

A PEEK INSIDE THE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

Issue 9

April 2017

ERIE COUNTY AUDITOR NEWSLETTER

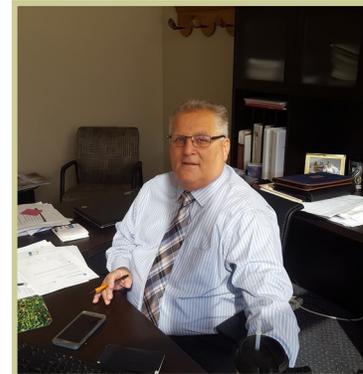
A side note from our Auditor

Spring weather is right around the corner and with that there are a whole host of things happening and deadlines to be aware of. REA and Associates CPA Firm was awarded the contract by the Auditor of State to conduct our annual audit, must be complete by 06/30 and we expect another clean audit; we hosted the Northwest District Auditors Association Meeting in February (see page 3 in this publication); we have stepped up the activity gearing toward the completion of the mandated reappraisal of all real property in the County by 2018 and are on or slightly ahead of schedule; we implemented a new paperless reappraisal system and continue to reap the benefits of this technology; in attempt to be totally transparent we opened the Erie County Checkbook and went live online, in partnership with the Ohio Treasurer of State ("others talk openness and being transparent, we live it"); deadline for CAUV new applications and renewals were due March 6; we hosted a Weights and Measures Skimmer Summit with Special Agent Melissa A. Grahn of the Department of Home-

land Security (see pg.2); kudos to the Accounting staff as once again the County was recognized for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the GFOA (Government Finance Officers Association).

The Auditor and his staff will make itself available to the public Saturday April 22nd from 8am to 10am at Perkins Family Restaurant on Milan Road (State Route 250). Join us for coffee, tea or water. Our goal is to answer questions you might have or address issues you might have on any property matter. Come out and join us for COFFEE WITH THE AUDITOR AND HIS STAFF.

In closing spring is a time for renewal and let's all pitch in and help keep our community a place we can be proud of. If you see litter dispose of it properly, trim the bushes, cut the grass and tend to the flowers. It doesn't take a lot to show our pride in the community by keeping it neat and clean.



Richard Jeffrey

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STAFF SPOTLIGHTS



Janice Baum

Janice is a lifetime resident of Erie County, born and raised in Sandusky. She graduated from Perkins High School and went on to attend Heidelberg University. Janice earned her B.S. in Business Administration with a double minor in Economics and Finance. After college she worked as the Assistant Supervisor for the Norwalk branch of the former Citizens Bank for 3 years. She then became an employee of Erie County where she began employment with the Erie County Treasurer's Office, where

she worked for 2 years. Lucky for us Janice has since taken the position as Fiscal Officer within our office, where she has been for the last year. Some of her main duties include, but are not limited to: assisting with the annual GAAP conversion & audit, monthly cash reconciliation, updating the Erie County's open checkbook online and maintaining the county's unclaimed funds. Janice is an avid Cleveland Indians fan and tries to make it to at least 10 games a season. Her fa-

vorite time of year is summer and she loves doing anything outdoors, especially spending time with her niece and nephews. Janice enjoys gardening and is our resident "green thumb" at the office. She enjoys baking (cookies and cakes are her favorite), spending time with her friends and is always up for a good brain teaser like crossword puzzles or Sudoku puzzles. Janice loves to travel especially if sun, sand and the ocean are involved, her favorite trip was snorkeling in Belize!



Donna Shireman

Donna was born and raised in Gibsonburg and is the youngest of 2 girls. She graduated from Gibsonburg High School and then went on to attend Terra Community College. Donna graduated from Terra with an Associate's Degree of Applied Science. After college she worked at Hank & Associates for 10 years where she was responsible for surveying, CAD and legal

descriptions for deeds. She then went to work for a real estate attorney preparing deeds and assisted with estate planning. She has worked at Peterman Associates for 2 years as a CAD draftsman. Donna has been employed by the Erie County Auditor's Office for a year as the Real Estate Transfer Officer, where she is primarily responsible for property transfers and GIS map-

ping. Donna is a single mother of Lauren 10 and Tyler 2. They enjoy being outside going to parks, riding bikes and swimming. Lauren is active in soccer, swim and softball and Tyler is a typical energetic boy!! They reside in the Village of Bettsville where they have a gas station, 2 pizza places, a bar and carryout-what more could you need!

WEIGHTS & MEASURES SKIMMER SUMMIT



Special Agent Melissa A. Grahn

The Erie County Auditor's Office sponsored a meeting on February 22, 2017 for the Northwest Ohio Weights and Measure's Inspectors. We had the pleasure of having guest speaker Melissa A. Grahn, Special Agent with the Department of Homeland Security, giving a presentation on the "New Skimmers" which may be located in our jurisdiction. These devices can be on any device that accepts a credit card. County

Inspectors were trained that if they run across a skimmer on a gas pump they are not to touch it, but to call law enforcement and involve the Department of Homeland Security to start a criminal investigation. Currently, County Weights and Measures Inspectors are required by law to check only that the amount of gas pumped is correct by gallon. As an extra customer service, our Inspector Jeff Fantozzi will continue to evaluate a pump for skimmers when on location.

IAAO GIS/CAMA Conference

The Honorable Rick Jeffrey and GIS Coordinator Mark Wroblewski were asked to present at the 21st Annual GIS/CAMA Technologies Conference from March 6-9, 2017 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The International Assessors Association host professional conferences on subjects related to the responsibilities of property appraisal. This conference was also an opportunity to network with other professionals and learn how similar operations are conducted all

over the Country and the World. The presentation was titled "Erie County, Ohio Paperless Reappraisal-Digital Reappraisal with CAMA Integration". The Erie County Auditor's Office has employed a new workflow that utilizes technology to ensure that every property has been listed, reviewed and valued. Their presentation shared the software, hardware and project management processes used. This new workflow has areas where additional review and in some cases field

checks were required to ensure accuracy. The goal is to reassure the citizens of Erie County, Ohio that their property values are accurate, fair and equitable.



State of Ohio Senator Randy Gardner



ABOVE: Auditor Rick Jeffrey speaking at the NW district meeting

Northwest Ohio District Auditor's Association Meeting

The Auditor's office had the pleasure of hosting the monthly meeting of the NWOAA on February 24, 2017. Various county auditor's and their deputies from Northwest Ohio were in attendance. Each county takes turns hosting the monthly meeting and plans the agenda along with providing lunch. We spotlight local businesses when we host, so our lunch was catered by Sortino's Italian Restaurant and

cookies were provided by The Occasional Cookie. Auditor Jeffrey opened the meeting with a discussion about the new Sports Force Park facilities, which will hold baseball, soccer and lacrosse tournaments from March thru October each year and will increase the number of visitors to our area. Mr. Jeffrey also covered current and proposed legislation that will affect our counties. Rea and Associates gave an informative presentation on common

audit issues and findings. They also touched on government accounting standards relating to disclosures for tax abatements.

This meeting left room for special guest speaker Senator Randy Gardner. He discussed a variety of issues within the scope of the Auditor's duties but focused mainly on agricultural property tax issues and Ohio's funding of public libraries.

CONTACT US

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We're on the Web!
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- BOR application deadline was March 31, 2017
- CAUV applications, renewal and initial were both due March 06, 2017



OPEN CHECKBOOK

Erie County's checkbook is now on www.OhioCheckbook.com. This site was launched by State Treasurer, Josh Mandel in an effort to make government more transparent and accountable to the taxpayers. Users can easily navigate, search and compare Erie County accounts payable data from 2010-2016, totaling over \$868,000,000. Current expenditures will be uploaded on a quarterly basis.

There is a direct link to Erie County's Open Checkbook page on our Auditor's website (along the left-hand side of the page) with a "How To" guide for easy navigation of the site.

Any questions please feel free to contact our Fiscal Officer, Janice at 419-627-7622.



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01/24/2017
NEWS RELEASE

For Information contact:
Stephen Gauthier (312) 977-9700

(Chicago)—The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to Erie County by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

An Award of Financial Reporting Achievement has been awarded to the individual(s), department or agency designated by the government as primarily responsible for preparing the award-winning CAFR. This has been presented to:

Richard H. Jeffrey, County Auditor

The CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 17,500 government finance professionals with offices in Chicago, IL, and Washington, D.C.

"It's time to remember that old wisdom our soldiers will never forget, that whether we are black or brown or white, we all bleed the same red blood of patriots."

President Donald Trump