

# Cambria County Tax Collector Newsletter



NOVEMBER 2018

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CONTROLLER

It was great to see all of you throughout the past year! During my most recent visit at your meeting a few weeks ago we discussed the challenges that you encounter every day. The interaction you have with each other in developing solutions and using best practices to get the work done has been outstanding. Your diligence in doing your work has helped us at the County maintain cash flow even through our daily challenges. We at the Controller's Office are fortunate to have such a great group of professionals as you working with us and we thank you for all of your efforts. We are all working to help each other make your work go as smooth as possible.

The Holidays offer us an opportunity to refresh and renew our relationships. From our Controller Family here we would like to wish you and your family all a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Ed Cernic, Jr. & Staff

## REPORTING ASSESSMENT CHANGES

Assessment changes should be reported on your weekly return as soon as they are received from the Assessment Office. Further, it is important that the control numbers associated with the changes are reported on the weekly return as well. It can be confusing, especially with the tax collection programs, to identify what assessment changes are being applied unless some indication is included. We have had situations where changes were overlooked, at first, because a tax collector had an increase and decrease for the same amount and applied both on the same weekly return. Because the net effect to the balance to collect was zero, we did not catch the changes until later in the year. This is especially helpful to Pam when she is entering the weekly returns during discount. If you have any questions please contact Pam.



## SPRING INTERIMS

Spring interim tax bills are for any new properties not picked up before the fall interims and the taxes will reflect the 2018 tax rate. The taxing period for spring interims correlates with the normal taxing periods. Please keep in mind that you may also receive school interim tax bills for the spring as well, so long as your school district is already participating in interims. Spring interims should be treated just as fall interims were. You will add these to your 2019 balance to collect, maintaining one balance to collect throughout the entire year.

The following are some tips to keep in mind when it comes to interims:

- What tax year is it for? *The tax year is important as the millage rates can be different*
- How many months are being taxed? *Unlike the normal tax year, interims may be for 12 months, but they could also only be for 10 months or 7 months, etc.*
- What are the taxing periods?
  - Spring Interims follow the same tax periods as the normal tax year.
    - Discount: March 1<sup>st</sup> – April 30<sup>th</sup>
    - Face: May 1<sup>st</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup>
    - Penalty: starts July 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Fall Interims:
    - Discount: July 1<sup>st</sup> – August 31<sup>st</sup>
    - Face: September 1<sup>st</sup> – October 31<sup>st</sup>
    - Penalty: starts November 1<sup>st</sup>
- What if I receive an assessment change on an interim? *If you receive an assessment change, it is important to look at the duplicate because the amount will be dependent on the number of months taxed.*

## CLOSEOUT SCHEDULING

The 2018 tax year closeouts will be Wednesday, January 2, 2019 thru Tuesday, January 15, 2019.

As a reminder, please review all the information received from the Tax Claim Bureau. You are required to obtain your Municipality's and School District's signature on the Certification Sheet **before** you come to closeout.

Appointments are required and available between 9:00 AM and 3:30 PM. To schedule please call or email Pam at 472-1620 or pparonish@co.cambria.pa.us.

## **SPEAKING OF INTERIMS...**

A total of 96 interim tax bills in 24 municipalities were sent out in July. As of November 16<sup>th</sup> only 15 remain uncollected. A total of \$182,200.35 in additional tax revenue was collected for 2018 for the County.

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## **THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO**

While Mother Nature starts to wind down this season we find ourselves gearing up for the end of the year. Welcome to new Tax Collectors that have taken on the position and thanks to those helping them along. Everyone is collecting the last of the school bills and notices to pay. Interims have gone out. Your year end balances are coming up. Don't leave for Florida yet.

We have prepared the tentative figures and set the date for Homestead applications to be sent out to new customers and those that haven't replied (in some cases). We will be running two more Change of Assessment notices before the close of the books. Meanwhile, court cases are being settled.

If you are a TV buff, there are 33 new shows to watch this fall. I only have time for a few that I record because my husband controls the TV remote. Yes, there are other TVs in the house but that's not the point. How else could I agitate him if I'm not in the room? I wonder what "A Day in the Life of an Assessor and Tax Collector" show would be? A comedy, horror or drama? No matter which, keep up the smiles and the good work. -Tami Forgan

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## **QUALIFIED ASSESSMENT CHANGES**

Are you submitting for reimbursement of your qualified assessment changes?

If you are doing an assessment change then you are doing a qualified assessment change and should be submitting the proper paperwork to be reimbursed. The County pays \$5.00 per qualified assessment change. If you need additional information on qualified assessment changes please contact Emily or check the Controllers portion of the County website under Tax Collectors for forms.

If you have not submitted for reimbursement of your 2018 qualified assessment changes yet, you still have time. Please submit all requests no later than January 31, 2019.

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## **CONTACTS**

**Controllers Office:** 472-1620

Ed Cernic, Jr. – Controller: 472-1630

Emily Krug – Auditor: 472-1627 or [ekrug@co.cambria.pa.us](mailto:ekrug@co.cambria.pa.us)

Pam Paronish – TC Assistant: 472-1620 or  
[pparonish@co.cambria.pa.us](mailto:pparonish@co.cambria.pa.us)

**Assessment Office:** 472-1453

**Tax Claim:** 472-1445

## **A NOTE FROM TAX CLAIM**

The end of another year.....where does the time go! Looking forward to seeing you in January when you make your returns. Just a few reminders...please email your computer returns to Infocon as soon as you balance out. Many are handing in their returns to us and not forwarding to Infocon for a week or two, which doubles our work when a customer comes in to pay. This does not pertain to those making paper returns. Don't hesitate to call if you have any problems, especially our new collectors.

We are accepting bids thru December 31, 2018 for the October 2019 Judicial Sale. The Judicial Sale is where the property is sold lien free. If you know of any property which could be offered from your municipality, please let us know.

I am available to talk to any group or municipality to educate you on the different tax sales and their procedures. We are currently scheduling a public seminar for January and February 2019.

Wishing all of you a Blessed Holiday Season and a stress free return season! Jo Ann – Tax Claim Bureau

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## **LEGISLATION: SENATE BILL 1099**

The good news about Senate Bill 1099, Reforming Property Tax Collection, is that it died in committee this term. However, I would expect that this legislation may be reintroduced during the next term. We in the Controller's Office will keep an eye out and will inform you if and when it is re-introduced. If you are not a member of the State Association, now is the time to consider it as they have been very diligent regarding this legislation and even attended the public hearing.



## **SURVEY!**

If the County was able to offer the ability to do a direct withdrawal from your tax collector account vs. you writing and mailing a check to us, would you be interested?

YES, absolutely!

NO, I want to write a check

Please return with your next weekly return.