

# Cambria County Tax Collector Newsletter



NOVEMBER 2017

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CONTROLLER

It seems like I just wrote to you and it has been another year again. We in the Controller's Office are so fortunate to have such a great group of people to work with!

With the Election over I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the newly elected Tax Collectors, and welcome back those of you returning. You have done an amazing job this past year. The County was able to have the best cash flow with your diligent tax collection of the County taxes. We look forward to working again with all of you and as always if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

With the Holiday Season upon us I want to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you and your families from our Controller Family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year full of health and happiness.

With Every Good Wish,  
Ed Cernic Jr & Staff

## CLOSEOUT SCHEDULING

The 2017 tax year closeouts will be Tuesday, January 2, 2018 thru Friday January 12, 2018.

Appointments are required and available between 9:00 AM and 3:30 PM. As always if you do not make an appointment we cannot guarantee we will be able to accommodate you. **All tax collectors are required to verify their ending balance to collect with Pam prior to their appointment. You may either call or email her.**

To schedule please call or email Pam at 472-1620 or [pparonish@co.cambria.pa.us](mailto:pparonish@co.cambria.pa.us)

## OATH OF OFFICE – NEW REQUIREMENT

At the beginning of each new term as tax collector you are required to take an oath of Office and file it with the Cambria County Clerk of Courts. Beginning with your 2018 term, the Clerk of Courts Office is requiring that you show proof that you are a qualified tax collector prior to taking the oath. Therefore, please bring your qualification certificate with you when you come in to file your oath. We suggest filing your oath while you are at the Courthouse for closeout. There is a \$21.50 filing fee and the oath must be filed before your tax notices are sent out for the 2018 tax year.



## ACT 38 OF 2017

On October 30th Governor Wolfe signed Act 38 of 2017 into law. This Law requires tax collectors to remove their individual name from their tax collector bank account and include the name of the office and municipality. Further, it stipulates that the tax bill is to reflect the changes above and not include the individual tax collectors name. **This Act takes effect January 1, 2018.**

We feel the appropriate way you should setup the name on your bank account is "Municipality" Tax Collector. We have contacted Infocon to make them aware of the change and have advised them that your individual name should not be included in the payable to line at all as it may confuse taxpayers.

A number of you have already made the necessary changes and we appreciate it. For those tax collectors who have not made the changes with their bank you will need to contact them immediately. We understand that there will be a learning curve for your taxpayers as well. We would like to suggest that you discuss this Act with your bank to find out if a taxpayer includes your individual name on the check if the bank will accept it or not.

## EMAILING WEEKLY & MONTHLY REPORTS



Beginning in 2018, if you would prefer to email Pam your weekly and monthly reports you may do so. Please be sure that the file you are emailing is a PDF and **not** a Word or Excel document. If you decide to email Pam you will then only need to send your check to her. **Please do not also print a report and mail it with your check.**

## 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

**Merry  
Christmas**

## BLESSINGS ABOUND

What a year it has been. As some of you may know, I was diagnosed with breast cancer last December. I underwent surgery, chemo and radiation treatments for most of this year. I can't say enough about the support I was given by staff, other county employees and the Commissioners along with that sweetheart of a gal Jo Anne Rank. My family, friends and faith (which became stronger) were amazing.

I received gifts of lotions, socks, snacks and goodies and books of humor, inspiration and biblical readings. I've even been asked to write my own book on my journey and life stories. A prior employee said I should title it, "And I Didn't Make This S\*%t Up". Some staff prepared my own bathroom stall and picked up food when I was still weak and limited on what I could eat. I received prayers, prayers and more prayers. Most recently I was offered my first haircut since growing some of my hair back. I'm going for a fierce pixie.

If you didn't hear, we will be adding county interims to 2018 and I was able to hire additional staff to hit the road and get this revenue on the books. We are getting new flyovers of county property which is always one of the greatest tools in my office. As life and work continue on I enter this season truly blessed and getting ready to tackle the Holidays and the New Year with all the spunk I can. I send blessings and spunk to you all.

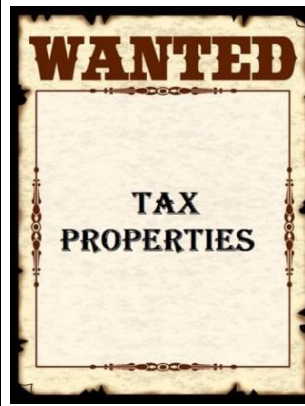
*Tami Forgan*

## SAYING GOODBYE & GOOD LUCK!

With 2018 beginning a new term for tax collectors we will sadly be saying goodbye to a number of you. We wanted to take a moment to recognize the tax collectors who will not be returning in 2018. Your years of dedicated service to our County are greatly appreciated.

*Wishing you much  
joy & happiness  
as you begin  
a new chapter  
in your life.*

| Municipality             | Tax Collector        | Years of Service |
|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Adams Township           | James Rachael        | 35 years         |
| Cambria Township         | Linda Makin          | 20 years         |
| Cresson Township         | Donna DeYulius       | 16 years         |
| Daisytown Borough        | Janet Hoffman        | 48 years         |
| Ferndale Borough         | Anita Smith          | 22 years         |
| Loretto Borough          | Marianne Stolarski   | 5 years          |
| Northern Cambria Borough | Antoinette Zalisnock | 8 years          |
| Richland Township        | Leona Telek          | 25 years         |
| Summerhill Borough       | Kathleen Puruczky    | 4 years          |
| Tunnelhill Borough       | Phyllis Resch        | 12 years         |
| Vintondale Borough       | Nancy Repine         | 32 years         |



taxation to a responsible taxpayer.

Here is how it works. All properties available for sale are listed in a book located in Tax Claim (the list is available for sale at \$5.00 each). The list is also available on the Cambria County Tax Claim Bureau website. If you find a property you are interested in purchasing, contact the Tax Claim Office. The Tax Claim Bureau does a title search on each property and files a court petition which identifies all liens. All owners, municipalities, school districts, and lien holders are notified by Sheriff Service of the said sale which will divest their claim against the property. A court hearing is set for any objections and to set a sale date. The sale preparation and notification process takes 6 to 8 months and we currently have one Judicial Sale a year. The starting price on the day of the sale is the costs the Tax Claim Bureau has incurred in preparing the property for sale.

We are reaching out to you and your municipality leaders to consider properties which have been abandoned or need torn down with a perspective buyer in mind.

We start our tax searches in January for the October sale, so we would need requests as soon as possible but welcome any inquiries, at any time.

On another note, I would like to acknowledge my Assessment co-worker and my dearest friend, Tami Forgan. Tami has spent the past year battling breast cancer and she has done so with strength and positivity like I have never witnessed before. She recognizes her blessings, as do I, and I want to be just like her when I grow up.

*Season's Blessings to you all, too!*  
*Jo Anne*

## RECOGNIZING MILESTONES!



Please help us welcome Kim Luther, Sankertown Borough as a new tax collector for 2017. Kim started in March when Debra Wade resigned after serving the taxpayers for 22 years.

The following tax collectors have reached significant milestones this year: **5 years:** Kathy Farkas, Brownstown Borough; Barb Kirby, Cresson Borough; Joyce Caretti, Patton Borough and Karen Howell, Upper Yoder Township. **15 years:** Sheri Buchanan, Geistown Borough **20 years:** Katie Lechene, Chest Township and Robert DeAngelis, Dean Township **25 years:** Debra Hartline, Lilly Borough **30 years:** Alice O'Donnell, Reade Township **35 years:** Betty Mento, Allegheny Township.