

WINTER 2011 – 2012 NEWSLETTER

2011 WINTER TAX COLLECTION



Collection Dates: December 1, 2011 through February 14, 2012 without penalty; February 15, 2012 through February 29, 2012 add 3% penalty. After February 29, 2012 taxes are due to the Huron County Treasurer, plus additional interest and fees.

Unpaid Summer Tax: If the Summer Tax remains unpaid there will be additional interest due. **Please call for the current amount owed.**

Methods of Payment: Pay in person at City Hall during regular business hours; mail payment allowing sufficient time for it to be received by the due date – **POSTMARKS ARE NOT ACCEPTED**; payment can be automatically deducted from your bank account on the due date (the authorization form is available at City Hall or on the City website); or for your convenience drop your payment in the slot in the front door of City Hall (*please no cash*). Overnight drop box payments will be considered paid the previous day.

Mailing Address Updates: The Post Office does not forward tax bills. To insure prompt delivery of your tax bill, please provide any temporary or permanent change of address as soon as possible. The change of address form is available at City Hall or on the City website.

www.cityofbadaxe.com: Go to the City website for forms, millage rates, and other useful information.

Kay Gordon, City Treasurer
kaygordon@cityofbadaxe.com
(989)269-6479



CITY MANAGER 'S DESK

Retaining and attracting businesses to Bad Axe is a high priority for City Council, the Downtown Development Authority, the Bad Axe Chamber of Commerce and City Administration. We would like to welcome two new businesses – O'Reilly Auto Parts on N. Port Crescent and Exelon Wind Energy on Soper Road.

The City in conjunction with the Downtown Development Authority is applying for facade improvement grants for downtown store fronts. If you have not already been contacted, please call or email me.

I would also like to thank the Rotary and Lions Clubs for their donations for improvements of the ball diamonds.

As always, we are interested in your input, so please feel free to call, email or stop into City Hall for a visit.

Dale VanDeVusse, City Manager
dalevandevusse@cityofbadaxe.com
(989)269-7681



Information from the Clerk's Office

Have You Considered Working as a Precinct Inspector?

Precinct inspectors are people who are paid to assist voters at the polls on Election Day. Registered voters interested in serving as election inspectors must submit an election inspector application to the clerk of the city where they wish to serve. (An individual can serve as an election inspector in any city or township in the county where he or she resides.) In addition to their name, address and date of birth, applicants must include their political party preference and qualifications to fill the position such as education or experience.

A precinct inspector must be a registered voter. They cannot be a challenger, candidate, member of a candidate's immediate family, or a member of the local Board of Canvassers. Anyone convicted of a felony or an elections crime may not serve.

Precinct inspectors are covered by the federal Minimum Wage Act. If you are interested in becoming a precinct inspector please contact my office for an application or more information.

Electronic Poll Book

Voters who participated in the city's General Election noticed a new laptop at the polling place. This laptop was received from a grant from the State of Michigan under the Help America Vote Act. The purpose of this Electronic Poll Book is to automate and document certain voter verification and ballot tracking functions as performed by the various boards of election inspectors at the polls and to automate the updating of the Qualified Voter File voter history following an election.

Next Election Date: February 28, 2012 - Presidential Primary

Interested in serving on a board or committee?

Periodically vacancies occur on Boards and Commissions appointed by the City Council. If you are interested in serving please submit a letter of interest to the City Clerk's office. A complete list of the Boards and Commissions can be found on the city's website in the councilmember handbook located on the Mayor and City Council's page.

Our city's code of ordinances and zoning ordinance are available to you on our website. Visit www.cityofbadaxe.com/clerk and follow the links.

We are here to serve you!

Kay Goebel, City Clerk
kaygoebel@cityofbadaxe.com
(989)269-7681

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

BAD AXE POLICE DEPARTMENT



FREE WOOD CHIPS are available at the D.P.W. garage to residents as well as non-residents of the city. Help yourself anytime, we can load them for you if you stop by at 6 a.m., 9 a.m. or 12:15 p.m. or if you just drop a trailer off out by the chip pile. If you don't have a way to pick them up, call City Hall to make arrangements to have some delivered within the city.

Crews are currently cleaning sewer mains, primarily in the northeast section of the city. During this process, water in your traps may splash out from your toilet or drains. If you see the Vactor truck (large red tank on it) in your neighborhood, you may want to close your toilet seat and set a towel over it and the other drains to minimize the effect of a splash, should one occur. These splashes may occur if the plumbing in your home is not vented adequately (size, configuration, blockage), in which case you will have to contact a plumber to fix the problem.

As winter approaches we would like to remind residents not to push their plowed snow across the street and not leave cars parked on the street. Please leave plenty of room between you and snow removal equipment. The equipment may stop or change directions abruptly. If you are too close, the drivers cannot see you. Please use caution when getting around this equipment, be sure the driver sees you before you start by.

This is the first season for the new leaf vac truck. Please do not put grass, brush or other debris in your leaf piles. It slows the clean-up process and can cause excessive wear on the truck. Drivers should give this vehicle plenty of room as it changes speed and direction suddenly.

Scott Boshart, Director of Public Works
publicworks@cityofbadaxe.com

Our DPW Director, Scott Boshart has received the "Public Management Professional of the Year" award from the Michigan Water Environment Association. Congratulations, Scott on a job well done!!

WASTE MANAGEMENT

The City's waste management contractor Richfield Management, allows residents to make one free dump per month at the disposal site in Ubyly. This free disposal service does not include large amounts of roofing, construction, remodeling or demolition waste, but small amounts from do it yourself projects will be accepted. Any additional dumps will be subject to a fee at a discounted rate from the normal disposal schedule. For more information call 658-2594 or 658-2784.

Richfield Management provides recycling bins for city residents to be placed at the curbside with the weekly trash collection. The bins are available at City Hall, please stop in and pick one up.

Thumb Industries will also take your cardboard, newspapers, catalogs and magazines, junk mail and etc. They process them into pellets which can be used in wood burning furnaces. The drop off location is 626 East Woodworth St.

As winter approaches the Bad Axe Police Department would like to remind residents of Section 11-51 of the City's parking ordinance concerning snow removal. Enforcement of this ordinance will begin once snow begins to fall and will continue until March 31st. Notification of enforcement will be given in the local newspapers, on the local radio station, and on the City of Bad Axe website. Violation Warnings will be issued for a short period of time before we begin issuing Parking Citations.



The Bad Axe Police Department has started a Neighborhood Watch Program. Officer Scott Zaleski is the coordinator for the program. If you have any questions about the program or wish to participate, contact Officer Zaleski at the office. We encourage all citizens to report any suspicious activity, including possible drug use and / or sales. Please call the office at (989)269-9242, if after hours leave a message. Citizens can remain anonymous.

The Bad Axe Police Department has an 'open door policy' and welcomes all citizens to call or come into the office to voice any concerns or ask any questions they may have.

David Rothe, Chief of Police
davidrothe@cityofbadaxe.com

Watch for water leaks: A running toilet can use up to 2 gallons of water per minute so it's important to check all your toilets often. Sometimes you cannot hear a running/leaking toilet. A good way to check is to put food coloring in the back tank of the toilet before you go to bed and if there is colored water in the bowl the next morning you know you have a leak. Be sure to monitor all your water taps to be sure they are not dripping or leaking. Even a pinhole leak can use 170 gallons in 24 hours. It pays to be vigilant when it comes to water leaks!



Remember Auto Bill Payment (ACH) is available at no charge for utility bill payment. Call City Hall at 269-7681 for details.

Reporting street light outages: If you see a street light out anywhere we want to know about it. Detroit Edison also wants to know. Detroit Edison will replace or repair their street lights when reported to them. To make the reporting process as simple as possible, all you have to do is call City Hall and ask for me. Tell me where the light pole is and I will report the outage directly to Detroit Edison. But be patient, sometimes it takes a while for them to complete the repairs.

Bridget Glasgow, Deputy Clerk
bridgetglasgow@cityofbadaxe.com

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

