

How are your Property Taxes?

Brian K Verheyden BCTA

We all get our notice at the end of year. It is too late to do anything now, do we shrug our shoulders? Do we complain, or is there something more we can do? Yes, there is much more!

Property taxes don't just magically appear, they are created by our local levels of Government. Most will have four main taxing entities on your property tax bill. The City, Village or Township you live in, Brown County, Public School District, and the Technical Colleges.

Officials go through a budget planning process that involves public input and learning sessions. Debate and changes occur along the way. Ultimately they are voted on by a board or council. It is while these decisions are being made that we can make a difference.

2019 property tax collections in Brown County totaled over \$448 Million. More details are on page 3.

2019 Local Property Tax Dollars

City, Village, or Township	\$ 142.8 Million
Brown County	\$ 92.1 Million
Public School Districts	\$ 195.8 Million
Technical Colleges	\$ 17.1 Million
2019 Total	\$ 448.2 Million

As you can see, the amounts on your property tax bill add up to a serious amount of Money, a burden on all property owners.

All the but the NWTC board are elected officials. This spring most of those officials are up for election. Contact your local officials and weigh in on the amount of spending and taxation. Contact your friends and neighbors to get them to voice their concerns. A few people can be heard and make a difference. They can let our local officials know that people are paying attention.

Wisconsin's Spring **Primary is Tuesday, February 18th.** This is a non partisan election. The races that have multiple candidates are thinned down in the Primary. **Spring Election is then Tuesday, April 7th.** County Board Supervisors, City Alderperson, Village Trustees, Town Board Supervisors, and School Board Members will be on the ballot.

It is up to you to become informed and make the best decision possible.

Good Luck!

Brian

"In levying taxes and in shearing sheep it is well to stop when you get down to the skin."

Austin O'Malley

NOVEMBER MEETING NOTES

Darryl Carlson, a Director of No Better Friend Corp., a 501(c)4 political non-profit advocacy organization that Kevin Nicholson started back in May, spoke about the organization and its mission.

Darryl is one of a handful of full time No Better Friend staffers that worked on Kevin Nicholson's 2018 campaign for U.S. Senate. Kevin and Darryl served in the Marine Corps. The other Director, Mario Herrera, was also a Marine.

How they got their name: If you're familiar with the Marine Corps, you will understand how Kevin came up with the motto, no better friend, no worse enemy as a basis for their name.

Their mission is advocating for market-based policies at the state and national levels. They are doing that by operating under five pillars:

The first pillar is economic growth, which obviously hits to the heart of this group. They conduct educational forums.

The second pillar is education, supporting charter schools and educational choice.

The third pillar is health care, with clear and transparent costs.

The fourth pillar is pro-life, promoting this culture and caring for babies after birth.

The fifth pillar is having a strong national defense, with clear objectives.

Kevin is the president and CEO of the group and its founder. He is a volunteer who does not take a paycheck. His schedule is packed pretty much 24/7 and he has three

little kids. Their vice president and special advisor is Jessie Nicholson, his wife, also a volunteer. She doesn't collect a paycheck, but she's very active in the organization. She helps with ideas and contacts.

Marty Webber, a resident of the northeast part of the City of Green Bay, expressed his concerns about Brown County trying to buy the Eagle's Nest on Nicolet Drive for a boat ramp. The property has been sitting vacant for several years. He stated that the restaurant and the three residential rental units combined are paying the City of Green Bay \$45,000 a year in property taxes.

If Brown County was to acquire this property, it would come off the tax rolls, reducing property tax revenues by \$45,000 annually.

Several developers have expressed interest in purchasing the property and putting up higher-end condominiums which would probably generate upwards of \$200,000 a year in property taxes.

Mr. Webber said he reached out to every Brown County Board Supervisor, asking them how they could justify this action. No one has responded to him yet.

He stated that Brown County applied for a grant through the DNR, a Knowles Stewardship Grant, back in August. He believes they were recently awarded the grant, although the amount hasn't been announced.

The grant cannot be more than 50 percent of the acquisition costs of the property. The latest appraisal that the County requested is said to be \$1.2 million. The County then would have to come up with the balance of the acquisition funds, \$600,000. It appears that additional property would need to be purchased for parking for the boat ramp.

Spending the kind of money for a boat ramp just doesn't make sense to Mr. Webber.

Dave Nelson - Secretary

THINGS THAT MAKE US WONDER.

We assume you have all received your property tax statements, and carefully checked the math and compared it with last year's bill. Some of you have even made payment in order to take advantage of a tax deduction.

Meanwhile, elected officials and department heads have gone over their want lists and started work on the next year's budget for approval. Fortunately, the vast majority of our elected officials realize the burden of taxes on property owners. In addition, there are public meetings held where budget items can be explained and approved by the public.

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It is still too early to tell how the impeachment brought about by the Democratic Party's interests against President Trump will finally end. Their party may take the credit or blame for any consequences which may occur. However, the integrity of our entire system may be at stake. For starters, our

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2019 Brown County Property Tax Collections

Municipality	Local Gov	County Tax Levy	Public School	Tech Colleges	Total Property Taxes
EATON	460,484	675,836	1,299,723	121,182	2,557,225
GLENMORE	499,756	533,853	1,037,737	94,791	2,166,136
GREEN BAY	384,855	1,071,761	2,185,149	204,435	3,846,200
HOLLAND	507,290	730,330	1,397,449	152,900	2,877,969
HUMBOLDT	168,700	488,522	1,049,728	93,149	1,800,099
LAWRENCE	1,602,500	2,999,343	6,159,418	532,231	11,293,492
LEDGEVIEW	2,971,109	4,302,475	8,809,900	764,288	17,194,156
MORRISON	569,172	618,466	1,434,569	112,884	2,735,090
NEW DENMARK	437,448	765,217	1,424,755	135,838	2,763,258
PITTSFIELD	815,000	1,190,488	2,221,215	216,288	4,442,991
ROCKLAND	491,190	991,708	1,991,458	175,906	3,650,262
SCOTT	816,754	1,611,220	3,733,360	307,383	6,468,717
WRIGHTSTOWN	562,086	1,022,471	1,863,724	181,388	3,669,239
ALLOUEZ	6,898,008	4,163,202	9,723,497	800,576	21,585,283
ASHWAUBENON	16,331,554	10,029,209	18,752,941	1,817,690	46,931,394
BELLEVUE	4,083,484	5,855,261	13,413,745	1,109,189	24,461,678
DENMARK	816,222	765,962	1,435,978	136,908	3,155,070
HOBART	6,559,635	3,188,956	6,147,084	575,377	16,471,052
HOWARD	7,946,892	7,755,250	15,708,211	1,409,204	32,819,557
PULASKI	1,934,031	845,460	1,590,630	154,898	4,525,019
SUAMICO	6,664,164	5,541,046	11,194,674	1,006,854	24,406,738
WRIGHTSTOWN	1,894,943	980,228	1,784,233	173,898	4,833,302
DE PERE	16,931,655	8,917,617	18,883,180	1,623,371	46,355,823
GREEN BAY	62,418,565	27,016,172	62,585,121	5,152,895	157,172,753
Totals	142,765,496	92,060,053	195,827,478	17,053,522	448,182,502

2018 Final Statement of Taxes, revenue.wi.gov/slfreportscotvc/2018sotbrown.pdf

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Congress has been completely tied up, and unable to work effectively with other important business while rules for proceeding by the inquisitors and the Kangaroo Court are hashed out.

More disturbing, however, is the negative effect on our usually cordially and effective two-party system. Not that Democrats and

Republicans have never had differences. It just seems that in the not too distant past, legislation was passed based on its merits and value to the country: not necessarily along party lines or leadership mandates. Understandably, they don't care for Pres. Trump. He was elected by a slim margin after they had Hillary's victory celebration party all planned. He is admittedly an

embarrassment at times and has made mistakes, but things get done. No different than any of our other recent Presidents placed in a most difficult and responsible job. In the meantime, the rest of the world just watches and wonders.

We do not want to end up with a one-party political system which

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has led to the downfall of many other countries. The ballot box may still be a better choice than plan B.

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It seems the catalyst which started this entire impeachment debacle had to do with Joe Biden's son and some Ukrainian defense money deal. This is what we have been told, but there could possibly be more to the story.

Presently, Ukraine is an independent country slightly smaller than our state of Texas, with a population of over 40 million. It was once part of the Soviet Union but became independent when the Soviet Union broke up. Apparently, Russia would like Ukraine back, by military means if necessary, as Ukraine is rich in resources and is strategically located next to Europe. What hasn't been explained is which President, or under what circumstances \$400M in defense money in the first place.

Our relationships with Russia have rather touch and go for years, but couldn't be giving Ukraine defense money be a hostile act

which could lead to unpleasant results. Sometimes the mindsets of politicians ignore common sense.

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Several thousand Wisconsin residents had apparently been removed from the voter records due to lack of participation in elections and other reasons. It is also a way of keeping people from voting in two places if they move, and keeping the records up to date. It should also serve as a reminder that all elections are important, not just the one for President.

* * * * *

There is no doubt that the invention of the telephone will go down in history as one of the greatest inventions ever. In addition to allowing people all over the world to communicate with each other, subsequent but related inventions such as the cellphone, internet, and many more have been developed and adopted for universal use.

As with any great innovation, subsequent problems can arise. The cellphone is great for communication when landlines are not practical but never intended for use by the driver of a speeding car which has led to many accidents.

There is nothing more annoying than constant calls from unknown parties soliciting donations of your hard-earned money, requesting your vote, or even an outright scam fishing for

personnel information or threatening your privacy. While the best answer for this is a phone with ID enabling you to ignore unknown callers or to leave a message.

Whatever happened to the "DO NOT CALL LIST"?

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Some economists have claimed that if we would ease up on raising tariffs on goods purchased from China, they would reciprocate and buy more goods from us. While this may be true, so many of our domestic manufacturers have already shipped production equipment and "American know-how" to China with their cheap labor. Unfortunately, we might not have much left to sell them.

This can be blamed on a lot of reasons, primarily the high cost of producing goods in this country, and the need and desire to maximize profits: Concerns which do not seem to be a problem for anyone living in China.

* * * * *

Wisconsin has always been regarded as a highly-taxed state in which to live, the reason many residents retire to the south. Could it be they prefer they prefer hurricane over blizzards? Each state has its own system of paying bills, and one is as bad or undesirable as the other.

Here in Wisconsin, we have a new administration with a

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www.BCTAxpayers.Org
for Details.**

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DECEMBER MEETING NOTES

Tom Petri, State Legislative Director for U.S. Senator Ron Johnson, spoke about his work in the Senator's office and how communications with the Senator's office work.

Senator Johnson is Chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee and also a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Europe & Regional Security Cooperation. These responsibilities cause him to be involved in several Ukraine issues.

Tom did not work on Senator Johnson's 2010 campaign. He started working for him in the Milwaukee office as his Southeast Wisconsin Regional Director a couple of weeks after the Senator was inaugurated in early 2011. In the summer of 2011, Tom moved to Washington DC to work in the Senator's office there. In the summer of 2016, Tom returned to Wisconsin to work on the Senator's reelection campaign. And then they opened the Madison office where Tom works now.

As State Legislative Director, Tom is the Senator's direct liaison to the business community in the state to constituents who have problems or questions or just need some help with legislative matters (a question about an

immigration piece of legislation) versus strict constituent services matters (help with a visa). He is also the liaison with the DC staff.

During times of intense scrutiny on partisan issues (Obamacare repeal, tax cut bill, Kavanaugh, impeachment), the Madison office can get several hundred phone calls daily.

The office receives a lot of calls from people who have problems with a government agency like the EPA. Those go to individual casework staffers either in Oshkosh, Milwaukee or Madison, and then they get assigned to you to call you back and you are treated like a case there.

If a call goes to voicemail, the voicemail gets pulled off by an intern. The information you leave including name, address and phone number is recorded. Your information is entered into the system and attached to a log that goes to the Senator at the end of every day. If you asked for a callback or if you asked for a particular person to call you back, you will receive a callback.

A lot of people call and don't leave their phone numbers, and many don't even leave their names. Without call back information, the office cannot respond to their issues.

Dave Nelson - Secretary

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completely different philosophy, set of revenue and spending priorities than we had in the past to live with. We still need highways and prisons and schools. Any suggestions to the governor are sure to be appreciated.

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As usual, plenty of things to wonder about.

Things That Make Us Wonder

consists of taxpayer related thoughts that occur to us from daily news events. We use reliable published information and statistics. Some items are not worth commenting about while others could be expanded to full-length feature articles and study to protect our interests as taxpayers. We try to cover a wide variety of subjects in limited space and sometimes will put a different spin on a subject than you read in the papers or see on TV. We acknowledge the views we present may be contrary to that of some of our readers. One of our purposes is to encourage discussion

and debate and we realize there are two sides to every question. Comments and suggestions are welcome.

Jim Frink - BCTA

"All people are born alike --except Republicans and Democrats."

Groucho Marx

Monthly Meetings @ The Village Grille

Monthly meetings are held at **The Village Grille, corner of Hoffman and East River Drive, Allouez.** The location has no stairs or steps, convenient parking, and a room to better accommodate speakers and conversation. There will be three selections from which to choose lunch - each one will be priced at \$12 (including tip.) Lunch is at 12:00 noon with monthly speakers presenting.

The TAX TIMES

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Meeting Location

The Village Grille, Allouez

BCTA Meeting and Events Schedule – MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

Thursday - Jan 16, 2020 BCTA Monthly Meeting.
12:00 at The Village Grille, Allouez
Speaker - Brett Healy of MacIver Institute

Tuesday - Feb 18, 2020 Spring Primary - Go Vote

Thursday - Feb 20, 2020 BCTA Monthly Meeting.
12:00 at The Village Grille, Allouez

BCTA monthly meetings are held the Third Thursday of each month, 12:00 Noon, at , at The Village Grille, Allouez.

Meetings are open to the public. BCTA Members, their guests and other interested parties are cordially invited to attend and participate in our open discussions.

COST: \$12.00, Payable at meeting. Includes lunch, tax & tip.
Call Tom Sladek – 499-7701 for information or to leave message.

Jan - Feb 2020



www.BCTAxpayers.Org
