

Future Tax Billing Changes

There has been a recent change in the property tax collection process, which will impact all future property tax bills. Public Acts 356 and 357 of 2004, require all county allocated operating millage to be shifted from the winter tax bill to the summer tax bill over a three-year period. One-third of this millage will be moved to the July 2005 property tax bill, another third in July 2006 and the remainder in July 2007.

Because of this, you should notice an increase in the amount of millage to be paid on your July 2005 property tax bill, with a corresponding decrease on the December 2005 tax bill. For estimating purposes, your July 2005 County operating millage amount should be approximately one-third of the amount itemized on your December 2004 tax bill as "County Allocated Operating".

Summer tax bills are sent out on July 1 and the bill must be paid by September 14 in order to avoid any interest penalty.

Under MCL 211.51, property taxpayers may defer until February 15, without penalty or interest, the due date of their summer SET taxes on their homestead, if their household income for the preceding calendar year did not exceed \$25,000 and they are:

- a) 62 years of age or older, including the unmarried surviving spouse of a person who is 62 years of age or older at the time of death;
- b) A paraplegic or quadriplegic;
- c) An eligible serviceperson, eligible veteran, or their eligible widow or widower;
- d) A blind person; or
- e) A totally and permanently disabled person.

Property that is classified or used as agricultural property may qualify if the gross receipts of the farming operation are not less than the household income of the owner.

Persons applying for a deferral must certify that they qualify for the deferral on a form available through my office in order to receive the deferral. The form must be completed each year in order to have taxes deferred without penalty in any given year. The form must be filed with my office by September 14 to receive the deferral.

Judith E. Wheeler
Reading Township Treasurer