

Summer Property Tax Information ♦ July 1, 2007

Christina L. Lirones, Treasurer, Pittsfield Charter Township

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Property tax payments must be received in the Township Treasurer's Office by 5:00 pm, September 14, 2007 to avoid penalty and interest.

Dear Fellow Taxpayer,

Our Township is secure & thriving, even in a challenging economy. Fiscal prudence by our Board and careful investment by the Treasurer's Office have increased our reserve funds. I have added security systems to our checking account, and also added collateralized investments to our portfolio, for safety with a high yield.

Our resources have provided community improvements: Marsh View Meadows Park in the Pittsfield Preserve, next to the Township's new five million gallon water tank and booster station; installation of a new red, white, and blue play structure at the Administration Building; maintenance of our 750,000 gallon water tower; and installation of outdoor warning sirens. New parks have been added, and we are in the process of acquiring the former Hickory Woods golf course (46 acres between Ashford Village and Hickory Pointe subdivisions) for a public park.

Thank you for providing important financial resources for our community. By working together, we can maintain rock solid finances with low township taxes, while providing parks, public safety, and other services that make Pittsfield a wonderful place to live and work.

Feel free to call, email, or stop in. I hope you have a safe and happy summer.

***Christina L. Lirones, Treasurer
Pittsfield Charter Township***

Our mailing address is: Treasurer's Office, Pittsfield Charter Township, 6201 W. Michigan Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48108. Office hours are: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Postmarks are not accepted as the date of payment; the date of payment is the date the payment is received by the Treasurer's Office.

The Treasurer's drop box is located in the wall to the right of the Township Administration Building entry door, off the parking lot at 6201 W. Michigan Ave. Payments placed in the drop box are received the next business day.

Checks returned unpaid after September 14 will result in additional charges: a 1% late charge and a fee for the returned check, added to the amount of the tax bill.

Summer 2007 Property Taxes

There are no Pittsfield Township property taxes on this bill. As Treasurer, I collect and distribute property taxes for a number of other entities. All Pittsfield residents pay County, Washtenaw Community College (WCC), Washtenaw Intermediate School District (ISD), and State Education taxes. As a property owner, you also pay taxes that are levied for the school district in which you live (Ann Arbor, Saline, or Milan school district). Ann Arbor and Saline school district residents also pay district library taxes. The Saline school district also levies its own recreation millage (CARES). The local Treasurer collects these funds, and then distributes them to the different taxing authorities. These funds are not kept for the Township's operation.

County Tax Collection Update

The State of Michigan is requiring local Treasurers to collect County operating

taxes in July instead of December. This does not increase your County tax, but it will be collected earlier in the year. This is the last year of the three year phased shift. The shift this year places 100% of the County operating tax on the summer bill.

You will still see several County millages on your winter tax bill, even after the entire operating millage is shifted. The County millages on the winter bill are: Natural Area Preservation, Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (metro-parks), County Parks, and the new Enhanced Emergency Communications System (.2 mill) approved in May, 2006.

Deferments for Eligible Taxpayers

Township property taxpayers may defer payment of summer and winter taxes until April 30, without penalty or interest, if their household income for the preceding year did not exceed \$40,000 and they are:

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

Agricultural property may qualify for a summer only deferment (to Feb. 14) if the gross receipts of the farming operation are not less than the household income of the owner for the preceding year.

If you qualify for deferment and wish to apply, please contact our office for a deferment form. Our staff will assist you with the form, which must be submitted no later than September 14, 2007.

Property Tax Information On-Line

For current tax and assessing information,

visit www.pittsfieldtwp.org. Click on "Links" on the blue toolbar, then "Pittsfield Township Assessment Data – 2007." A data screen will pop up. Don't log in; select "Assessing" or "Current Tax" on the sidebar, then click on "Search" information displayed.

You may locate information through address, owner's name, or parcel number. Taxes due and paid for the past several years are displayed. Property tax information is updated daily, and comes directly from the Township's database.

Electronic Payment of Utility Bills

A new payment option for secure, no-fee automatic debit from a customer's bank account is under consideration for Township rubbish and water/sewer bills. This will provide convenience and assure receipt of the early payment discount. Email lironesc@pittsfieldtwp.org if you are interested in this new payment option.

Reserves Grow, Tax Rate Is Stable

Pittsfield's 2006 audit shows a year end surplus of \$876,931.00 in the General Fund. Tight control of spending and sound investments have resulted in a positive trend: Pittsfield ended 2005 with a surplus of \$848,487.00, and ended 2004 with a surplus of \$754,708.00. General Fund Reserves are \$8.8 million, up from nearly \$8 million in 2005 and \$7.1 million in 2004. Healthy reserves in this and other funds help us plan for new public buildings, fire equipment, and parks to maintain our wonderful quality of life. Pittsfield's General Obligation bond rating is A+. Pittsfield's property tax rate has remained stable at 5.195 mills since 2002.

Supervisor James R. Walter:	822-3136
Clerk Feliziana Meyer:	822-3120
Treasurer Christina Lirones:	822-3140
Police and Fire Services:	944-4911
Parks & Recreation:	822-2120
Utilities Billing:	822-3105