



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CLARE CITY TREASURER

City of Clare Internet Site: On August 21, 2009 a completely updated Internet site was made available that includes a tremendous amount of information and services for the community. The most significant addition to our already comprehensive site is the inclusion of the entire City Commission packet for the upcoming meeting along with an archive of past meetings. This level of governmental transparency will help the community remain informed at the convenience of your personal computer. It is important to note that the availability of this information on the City's Internet site is in addition to all other sources of communication/distribution that has already been available to the public which will continue to be used.

The City of Clare's updated Internet site also includes: an expanded availability of forms to request city services; all published public notices; the entire City Charter and Code of Ordinances; a summary version of the complete City Budget by fund and activity; current and historical assessing, property taxation, utility use and building permit information for all properties in the City of Clare; contact information for the City Commission; committee and board descriptions and a listing of members; contact information for all city departments; current and archived city newsletters; and city utility and refuse collection information including curbside recycling guides. We encourage you visit the City of Clare's updated Internet site at: www.cityofclare.org.

Road Millage Renewal: On November 3, 2009 the electors of the City of Clare are being asked to renew the City's $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mill road millage. This five-year millage was first passed by the residents of the City of Clare in the late 1980's and it has made a **significant** difference in the City's ability to resurface and improve the roadways within the City of Clare. The City has augmented these dedicated millage funds, which are levied on both business and residential property, to complete numerous street improvements within the City over the past several years. For instance, in the past couple of years three blocks of E. State Street were completely rebuilt; several blocks of Maple Street, First Street, Hemlock, Fourth Street and Wilcox Parkway have been resurfaced and/or reconstructed as the condition of the roadway warranted and funds became available.

Without the voter approved road millage funds these projects and several others would have been delayed or significantly reduced as the funds available for road maintenance from the State of Michigan and other sources has been substantially reduced in recent years. It is very important to note that the cost to property owners of the City is relatively low. For instance, in 2009 the annual cost for a homeowner for the road millage was \$37.14 based upon a home with a market value of \$100,000. The City Commission and Staff consider the passage of this millage request crucial to continue our efforts in maintaining and improving the roads within the City.

Municipal Accounting and Budgeting: Beginning with our next "From the Office of the Clare City Treasurer" article we will begin an article series on municipal accounting and budgeting. The purpose of the article series is to assist the community in understanding why city government is required to have separate funds and accounting for roads, water, sewer and all other specific functions of government. We will outline governmental accounting rules and policies in addition to discussing accounting/finance subjects specific to the City of Clare. If there is a particular topic or subject that you would like to learn more about please feel encouraged to send me an e-mail message or stop into City Hall to discuss your question(s). Though the City of Clare is relatively small our accounting and financial management is reasonably complex so it should be an interesting article series.

If you have any questions concerning this month's Treasurer's article or any other City of Clare finance or property tax matter we encourage you to call (386-7541, extension 107), stop by City Hall or if it is more convenient send me an e-mail message at skingsbury@cityofclare.org.