

The Due Diligence

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



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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

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From the Desk of...

Chris Sycks, Coshocton County Auditor:

Adapting to the New Normal

Two months ago, who would have guessed words like “Governor’s Orders”, “social distancing”, “pandemic”, “closed to the public”, and “toilet paper hoarding” would be part of our daily vocabulary and the new normal? But yet, here we are. I am typing this article at my dining room table with my dog at my feet and listening to Alexa play country hits from the 50s for me. I am still working through my adaptation to the new normal.

While government offices are considered essential and the Auditor’s Office continues to operate during regular office hours, there has been a lot of adapting to keep our staff safe and to do our part in “flattening the curve”. Over the past several weeks we have closed our doors to the public and have been taking care of business via email, mail, phone, or drop off locations. Hands are washed until the skin cries out for lotion. Coworkers are given a wide berth as we pass by each other. Surfaces are sanitized regularly and employees’ temperatures are checked for fevers prior to reporting for work. The staff has been split into two teams, with half working from home and the other from the office a week at a time – further distancing even our coworkers. This was done also in hopes that, should any of us contract the virus, we won’t all get sick at the same time, closing the office for the duration of recovery. All this is to do our part to comply with state recommendations, but still provide services to the public and perform the statutory duties of our office. My great appreciation goes to each one of the employees of this office for going above and beyond, and WAY outside of their comfort zones to keep the Auditor’s Office running! I couldn’t ask for a better team of excellent professionals!

You will see several articles concerning COVID-19 in this issue as well as some changes you may or may not have noticed. For instance, did you notice the much-shorter dates and deadlines section with a warning to call before you go to an event? Or, how about the multiple proofreaders? (The at-home team members were getting a page at a time to proof.) One more change has been made to this page, but I’ll let you discover that one for yourself.

There were several articles that I wasn’t able to include in this issue because of my working away from the office, and the fact that I didn’t adapt enough to have the resources with me at home. The next issue will include updates on the Board of Revision, both the one pending prior year appeal, and the 65 or so 2019 tax year complaints filed. Further adaptation may be necessary for these latter complaints – virtual hearing methods.

Another article in the next issue will be concerning all the work Jetta Men- cer, who retired March 31, did on restoring untaxed parcels to the duplicate. Part of her duties included researching parcels to the records that exist, but have been omitted from past duplicates for some reason, sometimes for reasons dating back to the 1800s!

In all this, adapt: continue that social distancing do-si-do, wash your hands, and don’t touch your face! I am confident we will get through this together, and I am confident in the One in charge. Be kind out there and stay healthy everyone! Till next time,

~Chris

January - March County Anniversaries with more than 20 consecutive years

Laura Hall	35 years
Christina Sturtz	33 years
Lois Stubbs	30 years
Kathy Jones	28 years
Susan Turner	28 years
Frederick Wachtel	28 years
Dean Hettinger	26 years
William Jackson	26 years
Frances Tumblin	26 years
Edward Zinkon	26 years
Wendy K. Wilson	25 years
Tonya K. Webster	22 years
John G. Hatalla	22 years
Lynnette A. Hardesty	21 years
Sharon S. Burns	20 years
David H. Dilly	20 years

Congratulations and Best Wishes to:

Debra K. Miller retired January 30, 2020, from the Sheriff's Office after more than 21 years of service.

Sherry L. Aronhalt retired February 29, 2020, from the Sheriff's Office after nearly 15 years of service.

Jetta Mencer retired March 31, 2020, from the Auditor's Office after 30 years of public service.

COVID-19 UNEMPLOYMENT

If wages of someone in your family are interrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, please go to the following link to apply for unemployment:

http://ifs.ohio.gov/ouio/CoronavirusAndUI.stm?fbclid=IwAR0zDDJqH7G7MMeXdMbQl8M2jOo-HtxehHRObfF4Rknh6Czxi_yCOl5fjlo

Payroll Page

PLEASE WELCOME COSHOCTON COUNTY'S NEW HIRES:

Hired by the Common Pleas Court:

on 01/01/2020 John Mark Lonsberry & Clarence Eugene Swigert, II.

Hired by EMS:

on 01/04/2020 Tyrone A. Stewart.

on 01/06/2020 Carole M. Starcher

on 01/23/2020 Kirsten E. Warner.

on 01/30/2020 Chelsea N. Scheitler.

on 02/28/2020 Kacie J. Clark.

Hired by Help Me Grow:

on 01/06/2020 Mindy R. Edie.

Hired by the County Sheriff:

on 01/06/2020 Jacob N. Glasure.

on 01/24/2020 Theresa K. Bachman.

on 03/17/2020 Somer M. Occhiuzzo.

Hired by the County Sheriff (Rotary):

on 01/13/2020 Morgan E. Eckelberry.

Hired by the County Board of DD (Hopewell):

on 02/03/2020 Casey A. Clum.

Hired by the County Coordinated Transportation:

on 02/07/2020 Raymond L. Massey & Dawn K. McCloy.

Hired by Juvenile/Probate Court:

on 02/18/2020 Rose W. Lekan.

Hired by the County Auditor:

on 02/24/2020 Heather D. Grace.

New W-4s for 2020

All employees hired on or after January 1, 2020, will have a new W-4 form to report withholding information. Also, any other employee who wishes to adjust their withholding must use the redesigned form. Employees already on payroll who have furnished Form W-4 in any year before 2020 are not required to furnish a new form merely because of the redesign. Employers will continue to compute withholding based on the information from the employee's most recently furnished Form W-4.

The form is divided into 5 steps. The only two steps required for all employees are Step 1, where you enter personal information like your name and filing status, and Step 5, where you sign the form. Steps 2, 3, and 4 only need to be completed if they apply to you. Doing so will make your withholding more accurately match your liability. If only Step 1 is complete and form signed, your withholding will be computed based on your filing status's standard deduction and tax rates, with no other adjustments. If the amount withheld is not enough, you may request extra to be withheld.

The IRS has a page of Frequently Asked Questions regarding the new form at:

www.irs.gov/newsroom/faqs-on-the-2020-form-w-4

The form itself can be downloaded and/or filled out and printed at:

www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw4.pdf

Upcoming Dates & Deadlines

(The events listed were not cancelled at the time of this article. However, because of COVID-19, please check for cancellations before going to any event)

- TBD – District Health/Budget Commission
- Apr 3 – County pay date (entry due 3/30)
- Apr 8 – County bill run (due 4/2)
- Apr 10-May 10 – Johnson-Humrickhouse Museum (JHM) Teen Talent Exhibit (JHM closed till May)
- Apr 17 – County pay date (due 4/13)
- Apr 22 – County bill run (due 4/16)
- May 1 – County pay date (due 4/27)
- May 1-Aug 31 – JHM Ohio Women Vote: 100 Years of Change Traveling Exhibit
- May 3 – Chalk and Roll, artPARK
- May 4-8 – Dogwood Festival
- May 13 – County bill run (due 5/7)
- TBD – Auditor's Sale (see article, page 7)
- May 15 – County pay date (due 5/7)
– Chamber of Commerce Dinner
- May 21-Aug 20 – JHM WWII Posters Exhibit
- May 23 – “7-Mile Bluegrass” & “Chestnut Hill”
3-Rivers Bluegrass, Village Inn & Suites (7 p.m.)
- May 24 – Keene Memorial Day Parade
- May 25 – MEMORIAL DAY – Offices Closed
– Coshocton Memorial Day Parade
– Warsaw Memorial Day Parade
- May 27 – County bill run (due 5/21)
- May 29 – County GAAP report due to State (extended by 30 days due to COVID-19)
- May 29 – County pay date (due 5/22)
- Jun 10 – County bill run (due 6/4)
- Jun 10-12 – Auditors' Summer Conference
- Jun 12 – County pay date (due 6/8)
– Pomerene Jazz on the Lawn, HiFi Rendezvous (7:30 p.m.)
- Jun 13 – The Woodrows/Kickoff of Summer Concert Series in artPARK
- Jun 14 – Annual Corvette Show, Roscoe
– Summer Beer & Wine Fest, Roscoe
- Jun 18 – Cardinal Chorale Concert, (Roscoe UM, 7 p.m.)
- Jun 19 – Freedom Festival 2020
- Jun 20 – JHM What Women Want Fundraiser
- Jun 24 – County bill run (due 6/18)
- Jun 26 – County pay date (due 6/18)
- Jun 27 – Lake Park Indian Mud Run (8a-2p)
– “Kaufman Road”, 3-Rivers Bluegrass, Village Inn & Suites (7 p.m.)

Spotlight on. . .

THE COSHOCTON COUNTY RECORDER'S OFFICE

Submitted by Susan Turner, Coshocton County Recorder

“The Coshocton County Recorder's Office is the keeper of the Land Records for the County.”



THE PRACTICE OF RECORDING real estate documents is based on law in England which traveled to the New World with the colonists. Public land registrars were appointed in colonial America to keep accurate records. A system of registration was necessary to prove the rights of persons who

first made claims to property.

IN 1787 THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY was formed, encompassing all lands north and west of the Ohio River. A Recorder's office was established in each county. Ohio became a state in 1803 and although the state constitution did not provide for a Recorder's office, the first state legislature mandated that a Recorder be appointed in each county by the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas. In 1829 the Recorder's office became an elective position and in 1936 the term was established at four years.

TODAY THE COUNTY RECORDER KEEPS AND MAINTAINS accurate land records that are current, legible and easily accessible. An important aspect of the Recorder's work is to index each document so it may be readily located. Accurate indexing makes it possible for persons searching land records to find the documents necessary to establish a "chain of title" (history of ownership) and ensures that any debts or encumbrances against the property are evident. These invaluable records are utilized by the general public, attorneys, historians, genealogists and land title examiners.

IN COSHOCTON, we have documents indexed and imaged and readily available to be searched or copied. Our records are available on the internet as far back as 1980. Prior to that date you would need to come into the office to search in the books and have copies made for you by the staff. Our internet search web page is <https://countyfusion8.kofiletech.us/countyweb/login.do?countyname=CoshoctonOH>

VETERAN'S IDENTIFICATION CARDS are also something that we have been providing for the last 7 years. This is a picture ID that includes the Honorably Discharged Veteran's Name, Address, Branch, Dates of Service and Birth Date. It is another form of ID for the Veteran to use and sometimes this also gets them discounts at various businesses. This also gives us an added bonus of getting to meet Veterans and acknowledge their Service to Our Country and to thank them for that Service. We work with the Veteran's Service Commission office to help the Veterans get a copy of their Discharge if they cannot locate their copy and they do a wonderful job helping our Veterans with many other services as well.

THE RECORDER'S STAFF is always available 8-4 Monday thru Friday to assist customers in using the computers or using our indexes as well as the GIS computer for maps to find information concerning their land. We have had three new ladies begin working here in the last year and they are great! Angela Lentz, Ashley Andrews, and Alexa Sutton are wonderful ladies and are knowledgeable and helpful and will do their best to help you get what you are looking for if it is recorded here.

WE ALSO LIKE TO HAVE FUN and give back to the community, as you can see from our picture (right). We had a great time participating this last fall in a fund raiser for the Coshocton United Way. Giving back to our community is something we should all feel good about!



Pictured l-r, Susan Turner, Ashley Andrews, Alexa Sutton, Angela Lentz, & Tina Endsley.

Auditor's Department-Specific Email Addresses

If you do not know the employee who will be able to help you with your need, the email addresses below will direct your question or concern to the proper person.

appraiser@coshocountynet.net

For Appraiser

auditor@coshocountynet.net

For the County Auditor

auditorsale@coshocountynet.net

For Auditor Sale

boardofrevision@coshocountynet.net

For Board of Revision

cauv@coshocountynet.net

For CAUV Tax Reduction

deeds@coshocountynet.net

For Deeds

dogtags@coshocountynet.net

For Dog Tags

forestry@coshocountynet.net

For Ohio Forest Tax Law (OFTL)

homestead@coshocountynet.net

For Homestead

licensing@coshocountynet.net

For Licenses of All Types

lodging@coshocountynet.net

For Lodging

manufacturedhomes@coshocountynet.net

For Manufactured Homes (MH)

payroll@coshocountynet.net

For Payroll

publicrecordrequest@coshocountynet.net

For Public Record Requests

realestate@coshocountynet.net

For Real Estate (RE)

weights&measures@coshocountynet.net

For Weights & Measures

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daily updates and information!**

Go to:

www.facebook.com/Coshocountynet-Auditors-Office-684678204895125/

Auditor's Office Requesting "Social Distancing"

While the Coshocountynet Auditor's Office will be observing regular business hours (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.) for now, the office is taking preventative measures to limit the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the State of Ohio recommend "social distancing" – avoiding unnecessary close contact with others - as an important way to fight the spread of the coronavirus. To help keep our community and staff safe, we are implementing "social distancing" measures. This will help us stay healthy and able to continue to assist the public.

We are currently closed to the public, but are still operating with limited staff during regular hours. During this time, please conduct any business with the Coshocountynet Auditor's Office by mail, phone or Email, if possible. Forms can be found online and mailed. There are also some forms directly inside the front door, which can be used and dropped off by sliding under the Auditor's Office door.

CAUV forms can be emailed or mailed. Dog tags can be taken care of via mail as well – just include \$12 per tag, the dog information, and a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Deeds can be taken care of by mail, from transfer to recording, as long as all requirements and fees are included (contact our office for details). Other items of business can be handled by mail, email, or phone.

If there is something you need to take care of with our office, and you feel it needs to be done face to face, please call our office to get directions. It may be able to be addressed in some other manner, or by making an appointment and utilizing the Treasurer's Office's drive through window.

Our website, www.coshocountynet.net/auditor is full of information. Mail items to The Coshocountynet Auditor, 349 Main Street, Coshocountynet, OH 43812. Our staff can be reached by phone at (740) 622-1243, and Auditor Chris Sycks' email is auditor@coshocountynet.net. Specific departmental email addresses are listed in the column to the left on this page.

Unless something changes, we will have a staff on hand during regular office hours to answer your questions by email or phone. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue to respond in a manner that protects the well-being of our community. Stay safe out there! Use common sense. Wash your hands and don't touch your face! ☺

Accurate Coronavirus Information

For accurate COVID-19 information (not rumors, speculation, or fearful what-ifs), visit one or more of the following websites:

www.cdc.gov

www.odh.ohio.gov

www.coshocountynet.net/health/

CAAO Legislative Committee Update

County Auditor Chris Sycks serves on the Legislative Committee of the County Auditors' Association of Ohio (CAAO) to monitor bills that may affect local taxpayers and county government. The Bills that are currently being monitored, along with their current status, are listed below:

- 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, Senate Ways & Means Committee.**
- HB 27 – *Public Motor Vehicle Liability*. To modify political subdivision liability for an employee's negligent operation of a motor vehicle. **3rd Hearing, House Civil Justice Committee.**
- 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. **1st Hearing, House Criminal Justice Criminal Sentencing Subcommittee.**
- HB 46 – *State Government Expenditure Database*. To require the Treasurer of State to establish the Ohio State Government Expenditure Database. **Substitute Bill Accepted, 7th Hearing, Senate General Government & Agency Review 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. **1st Hearing, 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. **Reported out of Senate Judiciary.**
- 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. **Referred to Senate Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs Committee.**
- HB 76 – *Ballot Language Uniformity and Transparency Act*. To modify the form of election notices and ballot language for property tax levies. **4th Hearing, Senate General Government & Agency Review Committee.**
- 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

(Continued, next page)

Furry Friends Come to Auditor's Office for Tags

The auditor's employees love getting visits from the furry four-legged type of customers during this time of year. As promised in the last issue, below (in order of appearance) are photos of those who have come in during January to get their 2020 tags.



Jake & Max
(Bill Hamilton)



Emma
(Ericka Doyle)



Cookie
(Kelly Bratton)



Flash & Knuckles
(David Phillabaum)



Ivy
(Hattie Clark)



Nitro
(Shelly Lillibridge)



Vixy
(Kerensa Wild)



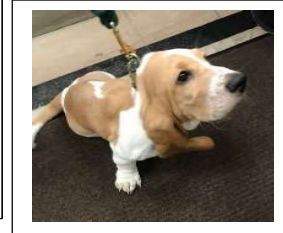
Rosey
(Susan Green)



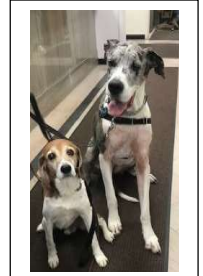
Rex
(Hensley)



Coco Chanel
(Randi Conkle)



Beans
(Katelyn & Brad Crozier)



Moose & Bindy
(Darla Markley)



Darby
(Jon Mosier)



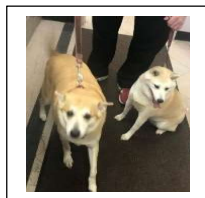
Max
(Kristy Stiteler)



Lexi Max & Cookie
(Patricia & Leslie Mercer)



Hobo
(Jim Barstow)



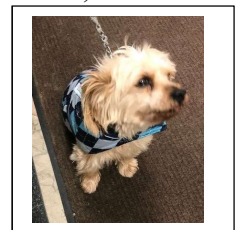
Brutus & Pearl
(John Glasure)



Scooter
(Humane Society)



Peanut
(Fred Shaw)



Buddy
(Ruth Durben)

CAAO Legislative Committee Update

(Continued from Page 5)

public transportation appropriations.

Referred to House Finance Committee.

- HB 99 – *Homestead Exemption Eligibility*. To raise the homestead exemption income eligibility to \$60,000 and increase the market value reduction. **1st Hearing, 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. **1st Hearing, House Ways & Means Committee.**
- 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 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. **3rd Hearing, 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. **3rd Hearing, House Ways & Means Committee.**
- HB 311 – *County Inspector General*. To authorize counties to obtain a county inspector general to investigate wrongful acts or omissions. **Substitute Bill Accepted, 1st Hearing, House State & Local Government Committee.**
- HB 326 – *Public Employee Retirement-Disability Benefit*. To allow disability benefits to be received during the term of an elected office. **1st Hearing, House Insurance Committee.**
- HB 437 – *Military Widows Homestead Exemption*. To allow an enhanced homestead exemption for surviving spouses of uniformed service members who die in the line of duty or whose death is otherwise service connected. **Referred to House Ways & Means Committee.**
- HB 439 – *Disabled Veterans Homestead Exemption*. To adjust for inflation the \$25,000 homestead exemption and the enhanced homestead exemption for disabled veterans. **Bill Amended, 2nd Hearing, House Ways & Means Committee.**
- HB 449 – *Real Estate Transfer Tax*. To apply the real estate transfer tax to transfers of a controlling interest in a pass-through entity that, directly or indirectly, owns real estate. **Referred to House Ways & Means Committee.**
- HB 450/SB 244 – *Exiting Fiscal Officer certificates*. To require certain political subdivi-

(Continued, Next page)

2021 Reappraisal Update:

Appraisers Practice Social Distancing

The work for the county-wide reappraisal continues, even in this pandemic changed society. The initial field review is still in progress, with the appraisers in Keene and White Eyes townships heading west. Everyone involved in the field will have identification on their person and in the windows of their vehicles.

Because of social distancing, they are no longer knocking on everyone's doors and asking questions, but they are staying in their vehicles to review the property. If they see anything new on the property that does not line up with our records, a note will be made to the property. These parcels will get a second visit when the Stay-At-Home orders have been lifted in order to get measurements and details on new construction. If there is a structure that has been removed that is still showing on our records, those parcels will be corrected at that time.

Every day, the appraisers report to us what areas will be reviewed and those are posted (like those in the photos below) on our Facebook page for the public's information. Also, we make sure the Sheriff is aware whenever they move into a new township. That way, if they receive calls, they can assure the caller they are legitimate.

Appraisers are in the area of



White Eyes Township –
SR 621, CR 10, CR 171, TR
186, and TR 178
Keene Township - Canal
Lewisville on Canal St.,
Pleasant St., Evans Dr., and

Appraisers are in the area of



Keene Township –
CR 495, CR 24, TR 1173, TR
1210, TR 1209, TR 1208, TR
1169, TR 1171, US 36, TR 28, TR
26, TR 322, CR 23, TR 201,
AIRPORT RD, and TR 1140

Matthew Wright is training with Mike and will be driving on his own soon.

The appraisal work is essential to the operation to this office in preparation for future tax bill cycles. Watch this newsletter, the Coshocton County Auditor's Office's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Coshocton-County-Auditors-Office-684678204895125/>, 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/>

2020 Ohio Primary Postponed-But You Can Still Vote!

If you are a registered voter and have not yet voted in the 2020 primary by early or absentee voting, the only way to cast your vote at this point is by mail. Don't let the new deadline pass by without exercising your right to vote!!

Go to www.coshocton.boe.ohio.gov for more information, forms, and instructions.



We have three people out in the field picking up residential and agricultural parcel data. Allen West (left) and Mike Schultz (right) will be driving the pictured vehicles. The third person,

CAAO Legislative Committee Update

(Continued from Page 6)

sions' fiscal officers to provide certificates of transition to their successors. **HB 1st Hearing, House State & Local Government Committee; SB 1st Hearing, Senate Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs Committee.**

- HB 485 – *Remove Renewal Requirement – CAUV Program.* To remove a requirement that owners of farmland enrolled in the CAUV program must file an annual renewal form to remain in the program. **1st Hearing, House Ways & Means Committee**
- HB 487 – *Tax-Forfeited Land.* To increase, from one to six years, the interval within which the county auditor must hold an auditor's sale. **1st Hearing, House State & Local Government Committee**
- HB 499 – *Motor Fuel Testing Program.* To authorize a county to implement a motor fuel quality testing program. **Referred to House Transportation & Public Safety Committee**
- HB 541 – *Destroyed Property – Valuation Adjustments.* Regarding valuation adjustments for destroyed or injured property. **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. **Re-referred to Committee.**
- SB 31 – *Public Records law Exemption-Emergency Service Telecommunicators.* To include emergency service telecommunicators as individuals whose residential and familial information is exempt from disclosure under the Public Records Law. **Bill Amended, 3rd Hearing, House Civil Justice Committee.**
- 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 95 – *State & Local Tax Inducements.* To enhance tax inducements for businesses making substantial fixed asset and employment investments and their suppliers. **2nd Hearing, House Ways & Means Committee.**
- SB 212 – *Townships to Exempt Property Tax.* To authorize townships and municipal corporations to designate areas within which new

Heather Grace Joins County Auditor's Office

Heather Grace's first day on the job at the auditor's office was February 24, 2020. She will be splitting her time between real estate and payroll. Her face may be familiar, as She had worked on Main Street for the Owens and Manning Law Firm.

Heather has been in the administrative field for more than sixteen years, where she has acquired accounting, payroll and real estate experience. She is married with two children. Heather enjoys spending time with her family, cuddling with her two German Shepherds, and taking long walks. She says, "I am very excited to begin my new career with the Coshocton County Auditor's Office and I look forward to learning many new skills and meeting many new people."

When she is not upstairs doing payroll with Sue, her real estate desk is in the first floor office with Lindsay and Alex. If you have the occasion to speak to Heather via phone or email, please take time to introduce yourself and welcome her to the auditor's office excellent team!



COVID-19 Postpones May Auditor Sale

Typically, Auditor Chris Sycks holds an Auditor Sale in May and again in October. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Stay-at-Home Order, all scheduling of Auditor's Sales are being postponed. State law requires specific public notification for each sale in a certain time frame prior to the sale. This is an expense, and one that could be multiplied, should a sale be advertised and then unable to occur due to changing Stay-at-Home Order dates. Because of this, there will be no May sale at all.

Auditor Sycks is awaiting the 'all clear' from the governor before setting any dates at all. It is possible for the October sale to be moved to an earlier month this year since May's sale didn't occur. At this time, there are ten manufactured homes (MH) and two real estate (RE) parcels forfeited to the State of Ohio and ready to sell, with an additional three MHs and five RE parcels through the Sheriff's Sale process and awaiting the forfeiture order.

Please follow the Coshocton County Auditor's Office Facebook page for posts regarding the scheduling, or check our website for not only scheduling news, but also the most updated list of forfeited properties that will be offered at the next sale. Go to <https://www.coshoctoncounty.net/auditor/auditor-sale/>

CAAO Legislative Committee Update

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- homes and improvements to existing homes are wholly or partially exempted from property taxation. **Passed by Senate; vote 29-1.**
- SB 216 – *School District Taxes*. To allow school districts to exempt recipients of the existing homestead exemption from additional school district taxes. **Referred to Senate Finance Committee.**
 - SB 273 – *Reduce Property Taxes*. To reduce property taxes on owner-occupied if increase is greater than 10% per year and to prohibit unpaid water charges liens. **1st Hearing, Senate Ways & Means Committee.**

Title Office Employee News

Submitted by Camila Graham,
Clerk of Courts



Kathy Stone celebrated her retirement from the Title Office effective December 31, 2019 after 45 years of service. Kathy was hired by Nadine Bucklew, Clerk of Courts in 1974, after she graduated from High School.

During her years of service, Kathy worked for five different Coshocot County Clerks of Court. She worked for Nadine Bucklew, Judy Stevens Reed, Irene Crouso Miller, Janet Mosier and Camila Graham. Kathy was the Title Supervisor and worked solely in the Title Office all those years. She was a very loyal, dedicated, hard-working employee, who always strived to do her best on behalf of the Title Office and for those she served.

We wish Kathy the very best in her retirement, even though we will greatly miss her.

Coshocot County Juvenile Court Improves Networking for Families with Substance Abuse

From Auditor of State Keith Faber

An important part of efficient, effective government is the ability to coordinate with other organizations. Here at the Auditor's office we contract with many independent public accounting firms so that we can meet the high demand for our audit services.

It's good to see that recently the Coshocot County Juvenile Court also began coordinating with outside organizations in order to better serve Ohioans. Public servants have worked to identify community agencies who could provide assistance to families in need due to a struggles with substance abuse. This included the Coshocot County Women, Infants, and Children's Program, The Maternal and Child Health Center, Allwell Behavioral Services, Coshocot Behavioral Health Choices, First Step Family Violence Intervention Services, the Coshocot Fatherhood Initiative, and others.

By bringing all of these agencies into the fold, Coshocot County Juvenile Court has generated a preventative program that helps families before things get worse. Ultimately, there work has saved taxpayer dollars and more importantly - families' lives.

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

March is a time to raise awareness about the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all areas of community life, as well as awareness to the barriers that people with disabilities still sometimes face in connecting to the communities in which they live. During this month, we typically celebrate by having several fun events such as our annual luncheon, track and field days, and more. However, due to COVID-19, we have had to either cancel or reschedule all of our events during the month.

The Hopewell Indians basketball teams ended their season with great records! The Black Team acquired a 7 – 4 record this year. Their season ending with a loss at the Northeast Regional Tournament at the Lorain County Community College. The Red Team had an 8 – 4 record this season. Their ending season game came at the Special Olympics State Winter games held at Bowling Green State University. They placed 3rd in the state in School Age Division 2!

Cody Croy was our only Skills player who competed in the tournaments this year. He placed 1st at the Northeast Regional Tournament and 3rd at the State Winter Games. Our end of season celebrations started on February 19th with a Pep Rally at Ridgewood High School. After team and cheerleader introductions, the cheerleaders applauded and cheered for the players while they were in a shootout against the coaches. After the shootout came the coach's pie in the face! The coaches had to answer random questions about past team history (which they answered incorrectly) and with each bad answer the player with a cream pie stepped closer. We captured some of the results in the pictures below!

On February 21st, we fed the team before they loaded the bus and were escorted down Main Street and out of town toward Bowling Green State University by the Coshocot County Sheriff's office, Coshocot EMS and the Coshocot City Fire Department.

For the first time ever, our State game was broadcasted live on our Coshocot County Special Olympics Facebook page! Casey Claxon with Claxon Communications, contacted Special Olympics Ohio to make the arrangements for the coverage on the court. During the week prior to the game, they came to our practice and interviewed players plus covered our pre-game activities to incorporate the clips into the broadcast. Casey and his crew did a fantastic job along with our own coach Shawn Neighbor commentating as Casey did the play by play action. I have heard many compliments from fans, who couldn't attend the game that far away, and our players and families are still talking about it! You can follow our page at <https://www.facebook.com/CoshocotSpecialOlympics/>

