

# The Due Diligence

The Coshocton County Auditor's Newsletter  
Christine Sycks, County Auditor



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##### REAL ESTATE SEARCH WEBSITE:

[www.coshcoauditor.org](http://www.coshcoauditor.org)

##### FACEBOOK:

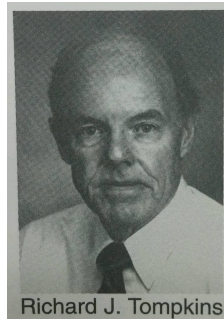
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[https://www.facebook.com/pages/Coshocton-County-Auditors-Office/684678204895125?ref=aymt\\_homepage\\_panel](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Coshocton-County-Auditors-Office/684678204895125?ref=aymt_homepage_panel)

**EDITED BY:** Chris Sycks

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**PROOFREADERS:** Deana Tumblin



Richard J. Tompkins

### From the Desk of....

#### Chris Sycks, Coshocton County Auditor:

##### *A Tribute to Richard J. Tompkins...*

It is with a heavy heart that I write this article, as it is the same day that I received the sad news that one of my friends and mentors died last night. Richard J. Tompkins, the second auditor for whom I worked, was Coshocton County's Auditor from 1982 to 2005.

He was retired from the U.S. Air Force and was a Certified Public Accountant. He continued to come and work for his private accounting firm after he retired from the county all the way up to just a few weeks ago.

Mr. Tompkins was the auditor who computerized the financial records and purchased the first in-house computer system to process them, along with payroll, CAMA, and real estate taxes. The 1985 photo (by Bill Bregar and from the Coshocton Tribune), below, shows the Data General mainframe in front of Cheryl Willis (Chief Deputy Auditor), Richard J. Tompkins, and me. He had chosen me from among existing staff to train to be "Computer Operator" – a precursor to "IT".

He was also a mentor and a good example of an excellent elected official "We don't have problems, only challenges", and encouraged all of his employees to do their best.

Mr. Tompkins was quick to show his core beliefs and ethics in any way he could by extending practical kindnesses. When my children came in for a visit, he always took time to talk to them and even to play with them a little. When a co-worker, who had no immediate family to support her, was sitting at the hospital with her severely ill husband, Mr. Tompkins drove to Columbus to be with her. When a public assistance recipient came in because his voucher didn't make it to our office in time to make the current bill run, Mr. Tompkins asked how much he thought he'd need to make it till the next run, and then took the money out of his wallet and handed it to him. He and his wife, Martha, also hosted his whole office for picnics and volleyball games at his home during several summers.

He had a great sense of humor and a quick mind, and he treated everyone with kindness and respect. Mr. Tompkins taught me a lot about the office, accounting, and racquetball, and always had a spotless shine on his shoes thanks to the kit in his office and, I am sure, USAF training. He was a good example for many and I am proud to have known him, worked for him, and continued a friendship with him with the Wednesday morning 'breakfast bunch'. He will be greatly missed – we lost one of the good ones. Fly high, RJT. Till we meet again,



COMPUTER GROUP — Coshocton County's computer is nearly 1-year-old, but officials are still surprised about the amount of information it can hold and retrieve quickly. Cheryl Willis, chief deputy auditor, left, stands with county auditor Richard Tompkins and computer operator Christine Neace behind the Data General Corp. computer. The computer's left half contains a "central processing unit." A disk drive in the right half stores information. (Tribune Photo by Bill Bregar)

~Chris

## Payroll Page

### PLEASE WELCOME COSHOCTON COUNTY'S NEW HIRES:

**Hired by the Board of DD (Hopewell):**  
on 1/24/2018 Tina D. Wilson.

**Hired by Family & Children First Council:**  
on 1/29/2018 Alexia J. McKay.  
on 2/20/2018 Ali D. Bates.

**Hired by the Common Pleas Court:**  
on 2/1/2018 James C. Priest.

**Hired by Coordinated Transportation:**  
on 2/8/2018 Steven G. Addy.  
on 3/5/2018 William E. Speaks.

**Hired by the Municipal Court:**  
on 2/9/2018 Richard M. Wallar.

**Hired by the County Auditor:**  
on 2/12/2018 Alex M. Taylor.

**Hired by the County Sheriff:**  
on 2/13/2018 Zachery D. Elson.

**Hired by the Job and Family Services:**  
on 2/20/2018 Tanya M. Theisen.

**Hired by the County Prosecutor:**  
on 3/26/2018 Regina L. Bryant.

### January - March County Anniversaries with more than 20 consecutive years

Laura Hall	33 years
Christina Sturtz	31 years
Lori Patterson	30 years
Scott Kestler	28 years
Lois Stubbs	28 years
Robert Gwinn	26 years
Kathy Jones	26 years
Susan Turner	26 years
Frederick Wachtel	26 years
Dean Hettinger	24 years
William Jackson	24 years
Frances Tumblin	24 years
Edward Zinkon	23 years
Wendy K. Wilson	22 years
Tonya K. Webster	20 years
John G. Hatalla	20 years

### Are Your Affairs In Order?

Most people have already heard or taken the advice to have a will prepared and executed. Other items need attention, like living wills and documents having to do with health decisions or bank accounts. You should speak to your attorney about these documents. However, have you thought about your OPERS account?

Nobody likes to think about situations where one may be disabled, incapacitated, or even killed. In any of these cases, where the employee is unable to take care of retirement funds, loved ones may have miles of red tape and a long wait to access money for household expenses. Every employee should at least have a Designation of Beneficiary Form and an Authorization of Release of Information Form on file with OPERS, found online at:

<https://www.opers.org/forms-archive/A-3U.pdf>

<https://www.opers.org/forms-archive/LL-2.pdf>

Having these two forms up to date and on file can save a lot of headaches and expedite family benefits.

### Congratulations and Best Wishes to:

**Barry Ackerman**, who retired January 31, 2018, from the Common Pleas Court after more than 12 years of service.

**Jon Mosier**, who retired January 31, 2018, from the Common Pleas Court after more than 11 years of service.

**Jim Priest**, who retired January 31, 2018, from the Sheriff's Office after more than 27 years of service.

**Mark Little**, who retired February 26, 2018, from the EMS after more than 26 years of volunteer and paid service.

**Rebecca J. Beiter**, who retired March 30, 2018, from District Health after more than 26 years of service.

**John R. Shroyer**, who retired March 31, 2018, from the County Engineer's Office after nearly than 17 years of service.

**Upcoming Dates & Deadlines**

- Apr 2 – District Health/Budget Commission
- Apr 6-May 6 – Johnson-Humrickhouse Museum (JHM) Teen Talent Exhibit
- Apr 6 – County pay date (timesheets due 4/2)
  - Chamber of Commerce Dinner
  - Tom Davis, Guitarist, Pomerene Center Rent Party (7:30 p.m.)
- Apr 11 – County bill run (due 4/3)
- Apr 12 – Victim’s Rights Week Luncheon, (See page 4)
- Apr 13 – Free Scrap Tire Cleanup Day, Fairgrounds (See page 6)
- Apr 13-15–UKC Beagle Nationals, Fairgrounds
- Apr 20 – County pay date (due 4/16)
- Apr 21 – JHM What Women Want Fundraiser
  - The Big Coshocton Cleanup, Court Square (8:30 a.m.)
  - “Chestnut Hill Band” 3-Rivers Bluegrass, Inn & Suites (7 p.m.)
- Apr 25 – County bill run (due 4/17)
- Apr 27 – Township Association Dinner
- Apr 29 – Coshocton Community Choir Spring Concert, CHS (3 p.m.)
- May 4 – County pay date (due 4/30)
  - First Friday Celebration, Main Street
- May 4-11-Dogwood Festival
- May 9 – County bill run (due 5/1)
- May 11 – Auditor’s Sale (see articles, page 4)
- May 12–“Open Highway Band” 3-Rivers Bluegrass, Inn & Suites (7 p.m.)
- May 18 – County pay date (due 5/14)
- May 23– County bill run (due 5/15)
- May 26-27 – Rinehart R100 Archery Shoot, Sportsman’s Club
- May 27– Keene Memorial Day Parade
- May 28 – MEMORIAL DAY – Offices Closed
  - Coshocton Memorial Day Parade
  - Warsaw Memorial Day Parade
- May 30 – County GAAP report due to State
- Jun 1 – County pay date (due 5/29)
  - First Friday Celebration
- Jun 4-6 – Auditor’s Summer Conference
- Jun 7-9 –Hot Air Balloon Festival, Fairgrounds  
(Continued, next page)

*Spotlight on. . .*

**Family and Children First Council**

*Submitted by Leane Rohr, Director*

The Coshocton County Family and Children First Council works to connect the dots for families through a collaborative community council that includes county agencies, the local school districts and other concerned community members. Your county's Family and Children First Council (FCFC) connects the dots to bring resources and services together for improving results for families and children. FCFC helps the community by providing availability, resources and usefulness of services for our county's youth and their families who show they have a high need for help and support from more than one service.

Coshocton County’s FCFC employs three full-time and two part-time staff members who provide a variety of services to residents of Coshocton County.

Leane Rohr is the Director and oversees the daily operations of the department. She also facilitates several county-wide coalitions for Coshocton County: Coshocton County Drug Free Coalition, Coshocton County Suicide Prevention Coalition, the Early Childhood Collaborative Committee, and the Family and Children First Council.

Some of the services and supports that the FCFC offers to residents of Coshocton County are:

**Creative Options:**

Amy Boal is our Multi-System Youth Coordinator who works primarily with the families who are enrolled in our Creative Options

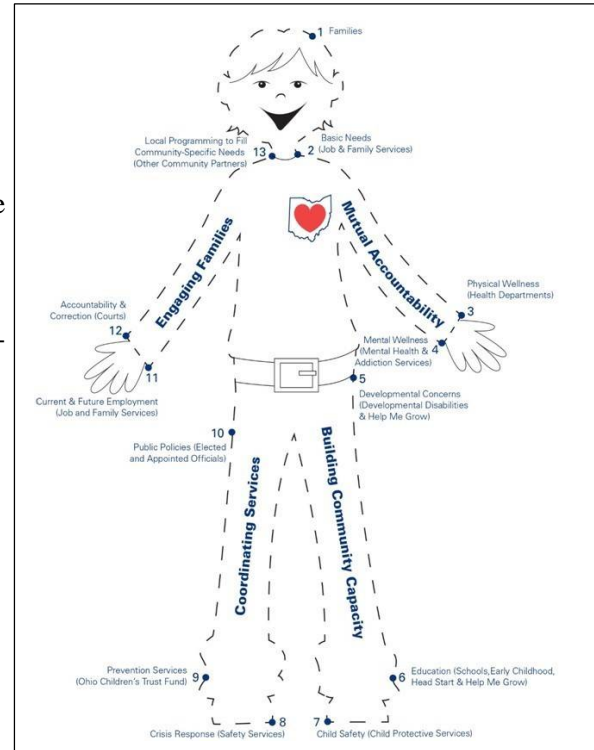
Program. The purpose of the Creative Options process is to provide a place for families with multiple and complex problems, and to effectively address their needs through a process that creates a unique intervention/treatment environment which eliminates duplication and provides both traditional services and builds natural supports through a team based process. The history, strengths, and concerns of the child and family are identified, and the Team Leader will help develop a plan and assist the family and community in meeting the goals of the plan.

Any service provider or family member may make a referral to Creative Options. They can do so by contacting the Amy, or they may complete the referral form located on our website and submit it to our office.

**Nurturing Parenting - Parent Education and Coaching**

This program is facilitated by Suzanne Tupper, Parent Educator and Ali Bates, Case Manager, and offers a traditional group workshop that focuses on learning or refreshing your parenting skills utilizing the Nurturing Parenting Curriculum as the basis for our workshops. We are currently holding one group workshop per week that is open to all parents who are interested in learning more about connecting with their child. For information about this workshop contact our office.

Coshocton County Department of Job and Family Services contracts with our program to provide parent coaching to families whom they refer for services. This is a new program that we are piloting to work with families who have intensive needs. This model is strength based and utilizes a positive reinforcement model. We meet with families prior to and after family visits to work on *(Continued on Page 5)*



**Upcoming Dates & Deadlines (continued)**

- Jun 9 – JMH WWII: We Will... We Must!  
Exhibit Opens
- Jun 10 – Annual Corvette Show, Roscoe
- Jun 13 – County bill run (due 6/6)
- Jun 15 – County pay date (due 6/11)
- Jun 15-17-Dulcimer Days Festival, Roscoe
- Jun 23 – Lake Park Indian Mud Run (8a-2p)  
– “Joe Williams & Deep Water” 3-Rivers  
Bluegrass, Inn & Suites (7 p.m.)
- Jun 27 – County bill run (due 6/19)
- Jun 29 – County pay date (due 6/25)

**ANNUAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS LUNCHEON**

Submitted by Tarez Elliott, Victim/Witness Coordinator, Prosecutor's Office

**April 12, 2018**

**12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

Grace United Methodist Church

**Guest Speaker: David Voth**

David Voth is Executive Director of Crime Victim Services since 1985. David authored the book, "Quality Victim Advocacy: A Field Guide" and he is a recipient of the United States Congress Victim Rights Caucus Outstanding Victim Advocate Award. He Co-Chaired the 1994 successful campaign to amend the Ohio Constitution with victim rights and was on the leadership team promoting Marsy's Law in 2017. David helped draft the Victim Rights Law, ORC 2930, and is helping draft the implementing legislation for Marsy's Law.

**Special Recognition:** Denise Appis - Law Director Clerk; Chief Klopfenstein - West Lafayette Chief of Police; Rebecca Beiter, RN Director of Nursing Cosh. Co. Health Dept.; Rebecca Porteus - United Way Liason; Joy Padgett

**\$10.00 Per meal at the door**

**Cash or checks payable to "First Step"**

**Please R.S.V.P. by Monday, April 9th**

Tarez Elliott 622-3883

tarezellott@coshoctoncounty.net

OR

Megan Philabaum 622-8504

firststepcosh@sbcglobal.net

**AUDITOR'S SALE TO BE HELD**

*"Every tract of land foreclosed upon for delinquent taxes or a tax lien that has been properly offered for sale on two separate occasions, not less than two weeks apart & not sold shall be forfeited to the state & the County Auditor will offer it for sale to the highest bidder." Ohio Revised Code 5723.*

The next Auditor's Sale will be held at 10:30 a.m. on May 11<sup>th</sup> at the Courthouse. At the time of this article, there are five manufactured homes and two real estate parcels scheduled to be sold:

**Manufactured Homes**  
**008-00026 32780 SR 93, Crawford Twp.**  
**008-00047 32780 SR 93, Crawford Twp.**  
**032-00027 14594 TR 424, Pike Twp.**

**Real Estate**  
**043-0000701-00 820 S. Lawn Ave., Coshocton**  
**043-00004363-00 935 S. 6th St., Coshocton**

Parcels go for the best bid, but may not be sold to any person delinquent on real property taxes in the State of Ohio nor for less than the total amount of charges and costs if the highest bidder is the last owner of record or their immediate family member.

Any taxes, charges or costs not covered by the sale will be remitted and all liens are eliminated except for the real estate taxes recovered by the sale. If there is a Federal lien, the Federal Government has "Right of Redemption" and may re-take the property for one year after the original foreclosure was filed. The buyer will receive only the amount he paid at the Auditor's sale and no more regardless of improvements done after the purchase.

The real estate parcels (below, right) are both vacant lots, and can be viewed online on the County GIS at <http://gis.coshoctoncounty.net/index.aspx> by searching by the parcel number (without the dashes). The manufactured homes are pictured to the left. Land does not go with the manufactured home.



As a courtesy, adjacent land-owners are notified of the sale via USPS. Anyone planning on bidding must register prior to the sale, so please arrive a few minutes early.

A non-refundable down payment (10% of the total due or \$50, whichever is greater) is collected at the end of the auction. If not paid in full on the date of the sale, the bidder must, within 10 days from the sale, produce and return to the auditor the Certificate of Sale along with any bid balance due and the fees to transfer (\$45 Auditor Deed fee, \$36 Recorder's fee & \$.50 Transfer Fee).

The winning bidders will have a deed in hand for the property within a few days of full payment.

**For more information, call the Auditor's Office at 740-622-1243 or visit the Auditor's page at <http://www.coshoctoncounty.net/agency/auditor> and click on the Auditors Sale tab.**

### CAAO Legislative Committee Update

County Auditor Chris Sycks continues to serve on the Legislative Committee of the County Auditors' Association of Ohio (CAAO). They work to monitor bills that may negatively affect local taxpayers and county government, suggest legislative proposals, and encourage policies which positively impact them. The committee usually meets the first Wednesday each month. Below are current bills that are of interest to the CAAO.

- HB 3 – *DataOhio Board Creation*. Creates board and online catalog of public data, governs online public records, addresses uniform chart of accounts. **Reported out, 3<sup>rd</sup> Hearing, House Finance Committee.**
- HB 24 – *Veterans Organization Tax Exemptions*. To exempt from taxes all property owned by these regardless of use. **Signed by Governor.**
- HB 34 – *Official Notice Delivery*. To allow certain notifications by other than certified mail. **2<sup>nd</sup> Hearing, Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee.**
- HB 49 – *Operating Budget*. SYF 2018-19 main budget, including a multitude of issues affecting local governments. **Consideration of Governor's Vetoes.**
- HB 52 – *Deed Solicitation Regulation*. To require certain disclosures and limit charges on mailers selling various "property records" that are public record. **Signed by Governor.**
- HB 70 – *Fuel Tax Transparency*. Requires our weights & measures inspectors to place stickers on all pumps itemizing taxes. **1<sup>st</sup> Hearing, House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee.**
- HB 102 – *School Funding Reform*. To replace local school levies with a statewide property tax, repeal school income taxes, require certain tax exemptions to reimburse the state for levy loss, require the Treasurer of State to issue bonds to refund school debt, among other items. **2<sup>nd</sup> Hearing, House Finance Committee.**
- HB 104 – *Tax Refund on Bad Debts*. Allows vendors to receive sales tax refunds on credit accounts charged off as uncollectible. **In Senate Finance Committee.**
- HB 205 – *Senior Housing Relief*. Prohibits tax foreclosures on senior homeowners who have paid current taxes in all but five or fewer tax years. **1<sup>st</sup> Hearing, House Financial Institutions, Housing and Urban Development.**
- HB 295/HB 558 – *Disabled Veterans-Assistance Dogs*. Exempts certain disabled veterans from paying a dog registration fee if proof is included that the dog is an assistance dog. **295-2<sup>nd</sup> Hearing/558 referred, House Armed Services, Veteran's Affairs & Homeland Security Comm.**
- HB 298 – *Public Employee Sick Days*.

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**Coshocton County Family and Children First Council** (Continued from Page 3) goals, talk about what went well in visits, and where opportunities for growth exist.

The program also offers some additional workshops in conjunction with Juvenile and Common Pleas court. These workshops are open only to those who are court referred for programing. Our Diversion Parenting Program is a workshop that is held with youth and their parents who are currently participating in the Juvenile Court Diversion program. This program focuses on parent and youth connection, taking responsibility for mistakes and family problem solving.

Coshocton County Common Pleas Court provides support for a workshop called Remember the Children for parents who are filing for dissolution or divorce in Coshocton County. This workshop is provided by Family and Children First Council – Nurturing Parenting Staff and William Johnson from Coshocton Family PACT.

#### Cribs for Kids – Safe Sleep Education

This program is funding through a grant from Ohio Department of Health. The focus of this program is to provide one on one safe sleep education to parents in our county. As part of the program Alexis discusses with parents the ABC's of Safe Sleep (Alone – Back – Crib) and other important factors about safe sleep. At the completion of the program the parent receives a Pack N Play and other safe sleep resources. There is no cost for the program but participants must meet WIC eligibility guidelines (although they do not have to be WIC Participants).

#### Baby and Me Tobacco Free

This is a smoking cessation program for pregnant women and their partner (if they choose to participate). It consists of a series of four prenatal smoking cessation sessions with the focus being on the pregnant woman quitting smoking by the second session. The sessions focus on teaching the participants coping mechanisms to help them stay tobacco free during and after their baby is born. If the participants are successful in quitting smoking during their pregnancy they are eligible to receive a \$25 diaper/baby wipe voucher for each month they stay tobacco free after their baby is born. This program is provided through a grant from the Ohio Department of Health and there is no cost for participation in the program.

#### Food for Kids

The Food for Kids program is provided through a grant from the Ohio Department of Health. This program's focus is helping to provide food for students in the County Schools who may be facing food insecurity in their home. This program is coordinated through our office but each school who participates has their own process for packing bags and distributing them to the students. The packs of food are distributed to the students at the end of each school week.

Alexis McKay oversees these last three programs for FCFC.

#### Contact Information:

FCFC Main Phone: (740) 622-3760

FCFC Fax: (740) 291-8035

Website: <http://www.coshoctoncounty.net/family/>



## OHIO ETHICS AND PUBLIC RECORDS TRAINING IN COSHOCTON

Submitted by Cathy Williamson, Monroe Township Fiscal Officer

Ohio Ethics Law and Certified Public Records training are scheduled in Coshoc-ton County on June 19, 2018, at the County Services Building in Room 145. Ethics Law will run from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and Public Records will run from 12:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. Both classes start promptly at the time stated and will fulfill the requirements for elected officials. One or both classes may be attended.

Registration online at the State Auditor's website at <https://www.ohioauditor.gov/trainings/registration.html>

will need to be done to attend the training. To register for the ethics training, please contact Cathy Williamson at 740-824-3107 to register. All local attendees are asked to park at the fairgrounds,

*Special thanks to Cathy Williamson for arranging these local classes as a courtesy and convenience to Coshoc-ton's elected officials!*

## FINAL NOTICE!

The auditor's office recently sent out several hundred pieces of certified mail to all landowners of property currently receiving the CAUV reduction and from whom a 2018 application was not submitted. Several owners questioned why we 'wasted money' certifying the letters, saying that a phone call or email would have been cheaper. We were also asked why we 'threatened' them with the red **FINAL NOTICE** along with the [sometimes large] recoupment charges listed on the notice.

Ohio Revised Code requires certified mail notification, including recoupment amounts, to any landowner with no application on file by the deadline. Phone calls or emails would not satisfy the law, and a certified letter would still be required.

As for the **FINAL NOTICE** insert, we have tried letters in the past, which seem to be ignored. We want all qualifying farmers to receive the reduction they deserve. This is an attention-getting gimmick that highlights the savings that would have to be returned if the application is not filed.

It works!

## Courthouse Lighting Project

Submitted by Barb Karr

Imagine colors of every hue highlighting the arches and crevices of Coshoc-ton County's historic Courthouse after dark. The cheerful glow of the building will draw both residents and visitors to the heart of downtown, providing a catalyst for Main Street revitalization and community involvement. Our Town Coshoc-ton seeks to make this dream a reality with our Coshoc-ton Courthouse Lighting Project.

A key element of this permanent LED lighting installation is its flexibility. It can be programmed to change colors to reflect important community events, from holidays to nonprofit awareness, making the initial financial investment something that our community will continue to enjoy all year long.

OTC has been awarded \$35,000 in grant funds from both The Coshoc-ton Foundation and The Montgomery Foundation. Combined with an additional \$10k pledged, OTC has already secured nearly 82% of the total needed.

Please help us raise the remaining funds by making your donation today! Payments can be mailed to OTC, PO Box 1633, Coshoc-ton, OH 43812, or contact Barb Karr at 740-295-7432 to make a cash donation. Although not yet available, PayPal is in the works, and will be available soon at [www.ourtowncoshoc-ton.org](http://www.ourtowncoshoc-ton.org).

## Free Scrap Tire Cleanup Day!

**Who:** Coshoc-ton County/City Residents- Sponsored By Coshoc-ton County Health Department

**What:** Vehicle passenger tires. (No heavy unloading equipment at the event)

**When:** Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup> 2018

**Where:** Coshoc-ton County Fairgrounds

**Why:** Mosquitoes can carry diseases such as West Nile Virus, Encephalitis, Zika, and many more. Mosquitoes will breed in any type of stagnant water source. Getting rid of breeding sources such as tire piles is one step in reducing mosquito populations and diseases.

**Time:** 9:00AM- 3:00PM or when trailer is full (1,200-1,500)

*(No more than 50 tires will be unloaded per load. If you have more than 50, you will have to make another trip.)*



\*This event will be on a first come first serve basis. We will be obtaining a trailer from Campbell Tire Company. The goal is to collect 1,200-1,500 scrap tires which will be later recycled. **ONCE THE GOAL IS REACHED, THE COLLECTION WILL STOP.** Volunteers will be available to help unload tires by hand.

**Help protect your family & neighbors! Bring in your backyard Tire pile!**

**\*\*Important\*\*** If you are hauling more than 10 tires at a time please contact 740-295-7305 (County) or 740-622-1736 Joe Garret (City) or by email at [zuchifarming@Coshoc-toncounty.net](mailto:zuchifarming@Coshoc-toncounty.net) or [Joe.Garret@cityofcoshoc-ton.com](mailto:Joe.Garret@cityofcoshoc-ton.com). You will need an abatement letter! This cleanup was funded through Ohio EPA Mosquito Control Grant funding 2017

**Shikara Robbins Appointed to Statewide Leadership Post**

*Submitted by Brittany Coon*



A member of the Coshocton County Board of Developmental Disabilities (Coshocton DD) has become the first person with a developmental disability to also serve as a trustee of the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB), a statewide advocacy and trade group.

Coshocton resident Shikara Robbins receives support from Coshocton DD and has served on the county agency’s governing board since April 2016. Robbins’ application to become an OACB trustee was accepted in March. She will serve concurrently on both boards.

In her new role, Robbins will help guide OACB’s priorities for 2018. She will represent OACB’s East Central region, which includes 11 counties, at board meetings and statewide events. Robbins said being a person with a disability means she can provide real-world insight into how Ohio’s DD support system can be continuously improved for the people, families, and communities it serves.

“I can help others see how programs should operate to meet the needs of people like me,” Robbins said. “I look forward to participating in activities and meetings outside of Coshocton County as a way to learn about new opportunities and speak up about concerns that affect people with disabilities and their families.”

*Continued, Page 9*

**CAREER CENTER OPEN HOUSE**

*Submitted by Tammy Hess, Treasurer, CCJVS*



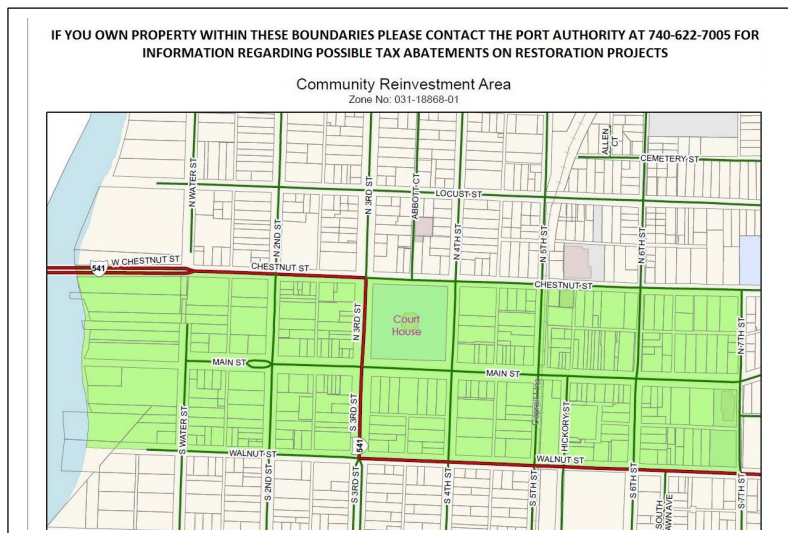
The Coshocton County Career Center held its annual open house on February 15<sup>th</sup> at the school. This year they celebrated 40 years of building skills and changing lives. The event included tours of the programs, spaghetti, local vendors, and an anniversary cake!



**L to R, School Counselor Doug Nagle, Superintendent Rick Raach, and Principal Eddie Dovenbarger.**

**Coshocton’s Community Reinvestment Area**

The City of Coshocton has a Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) that is bound by the Muskingum River, and Chestnut, 7<sup>th</sup>, and Walnut Streets (see photo, below). Both residential and commercial properties within this area may be eligible for a tax abatement for a period of time on any improvements or renovations done to the real estate. Please contact Tiffany Swigert at the Coshocton Port Authority by phone at (740) 622-7005 or by email at [portauthority@coshoctoncounty.net](mailto:portauthority@coshoctoncounty.net)



## CAAO Legislative Committee Update

(Continued from Page 5)

Changes the number of sick days provided to public employees. **2<sup>nd</sup> Hearing, House State & Local Government Committee.**

- HB 310 – *Elected Official Concealed Carry.* Permitting an elected official to carry a handgun in a government facility if he/she holds a valid license. **In House Federalism & Interstate Relations Committee.**
- HB 312 – *Local Government Credit Cards.* Regarding use of credit cards and debit cards by political subdivisions. **3<sup>rd</sup> Hearing, Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee.**
- HB 323/SB 181 – *Garbage Collection Fees.* Authorizes municipalities to certify these fees to the Auditor as a special assessment. **HB Reported out, 3<sup>rd</sup> Hearing, House State and Local Govt. Comm.; SB Amended, 3<sup>rd</sup> Hearing, Senate Ways and Means Committee.**
- HB 343 – *Property Value Contest Resolutions.* Requires formal resolutions and owner contact. **Passed by House (Vote 59-38)**
- HB 352/SB 195 – *Dog Law Revisions.* Addressing laws concerning nuisance, dangerous, and vicious dogs. **HB 1<sup>st</sup> Hearing, House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee; SB 3<sup>rd</sup> Hearing, Senate Judiciary.**
- HB 361 – *Property Tax Complaints Timeframe.* Extending deadlines for BOR decisions. **Reported out, 4<sup>th</sup> Hearing, House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee.**
- HB 371 – *Taxes on Unsold Property.* To exempt from taxes the increased value of a residential subdivision until construction starts or land is sold. **Bill amended, Re-referred to Committee.**
- HB 415 – *Local Government Road Improvement.* To allocate monies to be distributed directly to local governments for road improvements. **Passed by House (Vote 81-15). In Senate Finance Committee.**
- HB 458 – *Delinquent Property Tax Publication.* Allows 1<sup>st</sup> publication in newspaper and 2<sup>nd</sup> publication online. **1<sup>st</sup> Hearing, House Ways & Means Committee.**
- HB 473 – *Credit Local Government Fund (LGF)-Power Plants.* To credit additional LGF monies for fire districts losing 30% of 2016-2017 power plant valuation. **In House Ways & Means Committee.**
- HB 547/HB 572 – *DD School Employee OPERS Credit.* Regarding 9-mo v 12-mo service credit. **547 in House Aging & Long Term Care Committee/572 Introduced.**

(Continued, Page 9)

## DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH ACTIVITIES

Submitted by Brittany Coon

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month! The Coshocton County Board of DD has been busy celebrating and honoring people with disabilities and those that make our community so great! On March 7<sup>th</sup>, we held our annual DD Month Luncheon and we honored direct care staff, community members, local heroes and individuals during our event.

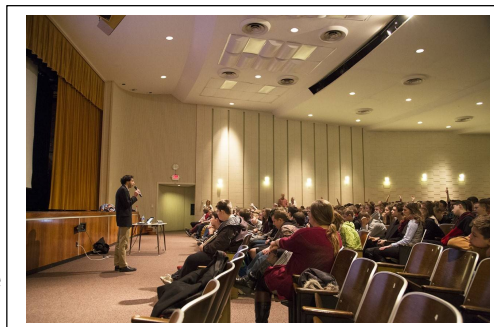
*Pictured, L to R, Zak Wilson Carpet & Furniture, Community Partner Award, Diana Green and Angela Higby, Local Hero Awards, Michael Schatz, Individual Spotlight Award, and Lisa Decker and Brenda Donley, Dedication Awards. Raven's Glenn Winery was also presented with the Employer Award.*



We partnered with all of the elementary schools in Coshocton County to hold our second annual coloring and essay contest! All schools participated this year, and all of the winners were ecstatic! On March 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, we held our 24<sup>th</sup> annual Track and Field Day at Kid's America for our Special Olympics participants—fun was had both days by the participants, spectators and volunteers! Major community members came and read "Fox in Sox" to all of the Hopewell School classes.

On March 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, Sam Drazin, an educator and public speaker who has Treacher Collins Syndrome, a rare congenital disorder resulting in both facial anomaly and hearing loss, came and spoke with all of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in Coshocton County (pictured below). Treacher Collins Syndrome is the same condition Auggie from the book and movie "Wonder". He was able to help the students understand the difficulties of being different and how his life experiences were similar to Auggie's. He also did a public presentation at Hopewell School, which was very well received!

One of our very own teachers, Amanda Hittle, entered and won a contest through Farmers Insurance and won \$100 to get supplies for her classroom! Shikara Robbins, one of our current board members and an individual in our program, has recently accepted a position as a board member for OACBDD! (See article, page 7) She is looking forward to learning more about how things work and to help make positive changes for people like her!



**Famous Quote:** Among the changing months, May stands confest the sweetest, and in fairest colors dressed.  
~ James Thompson, poet (1700-1748)





**CAAO Legislative Committee Update**  
*(Continued from Page 8)*

- HB 500 – *Township Law*. To make various changes to township law. **3<sup>rd</sup> Hearing, House State & Local Government Committee.**
- HB 513 – *Homestead Exemption-Surviving Spouses*. To enhance the homestead reduction for first responder surviving spouses. **1<sup>st</sup> Hearing, House Ways & Means Committee.**
- SB 17 – *LGF Allocation*. To increase allocations from State General Revenue from 1.66% to 3.68%. **In Senate Finance Committee**
- SB 75 – *Water Service Property Liens*. Regarding unpaid water charges special assessments. **In Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee.**
- SB 123 – *Property Tax Complaint Process*. Owner & County Recorder only filers. **2<sup>nd</sup> Hearing, Senate Ways & Means.**

**Shikara Robbins**  
*(Continued from Page 7)*

Ohio’s locally funded and operated county boards of DD offer a variety of services to Ohioans with developmental disabilities, including early intervention, school age services, case management, and employment services. Established 50 years ago by the Ohio General Assembly, Ohio’s 88 county boards of DD now serve more than 93,000 people with developmental disabilities.

Founded in 1984, OACB is a non-profit organization that acts as the statewide voice of Ohio’s 88 county boards of DD with local, state, and federal policymakers. It also provides professional development opportunities, communications support, and technical assistance to boards and DD support professionals. OACB’s governing board is composed of volunteer county board members and superintendents from across the state.

“Every level of our DD support system can benefit from the experiences and perspectives of people with developmental disabilities, and our association is no exception,” said OACB Executive Director Bridget Gargan. “Shikara is a true advocate, and we are excited to add her talents and vision to our leadership team.”

**BOARD OF REVISION UPDATES**

*Ohio Revised Code Section 5715.02 establishes the Board of Revision (BOR) for the taxpayer to have process to challenge the value set on his or her property for tax purposes. The Board consists of the county treasurer, the auditor, and one commissioner. This year’s BOR had 52 complaints filed in a timely manner to address. Taxpayers are able to appeal the BOR’s decision at the Common Pleas Court (CPC) or Ohio Board of Tax Appeals (BTA). Following are the open appeals.*

**TY 2015 Appeals**

*One case received a BTA determination since the last issue:*

Owner/Parcel	Requested Value	BOR Value	Annual Tax Change
WODA/0350000020303etal	1,173,000	3,156,500	\$29,147 decrease

*RV (counter-complainant) and WODA stipulated to a value of \$1,350,000, generating a tax decrease for 2015 tax year of \$27,417/*

**TY 2016 Appeals**

*One case awaiting a BTA decision:*

Owner/Parcel	Requested Value	BOR Value	Annual Tax Change
CHASE/0200000013100etal	26,100	291,640	\$ 4,264 decrease

*Hearing held January 30, 2018, at BTA.*

*The 2018 Board of Revision has received 66 complaints for 2017 tax year. Besides statutory notifications, the first step in the process is the Auditor will send out her appraisers to view each property and make sure our records accurately reflect the parcels’ characteristics. If anything needs changed that will affect the value, a preliminary offer will be given to the landowner. If the offer is accepted, the process is complete; if the offer is declined, or if no offer is given, hearings will be scheduled, beginning sometime in May. More information about the Board of Revision and the appeal process can be found at:*

<http://www.coshocountynet/auditor/board-of-revision/>

**NEW EMPLOYEE AT AUDITOR’S OFFICE**



Alex Taylor joined the outstanding group of county employees in the County Auditor’s Office on February 12, 2018, as a part-time payroll deputy auditor and part-time real estate deputy auditor. After analyzing accrued compensation time for both our payroll and real estate departments, this new position was created, and funding requested, in 2018 to help with the workload. Alex spends half his time in payroll, training with Sue McInerney, and the other half in real estate, training with Lindsay and Donna.

He has hit the pavement running in our office, since his hire date was in the midst of the CAUV application period and tax collection in the real estate department. Also, with the biweekly pay of 400-plus employees and reporting requirements, payroll always has tasks to do. He will be a good addition to our team, and his efforts will allow our employees to leave at closing instead of feeling pressure to work late because of pending tasks.

Alex is a 2013 graduate of the Coshocton High School, and he received a Bachelor’s Degree in Applied Management from Ohio University, Zanesville, in 2017. If you think he looks familiar, you may have seen him at Buehler’s, where he has been an employee since high school. Alex’s favorite sport is basketball (his favorite team is the Cavaliers), and his hobbies include watching movies, listening to music, gaming, and spending time with his girlfriend, friends, and family.

If you haven’t already done so, stop in, introduce yourself, and welcome him the next time you’re in our office!

### Tax Incentive Review Council

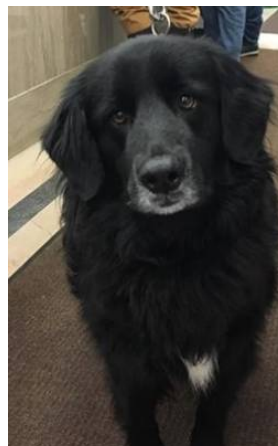
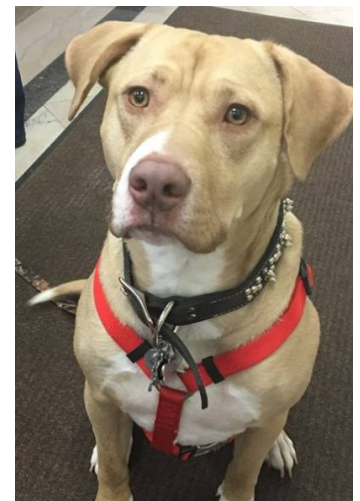
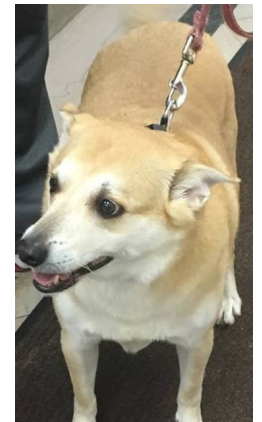
The Tax Incentive Review Council (TIRC) meets every March to make sure that any development receiving tax incentives or abatements are fulfilling the initial agreement for those tax breaks. The council is made up of the County Commissioners, representatives of the school district(s), township(s), and any municipality in which the incentives exist, and the County Auditor, who acts as statutory chair of the TIRC.

Coshocton County’s TIRC met on March 19 to review the Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) and the two existing Enterprise Zones (EZ). There are currently no participants in the CRA (see article, page 7), and there are two EZs – General Foods Corporation (Kraft Food Groups) and McWane Inc. (McWane Poles). Both of the EZ participants have exceeded their initial commitment of jobs, payroll, and investment. McWane Poles is receiving a ten year, 100% abatement with PILOT beginning with tax year 2014, saving \$129K to date on real estate improvements of \$2.3 million. Kraft is receiving a ten year, 75% abatement with Local Jobs Grant 50% Income Tax Abatement beginning with tax year 2016, saving \$423K to date on \$16 million. Both real estate tax abatements are only on the new construction involved with the project. Below are what the initial job agreements and current numbers reflect. The TIRC voted to continue both of the EZs with no modification.

McWane			
	Promised	Achieved to date	% Attained
Retained jobs	0	0	n/a
New jobs	12	24	200%
New payroll wages	\$424,320	\$911,388	215%
Kraft			
	Promised	Achieved to date	% Attained
Retained jobs	372	372	100%
New jobs	300	331	110%
New payroll wages	\$8,736,000	\$12,947,812	148%

### Special Customers Visit the Auditor’s Office - Part II

We had these furry customers bring in their people to purchase their tags during the last month of tag sales and two for new families. Pictured clockwise from upper left: Gracie (Peggy Stevens), Max (Brian, Kristy & Graham Stiteler), Brutus (John Glasure), Cooper & Bella (Janie Stahl), Yueger (Jayden Priest), Coco Chanel (Randy Conkle), Lexie (Kristy Patterson), Buddy (Ruthann Durben), Nemo (Rick & Jennifer Cosmar) and, in the center, Ringo (Mike Kobel).



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