

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Village Taxpayer,

The national and local economy is still showing signs of stress as many of our residents continue to be unemployed or under employed. While there has been some improvement, there still is a long way to go before we see our local economy growing again. This prolonged down turn has also been felt by your Village government. Building permit revenue has plunged by over \$300,000 and other revenue sources we were using also have been eliminated resulting in a drastic reduction in money available to provide services. We have cut back where we can and for a second year our non-represented employees will not receive a pay increase. While we would rather not increase the tax rate, we have no other choice if we want to continue the services the community expects.

As you read this newsletter please note the many positive things our Village has accomplished this year. We always welcome your comments and suggestions.

Russell E. Brandt, Village President

We Have a New  
Website Address  
[www.vi.slinger.wi.gov](http://www.vi.slinger.wi.gov)

## SLINGER PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT:

October 2010 was a busy time of year for the Slinger Parks and Recreation Department. We worked hard to upgrade our most popular park, Community Park, located in the heart of Slinger. The project began with a playground renovation. We expanded the playground area and added four new pieces of play equipment. We also replaced the sand with an engineered wood fiber to make our facility handicap accessible. Next, we installed a 5 foot forest green fence that protects the playground on 3 sides. Finally, we paved under the bleachers of our small little league field and ran new sidewalks to this small field and to our Veterans Memorial. These renovations have drastically improved the overall appearance, safety and accessibility of our park. These upgrades also give our children many additional fun options on our playground.

The Slinger Parks & Recreation Department is proud to have partnered with many Slinger businesses and community organizations to complete this project. Heartland Construction stepped up to the plate to once again donate their time & labor. Without Heartland Construction's generosity, this project would not have been possible. We also want to extend a special thank you to the Slinger/Allenton Rotary, which was an important player in this project. They generously donated \$6,200 to help make this project a reality. We would also like to honor these generous donors that helped make this project possible: The Slinger Advancement Association, Zuerns Building Products, Dodge Concrete, Hanke Trucking, HFR Electric, Germantown Iron / Steel and The Friends of the Slinger Parks. On behalf of the Slinger Parks and Recreation Department, I'm proud to present your Community Park to the wonderful people of Slinger.



## MAPLE AVENUE SOUTH RECONSTRUCTION

Slinger applied for and was awarded nearly \$650,000 to be applied towards the reconstruction of the Maple Avenue South area. Slinger received \$608,624.00 from Community Development Block Grant Emergency Assistance Program funding and \$40,876.68 from the Department of Transportation's Local Road Improvement Program to apply towards the project. These funds total nearly 47% of the low bid received from Heartland Construction for performing the work.

The project will include reconstructing the aging sanitary sewer and water systems and correcting known deficiencies in each of these lines as well as constructing a new storm sewer across the CN railroad to function as a critical part of last year's Glen Hill/Tennies Stormwater project. Maple Avenue South will also benefit from newly constructed storm sewers, sidewalks, curb and gutters and new asphalt pavement. The Village's electric utility also received grant money to install LED lighting technology along the newly constructed roadway.

Utility work will begin this fall but the majority of the road work will not start until early 2011.

## New Resident Packets

If you are new to the Village of Slinger, you can pick up a new resident packet at the Village Hall. The packet contains a map, garbage and recycling information, park & recreation activity guide, library information, a voter registration application, village committee information and much more.

## Automatic Payment for Utility Bills

The Village of Slinger Utilities offers automatic payment of your utilities account. Payment will be deducted from the checking or savings account you indicate, on the 5th of each month. Forms can be found on our website or picked up at the Village Hall. Please complete the authorization form and return it to Village Hall at 300 Slinger Road. If you have any questions regarding this form, please call 262-644-5265.

## Dog and Cat Licenses

This is just a reminder to those who have dogs and cats in the Village, a license is required. Every dog and cat five (5) months of age or older must be licensed; spayed/neutered licenses cost \$7.00, otherwise the fee is \$12.00. Applications can be picked up at the Village Hall. Proof of rabies vaccination is required at the time of licensing for your cat or dog. The licenses expire December 31st and must be renewed annually. If you do not obtain a license for your dog or cat on or before April 1st, a \$5.00 late fee will be assessed. Just a note: you do not need a separate check if obtaining your dog and cat license when paying your taxes.



## TENNIES STORMWATER PROJECT

Last year, the Village completed construction of the Glen Hills/Tennies Stormwater project. Construction was performed by Heartland Construction of Slinger. This project significantly increased stormwater storage capacity in the area immediately east of Community Park and protects the park and downtown areas from flooding that has been a problem in the past. The project also included correcting some known storm sewer problems in the area of Glen View Lane and Olympic Drive as well as Water & Elm Streets.

The pond was tested this last year when Slinger faced the second wettest summer in recorded history. In fact the improvements constructed as part of this project handled rain events in early July that totaled nearly 6 inches and fell at rates approaching 3 inches per hour. The pond easily handled these storms and the improvements prevented flooding in the downtown areas.

In order to pay for the construction of these improvements, the Village instituted a stormwater utility. The utility charges customers based on the amount of impervious surface area on his/her property. Currently, the utility charges \$40/Equivalent Runoff Unit (ERU) but the projected 2011 budget includes an increase of \$10 per ERU making the 2011 rate charged to customers \$50/ERU.

## SANITARY SEWER & WATER RATES

Because of the economic downturn, the Village is finding it necessary to raise both sewer and water rates to Village customers. The Village, as most other communities, has seen a virtual end of new construction in 2010. The projected increase amounts to approximately 10% in the Sewer Utility and 22% in the Water Utility.

## COMMUNITY PARK SOFTBALL FIELD RECIEVES MAKEOVER:

The large softball field at Community Park received a makeover this past fall. The field was selected by the Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association (WSTMA) for an extreme field makeover; part of a day-long clinic on field maintenance presented by Midwest Athletic Fields of Jackson. The materials and equipment for the project were donated by vendors that sponsored the event. The labor was done by Midwest Athletic Fields and participants as part of the hands on clinic. The seminar provided information for professionals from across the state. Some of the demonstrations included laser grading, edging grass lines, batters box installation, and base anchor installation. The annual extreme field makeover began in 2008 after Lake Delton flooded and Kaminski Park was destroyed. Surrounding parks departments, business owners, vendors and WSTMA members from all over the state came to aid in the restoration of the park.

## SLINGER POLICE DEPARTMENT WINS GRANT:

In 2010 the Slinger Police Department won a \$4,000 grant through the Department of Transportation Click-It-Or-Ticket program. The grant must be used for traffic safety initiatives. The Slinger Police Department used the funds towards installing Traffic & Criminal Software (TRACS) Program in our squad cars and office. TRACS allows officers to write citations and accident reports electronically and send the information to the Department of Transportation electronically. Also in 2010, the Slinger Police Department participated in the WI Department of Transportation Over the Limit, Under Arrest initiative to focus on Drunk Drivers. By participating in this program our department was eligible for and won a Laser Radar worth approximately \$4,000.



## EAGLE SCOUT ADDS GAZEBO TO FIREMAN'S PARK:

The Slinger Parks & Recreation Department had the privilege of working with another future Eagle Scout this fall. Andrew Janus, a 15-year old sophomore at Slinger High School, built a reflection and memorial gazebo for families who have lost loved ones to drunk or otherwise impaired drivers. This project consisted of a 12-foot octagon gazebo with three benches and a walking path leading to it with pavers that have the inscribed names of people who have been killed by impaired drivers. This gazebo was built on top of the sledding hill at Fireman's park and will provide our park patrons with a beautiful view. Andrew was a joy to work with and was extremely hardworking and professional during this entire project. A special thank you goes out to Andrew Janus for his hard work and community service.

## CHRISTMAS TREE PICK UP



The Village of Slinger will be picking up Christmas trees starting the week of January 3rd, 2011. Trees should be left curbside with the cut end of the tree facing towards the roadway. Should you choose to remove the tree yourself, it can be dropped off at the Public Works yard and placed along the north fence line near the mulch pile.

***Christmas trees should not be placed in the compost dumpster.***

## LIBRARY NEWS YOU CAN USE!

Need help finding materials? Visit the Slinger Community Library everyday at [www.slinger.lib.wi.us](http://www.slinger.lib.wi.us) and log into the SHARE catalog where you have access to 44 public libraries in Dodge, Jefferson, Racine, Walworth and Washington Counties. With a combined collection of over 2.7 million items, your favorite author, music or movie is just a click away! Library staff are available 53 hours per week to happily assist you in person or via phone to find any materials or information you need. The library is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – Noon (Labor Day through Memorial Day).

### Upcoming FREE Programs in 2011:

January 4 – March 31 – 10th Annual Adult Winter Reading Program.

February 5 – Valentine Craft Day for Children ages 3 – 12 @ 10 am.

February 21 – Free movie @ 10 am & 1pm. Call for details!

March 14 – Free movie @ 10 am & 1 pm. Call for details!

April 9 – Easter Craft Day for Children ages 3-12 @ 10 am.

The 2011 six-week summer reading program starts on Monday, June 13. The theme is “One World: Many Stories!”

The library offers free wireless internet for users with a laptop computer during regular library hours.

## 2010 VILLAGE OF SLINGER RECYCLING INFORMATION

### Recycling Requirement

Recycling collection in the Village will continue to be every other week. The collection will continue under the current system with VEOLIA providing the service, **every other Tuesday.**

Residents are required to place recycling bags curbside no earlier than 24 hours prior to collection & no later than 7 a.m. on collection days. If no curb exists, or if you live in a condominium, multi-family unit, or operate a commercial business, place bags at the end of your driveway. **Please place bags approximately 2ft. from trash carts.**

Recycling will be collected on the following dates: Please Note that \* represents Wednesday Pickups for recycling - This can happen when a holiday falls on a Monday

January 5, 19	February 2, 16
March 2, 16, 30	April 13, 27
May 11, 25	June 8, 22
July 7*, 20	August 3, 17, 31
September 14, 28	October 12, 26
November 9, 23	December 7, 21

Wisconsin State Law requires the Village to recycle 25% of the waste stream. Over the past several years the Village has had difficulty reaching the 25% State imposed recycling threshold.

In the Event that the Village fails to meet the 25% threshold two (2) consecutive years, the State will require the Village to implement a volume-based fee system (per bag charge). The Village Board looked at a similar option in 1996, however, based on public concern, the plan was scrapped, and the current system maintained.

The Village needs everyone's help. If we are to avoid the State imposing a per bag charge on the Village, recycling rates must continue to be a minimum 25% of the waste stream. So please remember to recycle. The efforts of everyone are needed to make the system work.

### Blue Bag Program

The Village of Slinger utilizes a “Blue Bag Curbside Recycling Program,” which is designed to provide an easy separation process for residents. Materials collected by the Village are listed on the reverse side of this page.

All recyclable material collected by the Village, except for cardboard, magazines, newspapers and miscellaneous papers are to be placed in the blue bag. Magazines, newspapers and miscellaneous paper may be bundled together or placed in brown paper bags (grocery bags). All types of cardboard must be flattened and bundled according to the instructions listed on the reverse side.

**DO NOT place TV's or computer items in your dumpster.** These items have been ban from landfills, and require special handling. For disposal of Stoves, washers, dryers, air conditioners, refrigerators & dehumidifiers call Port Recycling 262-284-4060. Large items such as beds, mattresses, & furniture call Veolia at 1-800-387-0949. Hazardous waste such as chemicals, oil, & pesticides call Veolia Special Services at 1-262-243-8914. **NOTE:** There is a charge for all special pick-up items.

**Remember trash bags MUST be placed inside refuse containers. Trash not placed inside these containers will be left behind. The maximum weight for the containers is 200 lbs.**

The closest disposal station is located at 803 N River Road in West Bend (off Hwy 33) & is open M-F, 7am-3pm & the 1st Sat. of the month from 7-11am. There is a fee to dump any material. Call VEOLIA at 1-800-387-0949 for more information.

## OVERVIEW: ASSESSMENTS & TAXES IN A DECLINING MARKET VILLAGE OF SLINGER

Village Officials and the Assessor's Office staff continue to monitor the significant changes that are occurring in the national, regional and local real estate markets. Since 2009 was the last revaluation year for the Village, many property owners have expressed concerns as to how the unchanged assessments for the year 2010 in this declining market will impact their 2010 tax bills. The answer is that there is little, if any, direct impact on the individual property tax bills for existing homes and businesses. As long as uniformity and equity between property values is maintained in a non-revaluation year, an individual property owner's share of the overall tax burden within our community will remain about the same in a declining (or increasing) market. That is to say that an individual property owner's share or apportionment of the overall tax burden (via their tax payment) relative to other property owners' share of the tax burden will not change in non-revaluation years other than as affected by any new construction added or property removed from the tax rolls. The total cost to pay for all of the governmental services provided for in our approved annual budgets, called the tax levy, is not specifically impacted by either a good or bad economy [other than in the decisions that are made as to what services to provide, including any proposed additions or cuts.

Under Wisconsin law and as prescribed in the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP), mass appraisal is an ad valorem assessment process with checks and balances to aide in the uniform and equitable valuation of all properties within a municipality. The Assessor's Office completed our last revaluation with these principles in mind. The Department of Revenue has created a very insightful “Frequently Asked Questions” publication to help property owners understand the relationship between assessments and tax bills in a declining market, <http://www.dor.state.wi.us/faqs/slf/declmrkt.html>. Please take a few minutes to read through the questions and answers in this document to help understand how tax equity is maintained in a non-revaluation year, even when the current market is in decline. Essentially, we realize that we are all in the same boat and that we will do our best as your Village officials and staff to get through this economic storm.

### CUSTOMER CREDIT AVAILABLE:

As a customer of our electric utility, you may be eligible for our Customer Credit Program, which was established to help members of our community with limited financial resources cover their energy costs.

To qualify for our program you must verify through the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance program (WHEAP) that your gross household income from the last three months falls within the guidelines provided below:

Family Size	Gross Household Income (for 3 months)
1	\$6,142
2	\$8,032
3	\$9,921
4	\$11,811
5	\$13,701
6	\$15,591
7	\$15,945

To apply for energy assistance, please contact Washington County Social Services (West Bend Office) at (262) 335-4677 to schedule an appointment. You can apply anytime from October 1, 2010 through May 15, 2011.

If you are approved for energy assistance through WHEAP, you will automatically be approved for our Customer Credit Program without having to complete any additional paperwork.

Once you are approved for our Customer Credit Program, you will receive notification in the mail prior to the credit being applied to your electric account. The written notification will state the amount of the grant that you have been approved to receive and it will also let you know when you can expect to see this amount appear as a credit on your electric bill.

If you have questions about our Customer Credit Program, please contact our program administrator, **Cheri Tessmann** at WPPI Energy, during business hours, Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at 1-800-255-9774



### WELCOME TO SLINGER!

Eagle Scout Steven Schwarz pictured in front of the new WELCOME TO SLINGER sign located on Hwy 144/Kettle Moraine Dr. N. Steven presented the idea to the Village Board, raised all necessary funds, as well as managed and worked on the project. Slinger staff would like to thank Steven for his hard work and great contribution to the village.

# Monthly Meeting Schedule

1st and 3rd Monday 6 p.m. ....Village Board  
 2nd Monday 4:30 p.m. ....Library Board  
 2nd Wed. after 1st Mon. 6 p.m. .... Planning Commission  
 4th Monday 6 p.m.....Park Board  
*Dates subject to change due to holidays.*

## WHO TO CONTACT??

Village President Russell Brandt 644-8854  
 Village Trustees John Dukelow 644-6490  
 David Malecha 644-0230  
 Eugene Mueller 644-6273  
 Rick Gundrum 644-7002  
 Lee Fredericks 920-843-2007

## ADMINISTRATOR

Maureen Murphy  
 644-5265 • mmurphy@vi.slinger.wi.gov

## TREASURER-DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK

Margaret Wilber  
 644-5265 • mwilber@vi.slinger.wi.gov

## POLICE CHIEF

Dean Schmidt  
 644-6441 • dschmidt@vi.slinger.wi.gov

## LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Jennifer Einwalter  
 644-6171 • jeinwalt@mwfls.org

## ENGINEER/PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

James Haggerty  
 644-5265 • jhaggerty@vi.slinger.wi.gov

## PARK & RECREATION DIRECTOR

Tony Dobson  
 644-5265 • tdobson@vi.slinger.wi.gov

## BUILDING INSPECTOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Terry Frederickson  
 644-5265 • tfrederickson@vi.slinger.wi.gov

## VILLAGE WEBSITE:

www.vi.slinger.wi.gov

## 2011 ELECTION DATES



- February 5, 2011 - Spring Primary (if needed)
- April 5, 2011 - Spring Election



### 2010 Village Board

Front L-R: Jeff Behrend, Russ Brandt, Rick Gundrum  
 Back: Lee Fredricks, John Dukelow, Eugene Mueller  
 (not pictured - David Malecha, due to surgery)

## QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR TAX BILL?

Following are some common questions that may come up as you look over your 2010 tax statement.

### Where does this money go?

As you can see from the enclosed tax statement and the graph shown here, your tax dollars go to a number of governmental and educational institutions:

- The largest portion of your tax bill goes to the Slinger School District, which receives 45%.
- The Village of Slinger receives the next largest portion, or 33%.
- Washington County receives 14% for its programs and services.
- Moraine Park Technical College receives 7%, and the final 1% goes directly to the State of Wisconsin.

Specific questions you may have about any individual part of your tax bill should be directed to the agency concerned.

### So who do I pay, and when is everything due?

Tax payments must be postmarked by January 31, 2011.

Taxes paid by January 31, 2011 must be made payable to:

- Village of Slinger – Treasurer  
 300 Slinger Road, Slinger WI 53086

You also have the option of paying your taxes in two installments. If you decide to take advantage of that option, the first half needs to be paid to the Village of Slinger Treasurer by January 31, 2011. The second payment must be made to:

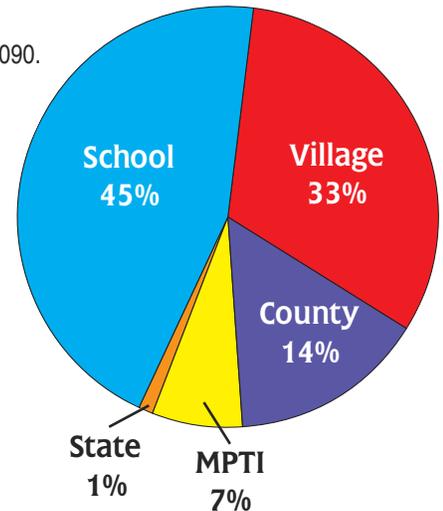
- Washington County – Treasurer  
 PO Box 1986, West Bend WI 53090.

### When is Village Hall open for tax payments?

Village Hall is open from 8am to 5pm Monday – Friday during normal workweeks.

With the holidays fast approaching, there are a few days when the Village Hall offices will be closed:

- Friday, December 24th
- Monday, December 27th
- Friday, December 31st and
- Monday, January 3rd, 2011.



### Tax Rate

State	0.162391617
County	2.734581763
MPTI	1.393141496
School	8.721813452
Village	6.320201067
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>19.3321294</b>
Less Credit	\$1.060841998
<b>Net Rate</b>	<b>\$18.27</b>
2010 Lottery Credit	\$79.30
2010 First Dollar Credit	\$62.89



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