



Newsletter

Volume 4-1 January 2009

Happy New Year 2009!

Special Meeting-

There will be a special council meeting on February 18th - 7:00 at City Hall.

The focus of the meeting will be to discuss public safety and possible traffic recommendations for the northeast part of Millwood specifically Empire Way and Fowler Road.

Traffic count data will be presented, testimony from residents, traffic experts, law enforcement, fire protection, and insurance professionals will be discussed.

I encourage you to attend even if you are not directly effected by this issue. Traffic coming off Trent and Argonne to avoid arterial congestion is an issue all over Millwood in any neighborhood near these major routes.

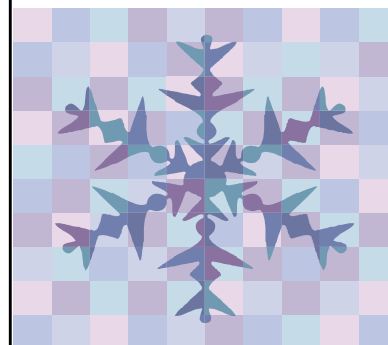
-Mayor Mork

Calendar of Events

January 19	Rev. Martin Luther King Day City Hall Closed
January 26,	Planning Commission Meeting 6:00 PM
February 2	Council meeting 7:00 PM
February 16	Presidents Day City Hall Closed
February 18	Special Meeting Traffic Safety-Fowler and Empire Way
February 23	Planning Commission Meeting 6:00 PM
March 2	City Council Meeting 7:00 PM
March 30	Planning Commission Meeting 6:00 PM
April 6	City Council Meeting 7:00 PM
April 27	Planning Commission Meeting 6:00 PM

Winter Notes

- ◆ **Snow removal**
Season- the City of Millwood plows all its streets when 4 inches of snow have accumulated. In addition when necessary icy conditions are promptly attended to with gravel / de-icing agents. Please keep the roadway clear when the streets are being plowed, this will insure you do less shoveling and the streets are safe.
- ◆ **Abandoned vehicles in the city right of way will be towed.**
- ◆ Remember to insulate your water meters, and protect exposed water lines from the winter weather.





City Budget

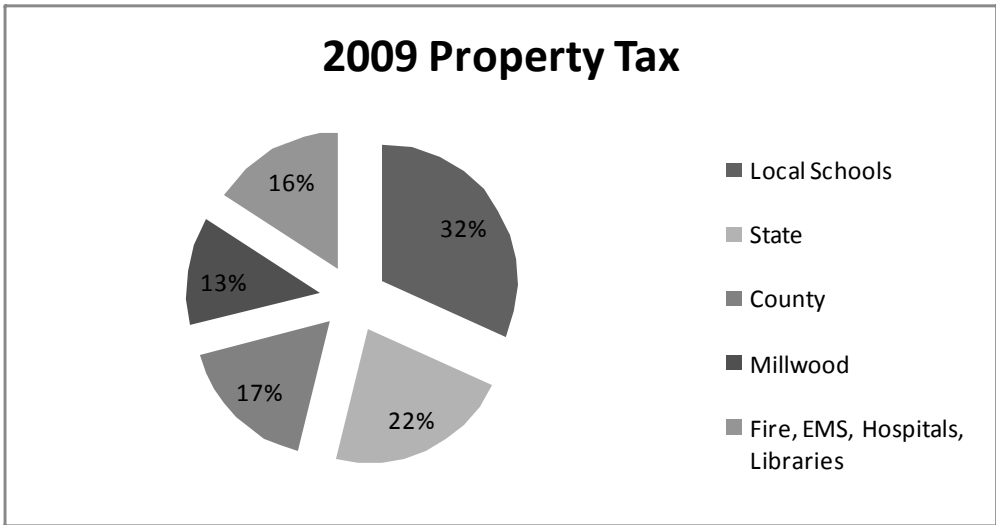
The 2009 budget has been set; Millwood ended the year 2008 with about 20 % in ending fund balances. This is good fiscal planning, beginning fund balances are important. We strive to meet a healthy ending cash balance each year for emergencies or unanticipated expenses. This is basically enough cash to run the city effectively for about 3 months. The anticipated expenses for the year breakdown as follows:

◆ Central Government		\$ 313,800
◆ Security of Persons & Property		326,000
◆ Physical Environment {includes Animal Control}		21,126
◆ Planning & Community Development		81,000
◆ Mental & Physical Health		5,400
◆ Culture & Recreation		60,700
◆ Street Fund	Construction-	1,500,000
	Maintenance-	387,600
◆ Water Utilities		267,000
◆ Sewer Utilities		259,500
Other Financing Sources		180,000



Millwood's Share of your Property Tax Dollar

The City receives 13 % of your Spokane County Property Tax, about \$ 130 out of each \$ 1,000 collected. Distribution of the Property Tax dollar breaks down like this:





State News - 2009

As identified in a recent Association of Washington Cities report *Assessing the Health of Washington Communities*,* our state is facing the following challenges.

- ◆ Cities are facing the worst economic turmoil the country has seen since the great depression.
- ◆ The burst of the nation-wide housing bubble.
- ◆ Skyrocketing infrastructure material cost, health insurance costs, and volatile energy prices.

State of the Cities research identified two distinct but interconnected struggles for Washington’s cities-

1. Operating budget revenues are not sufficient for many cities to support the level of services required to meet federal and state mandates, citizen expectations, and community priorities.

2. City infrastructure systems are crumbling. These aging systems are inadequate to meet current needs of business and residents , or inadequate to meet the level for sustaining and attracting growth.

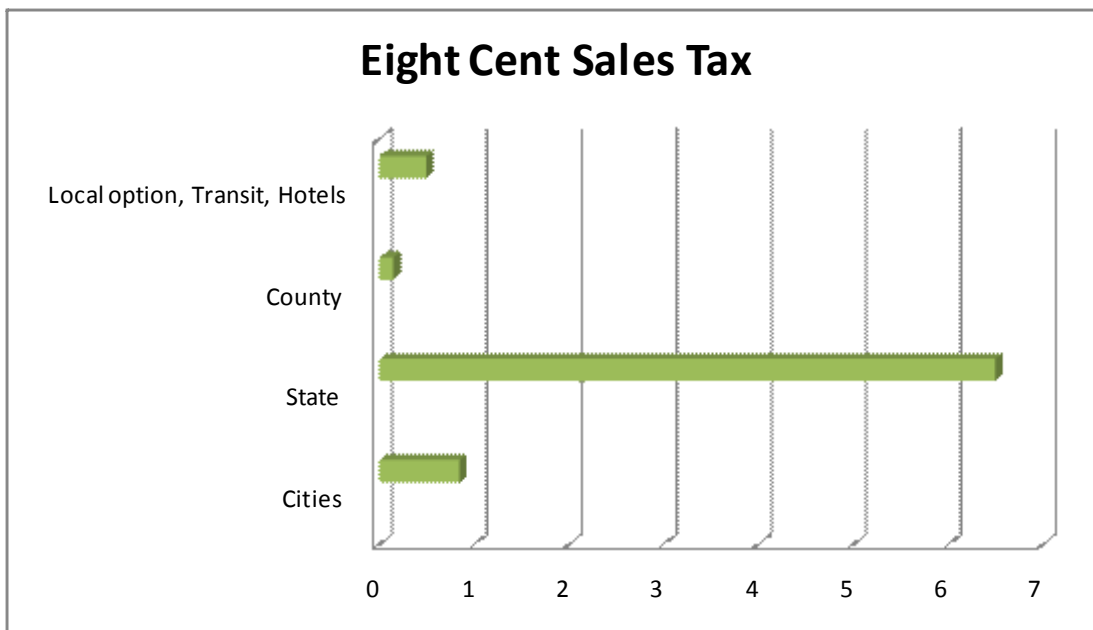
This lack of infrastructure funding are a barrier to economic development for cities and towns:

- ◆ One in three cities report lack of street capacity is a barrier to economic development.
- ◆ One in four cities report lack of service capacity is a barrier to economic development, and
- ◆ One in five cities report lack of drinking water capacity is a barrier to economic development.
- ◆ 48% of cities report that capital facilities, fire stations, city halls, etcetera need major replacement or enhancement to meet current demands.

* This compilation is the result of a statewide survey of 93% of the state’s 281 cities and towns.

Cities receive only 13¢ of each property tax dollar and only 0.85¢ of the 8 cent sales tax levied in Washington state.

Here is how the 8 cent sales tax is distributed-





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LOOK INSIDE FOR

Millwood's 2009 Budget summary, How your taxes are distributed, Washington State Legislative priorities for the region, and changes to your water bill.

Mayor Mork's Message

2009 is here! In the next Newsletter look for news about an upcoming City Hall open house, this will be an opportunity to see the changes to City Hall and meet with the designer and some of the contractors that worked on this project. Also a special update on the activities of the newly organized "Millwood- Better for Business" group, dates for some spring community events, and an in depth preview of the Argonne resurfacing project that will soon be underway in our city!

-Mayor Mork

