

# Board of Revision Updates

The Lorain County Board of Revision is in the process of compiling its complaints for the 2011 tax year payable in 2012. In prior years, there have been over 2000 cases that were filed with the board in an individual tax year. Last year alone there were more than 1500 complaints filed against the valuation with the Board of Revision. They are anticipating about the same this year as they will hear approximately 1800 complaints again. If you want to see what value the Auditor has on your property you may view your valuation by logging onto the Auditor's website in the real estate section by visiting [www.loraincounty.com/auditor](http://www.loraincounty.com/auditor).

# Congratulations

Leadership Lorain County has been one of my most captivating and challenging experiences. It has taught me self-awareness of our community issues and needs. I have enjoyed participating in many classes, community projects, and hope to improve the quality of life in Lorain County.

This program has taught me to strengthen the leadership abilities I already possess and to set new goals for myself. I have also gained many professional and personal relationships with this amazing opportunity. I am most honored to have been chosen for the Leadership Lorain County program and want to give special thanks to Auditor Mark Stewart!



▲ Sara Koba-Nelson  
"Best Class of 2012"  
Payroll-5 years

# Happy Retirement!



Joyce L. Hockenberger retired as Assistant Chief Appraiser in the Lorain County Auditor's Office on March 30, 2012. Joyce has been an outstanding employee and asset to Lorain County. She has proven herself to be a dedicated worker and a patient teacher with her colleagues and the public alike. Joyce recently coordinated the Lorain County Auditor's Office software conversion. Her appraisal and computer experience made her a well-qualified choice to ensure a smooth transition between the two systems.

Joyce also served as a coordinator between the Auditor's Office and the independent appraisal firms who are performing the 2012 Reappraisal. Joyce is happily married to Paul Hockenberger. They are the proud parents of three sons and two grandchildren. They also have eight birds and three dogs. Joyce's hobbies include sewing and quilting. She is also a busy volunteer working with her church where she serves as Treasurer of the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Wellington.

Joyce displays her musical abilities playing hand bells in the church choir. Joyce's plans after retirement include spending time with her family including her sister and brother-in-law who have just moved to Wellington from California. She also plans to add to her list of vacation cruises around the world and expand her volunteer duties with her church. *Best wishes from all your co-workers!*



# The Auditor's Chronicle

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## Focus: Promoting Excellence From Within



# Lorain County Auditor's Office

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# Weights and Measures



The Lorain County Weights and Measures Department in the County Auditor's office along with the Ohio Department of Agriculture uses this 100 gallon proofer (pictured on the left) to check for accuracy on truck meters that deliver various types of fuel to local homes or businesses. The main purpose of conducting these meter tests is not only to protect the consumer, it is also meant to provide proper calibration tests for the business owners as well.

The Weights and Measures Department is responsible for various inspections that the general public may know. Some inspections maintained by the Weights and Measures Department include monitoring fuel dispensed at gas stations and marinas. It is also responsible for vehicle scale inspections at scrap yards, concrete and asphalt plants. This is all conducted in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

Have you ever noticed the Auditor's seal on scales in meat departments or at the checkout counters at your local market places? That's your Weights and Measures Department hard at work, making sure the consumer is receiving what they are paying for.



← James Marsiglia, Certified Inspector - 4 years



# Elyria Unit NAACP "Mother of the Year" Award



The Lorain County Auditor's Office is excited to announce that one of our own will be honored as "Mother of the Year". Annie Carstarphen-Croft has been nominated by her daughter, Maygan DeAnnis and after hearing her recommendation the Elyria Unit NAACP-WIN (Women in the NAACP) voted unanimously to bestow Annie with this award. The Auditor's Office had a few questions of our own to ask Maygan to assess why she nominated her mother:

▲ Annie Croft, Public Information Officer - 11 years

**Q.) What qualities do you feel a Mother of the Year should have?**

She should be a well-rounded, confident, accountable, reliable, and dependable woman who is not only a key figure in the success of her household and her children but possibly children in the community as well.

**Q.) Why did you nominate your mom?**

I nominated her because of her positive attitude, in the face of adversity. My mother never gives up. She has continued to better herself, accepting the things she cannot change and adapting and growing, with her family, her community and in God. My Mother focused her life and family around God and with the help of positive people; she has taught us that all things are possible. She has passed her strength, knowledge and courage down to my brother and me. I appreciate her because this will help us to be successful in life. I nominated my mother for all of her strength, faith, and accomplishments. I wish to celebrate her.

**Q.) If you could pick one reason why she was named Mother of the Year, what would it be?**

My mother, to me is not just the Mother of The Year but the Mother of Every Year. My Mother is the epitome of a continuous success story that is not fully told. She is a positive role-model and strong woman that many, if not every, young woman can look up to and model their life after in our community and other communities regardless of their race, ethnicities, or environments. Annie Carstarphen-Croft is the best choice for NAACP-WIN's "Mother of The Year."

# Appraisal Process Whats Happening Next?



▲ Tom Johnson, Chief Appraiser, 10 years

The 2012 county wide reappraisal will continue into the summer of 2012. Approximately 160,000 parcels will be valued with an effective date of January 1, 2012. Two companies have been contracted to provide the appraisal services for Lorain County. John G. Cleminshaw will do the residential and agricultural reappraisal and Tyler Technologies is responsible for the commercial, industrial and exempt properties that will be revaluated.

Once the valuation portion is completed, the values are sent to the State of Ohio for tentative approval. The state's analysis and recommendation will occur in the July/August 2012 time frame, then returned Lorain County for implementation.

The fall of 2012 will have the Auditor's Office finalizing new construction values, Board of Revision valuations and numerous other valuation issues before a final abstract is sent in November 2012 for the State of Ohio's final approval of values.

Finally in January 2013, the new tax bills will reflect the valuations that resulted from the 2012 reappraisal. This will complete the appraisal cycle with the next sexennial countywide appraisal in 2018.

## Worth Mentioning

Cigarette licenses will go on sale at the beginning of May. These licenses are valid for a one year, beginning the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday in May of 2012 until the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of May the next year. Retail dealers who were in our data system from 2011 will receive a renewal application at the beginning of May. All applicants are required to secure a cigarette dealer's license before the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in June. Retail licenses are \$125.00 per license, per location. Wholesale cigarette dealer's licenses may only be purchased from the Ohio Department of Taxation. Please note that the retail cigarette dealer's licenses application can be downloaded at the Lorain County Auditor's Office website by visiting [www.loraincounty.com/auditor](http://www.loraincounty.com/auditor).