



THE ASSESSMENT FILES

COUNTY ASSESSORS ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA

VOLUME 4

MARCH 2004

News From The President



Hello Assessors and Deputies,

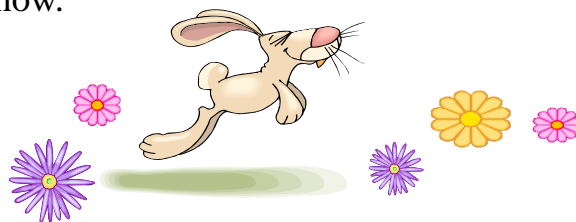
As I'm starting this newsletter article it's Monday, March 15, 2:45 in the afternoon and my office staff and I are climbing the walls. We have had more than the normal amount of last minute taxpayers this year. Somehow we always make it through *one more time*. I know everyone has had a hectic month and we are all looking forward to the slower months of summer.

The legislature is still in session and most of the legislation the CGLC wanted passed out of each house has been successful. Next comes another round of committee meetings and our legislative committee will be there watching our bills. I appreciate everyone's quick response with the calling chain. Communication is vital to our success at the legislature.

Remember, as we rush to meet all our deadlines, that we are representatives of county government. Everywhere you go, within your county or outside your county, whether you're a deputy or an elected official, taxpayers judge county government by our actions. I am very proud to be a county official and I hope that my actions reflect my pride.

As always I look forward to seeing everyone and if I can be of any assistance please let me know.

See You Soon,
Debbie Collins



April Flower—Daisy, Sweet Pea
April Gemstone - Diamond

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Jackie Gooch	Logan	5th
Debbie Croasdale	Marshall	19th
Debbie Gentry	Woodward	23rd
Evelyn Bradley	Garvin	26th
Eugenia Wood	Johnston	29th

April 4th - Palm Sunday

April 6th - First Day of
Passover

April 9th - Good Friday

April 11th - Easter Sunday



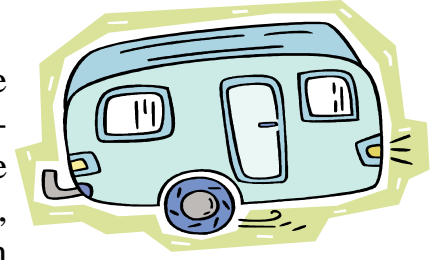
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AD VALOREM UPDATE

Greetings to Everyone. I know it's busy out there with the March Madness, no pun intended. I just attended an IAAO State and Provincial Council meeting at Little Rock, and we enjoyed talking to the other states folks who do the same thing that the Ad Valorem Division does. Maybe I'm just prejudiced, but I think Oklahoma is doing pretty well compared to some of the other states. (Little Rock incidentally has a tour where you can see the McDonald's where Bill Clinton used to stop on his morning jog.)

We wanted to bring you up to date on the Mobile Home project. As you know, the 4-C Committee is working with Oklahoma Tax Commission MIS on a project to make mobile home information available on the web. Debbie Gentry, 4-C Chair, says we are making progress. We hope to complete it in March with some training shortly thereafter. Rosie Edwards is working on the confidentiality forms.



You'll be able to search on VIN, Name, Address, Title, Model, Tag, Decal, and Factory Delivered Price. If all goes as planned, the data field have lots of information. You can also search using the "wild card" feature. (How could anything get wilder than mobile homes?)

As we reported in the Ad Valorem Division newsletter, the claims for payment are about \$48 million and with \$6.2 million paid out of this year's funds, a rough projection would be about \$31 million not including the additional homestead exemption. The loss for additional homestead exemption will be about \$5.2 million state-wide. The Legislature has under consideration some supplemental funding for common education.

The State Board of Equalization (SBOE) subcommittee has worked extremely hard over the last month or so reviewing all public service guidelines. Our public service staff has spend a lot of time on the effort.

Mark your calendars. We have a complete schedule now of the 2003 District meeting dates:

- Northeast: May 7 (Adair County)
- Northwest: May 14 (Garfield County)
- Southeast: May 21 (Hughes County)
- Southwest: May 28 (Beckham County)



Ad Valorem Update

We appreciate the hard work and conscientious effort of all county assessors and deputies out there working to improve the Oklahoma ad valorem system and make it better than it was given to us for taxpayers everywhere. Watch out for the Dragons in the uncharted waters.

Jeff Spelman, CAE
Director, Ad Valorem Division


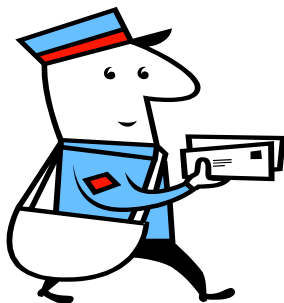


P.S.: “A dragon is just a lizard with an attitude, a big reputation, and the ability to hiss and puff out some steam.” Captain Anwar Caddo.

P.S.S. We’ve just reached the first year’s anniversary of our electronic newsletter, and I know that the County Assessors' Association has been on the web. What are your thoughts? Are you printing out and then reading it?

Let us know by email, fax, telephone or comment. We’re always interested in ways to keep communications going as well as possible.

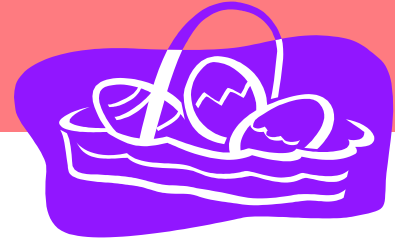
Thanks.



ANNOUNCEMENT

The March 11th, 2004 State Board of Equalization Subcommittee on Valuation Methodologies was cancelled. It has been rescheduled for April 2nd at 9:00 am in Room 104 at the State Capitol.

EASTER TRIVIA



Easter Quiz See how much you know about this holiday and its traditions.

1. What is a Fabergé egg?

- A. A French candy egg filled with cream
- B. A Greek egg painted red to symbolize Jesus' blood
- C. A Russian egg with gold and precious stones inside
- D. A Canadian wooden egg decorated with carvings

2. What color do marshmallow Peeps NOT come in?

- A. Green
- B. Lavendar
- C. White
- D. Yellow

3. Which of these holidays is NOT related to Easter?

- A. Ash Wednesday
- B. All Saints' Day
- C. Good Friday
- D. Mardi Gras

4. What flower is usually associated with Easter?

- A. Rose
- B. Geranium
- C. Daisy
- D. Lily

5. Which Jewish holiday does Easter always coincide with?

- A. Passover
- B. Sukkot
- C. Purim
- D. Shavout

6. Which immigrant group brought the tradition of the Easter bunny to the United States?

- A. Italians
- B. English
- C. Swedes
- D. Germans

7. How long does it take a hen to produce an egg?

- A. One hour
- B. One day
- C. One week
- D. One month

8. How many jelly beans will be produced for Easter?

- A. 15 billion
- B. 3 billion
- C. 15 million

WHY DO ASSESSORS BELIEVE IN THE EASTER BUNNY?

- Who else has time to color the eggs!!

HOW ASSESSORS FEEL AFTER PROTESTS ARE OVER...

_ A lady opened her refrigerator and saw the Easter Bunny sitting on one of the shelves. "What are you doing here?" She asked. The Easter Bunny replied, "This is the Westinghouse isn't it?" To which the lady replied "yes". "Well" the Easter Bunny said, "I'm westing."



8. A
7. B
6. D
5. A
4. D
3. B
2. A
1. C

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

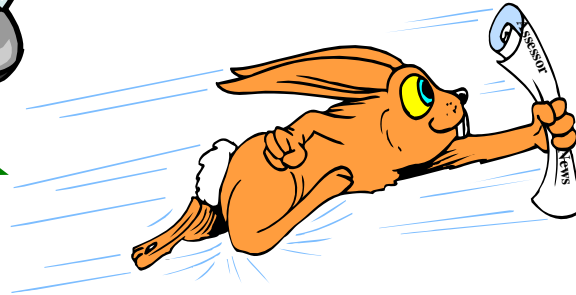
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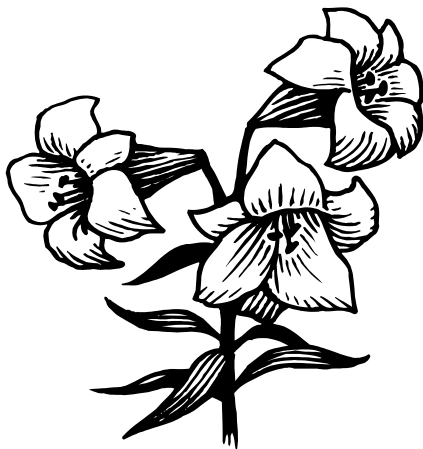
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Time changes Sunday April 4th.

Don't be late for work Monday April 5th.



**Let's not forget The True Meaning
of Easter.**

**The resurrection gives our life
meaning and direction and the
strength to keep on going no mat-
ter how many times we fall.**