

‘Where’s My Rebate Check?’

Every so often a resident will contact Village Hall wondering why other area communities issue tax rebate checks to their citizens and Tinley Park does not.

The philosophy of Tinley Park’s tax abatement program can be summed up in the question, “Why should the Village tax its property owners for something that it has the funds available to play or can pay from income sources other than property taxes?”

“We identify certain revenues each year to pay our bonds, which helps us keep property taxes lower for both homeowners and businesses,” Tinley Park Mayor David G. Seaman said. “It’s a much better practice than raising taxes and then giving rebates.”

The Village’s tax abatement program also has no administrative costs to implement each year. Most tax rebate programs generally require the municipality to incur additional administrative costs to receive the rebate requests, perform calculations and verifications, and process the tax rebate checks.

The tax abatement program provides a greater total dollar benefit to Village property owners than most tax rebate programs, most of which only benefit owner-occupied residential homeowners. The Village’s tax abatement process, however, benefits all property owners, including rental and commercial business properties.

Providing benefits to all property owners is not part of any other municipal rebate program in the area. Including all properties helps keep rents low (both residential and business), and promotes business success.

In further proof of Tinley Park’s fiscal policy and planning that has been incorporated into its ongoing abatement program, the recent economic recession saw most area communities that had previously offered tax rebate programs either drastically reduce or complete eliminate their programs.

###