

Google Groups

Happy Holidays! (and a tax primer)

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Posted in group: **town-of-Ulysses**

From all of us at Town Hall, we wish you and yours a very happy holiday season!

This is a special TAX EDITION of our e-newsletter.

Please share with all of your friends!

Your Town & County Tax Bills were mailed out today. I apologize to those of you who will be upset to receive them on Christmas Eve. You have permission to ignore them until January 2nd. There are many property owners who like to pay before then end of 2016, so we try to accommodate them.

The bills are a pretty orchid **purple** this year.

If you have not yet received your bill and simply cannot wait to see it, you can view it on-line via our website here by clicking on the yellow highlighted link.

First off, let's clarify the property taxes that we pay in Tompkins County:

TAX:	DUE DATE:	WHO COLLECTS:	WHO TO CONTACT:
Town & County	Jan. 31, 2017	Town of Ulysses until March 31;	(607)387-5767 ext. 221 or clerk@ulysses.ny.us

		Tompkins Finance Dept. after March 31	
Village	June 30 of each year	Village of Trumansburg	(607)387-6501 or clerk@trumansburg-ny.gov
School	Sept. 30 of each year	Tompkins Trust Company, or TST BOCES CBO-TAX 555 Warren Rd. Ithaca NY 14850	Julie Kephart (607)257-1551 ext. 1042 tburgtax@tstboces.org

PAYING YOUR BILL:

--The clerk's office will begin accepting tax payments on Tuesday, Dec. 27.

--Please note that as per state law, you are responsible for paying your bill even if you don't receive it.

DEADLINE:

Pay your bill without a late penalty by January 31, 2017. Envelope postmarks with January 31 are accepted.

****Beware:** checks automated by your bank's bill payment program do not have postmarks on their envelopes. We must go by the date we receive the check in those cases.

Don't wait until the last minute. Bad weather will not change a tax deadlines unless the town or county has officially declared a state of emergency.

INSTALLMENTS:

You can pay your bill in two installments, for a fee, as shown on your tax bill. You **MUST** pay the first installment by January 31 to be eligible for the installment option. Partial payments of other amounts **cannot** be accepted.

ON-LINE PAYMENTS/FEES:

You can pay your bill online conveniently with a credit card or e-check for a fee.

Fees for credit card use:

If your tax bill is less than \$64, the service fee is \$1.75

If your tax bill is greater than \$64, the service fee is 2.75%

Fees for e-check payments:

Tax Bill Amount	Service Fee
\$0.01-\$1,999.99	\$2.50
\$2,000-\$3,999.99	\$5.00
\$4,000-\$5,999.99	\$7.50
\$6,000-\$7,999.99	\$10.00
\$8,000-\$9,999.99	\$12.50
Over \$10,000	Increments of \$2.50 per \$2,000

HELPFUL TIPS FOR ON TIME PAYMENTS:

- Please include a phone number e-mail with your payment. If there are any errors with your payment, we want to notify you as soon as possible to help you avoid late fees/penalties.
- Be sure that your check is made out correctly, i.e. make sure that the numeric and written total match. The bank will return checks whose lines do not match.

FREQUENTLY-ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ):

Q: I have an escrow account for taxes. Will my tax bill be automatically paid by my bank?

A: No, you may need to send your tax bill to your bank so that they can pay from your escrow account. Some banks ask for tax bills directly from the Town and some don't; please contact your bank directly to confirm their policy.

Q. Why is my bill so high?

A. Generally this is due to a previously unpaid School or Village tax bill, or water bill. It will show up on your bill as "Delinquent water" or whatever.

Q: Why is my assessment so high? Can I appeal?

A: If you feel that your assessment is not reflective of fair market value, you have the right to ask for an informal review or to file a complaint with the County Board of Assessment Review. Find out more [HERE](#).

Q: Are there any tax exemptions for seniors or veterans?

A: Yes, seniors and veterans are eligible for certain exemptions, such as the STAR (School Tax Relief). Exemptions must be filed with the State of NY by March 1st to take effect the following year (the deadline for filing exemptions on 2016 taxes was March 1st, 2015). Please contact Tompkins County Assessment Office for more details.

Q: What is the "solid waste fee" on my tax bill?

A: Tompkins County collects funds from residents to help cover the cost of its Recycling program, among other things. [HERE](#) is the breakdown of how waste fees are spent.

Got any other questions? Give us a call, stop by, or e-mail.

Once again, HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Forward this message to anyone else that you think would be interested. We'd love to connect with more residents. To send questions or comments, or be removed from this list, please e-mail clerk@ulysses.ny.us

Best,
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