

**FISCAL CENTS**  
**By Paul Muller**  
**Finance Committee Chairman**

Happy New Year! Unlike our calendar year that starts January 1, our fiscal year starts on July 1. We had our first meeting on August 15. This year our goal is to inform you of our objectives with articles in the Enlightener and possibly on the town's website.

Our plan is to start the budget process in November to provide you with a new budget for our May 2006 meeting. In the meantime, we will try to update you on the status of the money articles passed at our last town meeting in May and the large capital projects in town.

We have tried to match the needs of the town with the ability of the taxpayers to pay for these services. Nobody wants to pay taxes, least of all myself. However, it is a necessity in order to provide education for our children, to operate fire and police departments and municipal services such as water, sewer, highway, trash collection, library and a myriad of other services. It is impossible to match each individual's ability to pay taxes because of the way our tax laws are written. The town's largest source of revenue is from property taxes. Other sources include excise taxes, state aid, water and sewer bills and other smaller revenue sources.

The chart below gives you an idea of the average property tax bill in Blackstone and comparing this with other surrounding towns. In the quirky way our government works, the higher the ranking, the lower the average tax bill for the town. In this ranking, Blackstone has the lowest average tax bill. The average state tax bill is \$3,067.00; Blackstone is below the state average at \$2,863.00.

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Assessed Value</b>	<b>Parcels</b>	<b>Average Value</b>	<b>Tax Rate</b>	<b>Single Family Tax Bill</b>	<b>Hi-Lo Rank</b>	<b>Bill*Parcel (Total Levy)</b>
BLACKSTONE	485,885,200	1,955	248,535	11.52	2,863	196	5,597,165
DOUGLAS	646,837,600	2,413	268,064	11.05	2,962	182	7,147,306
MENDON	651,721,360	1,745	373,479	9.8	3,660	106	6,386,700
MILLVILLE	207,910,200	767	271,069	11.32	3,069	169	2,353,923
UXBRIDGE	896,545,800	3,171	282,733	11.67	3,299	145	10,461,129
HOPEDALE	438,393,400	1,452	301,924	11.5	3,472	130	5,041,344
MILFORD	1,638,457,500	5,661	289,429	11.83	3,424	133	19,383,264