

Managing Your Tax Dollars

By Susan Sanabria, Village President



With the recent adoption of the 2019 budget, the Village Board is proud to report that Wind Point's financial position remains strong, and the Village tax rate is one of the lowest in Southeastern Wisconsin among cities and villages. The Board recognizes that a consistent, low tax rate, combined with high-quality municipal services, are among the reasons that Wind Point is such an attractive place to live and work.

When considering the financial health of a community, it is important to remember that Wisconsin state law strictly limits municipalities from raising their property tax levies, except for the taxable value of new construction and improvements. This is a real challenge for

many communities, especially those that are nearly fully-developed, such as Wind Point. It is also noteworthy that state support to municipalities—such as the state contribution to costly road maintenance projects—has been decreasing for a number of years. The twin challenges of levy limits and decreasing state aid—combined with ongoing inflation that continuously drives up costs—affect every municipality in the state, even those that have a tradition of effective, efficient services like Wind Point.

To overcome these challenges, the Village Board continues to focus on (1) finding or increasing sources of non-tax revenue, such as lighthouse tours/rentals and third-party grants; (2) long-term planning and management of capital

projects, in order to take advantage of economies of scale and price trends, and; (3) continuously evaluating and improving the way the Village contracts for outside services, such as Fire/EMS, trash and recycling collection, auditing services, building inspections, and engineering services.

As always, every member of the Village Board and Village staff remain committed to providing efficient, high-quality services in order to maintain financial strength and a low tax rate. ■

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How to Pay Your Property Taxes

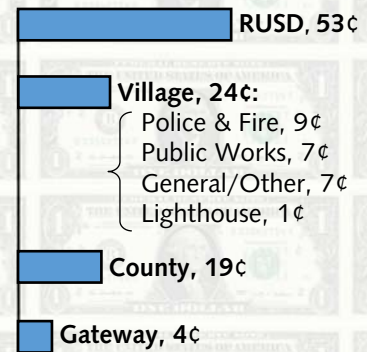
Pay the first installment or full amount to the Wind Point Treasurer by Jan. 31. Payments after Jan. 31 must be made to the Racine County Treasurer. Please include the tax bill stub with your payments. The stubs are located at the bottom of the tax bill.

If your tax bill is paid by a mortgage company and the escrow amount is greater than the full tax payment, the Village will issue you a refund check within approximately 15 business days. If you have any questions, contact the Village Office at (262) 639-3524 or send an e-mail to info@windpoint.org.

Ways to pay your taxes (by Jan. 31):

- By mail (check or money order): Wind Point Treasurer, 215 E. Four Mile Rd., Racine, WI 53402. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want a receipt returned to you.
- In-person at Village Office (215 E. Four Mile Rd.) or Johnson Bank (4001 N. Main St.). An after-hours dropbox is available at the end of the Village Office driveway.
- Online at windpoint.org/tax (convenience fee applies).

Where will each property tax dollar go?



2019 Dog License Application

Per State law, all dogs over 5 months old must be licensed each year. Please submit this form with payment and copy of current rabies vaccination(s) in person or by mail to the Village Office, 215 E. Four Mile Rd., Racine, WI 53402 for the 2019 license.

The Village mails dogs licenses only if you include a self-addressed and stamped envelope. A \$10.00 late fee will be applied for dogs registered after April 1st.

Owner Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____

Dog #1 Name: _____
Breed: _____
Color: _____

- Altered Female (\$15)
- Altered Male (\$15)
- Unaltered Female (\$35)
- Unaltered Male (\$35)

Dog #2 Name: _____
Breed: _____
Color: _____

- Altered Female (\$15)
- Altered Male (\$15)
- Unaltered Female (\$35)
- Unaltered Male (\$35)