

Auditor's Outreach Program

Presentation to Fairfield Township Trustees

November 13, 2019 – 6:30 p.m.

(2nd/4th 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

4th Quarter 2019 Talking Points

Dog Tag Season: 2020 dog tags go on sale Sunday, Dec. 1 through our web site at www.butlercountyauditor.org. Then select **Buy Dog Tags**. Tags are still \$14 annually and the renewal season lasts through January 31.

Final Review of Properties: Our appraisal team recently completed a final review of all properties in the county as part of the state-mandated 2020 Property Revaluation.

We had appraiser and driver teams in the field from Aug. 29 through Oct. 30 and we visually inspected approximately 163,000 improved parcels. That averages out to about 517 parcels per appraiser per day.

Skimmer Update/Guilty Plea: Back on June 21 the FBI made an arrest in their credit card skimmer investigation. Cuban national Yosbel Ponce Bernal (26) was charged with felony fraud for using a skimming device. According to the FBI, Ponce pleaded guilty to placing skimmers in Butler and Hamilton counties. A sentencing date has not yet been set.

Our Auditor surveillance video from last October provided detailed information, and two fingerprints were found in a pump in Hamilton County less than a week later, which identified the suspect and he was arrested in Louisville. The United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Ohio is prosecuting the case.

The Auditor's Office has found 24 skimmers in all since November 2015, but none since September 2018. We continue to do our weekly inspections (22 stations).

Fuel Quality Testing: Auditor Reynolds continues to seek legislation that would grant county auditors permissive authority to test fuel for quality and octane level.

Progress is being made but crafting a bill is not always a quick process, as we are finding out with this measure. **The Ohio Township Association has made this issue one of their legislative priorities in 2019 as has the Ohio Farm Bureau.** Another group in support is the **Ohio Soybean Council**. (More than 5 million acres of soybeans planted in Ohio in 2017 and Ohio 6th in production in the U.S.)

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

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Auditor's web site: www.ButlerCountyAuditor.org