

Fire Tax Information

As of 3/30/2011

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The Dunns Corners Fire District provides fire protection services to the residents and businesses in the Dunns Corner area of Westerly and Charlestown RI and functions from tax revenue collected each year along with contracted revenue from outlying fire districts. Property owners and businesses who do not pay their taxes on time pose a financial burden on all of the taxpayers who do pay on time.

As a convenience to our taxpayers, as of August 1, 2011 you will be able to pay your Fire District taxes through your internet connection with a VISA or Master Card credit card. Just log on to www.RIEgov.com and enter your account and PIN number that will appear on your new bill. A 3% service charge will be collected by the credit card processing company. The Dunns Corners Fire District is not incurring any expense for this service. Credit card payments can only be made on-line.

Late payments will have interest and fees deducted first and the balance applied to the principal. Login to www.RIEgov.com to get the current amount owed..

The qualified voters at the annual taxpayer meeting held on July 21, 2010 approved a tax rate for fire district fiscal year beginning June 1, 2010. The tax rate was set at \$0.29 per thousand of the assessed value on real estate for Westerly taxpayers and \$0.31 per thousand of the assessed value on real estate for Charlestown taxpayers with a \$5.00 minimum bill. A 12% annual interest rate on delinquent accounts was also approved.

The 2010-2011 fire tax was due by September 30, 2010 and became delinquent on October 1, 2010 . Envelopes must be postmarked before September 30, 2010. Any late payment received after October 12010 will be assessed interest.

Please make checks payable to the Dunns Corners Fire District . If a check is not honored by your bank, you will be charged a service fee of \$25.

Tax bills are mailed soon after the annual taxpayer meeting held in the month of July each year. The Dunns Corners Fire District receives its property valuations from the Towns of Westerly and Charlestown after July 1 each year in order to prepare the tax bills.

**Rhode Island CHAPTER 44-7
Collection of Taxes Generally
SECTION 44-7-7**

§ 44-7-7 Notice by collector to taxpayer of amount of tax. – The collector, after receiving a tax list and warrant, shall immediately, at the expense of the city or town, send notice to each person assessed of the amount of his or her tax. The notice shall be mailed postpaid and directed to the address on file in the office of the city or town treasurer or the assessors of taxes. Failure by the collector to send or failure by the taxpayer to receive a notice shall not excuse the nonpayment of the tax or affect its validity or any proceedings for the collection of the tax.

What this means is that the Dunns Corners Fire District will send the tax bill to the owner of record in the Towns of Westerly and Charlestown Tax Assessors office as of 12/31 each year and that the Dunns Corners Fire District will not be responsible if there is a current owner who does not get a tax bill. The current owner will be responsible for all taxes, interest, and penalties that might be due.

If you are the new property owner and have not received a tax bill by the end of September please call the tax collector's office at 401-322-1340 and leave your name, address and phone number. Also, please contact your local Tax Assessor's office of Westerly or Charlestown to verify that the ownership and mailing address was accurate when sent by the Fire District.

The Dunns Corners Fire District Tax Collector's office is responsible for the collection and receipt of monies due the fire district for real estate taxes. The Dunns Corners Fire District tax collector is a part-time position and office hours vary with the time of year. You can contact the tax collector at 401-322-1340 and leave a message or e-mail taxcollector@dunnscornersfire.com

TAX SALE INFORMATION

A tax sale is held each year in the month of May on properties that are delinquent two years or more including the current year.

A TAX SALE by public auction of all delinquent real estate property accounts with taxes and interest owed for two or more years including this current tax year will take place on May 26, 2011. Charges for title searches, certified mail and other expenses of \$350 associated with the tax sale will be borne by the delinquent taxpayers. This \$350 charge will be assessed on February 28, 2011 . Only cash, certified check will be accepted after 2/10/11 . Credit card payment will only be accepted through May 23, 2011 .

EXPERIENCING FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES?

The Dunns Corners Fire District understands that from time to time some taxpayers may be experiencing financial difficulties for a variety of reasons. If a taxpayer finds that he/she is incurring a financial problem that will jeopardize the timely payment of any of their obligations to the fire district, it is extremely important that they contact the Tax Collector as soon as the problem is identified. This will provide the best opportunity to find a solution that is satisfactory to everyone. Early intervention is the key to the fire district's ability to be of assistance to the taxpayer versus becoming part of the problem.

If you are in danger of losing your home you can contact the Rhode Island Housing Help Center , 44 Washington St. , Providence , RI 02903 - 401-457-1130. Web site: www.rhodeislandhousing.org

Kenneth J Swain
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1 Langworthy Road
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**Thank you for supporting the firefighters of the
Dunns Corners Fire District.**