



March 2011

Illinois Use Tax

New for 2010, Form IL-1040 includes a new line for reporting Illinois Use Tax.

Illinois Use Tax is a sales tax that you, as the purchaser, owe on items that you buy for use in Illinois. If the seller does not collect this tax, you must pay the tax to the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR). The most common purchases on which the seller does not collect Illinois Use Tax are those made via the internet, from a mail order catalog, or made when traveling outside Illinois.

You must pay Illinois Use Tax to IDOR if

- the items you bought are taxable in Illinois,
- you used or consumed these items in Illinois, *and*
- when you purchased the items you *either*
 - * did not pay any sales tax to the seller, *or*
 - * paid sales at less than Illinois' Use Tax rates of 6.25% for general merchandise and 1% for food and drugs.

To determine the Illinois Use Tax you owe, check your records to see if you were charged tax on internet, mail order, or other out-of-state purchases. If your records are incomplete, IDOR has provided a Use Tax worksheet to calculate your use tax based on your adjusted gross income (AGI). Using this chart results in use tax of about .06% of your AGI.

If you owe \$600 or less in use tax for 2010, you may use Form IL-1040 to report and pay your use tax rather than filing Form ST-44, Illinois Use Tax Return.

For more information, visit tax.illinois.gov.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Mar 4 & Apr 1 - Free cholesterol screening and blood pressure check, F&M Main Bank Lobby, 9 am to 10 am

Mar 11 & Apr 8 - Red Cross Apheresis blood drive, Bushnell Recreation Center. Call 309-370-2508 for an appointment.

Mar 5 & Apr 2 - VFW breakfast, 6:30 am to 10:30 am.

Mar 29 - Soup & Sandwich Supper. Prairie City Rehab & Health Care, 5:50 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Friends in Motion

Some wedding anniversaries recently celebrated include:

Lewis and Bernice Barr (69 years), of Tonica (parents of our own Shirley Rapp), **Murry and Mary Lou Allen** (54 years) of Macomb, **Dan and Mary Pendarvis** (44 years), **Kenny and Judy Maxwell** (48 years), **Lyndall and Norma Pigg** (67 years), and **Sherold and Jane Brown** (47 years), all of Bushnell. Congratulations to all!

Recent birthday celebrations include: **George Kerr** (86) of Cuba, **Lois Smith** (93) of Good Hope, **Bernice Huffman** (95), **H. M. (Mickie) Logsdon** (82), **Gene Webster** (79), and **Laura Maxine Reed** (86), all of Bushnell. Happy birthday to each of you!

HALL OF FAME COMING EVENTS

September 5-13, 2011 - ITALY

Nine days in beautiful Italy - Explore the magic of Rome, Florence, Venice and Milan. While in Rome, visit the famed Colosseum and take optional excursions to the Vatican City, the Vatican Museums and St. Peter's Basilica. While visiting Florence, tour the Piazza Del Duomo, the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore and the Baptistery. Board a train to Venice, with 117 tiny islands, 150 canals, and 400 bridges, and take a boat trip to St. Mark's Square. Then go on to Milan to visit the Duomo (Cathedral) and the Vittorio Emmanuele II Gallery, and much more—for \$2,899, including air fare, hotels and 11 meals. Come join the fun. Give Carolyn a call if you have questions.

For reservations and information, contact **Carolyn Carr** at **309-772-2171** or ccarr@bushnellbank.com

Illinois Estate Taxes Going Up!

Not only was the Illinois income tax raised from 3% to 5%, but now Illinois' estate taxes will kick in for estate smaller than the federal estate tax exclusion.

For Illinois residents that die in 2011, the estate tax starts for estates larger than two million dollars. The federal estate tax exclusion is five million dollars. So, if you are an Illinois resident you'll need to be very careful with your estate tax planning. Of course, if you are married, couples may be able to shelter four million dollars in assets, but you will need to consult your estate tax planning attorney to be sure that you very carefully take advantage of the exemptions to be able to shelter a combined four million dollar estate.

Those who died in 2010, will not owe Illinois for federal estate tax.

The tax rates on Illinois estates are significant, and you should see your estate attorney for proper planning. Also, don't forget that Farmers and Merchants State Bank offers a full-service trust department to help with your estate and trust needs. Just see us, or have your attorney give us a call, and we can help.



MARCH 13, 2011
Daylight
Savings Time

Fun Favorites from the Drive In

ITALIAN CRISPY CHICKEN

Krystal Lillie

2 eggs
6 skinless, boneless chicken breasts
garlic and cheese croutons
spaghetti sauce
mozzarella cheese

Beat eggs in a bowl. Crush croutons with a rolling pin. Dip chicken into egg and coat with croutons. Bake at 350° until chicken is done (about 30 minutes). Top with spaghetti sauce and cheese. Bake an additional 10 minutes or until cheese is melted. Let cool and serve.

ALMOND TOFFEE BARS

Jill McNulty

1/2 cup butter or margarine
1-1/2 cups quick-cooking rolled oats
1/2 cup graham cracker crumbs
1 cup semisweet chocolate pieces (6 oz.)
1 cup almond toffee pieces
1 cup sliced or chopped almonds
1 14-oz. can sweetened condensed milk

Heat oven to 325°. Melt butter or margarine in a 13x9x2 inch baking pan in the oven (about 6 minutes). Remove pan from oven. Sprinkle oats and crumbs evenly over melted butter; press lightly onto bottom of pan using the back of a large metal spoon. Sprinkle chocolate pieces, toffee pieces, and almonds evenly over crumb mixture. Drizzle all with sweetened condensed milk.

Bake for 25 to 30 minutes or until edges are bubbly and center is just lightly browned. Remove pan from oven and immediately run a narrow metal spatula or table knife around edges of pan to loosen cookie. Cool completely in pan on a wire rack. Cut into bars. Makes 48 bars.

HAM BREAKFAST CASSEROLE

Jessica Priesner

1 can refrigerated crescent dinner rolls
1 pkg. (8 oz.) smoked ham, chopped
6 eggs
1/2 cup milk
1/2 tsp. pepper
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese

Heat oven to 350°. Unroll dough in 13x9 inch baking dish; press to cover bottom, firmly pressing perforations and seams together to seal. Top with ham.

Whisk eggs, milk and pepper until well blended; pour over ham. Top with cheeses. Bake 25 minutes or until center is set.

HONEY BUN CAKE

Shannon Whitcomb

yellow cake mix
1/2 cup sugar
4 eggs
2/3 cup vegetable oil
8 oz. sour cream

Mix all five ingredients together. Pour half of the batter into a 9x13 inch greased pan.

1/2 cup brown sugar
1 Tbsp. cinnamon

Mix together and sprinkle half over cake batter. Pour rest of cake batter on top. Sprinkle other half of cinnamon-sugar mixture on last. Swirl with a knife. Bake at 350° for 35 to 40 minutes.

Glaze

1-1/2 cup powdered sugar
3-1/2 Tbsp. milk
1 tsp. vanilla

Mix all together and pour over hot cake.



V & B Gardening Tools

Did you know that Vaughan & Bushnell, our own local manufacturer, is making gardening tools that can help with your year round gardening needs? Vaughan manufactures and sells hand trowels, cultivators, weeders, and transplanters. For your other garden needs, they manufacture “groundbreakers,” which include planters, picks, tillers, edgers, and many tools that



will help with your gardening projects. You can go to www.vbmf.com to see all of the great Vaughan & Bushnell gardening products.

You can buy these V&B gardening products at Hart's Nursery right here in Bushnell.



Spring Gardening Tips

With Spring just around the corner it's time to think about your flower and vegetable gardens. A little planning and preparation will make a big difference in your gardening success this year.

- ✿ Think about what plants you are going to try this year in your vegetable and flower gardens. There's nothing more pleasant than reviewing a Burpee seed catalog while you are looking at snow outside your window.
- ✿ Sharpen your mower, clean your tools and make sure you are ready to mow and hoe.
- ✿ When the weather gets better, you can prune your trees and shrubs, and thin your summer shrubs.
- ✿ Clear your planting areas and remove winter debris. It is also prudent to take soil tests to see what soil enrichments you may need to add for the year.
- ✿ Don't forget fertilizer, which can be done after your soil tests.
- ✿ You can plant your Hostas in the early spring and start your early vegetables, like your peas, lettuce and spinach.
- ✿ Visit your local nurseries. You can have your questions answered, buy plants, and get expert advice on gardening.