

Weights and Measures' Week: March 1-7, 2021

Erie County Auditor Richard Jeffrey announces Weights and Measures' Week March 1-7, 2021. These dates are designated every year to commemorate Presidents John Adam's signing of the first United States weights and measures law on March 2nd, 1799.

Ohio law provides that the county auditor shall be the county sealer of weights and measures. The county auditor employs inspectors who shall see that all state laws relating to weights and measure are strictly enforced. The Auditor is the Sealer of Weights and Measures for the entire County, maintaining "Equity in the Marketplace," thus protecting both buyer and seller from possible loss which may occur from faulty measuring devices, such as scales, scanners, retail motor fuel dispensers and meters. The Auditor is charged with the legal responsibility of ensuring that all State and National Laws relating to Weights and Measures are strictly enforced.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture tests and certifies weights and measures' standards used by Erie County for use by inspectors to test the many scales and meters used by county businesses. In addition, the Ohio Department of Agriculture assists county inspectors in tests of certain meters and scales, including vehicle scales and meters on bulk fuel and propane trucks based in Erie County. These inspections are conducted to ensure accuracy and equity in the marketplace.

In recent years, a notable change in weights and measures has been the installation of new fuel dispensers and/or credit card readers in many of the gas stations located in Erie County. These dispensers now read credit card computer chips when a customer pays by credit card. While it may take longer for the dispenser to "read" the chip and the prompt, "Transaction Approved," is displayed on the dispenser, this step can provide additional security to a customer's personal information.

Weights and measures jurisdictions use Weights and Measures' Week to inform others about their role in commerce and to help the public to be more aware as consumers. Weights and measures affect everyone and is one of the government's most impactful consumer protection services. Sealers perform inspections, and test on both commercial and some non-commercial devices to insure those devices meet the criteria of the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the National Type Evaluation Program. Audits and random tests are also performed on packaging and scanning in local stores to insure compliance. Inspectors continue mandatory training thru the National Institute of Standards and Technology to attain certification, and maintain credit hours of training.

Jeff Fantozzi, the Weights and Measures Inspector of Erie County is responsible for testing a total of **4052** Devices in Erie County in 2020. These included **863** Scale Devices, **1983** Liquid Measuring Devices, **860** Blend Only Liquid Measuring Devices, **223** Other Devices, and **123** Non-Commercial Devices. Look for the Yearly County seal on those devices inspected and tested to be assured that they were correct, accurate and sealed. Again, these services are performed to "Maintain Equity in the Marketplace," if you believe a device is not performing properly, or for more information, please contact the Erie County Auditor's Office, Weights and Measures Division at (419) 627-7746. For web information concerning Weights and Measures go to www.ncwm.net and be sure to check out the link page <http://savvyconsumer.org/help/money/whatupay/whatupay.htm> - a Consumer's Guide to Getting What You Pay For. It is very informative. For more information on weights and measures check out the [National Institute of Standards and Technology](http://www.nist.gov).