

## **Auditor's Outreach Program**

### **Presentation to Fairfield Township Trustees**

May 15, 2019 – 6:30 p.m.

(2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday monthly, Twp Admin Bldg., 6032 Morris Rd)

**Trustees:** Shannon Hartkemeyer, Susan Berding & Joe McAbee

**Fiscal Officer:** Shelly Schultz

**Administrator:** Julie Vonderhaar

**Intro: Julie Joyce-Smith, Deputy Auditor, BC Auditor**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2019 Talking Points**

#### **Fuel Quality Testing**

Rep. George Lang of West Chester and Rep. Brigid Kelly of Cincinnati have become allies in the effort to implement fuel quality testing in Ohio.

We are anticipating that once the two-year budget is passed the timing will be right to introduce fuel quality legislation in the House.

We are seeking legislation that would allow County Auditors the authority to test fuel for **water**, **sediment** and **octane** level.

If only the Auditors of the 10 largest counties implemented the testing it would cover more than 50 percent of all the service stations in the state.

**The Ohio Farm Bureau and the Ohio Township Association are in support and fuel quality testing by county auditors is on each of their legislative agendas.**

We're hopeful that this issue gains broad support once it is introduced in the House.

Ohio is one of only three states in the nation, along with **Alaska** and **Nebraska**, that does not have a fuel quality testing program in place.

#### **New Construction Site Visits:**

Beginning the end of May, we will have appraisers in the field for a few months doing new construction site visits and also visiting those properties where a change took place that we could not rectify from our desktop views. This will include about 4,200 properties across the county. Local police and dispatch agencies will be notified in advance of our visits to your community.

#### **Income and Expense Verification letters:**

In April our office mailed out letters to those who own commercial and industrial class properties asking for income and expense information where applicable. This data, which we also asked for prior to our 2014 property revaluation, will help our commercial appraisers put an appropriate value on this class of property during our 2020 revaluation.

Our office would like to receive this information by May 31.

## **Permits / Blueprints / Inspection Dates:**

In addition to building permits, we have begun requesting building blueprints and inspection dates from various township, municipality, and county building and zoning departments. We scan and compile that data into our real estate system for the sketch and valuation use. This information sharing among governments adds efficiencies and improves accuracies to our data collection. Thus ensuring a more accurate result, which drives the real estate revenue stream and ultimately lessens the volume of appeals. We appreciate the cooperation from those agencies.

**Settlements** – Mobile Home and Real Estate first half tax settlements have been certified by the Treasurer’s Office. This year’s first half certified collections amount is \$232.2 million (about a \$4.5 million increase, or 2.0 percent). Last year’s first half certified number was \$227.7 million.

## **Homestead Exemption**

The Ohio Revised Code established a maximum allowable income for 2014 tax year applicants. (Income is defined as the Ohio Adjusted Gross Income (OAGI) of the applicant and the applicant’s spouse; OAGI can be found on line 3 of the Ohio Income Tax Return.)

The maximum allowable income for those eligible beginning the 2019 tax year is \$32,800. (If applying for the 2019 tax year, refer to your 2018 income tax return.) The filing deadline is Dec. 31 each year.

If you do not file Ohio income taxes, you will be asked to produce a federal income tax return, or evidence of income and deductions allowable under Ohio law.

There is no income limit for qualifying disabled Veterans.

See our website at [ButlerCountyAuditor.org](http://ButlerCountyAuditor.org) for more details or to download forms.

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Auditor’s web site: [www.ButlerCountyAuditor.org](http://www.ButlerCountyAuditor.org)

