

Presorted
Standard
U. S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1
Fulton, IL
61252

Current Resident



City of Fulton
415 11th Avenue
Fulton, IL 61252

Quarterly Newsletter

April 2011

Issue 16

www.cityoffulton.us

815-589-2616 phone

815-589-4421 fax

City of Fulton
415 11th Avenue
Fulton, IL 61252

Sales Tax Increase

Residents: Effective July 1, 2011, the City of Fulton will increase the sales tax from 6.25% to 7%. The 3/4% increase will generate an additional \$200,000 est. a year to be used for infrastructure improvements. Voters approved the sales tax referendum in November 2010.

Businesses: The new combined sales tax rate (*i.e.*, state and local sales taxes) will be preprinted on Line 4a of Forms ST-1, Sales and Use Tax Return, or ST-2, Multiple Site Form. You must adjust your cash register and any computer program so that beginning on July 1, 2011, you will collect and pay the correct sales tax. You need to contact your software vendor if you use software to create your forms.

What is Taxed? The same items of general merchandise reported on Line 4a of Forms ST-1 and ST-2 that are subject to state sales tax are also subject to the locally imposed sales tax. Locally imposed sales tax does **not** apply to sales of qualifying food, drugs, and medical appliances that are reported on Line 5a of Forms ST -1 and ST-2; or, items that must be titled or registered by an agency of Illinois state government and reported on Form ST-556, Sales Tax Transaction Return.

Capital Infrastructure Plan - City staff is working on a capital infrastructure plan generated by the increase in sales tax. Roadwork last year was funded from the IL Dept. of Transportation and the federal stimulus package. Fulton's roadwork came under bid, so the city requested some of the savings be used to start a Geographic Information System (GIS). Aerial photos were shot last November.

The system will include detailed information on streets, water distribution, sewer distribution, storm water distribution and zoning. From this data, the city will be able to target which streets will receive updating and create a priority list that will be used as a guide for years to come. The city will also evaluate the water and sewer systems beneath the roads. Per ordinance, the increase in sales tax revenue can only be used for the infrastructure work listed above.

Mayor's Report

Your City Council voted unanimously to hold our tax rates the same for another year. This is being done despite increased costs for fuel and basic commodities. In addition, the city will receive a 10% drop in state revenue sharing due to a decline in our census population. In balancing the budget, the Council accepted proposals from staff to cut costs across all departments.

Good progress has been made in managing our infrastructure and revitalizing our historic downtown. The critical issue of replacing aging Well #4 on the south side of town will be addressed in the next newsletter and future council meetings.

Mayor Russell

Electrical Aggregation Update

In November 2010, Fulton voters decided to allow the city to seek bids for electric supply. The City of Fulton will be the first in the state of Illinois to take advantage of this new law. Fulton is working closely with the Illinois Commerce Commission and our state officials, including Senator Mike Jacobs. In April, 19 more Illinois communities passed referendums to “shop around” for utility providers including Erie, Polo, Milledgeville and Mt. Morris.

Electric suppliers are now contacting the City of Fulton and asking to submit bids. The suppliers understand that our goal is to ensure savings to our citizens. The City of Fulton has worked closely with our city attorney and consultant, Rock River Energy Services, to draw up an ordinance and confidentiality agreement. The more cities and counties that come on board, the stronger our effect will be to solicit power from electric producers.

Each community can customize a plan that will best suit their respective needs. So, what will happen next?

1. The city will continue to sign confidentiality agreements with qualified power producers. This protects account information and data.
2. The city will receive indicative pricing from these suppliers. The city may then consider a quote to discover potential savings.

3. The city will host two public hearings on Thursday, April 28, 2011. The first meeting will start at 3pm and the second will start at 6pm. Both meetings will be held in the city council chambers at City Hall. The city, if the process has moved sufficiently along, may consider a potential supplier at the public hearing.
4. If the city chooses a supplier, the information will be sent to all residents and small businesses involved. The information letter will clearly state the savings being offered and the OPT OUT FORM if the resident does not want to participate.

The Fulton City Council has stated it will only act if there is a savings to the citizens of Fulton. ComEd has been very helpful in this aggregation process and supports the City of Fulton pursuing lower costs for power. Despite what company would be chosen to supply power, ComEd will continue to service the system, read meters and maintain the infrastructure.

Downtown Historical Grant

The City of Fulton has received a \$60,000 state grant (\$10,000 city match) to do the following work:

- Apply for a National Register Historic District designation.
- Conduct a workshop on the possible financial incentives for such a district
- Recommend an overall streetscape plan, which will include green space design.
- Recommend alley improvements between 4th Street and 3rd Street.
- Work on a schematic design for the Blecha building (former Bud’s IGA lost to fire)

Fulton Police Department

The Fulton Police Department would like to remind the motorist, especially in the downtown area, of the State Law in Illinois to “Stop for Pedestrians in Crosswalks”. Pedestrian signs have been installed on 4th Street in the downtown area. The Illinois Vehicle Code states, “The driver of a vehicle shall stop and yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk, when the pedestrian is upon the half of the roadway which the vehicle is traveling, or when the pedestrian is approaching so closely from the opposite half of the roadway as to be in danger.” Unless there are pedestrians present, drivers do not have to stop. Officers will be stepping up enforcement in this area and the fine for violating this law is \$120.00.

As a reminder, the “Handicap Parking Only” spaces have been updated with the new fine amounts for violating this state law. Each violation is now \$250.00 dollars.

Fulton Events (May thru July)

May 5	Reagan Marker Dedication
May 6 & 7	Dutch Days Festival
May 7	Dedication of Dutch Monument
May 14	Plant Sale
May 15	Crop Walk
May 17	Interpreting Gravestones Program
May 28	Cemetery Walk
June 5	Blessing of the Bikes
June 9	Fulton Summer Nights
June 16	Golf Tournament
June 23	Bridal Walk
June 30	Ireland Travelogue Program
July 9 & 10	Whiteside County Barn Tour
July 14	Fulton Summer Nights
July 27	Irish Music Program
July 31	Fulton Day @ LumberKings Game

For more details, visit www.cityoffulton.us

Register Your Dog

Any owner of a dog four months or more of age which is not officially inoculated against rabies OR registered with Whiteside County is subject to a fine of at least two hundred dollars. For those who choose to use a veterinary clinic outside of Whiteside County, please be aware they do **NOT** carry Whiteside County tags. In order to be in compliance you need to send a copy of the rabies certificate along with the registration fee and state differential fee (if your dog is not spayed or neutered). All residents of Whiteside County have 30 days to vaccinate and register their dog or they are assessed a \$20 late fee. For more information, contact Whiteside County Animal Control at 815-625-3507.

Reminders

- Burn Barrels are not permissible within the city limits of Fulton, IL. Residents may burn yard waste only on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 6am to 6pm.
- You may also place your yard waste in a specially designated 30 gallon garbage can marked with an “X” or paper bags at your regular trash pick-up site every Tuesday by 6am. Yard waste pick-up resumes April 5 and will conclude November 29.
- City Ordinance requires that you clean-up immediately after your dog or cat if they defecate on any property, public or private, other than your own. Violators will be subject to a \$50 fine. If you are a dog owner, please be courteous of your barking dog. Nuisance fines can be issued.