

ASSESSOR'S REPORT FEBRUARY 2013

Judy Mathiau

NEW TAX YEAR – Our office is preparing for the new tax year which begins April 1st. The status of all property as it is situated is assessed to the owner of record each year on this date. This date, the fiscal year date and the commitment date can be confusing. While assessors work with a “tax year”, tax collectors work with a “fiscal year”.

Tax Year: April 1 2013
Commitment Year: 2013
Fiscal Year: July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014 or **FY14**

There are several tasks which revolve around this date including:

Personal Property Discovery – Michelle has mailed approximately 400 personal property notices to business owners. This is an annual requirement and each owner must report their equipment, furniture and fixtures to our office for property tax purposes. Reports are due back to this office no later than May 1st.

Building Permit Review – All properties who acquired a building permit for new construction, renovations, etc will be visited later this spring in order to verify the status of their project. I also add several other properties to my list for an annual inspection based on new information, such as foreclosure actions, new ownership, new business discovery, and general reviews when warranted.

Exemptions – Applications are due on or before April 1st in order to be considered for the next tax bill cycle. Currently, we are reviewing those properties who may be eligible for the homestead exemption. The list includes 240 potential recipients. During March, we will be sending a notice to those accounts to make them aware of the property tax relief program. Other programs for tax relief include the veteran exemption, legally blind and a business equipment tax exemption.

Ownership Update – All deed transfers that have been received from the registry are updated only up to April 1st. Any transfers after that date is set aside until we go to commitment. New tax bills issued later in the summer is based on the April 1 status.

Tax Maps – although this is an on-going process throughout the year, I like to make sure that any splits, boundary lines and other adjustments to the maps are made as of the April 1 date so that it properly identifies that status corresponding with the tax billing.

SHARED TIME – Michelle continues to work a portion of her time, when needed, assisting the collections office, while continuing her responsibilities here in the Assessing and Code Office.

TRAINING – I attended an IAAO Chapter meeting that included a long discussion on the tree growth program and the new laws enacted last year. There was also a review of the upcoming LD's going before the taxation committee which if they pass, could be detrimental to the local revenue sources. If state revenue sharing is reduced, this could have an impact on our current tax rate.