

## **Auditor's Outreach Program**

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

November, 2018 – 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**

### **4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2018 Talking Points**

**Skimmer Update:** We continue to find illegal credit card skimmers and we are working closely with the FBI in an effort to secure arrests. Due to the nature of the investigations, we are not releasing anything that may compromise the FBI's efforts.

We have found more than 20 skimmers since November 2015 in Butler County service stations.

### **Fuel Quality Testing**

Auditor Reynolds is pressing the state Legislature to implement a fuel quality testing program and as part of that allow county Auditors to test fuel for octane level, as well as water and sediment. We have worked up sample legislation.

We are hoping to get state support from both the Ohio Township Association and Ohio Farm Bureau. The Butler County branches of these organizations are in support.

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.

More than 10 years ago, Ohio allowed for fuel quality testing with the passage of amended House Bill 67. But the law, now codified in ORC 1327.70 stipulated fuel quality testing had to be uniformly implemented by the Ohio Department of Agriculture. The funding never followed, however, and neither did a statewide testing program.

### **Dog Tag Season**

2019 dog tags go on sale Saturday, Dec. 1 through our web site at [www.butlercountyauditor.org](http://www.butlercountyauditor.org). Then select **Buy Dog Tags**. Tags are still \$14 annually and the renewal season lasts through January 31.

## **Homestead Exemption**

Those homeowners 65 and older, as well as those applying for the exemption as permanently and totally disabled, must have a **total income in 2017 of \$32,200 or less to qualify for the 2018 tax year and total income in 2018 of \$32,800 or less to qualify for the 2019 tax year.**

Total income is defined as “Ohio adjusted gross income of the owner and the owner’s spouse” for the year preceding the application.

For those qualifying homeowners, up to \$25,000 of the market value of their home is exempt from all local property taxes.

Qualifying disabled veterans are exempted from means testing and may shield up to \$50,000 of the market value of their home from taxation. The savings average out to about \$850 per year in Butler County.

Honorably discharged veterans totally compensated by the VA for unemployability are eligible, along with those 100 percent disabled.

A disabled veteran submitting an application under this statute must fill out **Form DTE 105I**.

For more information go to the Auditor’s home page at [ButlerCountyAuditor.org](http://ButlerCountyAuditor.org) and click on Homestead near the top of the page.

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