a driver's eyes from the road for an average of 4.6 seconds, the equivalent-at 55 mph-of driving the length of an entire football field, blind. (VTTI)**
- Headset cell phone use is not substantially safer than hand-held use. (VTTI)
- Using a cell phone while driving - whether it's hand-held or hands-free delays a driver's reactions as much as having a blood alcohol concentration at the legal limit of .08 percent. (University of Utah)
- Driving while using a cell phone reduces the amount of brain activity associated with driving by 37%. (Carnegie Mellon) .

Remember- The text message that you are reading or the one that you might be sending while operating a motor vehicle, can take your focus off of driving just long enough to cause an accident that could kill you or an innocent victim in another vehicle or someone in the vicinity of the roadway that you are travelling. There are no redo's, second chances, or do overs when a life is taken. No message is that important, Please Drive Safe!

Yard Waste Pick Up Begins April 16th

Twice a year, the village provides yard bags and picks up residents' leaves and twigs. Grass clippings will not be picked up. Residents are limited to 3 packs (15 bags) in the Spring and 3 packs in the Fall.

Starting on April 9th, residents who want to participate in the free Yard Waste Pick Up Program may get paper yard waste bags from the village utility office at 116 East Mulberry Street. No bags will be handed out after April 20th.



Pickup will begin on April 16th. All bags must be set out curb side by 7:00 a.m. on Monday, April 16th and 23rd to ensure pickup during those two weeks.

When the village's free pick up program is not in effect, yard waste will be collected by the residents' trash haulers, who require yard waste stickers. Yard waste bags and stickers may be purchased at most hardware stores and County Market.

Summer Recreation

Recreation 2012, a summer program sponsored by the Village of Chatham offers fun programs and leisure time activities for the citizens of Chatham and surrounding areas. Please visit our website at www.chathamil.net to learn more about the activities that have been planned for this summer. Contact Vicky Berberich at 685-8383 for more information.



Swimming Pools

Did you know that depending on the situation and the surroundings around your home, you may be able to utilize a fire hydrant. **This is not a guaranteed service just something that does work for some residents.** If there is a fire hydrant on your side of the street and very near your home, you can borrow a water meter and hose from the Village. Keep in mind, that when filling your pool, the hose cannot go across the street, block traffic, or block a neighbor's driveway. The minimum is 2,500 gallons. If your pool will take less than that, it would **not** be cost effective to borrow from the Village. You will be required to pay for the metered water upon return of the water and hose, as we do not bill for this service.



Recycling

Recycling in Chatham is encouraged and is provided at no charge by your waste hauler. As a courtesy, the Village of Chatham has the blue recycling bins available for purchase. They cost \$9.00. High winds are common in the Spring and can be the culprit for many missing recycling bins. Once purchased, the bin belongs to you and we ask that residents write their address on them. We receive numerous calls regarding missing bins and unfortunately, we are not always able to locate the owner.



Online Bill Payments

Many banks offer online bill payment services to their customers and many of the Chatham residents are currently taking advantage of the service. There are a couple of things to remember. First, it is very important to ensure that you're allowing enough time for the bank to get your check delivered to the Utility Office by the due date, which is always the 15th of the month. Some banks take as many as 7 business days to get the checks to our office. Although, the money is debited from your bank account on or before the 15th, the check may be reaching us after the 15th, which will result in a 10% penalty. It is also important to have your account number printed on the check that is provided to us by your bank. When setting up your bill pay payment, please refer to the small stub of your utility bill and include the account number that is shown. It typically begins with the first 5 letters of your last name. To help you identify your account number, we have included a sample of the stub and circled the account number.

VILLAGE OF CHATHAM 116 EAST MULBERRY ST. CHATHAM, IL 62629 483-2451		
Return this Portion with Payment		
Billing Codes	Code	Amount
BA - Balance Forward		
CR - Credit		
DM - Demand		
ER - Electric		
LC - Late Charge		
LB - Leaf Bags		
PY - Payment		
SL - Security Light		
SR - Senior Citizen Rate		
SW - Sewer		
TX - Tax		
WR - Water		
Total Due		
Acct. No.	SMITHZA001	
SERVICE RATES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST		

Direct Debit

Are you tired of writing a check every month? Did you forget to do your bill pay with your bank? Or, is the weather bad on the day you were planning to drive to the utility office? We have the solution for you. Stop by our office and sign up for our direct debit service and your utility payment can be taken out of your checking account automatically on the 15th of each month.

Everything But Bass Tournament

By Joe Davis, Tournament Chairman (cell 220-0734)

Chatham American Legion Post 759 is once again sponsoring its "Everything But Bass" fishing tournament. ALL proceeds from this event will be used to offset postage cost for the "Troop Care Package" mailings.



Registration fee is \$25.00 per person. All registration entries must be received by May 7, 2012. Tournament will be held on May 19th 2012 at Lake Springfield by the Lake Springfield Marina. Take off times will be determined by the order in which entries are received. Hours will be from 7a.m. to 2 p.m. After the tournament, a dinner will be provided at the Post.

A limited number of TEMPORARY lake stickers will be available for that day. There will be two classes: Shore fishing and Boat fishing. First place trophies will be awarded for biggest fish and heaviest stringer in both categories (A fish will be weighed only once for each category)



U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Standard Mail
Chatham, IL
Permit No. 5

Village of Chatham

116 E. Mulberry Street
Chatham, IL 62629
217-483-2451
217-483-3574 (Fax)

We're on the Web
www.chathamil.net

Current Resident
Chatham, IL 62629

If your organization has an event or story that you'd like included in the *Village Voice*, send an email to lpaice@chathamil.net.

Chatham American Legion Homecoming

American Legion Post #759
Chatham, Illinois

June 21st, 22nd, and 23rd.
Thursday and Friday 5:00 PM – Midnight
Saturday Noon – Midnight
Chatham Village Square
Chatham, Illinois



No Admission or parking fees

Chatham American Legion Homecoming is an old fashioned street festival with good food, cold beverages, great bands, carnival rides and fun for the whole family. The festival kicks off on Thursday, June 21st at 5:00 PM with \$1.00 carnival rides for the evening. Food, concessions, live entertainment, games, and rides are featured all three nights of the Homecoming. Thursday night's band will be "The Mud Bugs" and Friday entertainment features "Kung Fu Dynamite". Saturday's events include an afternoon parade at 2:00, along with \$1.00 rides until 5:00 PM. "Still Kick'n" will be providing Saturday evening entertainment.

2012 Highland Games

www.central-illinois-standrewsociety.com

The 2012 Central Illinois Highland Games and Celtic Festival will be held May 18 - 19 at the Chatham Community Park. This is an event of the St. Andrew's Society of Central Illinois. They work tirelessly to teach their culture to future generations and to educate the community about all things Celtic.



The festival will feature competitive events as well as many demonstrations throughout the day that will include rugby matches, storytelling, music, animal exhibits, and much, much more.

Chatham Sweet Corn Festival

www.chathamjaycees.net



Mark your calendars!! The 39th Annual Chatham Jaycees Sweet Corn Festival will be held on July 20th and 21st at the Chatham Community Park.