

**Christine J. Johnson
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1, 2020

*Please note: The DeKalb County Administration Building is closed due to the shelter-in-place order from the state. Tax Payments may be made online, at a local bank, or by mail.

Christine J. Johnson, DeKalb County Treasurer, mailed 42,968 DeKalb County real estate tax bills on Friday, May 1, 2020. This year's bill is being mailed in a letter-size envelope. The envelope is clearly identified with the phrase "This is Your Tax Bill" in large, white letters highlighted in a green box on the front. Taxpayers only receive one bill per year with two payment stubs. Bills have been printed, processed and mailed using a first class, presort rate permit saving taxpayers money and improving office efficiency.

The Treasurer's office will be collecting a total dollar amount of \$229,607,685.37. A breakdown of this total is:

DeKalb County	\$23,526,276.42	10.25 percent
Forest Preserve	\$1,637,121.25	.71 percent
Townships	\$9,759,811.64	4.25 percent
School Districts	\$137,970,610.59	60.09 percent
Community College Districts	\$13,821,815.90	6.02 percent
Cities and Villages	\$15,881,153.87	6.92 percent
Park Districts	\$9,006,305.50	3.92 percent
Library Districts	\$5,192,169.59	2.26 percent
Fire Districts	\$4,878,079.91	2.12 percent
TIF Districts	\$7,726,984.30	3.37 percent
Drainage Districts	\$207,356.40	.09 percent

With the DeKalb County Treasurer's Office being closed to the public through the duration of the State's shelter-in-place order, the Treasurer's Office continues to offer a wide variety of options to pay the 2019 Real Estate tax bill. "Payments may be made at a local bank, by mail, or online by debit card, credit card or a direct debit from your bank account. The payment mailing address is shown on the bill," Johnson said.

"To pay online, visit the County's website, dekalbcounty.org, scroll down and click the box with the red letters that says "Pay My Bill" on the homepage of the County's website. That link will direct users to the County's Property Tax Inquiry database and online payment interface," Johnson continued. "The Treasurer's office accepts Visa, Master Card, American Express, and Discover Card credit cards, and Visa and Master Card debit cards, as well as electronic check that is a direct debit from the taxpayer's account," said Johnson.

Please note that a convenience fee of 2.35%, which is charged by the credit card service provider, will be added for those wishing to charge their real estate taxes on their credit cards or MasterCard debit cards. For those using Visa debit cards, there is a convenience fee of \$3.95. The online payment service provider charges a \$1.00 convenience fee for electronic check direct debit payments. No portion of these fees are received by DeKalb County.

Taxpayers may also pay their taxes at most banks in DeKalb County during the bank's normal business hours, on or before the due date of the installment. Taxpayers should bring the entire tax bill to the bank and put their parcel number on their check. Banks cannot accept payments after the due date.

If paying by mail, taxpayers should make the check payable to DeKalb County Collector. Taxpayers should make sure to include their parcel number(s) on their check, make sure their check is signed, and that the numeric amount they have written matches the written-out dollar amount on the second line of their check.

Taxpayers should note that the payment stubs are located on the bottom of the bill. They should return either the first or second installment stub with the corresponding payment, or both stubs if they are paying both installments.

Taxpayers will notice that bar coding appears on the stubs. This feature will allow the Treasurer's Office to scan payments into the property tax collection system. This will decrease the time needed to post payments, which translates into funds being distributed to the taxing bodies more quickly. Taxpayers are asked not to mark on the payment stubs so that the bar coding remains readable.

The tax bill contains a Site Address. This is the actual location of the property. "This feature will assist taxpayers with multiple parcels in determining which bill is for which parcel," Johnson said.

The information printed to the right of the site address is the calculation of this year's tax bill. It displays the Equalized Assessed Value, itemizes exemptions, shows the tax rate, and provides the total bill amount. This is where taxpayers can check to make sure they have all the exemptions to which they are entitled. If a dollar figure is listed after the exemption name, the taxpayer is receiving that exemption.

Applying for exemptions on a timely basis can save taxpayers money. Taxpayers will notice that the Homestead Exemption Limited amount for properties that are owner-occupied is \$6,000, which provides an approximate savings of \$600 in taxes paid based on a 10.00% tax rate. In addition, the Senior Citizen Homestead Exemption for those 65 years of age and over is \$5,000, which provides an approximate savings of \$500 in taxes paid based on a 10.00% tax rate. Taxpayers may contact the Chief County Assessment Office to determine if any additional exemptions may apply to their bill.

The information just below the calculation information contains statutory data, required by law, to be included on the tax bill.

A useful piece of information found on the right side of the calculation information is the 2018 Equalized Assessed Value. Having this information will assist the taxpayer in determining what caused

their tax bill to change from the prior year. They can compare the Equalized Assessed Values, and the prior years and current year's tax rates to see what changed.

Drainage taxes are billed directly on the real estate tax bill. Drainage taxes are levied as a lump sum and are not included in the regular tax calculation.

Please examine your tax bill carefully upon receipt. Taxpayers should note that the bills are not due on the same dates each year. This year the first installment due date is June 5, 2020, and the second installment is due September 3, 2020. This is the only bill taxpayers will receive.

If you receive a bill for property you have sold, please mail the bill to the new owner.

If you have questions regarding your tax bill, please contact the DeKalb County Treasurer's Helpline at 815-895-7337, or visit our website at www.dekalbcounty.org. The DeKalb County Treasurer's Office is now on Facebook offering reminders, tips, and more. Visit us at facebook.com/DeKalbCountyILTreasurer.