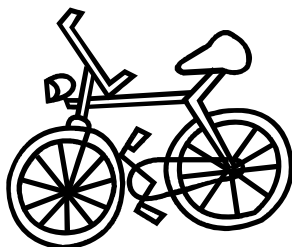


# Garth: The Only American Who Doesn't Pay Taxes?



Property taxes? The only way to avoid them directly as a homeowner (or indirectly as a renter) is to do like Garth: live rent-free as a squatter in an old shack on public lands.

Gas taxes? No. Garth has a broken-down pickup, but doesn't have the money for parts and repairs (uh-oh, sales taxes!). He gets around on an old bike, a hand-me-down from his big brother.



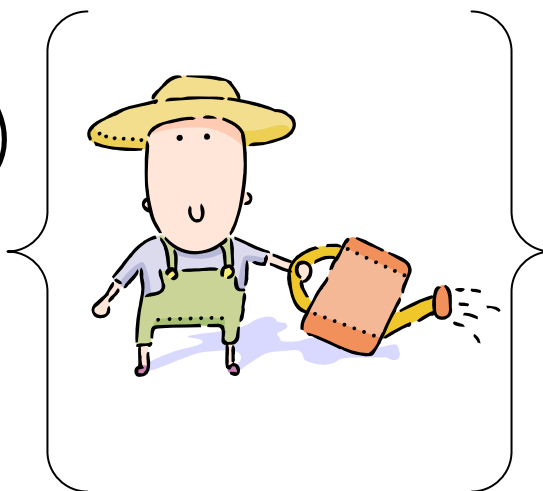
Sin taxes? Nope. Garth brews his own beer with hops from his garden, and rolls his own home grown tobacco.



For years we've been hearing how half of all Americans don't pay taxes – but our numbers say otherwise. So we set out to find even one American that didn't pay any tax and, amazingly, we did! He is unique, and he is Garth.

Garth doesn't make enough money to even file a tax return let alone pay income taxes. The 2011 filing threshold is \$9,500. Garth doesn't make enough to file taxes because he doesn't have a job. That means no payroll tax, either.

Garth lives off the land and off the grid.

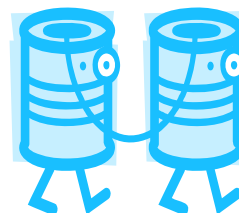


Whatever he can't grow, find or make for himself, Garth barter for – the general store does that with lots of folks. Of course, bartering income is taxable, but don't tell Garth.



Sales taxes? You have to shop to pay sales taxes, and Garth doesn't shop except for some groceries, which are tax free where he lives. Garth grows, fishes, and hunts most of his own food, anyway.

Clothes? His flannel shirts and jeans come from the church rummage sale. When he's not foraging, he loves to read -- the same books over and over. If he bought new books, he'd pay a sales tax -- unless he bought them from the legendary tax dodger Amazon.



And he doesn't have internet access, anyway. Or iPhone or cell phone or even a landline. If he had any of those, he'd be paying telecoms excise taxes imposed by various levels of government.