After delay, tax notices ready

Oconee Auditor: Residents should get them in the mail next week or soon after

BY CARLOS GALARZA
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — It's taken longer than usual, but Oconee County taxpayers finally get to know how much they owe to local government.

Auditor Ken Nix announced Wednesday that his office and the Assessor's Office have completed their review of the 2009 assessed values of real property. A computer software glitch hindered the process and kept the auditor from sending out tax notices in October.

"The new taxes were calculated based upon the assessed value as appraised by Oconee County assessor and millage approved by the Oconee

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County Council," Nix said in a statement.

"Our offices have done everything possible to ensure that your tax notice is accurate."

As a result, Nix said the notices have been processed and the county treasurer is now accepting payment. He said residents should receive the tax notices in the mail next week or soon after.

Tax notices should have been processed and the duplicate made available for public inspection by Sept. 30, as state law requires.

When Nix saw that his office would miss the deadline, he requested and received a 30-day extension from the Department of Revenue (DOR).

On Oct. 29, Nix announced he'd received a second 30-day extension from DOR. He said the second delay was necessary because of issues with the conversion of the assessor's computer software rolling over to the auditor and treasurer's software. Nix said he wanted to make sure that the information on the tax notices is correct before sending them out.

Nix reminds taxpayers that if they made no changes to their property in the past year, then their taxes should be slightly less than a year ago.

However, Nix said that if the taxpayer appealed, made improvements requiring a building permit, or their residency status changed, then their taxes would change respective to the change.

Nix said taxpayers can either call or visit the auditor's or treasurer's Office to find out what they owe. A third option

get notices by next week

for taxpayers is to visit the Register of Deeds office and look up their taxes on the public access computers.

Payments could be made over the phone by calling the Treasurer's Office, Nix added.

The deadline for paying taxes without penalty is Jan. 15.

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More than a month late to be processed, 2009 Oconee County tax notices should arrive by mail next week.