

---

---

# ◆ The TAX TIMES ◆

---

---

Volume 15, Issue 7

Newsletter of the Brown County Taxpayers Association

June, 2000

---

---

## PACKERS TO STAY IN GREEN BAY

It was heart warming for me to hear that the Packers will be staying in Green Bay. The plan to renovate the stadium is but one indication of their commitment to the city.

With the proposed changes in the stadium, a new lease agreement is being worked out between the City of Green Bay and the Green Bay Packers. The present lease was signed in 1996 and is to last until April of 2004 with 20 additional one year periods as options. The lease payment varies from \$900,000 in 1996 to \$790,000 for the year 2013 if the lease is still in effect at that time. For 1999, the lease payment was \$870,000 and for 2000 is scheduled to be \$860,000. The lease provides the City to approve structural changes as the City is responsible for the structural maintenance of the facility. The City is to remain the owner of the Stadium and will be the owner no matter what changes take place.

Why is this important? The City of Green Bay is the owner of the stadium and will continue to be the owner for many years to come. The original Packer proposal to renovate the Stadium included a commission to collect a sales tax, maintain the Stadium, and be the owner. All of these plans were made by talking for a year with the Governor and not one word to the Mayor. As part of obtaining local support for the plan, Mayor Jadin insisted that Green Bay the City remain the owner of the facility and the Packers agreed.

Our hats off to the Mayor for standing up for what is right. To get the support of the County Executive, the Packers needed to promise that no taxpayer money would be used to build the atrium mall. Vetoes by the Governor took away any leverage the County had to provide future input. The County is now left with only the appointments to the Commission to have any say in those activities.

The Packers have released some dollar numbers from their annual report. For the first time in a decade they have lost money. With income up 5.9% and salaries up 16% they needed to tap the reserve funds, leaving just under \$50 million. Interesting to note that the Packer salaries were the highest in the league and that is the main reason their income didn't keep pace with expenses. The Packers say they need a renovated Stadium to increase their income. Why are they sitting around talking to the Governor for a year and then asking taxpayers to foot the bill when they have the money to make the field modification they need to increase their income. A seat user fee of \$2000 per seat times 60,000 seats is \$120 million and with their \$50 million in reserve, they have enough to make the proposed Stadium changes. These changes will bring in the additional income they say they need.

Why did they sit around for a year or more? Why are we not seeing construction right now? Could it be that a \$125 million atrium mall that will house a relocated Hall of Fame, a relocated Packer Pro Shop and corporate office are that high on the priority list?

When someone puts their hand in my pocket asking for a handout, I look for the need and respond accordingly. **JUST SAY NO TO THE TAX INCREASE!**

**BROWN COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION.**

*Frank S. Bennett Jr.*

President

**The BROWN COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION**

---

---

*From Our Readers*

Editor – The Tax Times:

I believe the BCTA is being shortsighted in its outspoken opposition to the Packer referendum: I understand that our organization must be committed to fiscal responsibility in government; and more specifically, must be watchful of our tax dollars.

However, in Green Bay we are extremely fortunate to have the Green Bay Packers. This NFL franchise is the single most notable aspect of our community. The Packers bring us world wide publicity and incalculable pride. The annual economic impact is substantial. In addition, the Packers are a community-owned team. This gives all of us a sense of ownership and pride that is special beyond words.

I strongly disagree with the BCTA on this issue. I think it is presumptuous and somewhat egotistical to continue to advocate alternative funding proposals. Everyone of us can come up with a different means of funding these improvements, However, if you have any trust in the Packer leadership (and this is a key point), you must set aside your personal reservations and look to the greater good. We can argue and offer counter-proposals until the end of time. The result would be delay, delay, and more delay. The expression that "Delay is the deadliest form of denial" is applicable here. Many people advocating delay or alternatives are attempting to deny the whole project. Regardless of intention, denial is the end result of countless alternatives and delays.

The vast majority of people support the Packers. I believe the Packer leadership, with Bob Harlan, John Jones, and the Packer Board are thoughtful and honorable people. This proposal is not perfect; but it is certainly reasonable and well thought out. The leadership of the BCTA should realize that this is one tax proposal that has overwhelming merit. Much of the tax will be paid by non-residents of Brown County. The consequences of defeating this proposal if the Packers' forecasts are correct are not worth the short-term tax savings. We should vote "yes" on this Packer referendum question # 1.

Sincerely,

**Patrick Murphy** - President,  
MURPHY DEVELOPMENT, INC.

**Property Rights: The Hidden Issue of Social Security Reform.**

One of the most enduring myths of Social Security is that a worker has a legal right to his Social Security benefits. Many workers assume that, if they pay Social Security taxes into the system, they have some sort of legal guarantee to the system's benefits. The truth is exactly the opposite. It has long been law that there is no legal right to Social Security. In two important cases, *Helvering v. Davis* and *Flemming V. Nestor*, the U. S. Supreme Court ruled that Social Security taxes are simply taxes and convey no property or contractual right to Social Security benefits.

As a result, a worker's retirement security is entirely dependent on the political decisions of the president and Congress. Benefits may be reduced or even eliminated at any time. Given the program's looming financial crisis, benefit cutbacks are increasingly likely. The entire political nature of Social Security places workers retirement security at considerable risk. Congress has already arbitrarily reduced Social Security benefits of some groups of workers. Social Security benefits are not a worker's property, they are not inheritable.

In contrast, a privatized Social Security system, based on individual accounts, would provide workers with the benefits and the safeguards of true ownership. **Charles E. Rounds, Jr. The Cato Institute.** (If interested, The full text of Social Security Privatization, SSP #17, is available from the Cato Institute. [www.CATO.Org](http://www.CATO.Org).)

We want to thank Pat for his timely and thoughtful letter and certainly agree to the importance of the Packers and what they mean to our community. We realize there are many different views on this subject, and it is not our intention to be characterized as "anti-Packer" or "anti-progress". Following is an attempt to explain where we are coming from.

In January, prior to the Packers announcement of the plan now being discussed, we conducted a survey of our membership including specific Lambeau Field questions. First, 62% of respondents said they were in favor of remodeling or possibly replacing Lambeau Field. We then asked if such a project were to proceed, how should it be financed? The majority opted for the Packers own financing, luxury box fees, or seat licenses. Only about a third of the respondents favored a county or regional sales tax as an option. We realize that this has become a very divisive issue and we may not necessary be reflecting the views of everyone at this time.

We felt our survey was somewhat

significant as about 50% of respondents indicated they were Packer season ticket holders while only 10-15% of Brown County residents are able to attend games regularly. This represents a far, far greater percentage of ticket holders than other surveys which have been conducted and publicized. Many of these seem to represent opinions with little interest or concern for the fact that Brown County alone was being singled for a substantial tax burden by events in Madison.

Even taking into consideration the Packers desire to enhance their revenue sources and their economic impact in the community, we find it difficult to justify imposing additional taxes on the public. More specifically for the purpose and extent requested from our relatively small tax base. Our directors believe that the total amount and type of taxes requested towards this project could have a negative effect on many sectors of the counties economy, including other public spending requirements. It would be a burden on some businesses. Recall that in the latter

months of 1999 and up to the time of the Packers renovation plan announcement, there was considerable debate as to whether Lambeau Field should be updated or replaced completely. Public sentiment seemed to favor renovation, which our organization and we are sure many others interpreted as preserving a historic and serviceable facility, and being considerably less expensive — (e. g. - *not requiring the use of public money which was only regarded as a remote possibility at the time.*) If the public wanted to accept more taxes, it seems they would have demanded a completely new facility in lieu of spending \$295 million plus interest to build a wall around a 45 year old bleachers. The Packers may have read opinion correctly on renovation and increasing their revenue sources, but not on imposing new taxes.

Possibly the ideal scenario would be for the Packers to announce they are scaling back their plan to eliminate certain non-revenue producing portions, taking another look at some of the more viable alternative sources of funding, and eliminating the need for a special sales tax in Brown County. This

**Federation of Wisconsin Taxpayers Organizations (FWTO) Recognizes BCTAs Call For Referendum Defeat.**

The FWTO applauds and is proud of the Brown County Taxpayers Association position in relation to the proposed sales tax for Lambeau Field renovation. As James Smith, a member of BCTA, comments in the May 2000, "TAX TIMES", BCTA Newsletter, "*The power of a government to tax should be reserved for the purpose of providing for the general welfare of those who are taxed. It's preposterous to think that one of the purposes of our tax system should be to support sports team under the guise of serving a public purpose.*"

We are surprised but pleased that the legislature is granting the voters of Brown County a referendum to determine the outcome of this issue. One would surmise that state politicians would come away from the Brewer Stadium taxpayer contempt with an additional measure of respect for taxpayer sentiment.

Some politicians seem to have forgotten the man from Racine—GEORGE PETAK! Thrown in for good measure was the loss of control of one of the legislative chambers, that has proven detrimental to all the citizens of Wisconsin.

Frank S. Bennett Jr., President of the Brown County Taxpayers Association, is encouraging a NO vote "based on our understanding that the income increases are for player signing bonuses."

*"Using tax money to support million dollar football players just doesn't make sense to me. Using tax money to support a private business just doesn't make sense to me. Using tax money to support an organization with added income opportunities not yet realized just doesn't make sense to me. I hope that when voters get the total picture of the Packer proposal they will JUST SAY NO!"*

We urge all of you who read this letter and have anything to add to this Packer issue—or any government spending issue to provide your concerns and ideas to the FWTO, P.O. Box 248, South Milwaukee, WI 53172-0248. Remember, the FWTO speaks out on issues that affect every taxpayer of Wisconsin. We'll welcome your comments.

Sincerely,

**FEDERATION OF WISCONSIN TAXPAYERS ORGANIZATIONS.**

*Don Kristopeit*, President.

**Is It Time To Renew Our Code Of Ethics For Government Service?**

Enclosed with this "TAX TIMES", courtesy of Taxpayers Network, Inc., is a card listing 10 standards of conduct for candidates running for or holding public office, and which the voters who elect them should expect.

These would make a good platform enhancement for candidates from the local to the national level, and would certainly help restore trust in our elected officials in this important election year.

**REASON AND EMOTIONS.**

The average United States citizen works 42 days per year to pay state and local taxes, but in Wisconsin that figure amounts to 51 days. Surely, reason doesn't dictate that it makes sense for people to vote themselves more taxes to be paid over a period of several years to provide corporate welfare for signing bonuses and the daily maintenance expenses of a football team. Reason doesn't dictate that we should slash \$4 million in county programs while sanctioning a referendum to provide a special tax to support millionaire football players. Reason doesn't dictate a "yes" vote on the second part of the referendum which would perpetuate the sales tax forever. The only reasonable solution is to vote "no" twice on the referendum and let the county board regroup and prioritize their programs.

The sudden unveiling of the Packer plan was engineered to create emotion. The tear-jerking commercials warned us of the demise of the franchise, and while eclipsing the facts and details, they mesmerized many of the Packer fans. Tommy Thompson's former chief of staff led the delegation of lobbyists from out of state, which was a conflict of interest, and put our docile legislators in an hypnotic state as they provided the Packer representatives with a blank check for any thing that they wanted at the expense of small segment of the state. The psychology of emotion was applied in every phase of the Packer campaign, including the signing of the bill on Lambeau Field.

With the passing of time and the polls showing a downswing for the Packer plan, it appears that reason is beginning to get the better of emotion. However, when the Packers begin their final emotional blitz, those of us who still reason will have to work hard to keep the reasoning process alive.

**Jim Smith - BCTA**

"My experience in government is that when things are non-controversial and beautifully coordinated, there is not much going on." . . . **John F. Kennedy**

"The American wage earner and the American housewife are a lot better economists than most economists care to admit. They know that a government big enough to give you everything you want is a government big enough to take from you everything you have." . . . **Gerald R. Ford**

# Check us out on the Internet.

A collection of articles which have appeared in recent issues of the "TAX TIMES" regarding the proposed Lambeau Field renovation project. The Packer Organization asks that you give their proposal your consideration. It is our conviction that public funding should not be used in projects of this sort. Whether or not you agree with our position, we respect the right to be heard and don't believe it should be a one-sided issue. Visit us at [WWW.BCTAxPAYERS.ORG](http://WWW.BCTAxPAYERS.ORG). On the opening screen, click to "PACKER STADIUM", and the following table of contents containing articles relative to the Lambeau Field will appear. As usual, your comments to us are welcome.

## ***Lambeau Field***

**Financing A Renovated Lambeau Field.** A fast growing collection of facts, opinions and ideas that provide information without distortion and alternative solutions to a very emotional issue.

### **Table of Contents:**

**Don't Rush into Public Funding for Packer Stadium.** Past president of the Brown County Taxpayers Association, Tom Sladek, suggests we take a long, hard look at our spending priorities before adding another tax. Are additional taxes the best approach?... Maybe!... Maybe not!

**Paying For a New Stadium. There has to be a better way!** *Tax Times* editor, Jim Frink proposes a payment method for any kind of public venue. His method uses a portion of State Sales Tax. An innovative and workable solution?

**Taxpayer Green TO Packer Gold.** BCTA President, Frank Bennett details the real cost of the Packer's finance plan and calls for further discussion to find a palatable solution.

**POLITICAL FOOTBALL.** Lambeau Field renovation. The most important issue to face Brown County taxpayers in memory. Is it right that the powers in Madison decide that only the residents of Brown County foot the bill?

**PACKER MONEY.** The Packers claim they are making a substantial contribution towards the Lambeau Field project. Is this really their money or an other contribution from you and me? You decide.

**AN APPETITE FOR DEBT.** What will the impact of a .5% sales tax have on our ability to pay for other needed Brown County projects? We're up to our ears in debt already. The end is not in sight.

**SPORTS PORK.** The costly relationship between major league sports and government. A report from the Cato Institute revealing how sports franchises take advantage of public funding for projects. Yes, it can happen here.

**THE BCTA AND LAMBEAU FIELD.** Results of a recent survey indicating our members disapprove of the use of public money for Lambeau Field Renovation and our 1994 study which concluded that a County Sales tax enacted for any purpose can do much more harm than good.

**PUBLIC MONEY.** A study of the request for Public Money by the Packer organization, and the impact on the public sector. By BCTA President Frank Bennett.

**TAX FREEDOM DAY AND THE ABILITY TO PAY.** Wisconsin is already the 4th highest taxed state in the U.S. Residents of the top 3 are taxed more only because they make more money than Wisconsinites! Is it possible that we don't understand the total of the taxes we pay?

**NO PUBLIC MONEY!** Only the residents of Brown County and their quests will foot the bill for Lambeau Field renovation! **WHY?** Have alternatives been Seriously considered? It doesn't appear so!

**PROPERTY TAX RELIEF? Give us a break!** One of the cruelest hoaxes to come out of the Lambeau Field affair so far. Allocate excess funds collected to renovate Lambeau for other Brown County projects and call it **PROPERTY TAX RELIEF!** You can't accomplish property tax relief by adding another tax. Politicians never learn!

continued on next page



**BOOK REVIEW - 'Field of Schemes'.** Excellent reading for anyone who needs proof of what has happened in other cities where sports franchises have manipulated the voters and elected officials to finance huge sports facilities. They have seldom lived up to their promise.

**JUST SAY NO.** BCTA President Frank Bennett encourages voters to really look at the facts before they vote themselves a big sales tax.

**BCTA PRESS RELEASE.** The complete text of the April 25, 2000 Press Release whereby the Brown County Taxpayers Association formally called for taxpayers to vote **NO** on the proposed referendum creating a .5% sales tax in Brown County for improvements to Lambeau Field.

**STATE CONSTITUTION NOT CLEAR ON PURPOSE OF TAXATION.** BCTA member James Smith points out that the Wisconsin State Constitution does not describe the purpose of taxation, which technically would make it illegal to provide a new tax for a special purpose: i.e. financial assistance to a professional football team.

**WE ARE CONCERNED.**

BCTA Concerns about the Lambeau Field proposal.

1. Impact of the proposed .5% special sales tax
2. The effect on Brown County's economy.
3. The backhanded methods used to push Lambeau Field legislation through the Wisconsin legislature.
4. Is this plan really necessary?

**TOP 10 QUESTIONS RAISED ABOUT A COUNTY SALES TAX.** There could be a hundred, but this is at least a start.

Thank you for your interest. New items are being added to our Webpage on a regular basis.

**WWW.BCTAxpayers.Org.**

"In general, the art of government consists in taking as much money as possible from one party of citizens to give to the other."  
... Voltaire - 1764

"Tis better to remain silent and be thought a fool, than to speak up and remove all doubt."  
... Abraham Lincoln

"There's always somebody who is paid too much and taxed too little - - and it's always somebody else."  
... Cullen Hightower

"An appeaser one who feeds a crocodile, hoping it will

**Wisconsin Residents Taxes Top 35% of Income.**

*For every dollar the average Wisconsin household will earn in 2000, 35.4 cents will go to taxes.*

Put another way, the typical Wisconsin worker has to work 35.4% of the year—or until May 9—to pay all federal, state, and local taxes. That's why this date has been tabbed "**Tax Freedom Day**" by the Tax Foundation. Figures reported here are from that Washington-based research group.

Taxes are the largest single claim on a dollar of Wisconsin income. Of the 35.4% of income going to taxes, 23.1% is paid to the federal government, mainly for income and social security taxes. The remaining 12.2% goes to state and local governments.

Taxes are more than double the second largest expense, housing and household operations (16.1%). And they are more than triple the third leading expense, health care (11.2%).

Other household expenditures are much less: food and tobacco (9.0% of income), transportation (6.9%), recreation (5.5%) and clothing (3.9%). Only about 1.6% of income is saved on the average.

Nationally, total federal, state and local taxes are 33.8% of income, or about 4.6% less than Wisconsin.

Wisconsin's Tax Freedom Day was April 21 in 1980. Reflecting higher tax burdens, it has moved steadily higher since then. By 1990, it was April 26, and by 1995 it was May 2. In the past four years it has moved from May 5 to May 9. Only four states have later Tax Freedom Days, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York and Wyoming. The main reason residents of these states pay more in taxes is that their average per capita income is higher than Wisconsin, placing their residents in higher tax brackets. **Material from May 9, 2000 "Focus". - Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance, Madison, WI 53703.**

**Where Wisconsin Workers Earnings Go.**  
*(Do we need more taxes?)*

**Group Planning Discussion on Lambeau Field Renovation Plan.**

*Brown County Citizens For Sensible Taxation*, has invited Packer President Bob Harlan and Ed Garvey of Madison to a public forum presenting their views on the Lambeau Field plan. The moderator will be Nancy Skadden, of Sturgeon Bay, who is a free-lance moderator with extensive experience as a teacher, and mediator for the state Dept. of Agriculture.

Tentative plans are for this event to be held in June or July at a suitable location, with the format to be arranged by Ms. Skadden.

**City of Marinette Takes Drastic Measures to Keep Taxes in Line.**

It was recently announced that the finance committee of the nearby city of Marinette had reduced the total city workforce from 130 to 116 employees. 11 employees were cut from the payroll including 7 department heads, and the rest of the cuts resulted from early retirements. Workload adjustments were made accordingly.

At the May 8, Marinette school board meeting, a total of \$500,000 was cut from the budget. Necessity for this was blamed on the 1999 defeat of a referendum authorizing additional operating costs. Items cut from the budget included drivers education, assistant coaches, classroom assistants, summer school classes and reductions in bus routes.

It will be up to the taxpayers and voters of Marinette to determine if these budget cuts are justified. JF

**Toll Free Numbers to Call Congress.**

The following toll-free numbers are available to call your U.S. Senators and Congressmen.

**1-888-449-3511**

**1-800-972-3524**

**1-877-722-7494**

**1-800-456-1414**

**or the Capitol Switchboard:**

**1-202-224-3121 (Toll Call)**

Courtesy Mike Riley, Taxpayers Network, Inc.

**“Let the People Decide”**

Our nation and our community face large, complex and divisive issues. There have been times in our past when leadership, the ability to communicate core values which awaken our citizens yearning for purposeful direction, responded to our needs. While many good people serve the community in government, my skin crawls when I hear an elected official say, “let the people decide”. Is this leadership? The electorate deserves clear, honest facts and the vision necessary to assess the situation and provide the path to resolution, not some directive for self-determination based on partial information.

When the issue demands someone to stand for the principles and values we all hold dear, where is our leadership? Why, when on any other day, leadership knows best how to relieve citizens the burden of spending public money for public benefit, cannot they lead with responsible stewardship of those funds? Why, when public funds are used with light regard for fiscal responsibility where cost is measured but never held in check, is it said, “The citizen is not fully able to understand complex financial issues?” “The citizens do not have all the information...,” they say. Why not? It doesn’t matter that the citizens face complex financial realities everyday. Why have so many proposals, agreements and terms appeared with nary a whisper before the event? And then, we must act in haste to preserve the opportunity.

It has been all too convenient to “let the people decide” when the road takes a steep climb. If the leadership can’t climb the hill, get off the cart. We are looking for those who will help lighten the load, not ride when they can walk and push.

Leadership should make the tough decisions; this is why we elected them. If not, give us the right to a referendum initiative and we will legislate ourselves. How better can we curb the spending and lighten the yoke of taxes. Yes! **LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE.**

**Useless Pieces of Information.**

*Mosquito repellents don't repel. They hide you. The spray blocks the mosquito's sensors so they don't know you're there. No piece of paper can be folded more than 7 times. (try it) American Airlines saved \$40,000 in 1987 by eliminating 1 olive from each salad served in first class. Michael Jordan makes more money from Nike annually than all of the Nike factory workers in Malaysia combined. A goldfish has a memory of three seconds. In England, the Speaker of the House is not allowed to speak. The microwave oven was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a candy bar melted in his pocket. All US Presidents have worn glasses. Some just didn't like being seen wearing them in public. There are more chickens than people in the world. A dragonfly has a life span of 24 hours. More people are killed annually by donkeys that are killed in plance crashes. Stewardess is the longest word typed only with the left hand. Did you know that you share your birthday with at least 9 million people in the world? 1 in every 4 Americans has appeared on television. You burn more calories sleeping than you do watching television. A snail can sleep for three years. Oak trees do not produce acorns until that are fifty years of age or older. The king of hearts is the only king without a mustache. The first owner of the Marlboro company died of lung cancer.*

*Various Internet Sources*

**Things That Make Us Wonder.**

The suggestion of imposing an additional \$2.00 tax on a barrel of beer for the Packers is interesting, but will likely be set aside until a more pressing need arises in Madison. Tavern owners were already crying foul, as they either have to raise prices or absorb the increase. By comparison, a .5% county sales tax, if added to a 31 gallon barrel of beer and sold in a standard 9-oz glass at \$1.00 would bring \$2.09 in additional tax revenue. Tavern owners are allowed to include sales taxes as part of their retail price and report to the state using a formula method. Historically they will absorb new taxes and other costs to a limit and then round off and increase their prices. Either way, figure another nickel or dime for a glass of beer. Remember when it only cost .10 cents?

The current high price of gasoline is being blamed on low inventories, which probably translates to too much consumption. Just a few years ago some politicians advocated raising the gas tax through the ceiling in order to reduce consumption, and now they propose tax reductions or tapping reserves as a cost remedy. So far, high prices don't seem to be effecting anyone's driving habits.

While on that subject, we heard on the news that the U.S. Coast Guard has been forced to cut way back on their patrol and safety operations due to the high cost of fuel. Who buys the gas for Air Force One?

It is difficult to imagine a person agreeing to the terms of a 21 page long legal document without reading it over carefully. Especially when it could cost him and his family an undetermined amount of money in taxes over an undetermined period of time. However, that is what is known as the "1999 Wisconsin Act 167", commonly referred to as the *Lambeau Field Bill* will probably ask you to do later this year.

This legislation, which the governor recently signed into law after months of lobbying by the Packers and their agents contains 76 sections and hundreds of sub-sections written in

cryptic legalese. What will be asked of Brown County voters is a simple YES or NO. Don't worry, all of the details are taken care of in the fine print. Is there anything protecting the rights of the taxpayer in the 21 pages?

~~It is unfortunate that our politicians are publicized and elected, and issues decided by those with the most money to spend, but that seems to be the way it is today.~~ The *Press-Gazette* has observed on several occasions that the candidate able to raise the most money has the biggest advantage. It will be difficult to compete with the Packers and their resources while they attempt to convince voters to accept additional taxes for their plan but as Jim Smith notes on page 3 of this *TAX TIMES*, reason and emotion will play a big part.

~~We don't deny that the Packers bring a lot of value to the area, both tangible and intangible, but how do you come up with an exact amount?~~ For example, the Pricewaterhouse study concluded that fans spent and added an average of \$31.88 aside from Lambeau Field while in Green Bay. However, where did the \$40-50 average spent for the ticket to the game come from and go to? This was money we earned, but does it stay in town? Just wondering. JF

"Why does a slight tax increase cost you two hundred dollars and a substantial tax cut save you thirty cents?" . . . Peg Bracken

Articles and views appearing in the "TAX TIMES" do not necessarily represent the official position of the Brown County Taxpayers Association. We encourage discussion and input on current issues of taxpayer interest and invite your comments or articles suitable for future "TAX TIMES". Please send them to the BCTA, P. O. Box 684, Green Bay, WI 54305-0684, or call Jim Frink at 336-6410. Frink@ExecPc.Com.

**May Meeting Notes.**

Open meeting conducted May 18, 2000 at the Glory Years.

Dwight Brass, a marketing consultant from Beloit, spoke to the group about developing positive alternatives to taxpayer funding of the proposed Lambeau Field renovation project. He emphasized again and again the need to present positive ideas as alternatives instead of merely presenting opposing views to the proposed Packer sales tax. Several of the members present supported the perspective presented by Mr. Brass.

It was agreed that the BCTA does not want to present an anti-Packer image, although several members have stated that the incomplete and distorted information being presented by the Packer management is beginning to test their loyalty to the team.

Mike Riley of Taxpayers Network, Inc. distributed copies of the "2000 CONGRESSIONAL PIG BOOK SUMMARY." Prepared by the Citizens Against Government Waste, the 2000 PIG BOOK lists 4,236 pork projects, up 52 percent from FY 1999. The projects add up to \$17.7 billion, a 47 percent increase over FY 1999.

Total Labor/Health and Human Services pork passed the \$1 billion mark this year. The showpiece was \$55 million added by the Senate for school-to-work opportunities. The House Committee allocated zero dollars for this request, as the 1994 School-to-Work Opportunities Act mandated the phaseout of federal funding as states assume responsibility for these programs.

Wisconsin ranks 41st in Pork per Capita, moving up from 47th in FY 1999. As expected, Alaska and Hawaii repeated as 1st and 2nd again for 2000.

Mike also distributed copies of a proposed Code of Ethics for government service. The proposed code emphasizes that public office is a public trust, not an opportunity for personal benefit at public expense.

The next BCTA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 15, at the Glory Years. Details on the back page of this *TAX TIMES*.

David Nelson - Secretary

**BCTA Meeting and Events Schedule**

**Thursday - June 15, 2000** - Glory Years, Washington St., Inn.  
347 S. Washington St. "Vince Lombardi" Room  
12:00 Noon - BCTA Monthly Meeting. Lunch - \$6.50  
Open discussion of Lambeau Field Renovation and

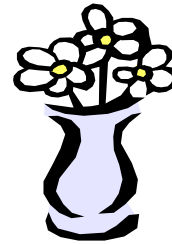
other current topics of interest. ***We invite local officials and legislators to attend and participate in our meetings.***

**Thursday - June 15, 2000** - Second quarter state and federal income tax estimates due.

**Thursday - July 20, 2000** - Glory Years, Washington St., Inn.  
12:00 Noon - BCTA Monthly Meeting. Lunch -\$6.50  
Details to be announced.

s All members of the BCTA, their guests, and other interested persons are cordially invited to attend and participate in these open meetings. Phonr 336-6410 (Jim Frink) or 499-0768, (Frank Bennett) for information or to leave message.

**Price - \$6.50 per meeting. Includes lunch. Payable at door.**



**June  
2000**

"Too many people expect wonders from democracy, when the most wonderful thing of all is just having it."  
... **Walter Winchell**

"Journalists do not live by words alone, although sometimes they have to eat them."  
... **Adlai Stevenson**

**SUPPORT THE BCTA  
New Members are Always  
Welcome.  
Call 336-6410 or 499-0768  
Write us at P. O. Box 684  
or visit our website  
[www.BCTaxpayers.Org](http://www.BCTaxpayers.Org)**

**The TAX TIMES**

**Brown County Taxpayers Association  
P. O. Box 684  
Green Bay, WI 54395-0684**

**BULK RATE  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
Green Bay, WI  
Permit No. 255**

**Inside This Issue**

- Packers to Stay in Green Bay.**
  - From Our Readers.**
  - Property Rights and Social Security.**
  - Code of Ethics For Government Service.**
  - Reason and Emotion.**
  - Check Us Out On The Internet.**
  - Wisconsin Taxpayers Pay 35% Of Income.**
  - Let The People Decide.**
- and more.