Tax receipts up $6.4M

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WALHALLA – Oconee County property tax receipts received so far this year have topped $50 million, nearly $6.4 million higher than the same time period a year ago.


Nowell

Tuesday was the deadline for Oconee County residents to pay taxes without penalty, according to County Treasurer Greg Nowell. The county will continue to accept payments postmarked by Jan. 15 without penalty.

"I think we're getting more money this year, not just people paying early," said Nowell, who added that this year's tax bills included a millage increase on commercial property and second homes for the School District of Oconee County.

Through Monday, the county had received $50,054,820.30, compared with $43,651,871.14 last year, according to Nowell. He said the number of bills paid has increased from 52,433 through Jan. 14, 2012, to 54,915 through Jan. 14, 2013.

"It's been a steady flow all day," said Nowell. "We are also seeing a lot more people paying online, even though there is an additional fee."

Nowell said online payments are likely the reason for the increases in the number of bills paid so far. More than 240 people paid their tax bill online Tuesday. County residents can pay online for a fee of 1.7 percent plus $1 or pay with an e-check for a total fee of $2.50.

"That's 240 people who didn't come through our offices to pay," said Nowell. "It's a convenient way to pay for many people."

A 3 percent penalty was added beginning today, and the penalty will go up to 10 percent on Feb. 1. After March 15 all real estate tax bills will be turned over to the delinquent tax department. If the bills are not paid by August or September, Nowell said they can be sold at auction.

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