

Cambria County Tax Collector Newsletter



DECEMBER 2019

A MESSAGE FROM THE CONTROLLER

Thank you all again for the great work you did this year. I want to wish all of the retiring Tax Collectors well; it has been a pleasure working with you. Also I want to welcome the newly elected or appointed Tax Collectors. All of us in the Controller's Office wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

I also want to personally thank you all for your thoughts and prayers during my health issues earlier this year. They were all special to me and I am happy to be back to being healthy again. God Bless you all.

From our Controller Family, we wish you and your families only the best of everything for 2020.

Ed Cernic, Jr. & Staff

CLOSEOUT SCHEDULING

The 2019 tax year closeouts will be Thursday, January 2, 2020 thru Wednesday, January 15, 2020. Please note on January 2nd appointments will not be available until 1:00 PM, sorry if this causes any inconvenience.

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 pgelles@co.cambria.pa.us.

Please be sure to contact Pam prior to your appointment to verify your balance to collect.

Also please note that Pam has changed her last name to Gelles and her email address is now pgelles@co.cambria.pa.us, as she got married in October!



FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

As we approach yet another year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a Healthy Happy Holiday Season. The Treasurer's Office is responsible for receipting all of your weekly tax reports. In an effort to assure that this process is consistent among everyone we would like to review that process:

- Tax Collectors submit their reports and checks to the Controller's Office
 - When mailing your report please note "Controller's Office" on your envelope.
- The Controller's Office verifies that the report and check is correct.
- The Controller's Office submits the report and check to the Treasurer's Office to be receipted.
- If you would like a copy of the receipt, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope along with your report and we will be happy to mail it to you.

You may not be aware of the fact that the Treasurer's Office does the tax collection for the County taxes for the City of Johnstown; therefore we receive a lot of inquiries about taxes. Annually we send out an information sheet to all Tax Collectors asking you to provide us with your address, phone number and office hours. These are kept on file in our Office and used to provide taxpayers with your contact information in the event they call into our Office.

If at any time you need any assistance from our Office, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Lisa Kozorosky
Cambria County Treasurer

CONTACTS

Controllers Office: 472-1620

Ed Cernic, Jr. – Controller: 472-1630

Emily Krug – Auditor: 472-1627 or ekrug@co.cambria.pa.us

Pam Gelles – TC Assistant: 472-1620 or
pgelles@co.cambria.pa.us

Assessment Office: 472-1451

Tax Claim: 472-1445

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

As a reminder you must register your continuing education credits with the State each year. After the meeting in June I had a few tax collectors contact me who had not registered their 2018 credits. When they went into the DCED website it would not allow them to register credits from the prior year. Therefore, if you attended any training during 2019 please get your credits registered before December 31st.

Also you are required to earn 2 continuing ed credits per term to maintain your qualified tax collector status. Therefore, you must earn these credits before the end of 2020 in order to run for re-election in 2021. If you do not get your credits you will not be eligible to be elected or appointed tax collector.



TAX NOTICES

Every year about this time, after special notices have been mailed, I will receive numerous phone calls from taxpayers complaining that they never received their original tax bill. My response is that the receipt of a tax bill is a courtesy and not a requirement.

As a responsible taxpayer the individual should know when they owe taxes and if for some reason a notice was not received then they should have contacted you, their tax collector.

I'm sure you hear many complaints, mumbling and grumbling about the penalty that the taxpayer now has to pay and "can't this be forgiven"; "I've always paid my taxes on time". The best response to this is recommending that the taxpayer contact the respective taxing authorities, for the County that would be the County Commissioners.

EXEMPTIONS

Who is exempt from paying real estate taxes?

In general, the following properties are exempt from paying real estate taxes:

- Properties owned by the County, City, Borough, Township, or School Districts
- Churches, meeting houses or other places of regularly stated religious worship. Places of burial, including burial grounds and mausoleums, vaults, and crypts.
- Hospitals, universities, colleges, seminaries, academies, fire and rescue stations, as long as they are endowed and maintained by public or private charity so long as the entire revenue is applied to support the entity.
- Public parks owned and held by trustees for the benefit of the public and used for amusements, recreation, sports and other public purposes without profit.

If you would like more information on exemptions or to have access to the Local Tax Collection Law, please email Emily and she will forward the link to you.



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2020 CENSUS – GET COUNTED!

It is more important than ever to get counted! And to encourage your taxpayers to get counted.

Census Statistics are used:

- to determine the amount of funding the County receives for Human Service Programs.
- to determine the County class size.
- by Individuals, Businesses, and Organizations for planning and the decision making to open new businesses.
- by Communities for a variety of resident needs including new roads, school and emergency planning.
- to determine how many representatives Pennsylvania will have in Congress along with legislative redistricting.

Cambria County's total population as of the 2010 Census was 143,679. In order for Cambria County to remain a 4th Class County our population for the 2020 Census must be above 144,999. If Cambria County's population decreases again we will become a 5th Class County.

April 1, 2020, every home will receive an invitation to participate and you will have three option for responding: by phone, by mail, and for the first time online.

Go to <https://www.2020census.gov> for more information on the 2020 Census.

*Wishing you and
yours a very
Merry Christmas
&
Happy New
Year!*



*Tamra Forgan &
the Assessment Office Staff*