

I hope all of you are enjoying this summer weather as much as I am. Having the chance to be outdoors and walk around the Village, always brings me a sense of pride. I am grateful to you for your continued efforts in making this community a great place to live and enjoy – especially in the sunshine.

With that being said, some of you may be aware that the village will be placing an issue on this upcoming Nov. 6 ballot to address the state of our roads and infrastructure. I'm sure many of you have realized that our roads are not in the best condition and need some help. The proposed solution, consisting of a 0.25 percent earned income tax increase, will provide the funds needed to revive our Village's aging infrastructure.

Our Village has aged (gracefully!) over the years, but it is, nonetheless, starting to show the wear and tear of everyday operations. Some serious issues have arisen as a result of our 80-year-old infrastructure, including the poor condition of storm sewer lines, water lines and roads. These concerns stem from the fact that the village has not placed a tax increase on the ballot for roads or infrastructure in more than 35 years. If the tax increase does not pass, these assets will become even worse and require even more drastic repairs, that we cannot afford.

We have been able to survive on our 1 percent income tax because of the abundant industry located in the Village. We are thankful every day for the success of the businesses in our Village. Other major factors in our survival have been the immense expense-cutting measures we have taken. Since 2013, our cost cutting effects have saved the village nearly \$1,800,000.00. We have aggressively identified any savings avenues, and cut where appropriate, while keeping our community safe and clean.

The Village currently holds a 1 percent income tax rate – a much lower rate than other surrounding towns.

The earned income tax increase, if passed, will be required of anyone who earns a paycheck and is a village resident. This increase will also be paid by the thousands of employees that come here each day to work, but don't reside in the Village. Additionally, businesses would also pay the tax on net profits.

Social security benefits, pensions and any other retirement income is not subject to this earned income tax. Unemployment benefits would not be taxed and anyone under the age of 18 earning a paycheck will receive a full refund of the income tax.

As I have said before, I encourage all eligible voters to make their voices heard on the ballot. Your vote is important, as it is our shared responsibility to shape our community for ourselves and future generations. Thank you!

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