

UP FRONT



Newsletter from John A. Cunningham, Kane County Clerk

DISCOVERING YOUR PROPERTY TAXES HAVE BEEN SOLD AT TAX SALE

Illinois State Statute states that after the County holds its Annual Tax Sale property owners must be notified no later than 4 1/2 months after the tax sale. This notice is called a "Take Notice". The majority of tax buyers choose to send the Take Notice out in January or February by certified mail.

Approximately one quarter of take notices sent out are returned due to insufficient address, no longer at the address or property owner did not pick up at post office in a timely manner.

To be proactive this year, Kane County Treasurer,

David Rickert and Kane County Clerk, John A. Cunningham decided to send out a "Courtesy Letter" to the property owners of parcels sold at tax sale by regular mail within two weeks after the tax sale.

As a result of the "Courtesy Letter" the county's redemptions collected were up 1% in November and December from the prior year.

Needless to say this practice will continue in future years.

PAYMENT OF DELINQUENT TAXES

Payment must be paid by either cash, cashier's check or money order. Checks are to be made payable to the Kane County Clerk. The parcel number MUST be on the check. Prior to making payment please call the Redemption Department at 630/232-5964 for the correct amount of payment. If the payment is incorrect your payment will be returned to you.

“TAX CAPS”

Use Of This Phrase Can Be Misleading

The Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) commonly known as the “Tax Cap” became effective in 1991. The “Tax Cap” is very misleading to the general public. Property owners are under the impression that their individual property taxes are capped. That is not the case.

The “Tax Cap” (PTELL) is designed to limit increases in the property tax extensions for non-home rule taxing districts.

Each non-home rule taxing district is limited to the lesser of 5% or the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the tax year. The CPI is a national measure of inflation.

What this means to the homeowner is that every taxing district (excluding home rule districts) on your tax bill can increase their tax extension (the money they received the prior year) for the coming year the amount of inflation minus new construction, annexations to the districts and voter approved increases. Any bond debt is not subject to PTELL.

The misconception is that property owners individual real estate tax bill is CAPPED, that is not the case. It is the Taxing Districts extensions which are capped.

If you would like more information on how real estate taxes are calculated go to The Kane County Clerk’s web page and download the IACCR Tax manual.

SENIOR CITIZEN EXEMPTION

If you or your spouse turned 65 in 2013 you are eligible for the Senior Citizen exemption on your real estate bill and may also qualify for the Senior Freeze Exemption. Contact the Supervisor of Assessments office at 630/208-3818 to request the forms to apply or go online to download forms at www.kanecountyassessments.org

“UP FRONT”

“UP FRONT”, a bi-monthly newsletter will be posted on the Kane County Clerk’s website. www.co.kane.il.us/COC/ If you prefer to receive newsletter via e mail, please contact Susan at: ericsonsusan@co.kane.il.us

ECONOMIC INTEREST STATEMENTS 2014

The unit of government filing period is drawing to a close. All units must have their list of filers submitted to the Kane County Clerk no later than February 3, 2014. When all units have reported, the filing phase of the program will begin. Filers will be sent their 2014 Statement of Economic Interests notification no later than April 1, 2014 via email or letter. If an email has been provided for the filer, they will be able to file using our online system, otherwise the filer will be mailed a paper statement. All statements must be filed by May 1, 2014. Statements received after May 1, 2014 will be subject to a late filing fee. If you have any questions, please contact Ayesha Tague at 630-232-5950.



RESEARCHING YOUR LINEAGE?

THE KANE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE CAN HELP!

The life events that will be made available have to have taken place in Kane County, Illinois. Birth records will be available if the document is 85 years or older; death records will be available if the record is 20 years or more; and marriage certificates will be available if the couple has been married 50 or more years. Access our site at: <http://genealogy.kanecountyclerk.org/> The site will be up and running March 1, 2014.

JO FREDELL HIGGINS RESEARCHES HER 9TH BOOK “LEGENDARY LOCALS: GENEVA”

Jo Fredell Higgins is an award winning writer, essayist, photographer, historian, and humanitarian.

Her book will include 140 Geneva leaders, past and present. Such leaders as the Arbizzani family, Kent Shodeen, Police Chief Steve Mexin, Gower Champion, Jack Cunningham, the Peck family, Terry Emma, Merritt King, Steve Cooper, John Christian Salon, Mike Simon of the Little Traveler, and Nancy Temple will be included.

Geneva has a rich history beginning with French explorer Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet who discovered the Geneva area in 1673.

Anyone who knows a current leader or a Geneva family who has contributed to the life of the Geneva community, please contact Jo Fredell Higgins by phone at 630/851-4401, on her Facebook page or e mail her at: poetrylady45@yahoo.com.

Passport Corner

Recent Postal rate increases have increased the cost of some costs related to expediting passports.

The new cost to have the passport returned with overnight service is \$14.85.

The new cost for an Express Mail stamp is \$19.99. (Those have to be purchased at a post office and brought in if the applicant wants to fully expedite the application).

See our website for more passport details: www.co.kane.il.us/coc/Records/Passports/

INCOME TAX TIME

DO YOU NEED YOUR PARCEL NUMBER?

To find your parcel number first look on your Real Estate Tax Bill. If that is not available go on line to the Kane County Treasurer's web site or contact the Supervisor of Assessments office at 630/208-3818.

ELECTION CENTRAL

GENERAL PRIMARY - MARCH 18, 2014

GENERAL ELECTION - NOVEMBER 4, 2014

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

Kane County residents (excluding City of Aurora Residents) can verify their voter registration by visiting the Kane County Clerk's website at <http://kanecountyelections.org>.

In order to verify your voter registration you will need three pieces of information— Last Name; House Number; and Street Name.

The lookup system will display your voter registration information including Registration Status, Precinct, Polling Place, Voting Districts, and Sample Ballot.

If you find that you are not registered or the information is inaccurate you should contact the County Clerk's Office at (630) 232-5990. The County Clerk's Election Department can update your voter registration information and if you are not registered to vote they can help you get registered.

ABSENTEE VOTING BEGINS

ON

February 6, 2014

Absentee voting may take place in person only at the Clerk's Office or by mail. Please contact the Clerk's Office at (630) 232-5990, or visit our website, kanecountyelections.org for more information.

EARLY VOTING BEGINS

ON

MARCH 3, 2014

Please visit our website, kanecountyelections.org, for early voting locations and other information.

REGULAR VOTER REGISTRATION ENDS ON
FEBRUARY 18, 2014.

AND

GRACE PERIOD

FOR VOTER REGISTRATION BEGINS ON
FEBRUARY 19, 2014.

During the grace period, residents can register or change address only at the Kane County Clerk's Office. A resident who registers during grace period may only vote in person at the Clerk's Office at the time of registration.

NEW LAW

SAYS!!!

If you are 17 years old and you will turn 18 before the November General Election, then you are eligible to vote in the Primary Election as a 17 year old.

Please contact the Clerk's Office at (630) 232-5990 for more information.