

The Due Diligence

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



Inside This Issue:

From the Auditor's Desk.....1
 County Payroll News, Ethics
 Webinars.....2
 Dates & Deadlines, Spotlight on
 Coshocton City/County Park District....3
 Meet the Candidates Night, Dog Tag Sales
 & Contests Begin, Writers Workshop....4
 CAAO Legislative Update, More
 Recycling Opportunities.....5
 2021 Reappraisal Update.....6
 CAUV Conservation Reduction, Auditor's
 Sale October 18th.....7
 About QIC-CCCT, U.S. Representatives
 Hear About Coshocton County's Court
 Treatment System, Coshocton at All-
 Sites Meeting.....8
 Voter Tool on Auditor's Site, Common
 Pleas Court Update.....9
 Board of DD Staff Highlights, Hopewell
 School Craft & Vendor Show.....10
 Board of Revision Updates, Board of DD
 News, BPW Cake Auction.....11
 Why is My Name in the Paper?.....12

CONTACT INFORMATION
COSHOCTON COUNTY AUDITOR
 Christine Sycks, Coshocton County Auditor
 Courthouse Annex 349 Main Street
 Coshocton, OH 43812 (740) 622-1243
 auditor@coshoctoncounty.net

GENERAL WEBSITE:
<http://www.coshoctoncounty.net/auditor/>

REAL ESTATE SEARCH WEBSITE:
www.coshcoauditor.org

FACEBOOK:
 Please like us on Facebook to receive updates
 and important dates and deadlines from our
 office at:
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Coshocton-County-Auditors-Office/684678204895125?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

EDITED BY: Chris Sycks
CONTRIBUTORS: Judge Robert Batchelor,
 Brittany Coon, Lori Everhart, Macy Patterson,
 Tammi Rogers, Doug Schonauer, and Chris
 Sycks.
PROOFREADERS: Deana Rinehart.



From the Desk of....

**Chris Sycks, Coshocton County Auditor:
 Questions, Questions, Questions**

Our office gets questions all the time, some of which don't even pertain to what we do. One of the questions we get is addressed in an article on the last page. Now that the 168th Coshocton County Fair is in the books, I can get back to my normal routine. One of the questions I hear is "Why aren't you at work?" This Due Diligence is a little tardy because of my sporadic attendance at my office the last few weeks. Some of these absences have been due to different events or volunteer time at the fair, and some of them can be attributed to meetings and events through the County Auditor's Association of Ohio (CAAO).

On September 23rd, I participated in a meeting with several county auditors and Board of DD superintendents (our own Steve Oster being one of them) to discuss upcoming changes to the Budget Commission (BC) process concerning Board of DD levies and budgets. The new budget bill (HB 166) included some changes to the BC's legal notice requirements and the DD boards' projected budgets and supporting documentation.

On Thursday that same week, the CAAO sponsored a "New Auditor Education Day" in Columbus. The state of Ohio has more than a dozen new auditors that took office in 2019, and this was not only to help them with some areas of the job's duties, but also contribute to their continuing education requirements. With nearly 33 years of experience in the Auditor's Office, why did I attend? Because I was honored to have been asked to present a portion of the day AND because you can always learn something from your peers!

The last meeting was October 4th, and was the NE Ohio Auditor's District meeting. My IT Deputy Auditor Kyle Lowe and I attended and learned about cybersecurity from an FBI agent and from Wayne County IT persons who have dealt with three Ransomware attacks.

Another thing that recently occurred that has taken up a lot of my time, as well as my staff's time, was the delivery of the 2021 Reappraisal Questionnaires. Our phones have been very busy, and I am asked questions just about every time I am out in public: "What is that letter you sent me?" "Why do I need to tell you anything?" "What, do you raise my taxes because I have more than one bathroom?" "Why do I have to tell you what my rent is?" etc., etc.

The mailers were sent to owners of every property that had a dwelling listed on their property. This is part of the 2021 reappraisal process. The appraisers are attempting to gather as much information as they can about all the properties they can in order for them to set the most accurate fair market value as they can. I am required by Ohio Revised Code (ORC) to place a fair market value (what the property would bring on the open market) on every parcel. Income can be a factor in that. As to the questions about rent disclosure, high-rent property is more valuable than a low-rent property, if it were ever listed for sale. This is just another tool to validate the values being set.

All the questionnaires received back are going directly to the appraisal team and become proprietary data (and so not public records). For more details about the whole process, please contact our office or go to the following link:

<http://www.coshoctoncounty.net/auditor/2021-reappraisal/>

One more question: "Where does the time go?" We are starting the process for the next tax year already, and, as we are starting the last quarter of 2019, I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a blessed 2020! Till next time,

~Chris

July - September County Anniversaries with more than 20 consecutive years

Susan Metz Guthrie	35 years
Elizabeth A. Hartsock	30 years
Tina M. Parmiter	30 years
Jana Dotson	29 years
Joan Durben	29 years
Lori B. Everhart	29 years
Kelly Stroup	29 years
Beth D. Walsh	28 years
Marilyn K. Williamson	28 years
Christina A. Andrews	24 years
John N. Glasure	24 years
Ann E. Lauvray	24 years
Christa R. Matusik	20 years
Adriane N. Shaw	20 years

Congratulations and Best Wishes to:

Ann Hartsock who retired September 30, 2019, from the Court of Common Pleas after more than 30 years of service.

Just a Reminder:

The end of the year will be here before we know it, and we will all be thinking about that IRS refund.

Please take time to check the mailing address on your check stub to see if it is up to date. If you have moved, please contact Sue in payroll to correct your records at 740-295-7455.

Payroll Page

PLEASE WELCOME COSHOCTON COUNTY'S NEW HIRES:

Hired by EMS:

on 06/17/2019 Benjamin P. Lumbatis.
on 07/22/2019 Karrie L. Bluck,
on 08/4/2019 Todd E. Gibson.
on 08/5/2019 Darin R. Fandrey.
on 08/22/2019 Michael J. Lehman.
on 08/26/2019 Kathryn D. Helpfrey.

Hired by the Commissioners: Maintenance Department:

on 06/27/2019 Kristi L. Langdon.
on 07/30/2019 Johneen Castle.
on 08/19/2019 Blane E. Alverson.

Hired by the Park District: Ballfields:

on 07/12/2019 Devin W. Klein.

Hired by the County Sheriff:

on 07/22/2019 Cody L. Fisher.
on 08/5/2019 Jeremy Lee Johnson.
on 08/12/2019 David M. Selders.
on 08/19/2019 Tucker L. Garabrandt Hill.
on 09/16/2019 Marea A. Mizer.
on 09/27/2019 Jared Lindig.

Hired by the Board of DD (Hopewell):

on 08/19/2019 Russell J. Kinney, Kathy N. Meeks, Shawn M. Neighbor, & Maekayla C. Robinson.
on 09/04/2019 Heather A. Stewart.
on 09/09/2019 Stacy L. Gibbs & Richard A. McCune
on 09/16/2019 Aimee L. Weber.

Hired by the County Engineer (Roads):

on 08/19/2019 Destry L. Guillems.
on 08/26/2019 Jason A. Hamlett.

Hired by the County Recorder:

on 09/09/2019 Alexa Jae Sutton.

Hired by the Veteran's Services Office:

on 09/30/2019 Douglas B. Schaefer.

WEBINAR

Did you know that the Ohio Ethics Commission conducts eleven live webinars each year? These free one-hour webinars provide an overview of the Ohio Ethics Law, meet the Ethics Law training requirement for state employees, and – as a bonus for our public practice attorneys – provide one free general CLE hour!

[ETHICS.OHIO.GOV/EDUCATION/WEBINARS.HTML](https://ethics.ohio.gov/education/webinars.html)

October 15, 2019 1 PM
November 14, 2019 10 AM
December 11, 2019 10 AM



Upcoming Dates & Deadlines

- Aug 10-Jan 5 – 100th Anniversary of the Ohio Farm Bureau Exhibit, Johnson Humrickhouse Museum (JHM)
- Sep 27-Oct 3 – Coshocton County Fair
- Oct 4 – **County pay date** (entry due 9/27)
- Oct 5 – Fall Harvest Dance, Lake Park Pavilion
- Oct 9 – **County bill** run (entry due 10/3)
- Oct 10 – BPW/Farm Bureau Meet the Candidates Night (See ad, page 4)
- Oct 14 – COLUMBUS DAY – Offices Closed
- Oct 12 – Write-on Writers Guild Workshop, Frontier Power (see ad, page 4)
- Oct 17 – Coshocton SWCD Meeting & Banquet (Pavilion 7:00 p.m. Tickets at SWCD Office)
- Oct 18 – **County pay date** (due 10/11)
– **Auditor's Sale**, (see article, pg 7)
- Oct 18-20-Apple Butter Stirrin' Festival, Roscoe
- Oct 19 – BPW Cake Auction (see ad, pg 11)
- Oct 19-20-Fall Foliage and Farm Tour
- Oct 23 – **County bill** run (due 10/17)
- Oct 24 – Chamber of Commerce Qrtly Meeting
- Oct 26 – 'Echo Valley Bluegrass' at 3-Rivers Bluegrass, Village Inn & Suites 7 p.m.
- Nov 1 – **County pay date** (due 10/25)
- Nov 3 – Daylight Savings Ends
- Nov 4 – Dog Tag Contests Entries Deadline
- Nov 5 – ELECTION DAY – Exercise your Right & Privilege!
- Nov 7 – KIWANIS Pancake Day, Elks
- Nov 11 – VETERAN'S DAY – Offices Closed
- Nov 13 – **County bill** run (due 11/7)
- Nov 15 – **County pay date** (due 11/8)
- Nov 16 – Hopewell School Craft Show (see ad, page 10)
- Nov 20-22 - County Auditor's Association Winter Conference, Columbus
- Nov 22 – Holiday Open House, Coshocton Library 5 – 5:00 p.m.
– Miracle on Main Christmas Parade 6:30 p.m.
- Nov 23 – 'Crabgrass' at 3-Rivers Bluegrass, Village Inn & Suites 7 p.m.
- Nov 23-24 - Warsaw Lions Minstrel Show
- Nov 27 – **County bill** run (due 11/22)

Continued, page 5

Spotlight on. . .

Coshocton City/County Park District

Submitted by Lori Everhart, Director

Mission:

Providing quality Parks and Recreational opportunities to the residents and visitors of Coshocton County.

The Coshocton City/County Park District was formed in 1985 under Section 1545 of the Ohio Revised Code. At the time, several parcels of property were donated by the City of Coshocton as well as local community Foundations to be joined together as one Park District. The Park District is governed by a three-member Board of Park Commissioners appointed by the Probate Judge.

You've heard the saying "It takes a village to raise a child." Well, in our case, it takes an entire community to maintain a Park system. The Park District employs only two full-time employees and averages 50-60 part-time, seasonal employees. The majority of those employees (around 50) work exclusively at the Aquatic Center. Volunteers are a huge resource for us as we rely on them for such things as maintaining gardens, organizing the Indian Mud Run, leading crews on Clean-Up Day, as well as various other projects. I would like to highlight a couple of specific ways volunteers are crucial in our efforts to maintain our Park areas.

Master Gardener Volunteers

The Ohio State University Extension Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV) program provides intensive training in horticulture to interested Ohio residents who then volunteer their time assisting with educational programs and activities for Ohio residents through their local OSU Extension county office. Over the years, they have planted and maintained many gardens throughout our Park and provide educational materials to Park visitors. The MGV have also hosted educational sessions as well as Wildflower & Nature Walks in our Park.

Friends of the Parks

The Friends of the Parks is an organization formed in 1992 to specifically assist the Park District with volunteers as well as financial resources for various projects throughout the Parks. Their main objective is helping with beautification projects; however they also contribute financially with larger, Capital Improvement projects such as the construction of the new Campground Bathhouse and the rehabilitation of the Aqueduct Bridge. Each year, they provide volunteers for events such as Clean-Up Day, the Indian Mud Run, Sweetheart Dance, Fall Harvest Dance, and the Holiday Bazaar. They have funded projects such as stocking the basins with fish, flowers for various gardens, charcoal grills, picnic tables, and park benches... just to name a few. Anyone wishing to join the Friends of the Parks may contact the Park office at 740-622-7528 to obtain a membership application.



Master Gardener Volunteers, Marsha Duling and Gail Piper work in the Phenology Garden at Lake Park.

(Continued, page 5)

Upcoming Dates & Deadlines (continued)

- Nov 28 – THANKSGIVING DAY – Offices Closed
- Nov 29 – **County pay date** (due 11)
– Holiday Bazaar, Lake Park Pavilion
- Dec 1 – Dog Tags for 2020 go on sale at satellite sale sites and on-line (see article to right)
- Dec 7 – Christmas Candle Lighting, Roscoe
- Dec 8 – Community Choir Christmas Festival Concert, (Coshocton High School, 3 p.m.)
- Dec 11 – **County bill run** (due 12/5)
- Dec 13 – **County pay date** (due 12/6)
- Dec 14 – Christmas Candle Lighting, Roscoe
- Dec 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY – Offices Closed
- Dec 30 – **County bill run** (due 12/24)

Meet & Greet

Meet the Candidates Night

Sponsored By:
COSHOCTON BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN
&
COSHOCTON COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Date: Thursday, October 10th, 2019
Time: 6:30 P.M.

Place: Coshocton County Career Center
23640 Airport Rd
Coshocton, Ohio 43812

Agenda: 6:30-7:00 P.M. – Community Mix & Mingle
7:00-9:00 P.M. – Candidates Forum

WTNS Radio 99.3 will broadcast the Candidates Forum. Ken Smailes from WTNS Radio will serve as our Moderator and will present questions based upon issues identified within the community.

For more information contact:

Emily McBurney at (740) 502-7903 or
misskobe@yahoo.com

Breanne Smith at (740) 202-0675 or
coshdenchair@gmail.com

The purpose of the Meet the Candidates Night is to allow candidates running for office, contested or uncontested races, to make a statement if they so choose. Meet the Candidates Night provides a public forum where a moderator can ask questions to the participating candidates in contested races. Refreshments will be served. Any candidate running for office on the upcoming ballot is invited to attend or to send a representative to speak on your behalf. Be an informed voter and attend the event or listen to its broadcast on WTNS radio.

Dog Tag Sales Begin December 1st Poster & Essay Entries Due November 4th

One of the responsibilities of the Auditor is to license all dogs in the county. We licensed nearly 9,400 dogs for 2019. Purchasing a tag for your dog is required by the State of Ohio. The tag has a number on it that identifies you as the owner should the dog get lost or separated from you.



As per Ohio Revised Code, 2020 dog tags will go on sale beginning December 1, 2019, and will be sold with no penalty through January 31, 2020. Any person who has a dog on his or her property needs to register it with the County Auditor or one of her agents and purchase a tag. Dogs must be registered in the county in which the owner resides. The cost is \$12 for a 1-year, \$36 for a 3-year, and \$120 for a lifetime tag. Non-high-volume Kennel Licenses are \$60 and are available at the Auditor's Office. If your dog was previously tagged in Coshocton County and your address is the same, you should receive a reminder postcard near the beginning of the registration period. Tags are required regardless of whether you receive a reminder card, whether the dog is an indoor or outdoor dog, or whether you are 'just keeping' a dog for somebody else.

Owners of dogs who reside in Coshocton County can start purchasing tags for 2020 beginning Sunday, December 1, 2019, at satellite selling points or online, and on Monday, December 2, 2019, at the County Auditor's Office at 349 Main Street. Penalties double the price of tags if they are purchased after January 31, 2020.

Chris Sycks, Coshocton County Auditor, is also sponsoring the 3rd Annual Dog Tag Poster Contest for children in Kindergarten through 5th grades, and the 2nd Annual #1 Dog Essay Contest for grades 6 through 8. These contests were created by Chris to help promote community awareness of the importance of dog licensing and engage young people in a fun activity that hones their artistic and writing skills. Entry deadlines for both contests are Monday, November 4th.

Visit <https://www.coshoctoncounty.net/auditor/dog-kennel/> for details, satellite sales point locations, and more information regarding the contests. Tags can be purchased online at <https://www.doglicenses.us/OH/Coshocton/>

Saturday, October 12, 2019
Coshocton's Write-On Writers Guild's 6th Annual

WRITERS WORKSHOP

Frontier Power's Community Room, 770 S. Second St., Coshocton
Registration & Continental Breakfast Begin @ 8:30 am. Cost: \$15 per person, INCLUDES lunch - Chili, Etc.
Workshop Time: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Morning Speaker
CRISTIE MERCE



Who wrote *The Woos and Wisdom of Eldercare, An Educational Learning Guide*

Afternoon Speakers
ROBIN MULLET & HOLLI RAINWATER



Who wrote *The Curve of Her Arm*

PLUS

A Creative Writing exercise,
Info. about editing your
work, Raffle Baskets, Open
Mic., Writing Contest
Winners & More

CAAO Legislative Committee Update

County Auditor Chris Sycks has been reappointed to serve on the Legislative Committee of the County Auditors' Association of Ohio (CAAO) to monitor bills that may affect local taxpayers and county government. The committee meets monthly. Below are current bills that are of interest to the CAAO.

- HB 17 – *Surviving Spouses-Homestead Exemption*. To allow an enhanced homestead exemption for surviving spouses of public safety personnel killed in the line of duty. **1st Hearing, House Ways & Means Committee.**
- HB 27 – *Public Motor Vehicle Liability*. To modify political subdivision liability for an employee's negligent operation of a motor vehicle. **1st Hearing, House Ways & Means.**
- HB 37 – *Vicious Dogs Law*. To revise the laws governing nuisance, dangerous, and vicious dogs, including transferring dangerous dog licensing sales from the auditors to the dog wardens. **Referred to Subcommittee, House Criminal Justice (1st Hearing).**
- HB 46 – *State Government Expenditure Database*. To require the Treasurer of State to establish the Ohio State Government Expenditure Database. **Reported out of House State & Local Government Committee.**
- HB 47 – *Tax Complaints-Legal Assistance Foundation*. To increase the time within which property tax complaints must be decided and to change the name of the Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation. **Referred to Senate Ways & Means Committee.**
- HB 48 – *Local Government Road Improvement Fund*. To provide for a new Local Government Road Improvement Fund for local governments to fund road improvements. **Referred to House Finance Committee.**
- HB 61 – *Health Provider Residential Info*. To include forensic mental health providers, mental health evaluation providers, and regional psychiatric hospital employees as individuals whose residential and familial information is exempt from disclosure under the Public Records Law. **Senate Judiciary Reported Out.**
- HB 75 – *Property Value Contests*. To require local governments that contest property values to formally pass an authorizing resolution for each contest and to notify property owners. **Reported out of House Ways & Means Committee.**
- HB 76 – *Ballot Language Uniformity and Transparency Act*. To modify the form of election notices and ballot language for property tax levies. **Reported out of House Ways & Means Committee (as amended).**
- HB 92 – *Vote on County Sales Tax*. To require voter approval of any increase in a county sales tax rate. **1st Hearing, House State & Local Government Committee.**
- HB 93 – *Public Transit Investment*. To make appropriations related to public transportation. **Referred to House Finance Committee.**

(Continued, next page)

Coshocton City/County Park District (Continued from page 3)

These are just two of the many organizations who volunteer at our Park each year. We truly could not provide the facilities and services we do without them! Many thanks to each person in our community who has ever helped with an event, provided food, picked up litter, pulled weeds, spread mulch, or painted; as well as those folks who donated money to help us in our efforts. You are the real MVP's!



Friends of the Parks Board members: (L-R) Tammi Rogers, Stephanie Slifko, Danielle Ellis, Ben Croghan, Amanda Fehrenbach, and Kathy Hendricks. (Not Pictured: Fred Wachtel)



More Recycling Opportunities!

Submitted by Tammi Rogers, Program Manager & Education Specialist, Coshocton County Recycling & Litter Prevention

Thanks to a grant through the Coshocton Foundation and a matching, "Buy Recycled Grant" through CFLP Solid Waste District, ten combination trash/recycling receptacles have been placed at several County buildings in Coshocton.

These receptacles are constructed with nearly 100% post-consumer HDPE (high density polyethylene) materials. The materials are LEED certified and include no hazardous materials. The receptacles are maintenance-free in that they have exceptional resistance to moisture, fading, warping and other common outcomes from environmental stress allowing them to be able to be in use for many, many years. Using recycled materials saves resources, encourages recycling and completes the recycling loop. There are thousands of products that contain recycled content. When you go shopping, look for products that can be easily recycled and products that contain recycled content.

These receptacles can be found at the County Court House Square, Court House Annex, Progress Center, Common Pleas Court and County Services Building. We welcome your empty plastic bottles and aluminum containers! Please do not put trash in the recycling and when in doubt, throw it out!

CAAO Legislative Committee Update (Continued from Page 5)

- HB 99 – *Homestead Exemption Eligibility*. To raise the homestead exemption income eligibility to \$60,000 and increase the market value reduction to \$30,000. **Referred to House Ways & Means Committee.**
- HB 103 – *Land Installment Contracts*. To make changes to the law relating to land installment contracts. **2nd Hearing, House Civil Justice Committee.**
- HB 109 – *Sap Extraction Tax Break*. To authorize a property tax exemption for land used for commercial maple sap extraction. **Referred to House Ways & Means Committee.**
- HB 110 – *Fuel Tax Transparency Act*. To require notices to be placed on retail service station pumps displaying state and federal fuel tax rates. **Referred to House Ways & Means Committee. (included in Am. Sub. HB 166)**
- HB 149 – *Affordable Homebuilding and Housing Act*. To temporarily exempt from property tax the increased value of land subdivided for residential development. **2nd Hearing, House Economic & Workforce Development.**
- HB 166 – *Operating Budget*. To make appropriations for 7/1/2019 through 6/30/2021. **Signed by Governor 7/18/2019; budgetary effective immediately, policy effective 10/16/2019.**
- HB 255 – *Property Tax Exemption Review*. To require Tax Commissioner's biennial tax expenditure report to include property tax exemptions and that they be periodically reviewed. **Referred to Committee, House Ways & Means.**
- HB 273 – *Delinquent Tax-Online Notice*. To permit the 2nd publication of delinquent property tax lists to be made online instead of in a newspaper. **Referred to House Ways & Means Committee.**
- HB 311 – *County Inspector General*. To authorize counties to obtain a county inspector general to investigate wrongful acts or omissions. **Introduced.**
- SB 1 – *Reduce Regulatory Restrictions*. To require certain agencies to reduce the number of regulatory restrictions and to continue the provision of this act on and after August 18, 2019. **1st Hearing, House State & Local Government Committee**
- SB 10 – *Theft in Office Penalties*. To expand the penalties for theft in office based on the amount stolen and to include as restitution audit costs of the entity that suffered the loss. **Reported out of House Criminal Justice Committee.**
- SB 31 – *Public Records law Exemption-Emergency Service Telecommunicators*. To include emergency service telecommunicators as individuals whose residential
(Continued, Next page)

2021 Reappraisal Update: *Appraisers Hit the Streets to Gather Data*

Mike Schultz from John G. Cleminshaw, Inc., and Coshocton County's Reappraisal Project Manager, has been onsite for more than a month now. Their offices are located in the Courthouse Annex on the 2nd floor. He has already hired a local field data collector, Jordan Demattio and will be bringing a second data collector in the next month or two.

Mike and Jordan have been out in the community already picking up information on individual residential and small commercial properties since the first of August. Every parcel in the county will be viewed physically, throughout the two-year process.

They have started in the City of Coshocton and will be there for a month or two before moving on to the rural areas of the county. Everyone involved will have identification on their person and in the windows of their vehicles, which are a grey Honda CRV and a white Buick Century. They will attempt to speak to owners or occupants but will still collect information if no one is home. Door hangers will be left behind on properties if no personal contact was made (unless the property is clearly vacant.)

In early fall, there will also be mailers sent out to all dwelling owners asking for characteristics, such as number of bathrooms, type of heat, finished basements, etc., of the home. This is to assure our records are accurate, as the appraisers only enter a home if they are invited.

Watch this newsletter, the Coshocton County Auditor's Office's Facebook page, and local media for updates over this nearly two-year process. Changes will be seen in tax year 2021 (payable 2022). More about the appraisal process and updates can also be viewed online at <https://www.coshoctoncounty.net/auditor/2021-reappraisal/>



Left to right: Mike Schultz and Jordan Demattio.

Coshocton County Auditor's Office Facebook Page Provides Reappraisal Updates (& More)

To receive daily updates as to where the 2021 reappraisal team will be viewing properties and where Coshocton County's in-house appraisers will be picking up normal new construction reported to the Auditor's office, follow our Facebook Page. Search for Coshocton County Auditor's Office or go directly to the link <https://www.facebook.com/Coshocton-County-Auditors-Office-684678204895125/> and click "Like". Share our page with your friends and invite them to "Like" our page too!

In addition to the appraisal updates, we also post information about Auditor's Sales, deadlines, office news, dog tags, CAUV, taxes, etc., etc., etc.

CAAO Legislative Committee Update

(Continued from Page 6)

and familial information is exempt from disclosure under the Public Records Law. **3rd Hearing, House Civil Justice Committee. Bill Amended.**

- SB 35 – *Enhanced Homestead Exemption.* To allow an enhanced homestead exemption for surviving spouses of public safety personnel killed in the line of duty. **Referred to Senate Ways & Means Committee.**
- SB 36 – *Federally Subsidized Rental Property Valuation.* To prescribe how federally subsidized residential rental property must be valued for property tax purposes. **3rd Hearing, Senate Ways & Means Committee.**
- SB 52 – *Civilian Cyber Security Reserve Forces.* To create the civilian cyber security reserve forces, to make the Secretary of State a member of the Homeland Security Advisory Council, to require the Secretary of State to appoint a chief information security officer, to require the boards of elections to audit election results, and to make an appropriation. **Reported out of House Finance Committee (as amended).**
- SB 95 – *State & Local Tax Inducements.* To enhance tax inducements for businesses making substantial fixed asset and employment investments and their suppliers. **Referred to Committee, House Ways & Means.**

Auditor’s Sale to be Held on October 18th

“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 and not sold shall be forfeited to the state and the County Auditor will offer it for sale to the highest bidder.” Ohio Revised Code Section 5723

An Auditor’s Sale has been scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on Friday, October 18th, to be held on the main floor of the Courthouse immediately following any scheduled Sheriff’s Sales. Required legal notices will be published on October 4th and October 11th. Beginning in October, pre-registration will be available online at <https://www.coshocountynet.net/auditor/auditor-sale/>

All parcels are first offered for the lesser of the Auditor’s Fair Market Value or the total of all costs, taxes and charges. If any of the parcels fail to sell at this minimum bid, they are immediately offered again in a second sale for the best possible bid. During the May auction, eight items were sold for high bids ranging between one dollar and six thousand dollars.

No person delinquent on real property taxes in the State of Ohio may purchase a property at an Auditor’s Sale. In addition, the owner of record or a member of his or her immediate family prior to the judgment of foreclosure or forfeiture may not purchase the property for less than the total amount of taxes, assessments, penalties, interest and costs. ORC 5723.06(3)(b) defines immediate family as a spouse who resides in the same household and children, regardless of where they live.

Any taxes, charges or costs not covered by the sale will be remitted and all liens are eliminated except for the real estate taxes paid by the sale. If there is a Federal lien, the Federal Government has “Right of Redemption” and may 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.

At the time of this article, forfeited to the State of Ohio and to be offered for sale are the following real estate parcels

038-00000434-02	David Ross, et al	CR 75 (minerals)
038-00000434-03	David Ross, et al	CR 75 (minerals)
038-00000435-01	David Ross, et al	CR 75 (minerals)
038-00000758-01	David Ross, et al	CR 75 (minerals)
043-00002303-00	Sarah Wallace et al	Wilson Ave (Vacant)

and the following manufactured homes:

008-00026	Jeffery Grove	32780 SR 93
008-00047	Jeffery Grove	32780 SR 93
005-00029	Charleton L Seitz, et al	29626 CR 49
013-00008	Christie M Menefee, et	20336 TR 306
041-00082	Meagan Smith,	14588 CR 14
041-00069	Jeff Rine	14588 CR 14
004-00215	David Knicely	43424 US 36
018-00163	Charles T Jarvis	22046 TR 1064
021-00042	Kenneth E Shingleton	16789 SR 93
031-00119	Donald E Bechtol Jr	20530 CR 367
016-00092	Dave Fitzer	611 Railroad St
006-00067	Jeff Pahoundis	33658 TR 222
002-00120	Raymond E Troyer	52924 SR 651

More may be added to the list if forfeited in time for required advertising. Go to www.coshcoauditor.org for parcel information, and GIS information can be seen at <http://gis.coshocountynet.net/index.aspx> Pre-registration and the sale process can be seen online at <https://www.coshocountynet.net/auditor/auditor-sale/> You may also call the Auditor’s Office at 622-1243 with any questions.

C.A.U.V. Conservation Reduction

Changes made to the CAUV program in 2017’s HB 49 gave a reduced value to qualifying conservation acres. However, certain documentation needs to be included EVERY YEAR to continue to qualify. These requirements were upon the recommendation of the Ohio Department of Taxation to assure fair and consistent application of the law.

- This is not an automatic reduction, and it is the responsibility of the taxpayer to apply for and prove qualifications of the acreage annually to receive the reduced land value.
- Conservation information will need to be included on any *initial or renewal* C.A.U.V. application.
- Documentation needed is listed on the application. A map and copy of the contract need to be submitted with Conservation Programs and a map and written explanation of soil erosion prevention practices need to be submitted with Conservation Practices, even if there are no changes. (Keep a copy to submit, as long as no changes occur).

About the Quality Improvement Center for Collaborative Community Court Teams (QIC-CCCT)

Submitted by Doug Schonauer, Probate & Juvenile Court Administrator

The Quality Improvement Center for Collaborative Community Court Teams (QIC-CCCT) is federally-funded by the Children's Bureau (CB) of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). As part of this funding, Advocates for Human Potential (AHP) is conducting an evaluation to study this program and others like it around the country. The evaluation aims to learn about the services families are receiving, how services can be improved, and how families do over time. The information may also be used to help state and federal governments make future funding decisions. The Supreme Court of Ohio and a state assembled Core Team including Ohio Medicaid, Ohio Dept. of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Ohio DJFS, and many others provide technical assistance, support, and oversight to Coshocton, Fairfield, and Trumbull Counties as part of this three year grant initiative.

U.S. House of Representatives Hears About Coshocton County's Court Treatment System

Submitted by Doug Schonauer, Probate & Juvenile Court Administrator

This is an excerpt from an Oral Statement by Nancy K. Young, Ph.D. on 6/19/19 to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Reform. She shared her opinion with medical experts on the "Inadequate Federal Approach to Opioid Treatment and the Need to Expand Care". She ends by saying more needs done.

...much progress has been made across the country in restricting the availability of prescription drugs over the past several years. But that restriction has been filled by other forms of opioids. For a young mother in Coshocton struggling with an opioid use disorder, the birth of her third baby brought child protective services into her life and she found her way to the county's Family Treatment Court. What happened for her is the goal of child welfare services: she kept her children in her custody, while she worked her program of recovery through the Coshocton Family Treatment Court.

She is not unlike other mothers who have gotten trapped in opioid addiction. But it's all too rare for them have services like Coshocton and the 30 other Ohio counties with family treatment. But what I want to make clear is that these are still patchworks....

Coshocton County Team Attends All-Sites Meeting

Submitted by Doug Schonauer, Probate & Juvenile Court Administrator



Coshocton Team Members in attendance included: Juvenile Court Judge Van Blanchard II, Court Administrator Doug Schonauer, County Health Director of Nursing Tammy Smith, QIC Coordinator Leondra Davis, First Step FVIS Executive Director Vickie Casey, Knox & Coshocton Board of DD Superintendent Steve Oster, Help Me Grow Director of Home Visiting Rachel Addy, Family Drug Court Coordinator JoAnn Uhlig, Coshocton Behavioral Health Choices CNP Marissa Stein, Coshocton Behavioral Health Choices Clinician Crystal Kiser, Children Services Supervisor Jenn Selders and Allwell Behavioral Health Clinician Melinda Jones.

The Quality Improvement Center (QIC) Collaborative Community Court Team from Coshocton County attended the annual National Quality Improvement Center All-Sites meetings held recently in Newport Beach, California to review progress and challenges of the sites selected as part of the QIC grant.

Each of the 15 sites chosen demonstrated the readiness and commitment to improve outcomes for infants and families affected by substance use disorders and prenatal substance exposure. With the assistance of dedicated Training and Technical Assistance Change Teams, demonstration sites will design, implement and test new and innovative approaches that meet the requirements of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) amendments to the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) and that better meet the needs of infants and families. Evaluation findings and lessons from demonstration sites will provide the field and local courts across the country with valuable information on the most effective multi-system strategies and approaches to improve the way in which parents and caregivers and their children are served.

Progress made in Coshocton County since project inception in mid-2018 includes:

- Assist in developing locally Child Parent Psychotherapy and Parent Child Interaction Therapy
- In-County Medication Assisted Treatment for pregnant women
- Enhanced relationships with Knox Community Hospital, Genesis Health Systems, and Coshocton Regional Medical Center
- Sponsorship of 2 internationally known speakers: Dr. Ira Chasnoff and Dr. Christie Brandt
- Enhanced Services at the Pre-natal Health Clinic
- Expanded & Enhanced Treatment Court Services
- Cross systems data collection and assessment referrals
- Trauma Informed training for early childhood providers and county systems staff
- Early identification system of infants, toddlers and families impacted by parental substance use

Voter Tool on Auditor's Site

The County Auditor's Public Site for real estate will soon be updated to reflect the proposed real estate tax levies coming up on the November ballot. No more 'for every \$100,000' home estimates. Now you can click on "proposed levies" on your own property and see a customized estimate of what each of the levies on the ballot will mean to your personal tax bill.

Here's how:

- Go to our website www.coshcoauditor.org
- Hover over "Property Search" and click on the preferred method of search (owner, address, or parcel ID) and enter the information.
- Select your parcel in the results list by clicking on it.
- Once your profile is open, click "Proposed Levies" option at the bottom of the menu on the left.
- The window that opens will list all the levies that the resident of this parcel will have on their ballot, and what would change should voters pass the levy. The first three columns describe the ballot issue. The column "Additional Cost" lists any new tax created if it passes. The column "Current Cost" shows the amount of tax you were already paying on the levy, and the "Estimated Tax" is the total estimated tax. After certification from the Board of Elections, the "Passed" column will be populated.



This is a tool for Coshco County taxpayers to use when heading for the polls. Remember these are estimates and may change because of certain tax reductions or if there is a change to the value.

*If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact our office at 740-622-1243. Thank you, and **Go Vote!***



COMMON PLEAS COURT UPDATE:

CHANGING TIMES BRING STATE GRANTS AND NEW EMPLOYEES TO THE COURT

Submitted by Judge Robert Batchelor

In the Court's third installment for "Due Diligence", I will address the rapid pace of change that confronts our criminal case docket as we go rushing into 2020, and the new staff members who will help facilitate the transition.

As background, the Court introduced Brooke Bookless in the Second Quarter, 2014, Due Diligence. Brooke was hired through a grant to write pre-sentence investigation reports (PSI). It was the first grant accepted by the Court, and the first position created in decades. (By the way, Brooke is now Mrs. Derek Jimenez, living in Savannah, Ga. She works as a victim's advocate for the major crimes unit of the District Attorney for Chatham County, Ga. Derek is a Staff Sergeant with the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, and they have a one year old son, Gabriel.) Brooke was hired under the premise that the job was entry level only, that there was no room for advancement, getting a raise would depend on the grant, but we would send her to training programs with the goal that she would eventually get a "real" probation officer job with the State or a larger county. Brooke promised to give us at least two years, and I fully expected to rotate young college grads through the PSI job while they gained experience for advancement elsewhere. This new position was considered a major change for the Court at that time. I had no idea what was on the horizon.

That is when we found ourselves in the midst of an opioid epidemic. Sending low level drug offenders to prison resulted in their release back into the community too quickly. Fifth degree felonies are only punishable by up to twelve months of prison time in Ohio, with fourth degree felonies having a maximum sentence of only 18 months. The Ohio Department of Corrections tends to place these low level offenders on a quick release track through programs like boot camp ("Intensive Program Prison" or IPP) and something called Transitional Control (early release by the prison into a halfway house). These low level offenders were coming out of prison as unreformed drug addicts and committing more crimes. Facing an increasing number of indictments every year, and given the lack of response to incarceration by low level offenders, we searched for solutions. This was a moment of truth for Common Pleas Court Judges across Ohio. We were unable to incarcerate our way out of this new drug epidemic. Another tool was necessary to combat the problem. The response came after a "suggestion" by the Ohio Supreme Court. We took steps to obtain certification for a special docket program that we call Recovery Court. Brooke Bookless was placed in charge of the program, and we saw the beginning of a system where addicts charged with low level possession and trafficking offenses could get clean, get a job, and become law abiding and productive members of our community. There were some epic fails that resulted in prison commitments or lengthy jail stays, but a large majority of Recovery Court graduates leave their criminal past behind and become productive members of our community. In the end, the number one goal of Recovery Court is a safer community.

In 2016, Heather Spinks was hired to replace Brooke. Heather was introduced to you in the fall of 2017 along with "Targeted Community Alternatives to Prison" (TCAP). That is when the changing times began to pick up speed. TCAP is an effort by the State to reduce dangerous levels of prison overcrowding. As part of TCAP, the Court received a grant of \$169,480.00 over two years. The funds were used to provide drug treatment and intensive supervision for persons convicted of a felony of the fifth degree (F-5), which is the lowest level of felony in Ohio. I can still sentence F-5 offenders to prison if they are convicted of drug trafficking, a felony sex offense, or a felony offense of violence, or if they have a prior conviction for a felony sex offense or felony offense of violence. Heather met the challenge of managing presentence investigations, Recovery Court, and pretrial drug testing amidst the change brought by TCAP. Her success is due in part to a "firm but fair" approach to the offenders she deals with on a daily basis. (Heather's salary is paid from the PSI grant and a Mental Health and Recovery Services grant.)

(Continued, next page)

Board of DD Staff Highlights

Submitted by Brittany Coons, Public Outreach Coordinator & Macy Patterson, Administrative Assistant

Chanelle Robinson, Rusty Kinney, Kathy Meeks, and Darla Perkins, (pictured below, clockwise from top left) are all new staff at Hopewell School. Rusty is our new transition age teacher, Darla, Chanelle, and Kathy are all instructor assistants. They have been wonderful additions to the DD program!



In other news, Brittany Coon and Debbie Christmas are participating in the Leadership Coshocton program, class of 2020. They are both looking forward to learning more about our community and building connections.

COMMON PLEAS COURT UPDATE (Continued)

Did TCAP work? If the goal was to reduce the number of people heading to prison from Coshocton County, then TCAP was clearly a failure. As noted below, prison commitments from this Court increased significantly from 2017 to 2018:

2011 = 51	2013 = 62	2015 = 68	2017 = 85
2012 = 50	2014 = 69	2016 = 82	2018 = 125*

(* The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction counted only 100 prison commitments for 2018. However, that figure does not include commitments for offenders already serving a prison term when an additional prison term for another offense was imposed by this Court.)

As of the writing of this article in August, 2019, we calculated 91 prison commitments already this year. That number is consistent with 2018. Therefore, TCAP failed if it was designed to reduce prison commitments from Coshocton County. However, this conclusion is misleading. I suggest that in 2018, the Court sentenced an unusually high number of mid-range to high level offenders, which resulted in more prison commitments. That result is driven by the types of drug cases brought before the Court, and you can thank the Sheriff's Office and Prosecutor for bringing those more serious charges. Also, on a statewide basis there was some leveling off of the prison population, and the State approved funding for TCAP II in fiscal years 2019/2021. In that sense, TCAP was successful because it provided the resources for more effective drug treatment at the local level, while leaving the Court with the ability to impose prison terms for serious offenders and repeat low level drug offenders. TCAP also impacted the role of our citizens in the duty of jury service. There have been more jury trials in 2019 because higher level offenders are receiving lengthier prison terms, and some feel as if they have nothing to lose by going to trial. The imposition of lengthier prison sentences for higher level offenders represents a trend toward distinguishing true "drug dealers" from the addicts who sell small fractions of drugs to each other.

With this experience in hand, and the confidence that TCAP is here to stay, I elected to take part in the second round of TCAP grants (TCAP II). Grant funds from both TCAP I and II are being used for intensive pretrial supervision, drug treatment, and an inmate work program that we hope to start this fall. Ross Nelson was hired in July to administer intensive pretrial supervision for low level offenders. Ross is a 1998 graduate of Coshocton High School with post-secondary education at the University of Dayton and the Ohio Institute of Photography, and is presently in the process of obtaining his probation officer certification from the Ohio Supreme Court. His job primarily involves supervising persons under indictment who are released from jail after posting a bond. Ross utilizes GPS monitoring and random drug testing to ensure that low level offenders comply with the terms of their bond. Violators have their bonds revoked and are sent back to jail.



Ross Nelson

Ross then finds an appropriate treatment center, and arranges transportation. After treatment is completed, Heather and Ross work the offenders into Recovery Court and job placement. Again, the goal is to get the low level offenders off of drugs and employed. This result makes the community safer.

As noted above, Ross will also administer an offender work detail. Low level offenders on probation, and who are unemployed, will be required to pick up trash, weed sidewalks, and perform other community service related jobs around the county. Previously, inmate work details sometimes resulted in contraband like drugs, cigarettes and cell phones getting back into the jail. Funds from the TCAP grant will provide more extensive monitoring of the work details. It's a risk, but it is one I am willing to take. I firmly believe that offenders are not victims. They chose a way of life that has harmed this community, and they can begin to pay it back by picking up the trash, and in turn begin picking up their lives.

Another major change for the Court is the State's move to shift probation services completely to the County. Since anyone can remember, the Adult Parole Authority (APA)

(Continued, page 12)

Hopewell School
Craft and Vendor Show

Saturday, November 16th 2019
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

This event is free to the public.
There are over 60 vendors participating!

Located at:
Hopewell School
23720 Airport Road
Coshocton, OH 43812

Proceeds will benefit Hopewell School PTO, Coshocton County Special Olympics & Raise Your Voice Advocacy Group.

**Direct Support Professional
Appreciation Award Winners**



Pictured, left to right, are Ginger Young, Vicki Scott, and Brittany Amore

**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. 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 2018 Appeals

One BOR final determination was appealed to the Board of Tax Appeals:

Owner/Parcel :
WODA Olde Hickory/0170000021402, et al
Requested Value : \$1,330,800
BOR Value : \$3,552,080

This hearing at the BTA is scheduled for February 11, 2020.

TY 2018 BOARD OF REVISION

CORRECTION: In the last issue, the statement, "In one of the withdrawals, River View received a \$26,949 direct payment in lieu of taxes from the business in exchange for withdrawing the complaint." was printed. This was questioned because a payment in lieu generally needs to be approved by multiple taxing authorities. The correct term for the payment received was **DIRECT PAY SETTLEMENT**. Apologies for the misstatement.

TY 2019 (Payable 2020) Board of Revision Complaint Forms will be accepted after the first of the year and through the statutory deadline of March 31, 2020.

Coshocton County Board of Developmental Disabilities NEWS

Submitted by Brittany Coons, Public Outreach Coordinator & Macy Patterson, Administrative Assistant

SOFTBALL:



The Hopewell Indians softball team had a fun season this year! We had two teams who participated in tournaments. Our first team competed in the coach-pitch division in Youngstown. They won their first game and was defeated their second game by Columbiana County. The coach-pitch team ended their season as Coach Pitch Runner-Up on the North Section. Our second team participated in the unified division. The unified team is made up of half athletes and half coach-partners. This team competed in the State Championship at Oregon, Ohio and finished second. Thank you to everyone who supported us this year!

EQUIPMENT PURCHASED WITH FUNDRAISER DOLLARS:

A fundraiser was held during the month of April by Wilson's Carpet and Furniture to donate to Hopewell School. With the money donated, we were able to purchase a huge crash mat for our sensory room, a portable square jumper, a weighted lap pad and a fidget lap pad- all of which have been a great success!

APPRECIATION LUNCHEON:

On September 11, 2019, we held our second annual Direct Support Professional Appreciation Luncheon. There were around 100 DSP's that came to be recognized for all of their hard work and dedication to the people they support. We gave out awards to three very deserving DSPs in three different categories: Rock Star Rookie, WOW! Award, and the Calm in the Eye of the Storm awards. The winners are pictured in the column to the left at the top of this page.

SCARY, CREEPY HALLOWEEN CAKES

BOYS AND GIRLS OF EVERY AGE

WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO SEE SOMETHING STRANGE?

COME WITH US AND YOU WILL SEE

THIS, OUR TOWN OF HALLOWEEN



**COSHOCTON BPW
14TH ANNUAL CAKE AUCTION
FRONTIER POWER COMMUNITY
ROOM
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2019**

**CAKE VIEWING & VOTING 2 - 4P.M.
4:00 P.M. ~ AUCTION BEGINS!!**

**AWARDS:
"PEOPLE'S CHOICE" & "MOST UNUSUAL"
CAKE**

Why is My Name in the Paper if My Taxes Didn't Get Paid?

Our office gets this question a lot this time of year. If you have read your most recent issue of *The Beacon*, you

2018 REAL ESTATE DELINQUENT ADVERTISING LIST
ANY PAYMENTS RECEIVED AFTER SEPT. 8, 2018 ARE NOT REFLECTED AND PARCELS ARE STILL PUBLISHED
 These names and amounts will be certified for publication by the Auditor unless the property owner, interest, and penalties are paid in full on or before the date specified below. Owners should contact the Auditor at 740-622-2731 for more information. Delinquent taxes are not eligible for a refund. The Auditor's Office is not responsible for errors or omissions. The Auditor's Office is not responsible for the accuracy of the information provided in this list. The Auditor's Office is not responsible for the accuracy of the information provided in this list. The Auditor's Office is not responsible for the accuracy of the information provided in this list.

couldn't miss the yellow insert that lists all the unpaid tax bills. As is everything else we do in this office, this is a requirement of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC), and this particular duty is covered under ORC 5721.03.

These names and amounts are not published to embarrass our taxpayers, but to remind them of the fact that taxes were missed. People misplace, forget, have family emergencies, or other occurrences that may cause them to miss a payment. This list is just one more chance for them to take care of the responsibility before the tax foreclosure proceedings are started.

This publication will show up again in the October 9th issue, with no changes, regardless of payments being made before that date. This is the first step of the tax foreclosure process. The list in a local paper serves as due process to those who own properties that may have foreclosure proceedings filed against them by the County Treasurer.

The list of real estate parcels are only parcels from 2018 tax year (payable in 2019) that had not been included in a published list in the past. Also included on the list are manufactured home parcels that are unpaid. Since these homes are considered personal property, we are required to publish them every year there are unpaid taxes regardless of whether they had been listed in a prior year.

Unpaid taxes listed can be paid at the Coshocton County Treasurer's Office at 349 Main Street in Coshocton. Real estate taxes are due in two payments each year, with the first generally due in February or March, and the second payment around June or July. Taxes are due whether a tax bill has been delivered to you or not. If you do not receive a timely bill, please contact the Treasurer's Office at 740-622-2731.

COMMON PLEAS COURT UPDATE *(Continued from page 10)*

has provided full probation services to the Court as part of a statewide program. This program is coming to an end in response to the murder of Reagan Tokes on February 8, 2017, in Columbus, Ohio. The perpetrator of this horrible crime was on post-release control (parole) supervision by the APA after completing a prison sentence. In an effort to avoid this type of tragic result in the future, the APA is committing all of its field officers to post-release control supervision. This way, the APA will have more resources to supervise dangerous offenders who complete their entire prison terms and come out of prison on post-release control. What does this mean for Coshocton County? I elected to participate in a grant that provides \$300,000 over two years to establish and staff a probation department. This is an opportunity for the Court to provide more intensive and meaningful supervision for felony offenders. Ohio law keeps me from sentencing every felony offender to prison. Since some offenders are going to be placed on probation, we should at least provide supervision the way we see fit. As always, the goal is a safer community.

Finally, because the changes keep coming, I take this opportunity to introduce Jennifer (Jennie) Warden, our new Assignment Commissioner. Jennie will replace Ann Hartsock, who retires from county service on September 30. Jennie spent over 15 years with the Coshocton County Board of DD as a school secretary and administrative assistant, providing secretarial and payroll clerk support for the human resource director, the principal, and the superintendent. In 2016, Jennie went to JFS where she worked as a child support case worker and fiscal officer before coming to Common Pleas Court. As the Assignment Commissioner for the general division of the Court, she will handle scheduling for the criminal and civil dockets, the preparation of judgment entries, assignment of counsel for indigent cases, and related tasks necessary for the proper function of the Court. We look forward to having Jennie come on board, but Ann will be greatly missed after 30 years of dedicated and loyal service to the Sheriff's Office and Common Pleas Court. Above all else, we will miss Ann Hartsock's thoughtfulness, her integrity, and her desire to always do her best for the Court and the people it serves.



Jennifer Warden

In the end, for a Judge who thought hiring someone to complete presentence investigations was a big deal, the last two years have been a hurricane. There is no way around it. Change has come to the Common Pleas Court, and we can either ignore it, or we can try and turn it into something that can be used for good. I am blessed to be surrounded by an incredible court staff, all of whom are willing to get uncomfortable and turn problems into solutions, always knowing that change is never easy. Also, special thanks to the Auditor's Office, the Treasurer's Office and the Commissioner's Office for working with me as I stumble through the administration of the grants. Chris Sycks, Jinni Bowman, Kyle Lowe, Cathy Williamson and Robin Schonauer have been incredibly patient and helpful. Thanks again, and I look forward to our next installment for Due Diligence.

Robert J. Batchelor, Judge

WINDOW SPACE AVAILABLE!

DO YOU HAVE AN EVENT, AGENCY, ORGANIZATION OR SPECIAL THEMED WEEK OR MONTH TO PROMOTE?

Space is available for displays in the Annex Window. Please call 740-622-1243 and ask for Jackie or Suzi for details. (Sorry, no businesses or for-profit organizations)

To receive the Due Diligence in your inbox, request to receive them by emailing Chris at auditor@coshoctoncounty.net