

AMENDMENT 79

This is to remind everyone to register for Amendment 79 benefits. Homeowners are entitled to up to a \$300 tax credit on their real property tax bill. You may claim the credit on your primary residence. This is the home where you live. You may not claim the credit on property other than your primary residence or on more than one residence. If you claim the credit on more than one property you may be penalized as stated in Act 1354 of 2003. The Act states in Section 1. "No property owner shall claim more than one homestead property tax credit for each year. If the county assessor determines that a property owner has claimed more than one homestead property tax credit in a year, in addition to repayment of the homestead property tax credit, the designated preparer of tax books shall extend a penalty of one hundred percent (100%) of the amount of the unlawfully claimed homestead property tax credit."

It is important for everyone to receive his or her entitled benefits. If you have any questions, please call (479) 444-1500 between 7:30 am and 4:30 pm. You may apply at any of our offices: Fayetteville, Springdale, and Lincoln. You may also download the application from our website www.co.washington.ar.us/assessor, or we can mail an application to you that is translated in English and Spanish.
BY: WILLIAM STEPHENSON

FAMILIAR FACE

Many Washington County residents know Lou Mulvaney, our Lincoln Branch Manager. She has been employed by the Assessor's office for 24 years and has considerable knowledge and experience in personal property and real estate assessment. She enjoys interaction with the public and considers this the most rewarding part of her job. Lou and her husband, James, have lived in the Lincoln community for 25 years. Her hobbies include reading, bingo, and spending



time with her family. She will gladly tell you about her seven grandchildren!

If you are in the Lincoln area and need to assess or just want to chat, stop by the Lincoln Office. Lou will be happy to assist you.

BY: LEA ROCHESTER

NEW FACE

We would like to introduce one of our newest employees. This is German (pronounced Her-man) Martinez. German is from Los Angeles, California and has a computer/accounting degree from American Business College. He has



excellent customer service skills and is fluent in English and Spanish. German lives in Springdale with his family. He spends lots of time playing with his three children and watching football. Please visit German at the Washington County Assessor's office in the courthouse.

BY: LEA ROCHESTER

FROM THE CHIEF DEPUTY ASSESSOR

Did you know that you can search property records online? The Assessor's office offers Internet access to property records for a fee of \$15 monthly or \$150 annually. The fee is to cover the cost of providing the service. You may access both personal property and real estate records. Information available includes ownership, deed history, valuation, tax amount, tax history, basic sketch of improvements and parcel maps. There are also four customer terminals in the Fayetteville office that may be used free of charge. We also have parcel maps on 2 CD's for \$1.00 each. If you're interested in these services, please contact Dan Cypert at (479) 444-1521 or e-mail dcypert@co.washington.ar.us

BY: DAN CYPERT

"Thanks for all the assistance in putting this newsletter together. Particularly: William Stephenson's editing, Dan Cypert's photography, and Cindy Stricker for the layout."



Washington County Assessor's Office

"Our mission is to serve Washington County taxpayers by fairly assessing property values, maintaining equity, providing information, and assisting our customers in every capacity within the law."

ASSESSMENT NEWS

QUARTERLY EDITION
December 1, 2003



FROM THE ASSESSOR

Lee Ann Kizzar

Happy holidays to everyone! As the year nears its end I'd like to thank my entire staff for their hard work and dedication. We've made every effort to make the assessment process easier and to reach our goal of providing better customer service. This year we saved everyone time by printing the tax receipt stamp on the personal property assessment, eliminating a step in the process. This coming year we will send out improved forms to our businesses to make assessing easier for them, too. We've made great progress with the real estate parcel digital mapping project. This will make parcel information available in a much more efficient manner. These are just a few of the efforts we've made. We will continue to look for ways to provide better service and to make our information more accessible.

I'm looking forward to the coming year and the opportunities to serve Washington County and you, our customers. Please share your ideas and comments with me by calling (479)444-1500 or e-mail me at: lkizzar@co.washington.ar.us

FROM THE COMMERCIAL PERSONAL PROPERTY DESK

December is the month that commercial personal property assessment forms are mailed to all businesses. This year the forms will look a little different. We are trying to make completing the forms easier for business owners and streamline our process. The forms will be preprinted with last year's renderings. Any changes, such as additions and deletions will be easier to accomplish. Additions need to be listed with the purchase date and cost of the item. All items should be listed separately and include the brand name and description, so the year of life and depreciation can be determined more accurately. It is important to classify the items so we can value them correctly. All businesses with inventory and supplies should write in the amount of the monthly average.



Commercial Personal Property staff

Hopefully this will simplify things for business owners so an accurate rendition may be made each year. All assessment forms must be turned in, or postmarked by May 31st of the assessment year. Please make sure all the forms are complete including name changes and correct mailing addresses and phone numbers. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have. We are in the office Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 4:30pm, so please come by or call (479) 444-1641. We are happy to assist you.

BY: HOLLY TURRENTINE



'TIS THE SEASON TO ASSESS...

January 1st through May 31st is the time of year to assess your personal property. So with thoughts and questions about the assessment process dancing through our heads...

The twelve questions of assessment:

1. Why do I assess personal property?

Property Taxes support:

The Schools—81%

The County—12%

The Cities—7%



2. How can I assess?

In person - The office hours are: Fayetteville 7:30am to 4:30pm; Springdale 8:00am to 4:30pm; Lincoln 8:00am to 4:30pm (Lincoln closes for lunch 1:00 to 1:30)

By phone - If you have assessed the same vehicles previously, call:

Fayetteville (479) 444-1520

Springdale (479) 751-6420

Lincoln (479) 824-4280



By mail - Postmark your written request no later than May 31st verifying your property with signature to:

Washington County Assessor

280 N College Suite - 250

Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701

By fax - Send the request with your signature verifying property to (479) 444-1639 with a copy of the title or bill of sale for any new property.

3. Where do we assess?

Assess in the county where you live as of May 31st



Washington County has three convenient locations:

Fayetteville - 280 N College - Suite 250

Springdale - 2250 West Sunset Suite B

Lincoln - 215 South Main

4. What do I need to bring to assess?

Bill of sale, title, certificate of origin, or original registration with amount paid.



5. Can someone else assess for me?

Yes. As long as they bring the documents listed on question #4 and your tax history from any other county of residence in the last 2 years.



6. Can a child assess separately?

If the child's name is on the title along with the parent then the child can be assessed separately.

7. *What personal property should be assessed?*
Automobiles, light trucks, boats, water craft, camping trailers, motorcycles, ATV's, farm equipment, trailers, tractors, heavy equipment, heavy & medium trucks, jet skis, logging equipment, limousines, livestock, motor homes, truck trailers, camper shells, travel trailers, and conversion vans.



8. Do I have to assess non-running vehicles?

Non-running vehicles kept by owners are assessable. They can be removed with a receipt from a salvage company.

9. Do I assess when vehicle tags are due?

No. The assessment deadline is May 31st; there is 10% penalty for anything assessed after that date.

The Revenue Department confirms the vehicle is assessed before you can renew tags.



10. Is the current year assessment good all year?

Yes, unless you make a new purchase.

The tax receipt stamp on the bottom of your assessment may need to be updated after October 10th, when taxes are due.

11. How are personal property values determined?

Most Arkansas counties use the personal property values published by the state's Assessment Coordination Department. The assessment value is 20% of market value.



12. Can the Assessor's office give tax amounts?

The Tax Collector calculates the tax amounts and sends out the bills for personal and real property taxes. To contact them call: (479) 444-1526.

The State Revenue Office calculates and collects sales tax. To contact them call: (479) 442-7691



BY: NANNETTE BHAUMIK

INTERESTING FACT

• The Ozark National Forest covers more than one million acres.

BY: PAMELA WIKSTROM