

JESSICA NELMS | THE JOURNAL

Roger Williams takes measurements at a downtown Seneca home on Thursday, while Melissa O'Quinn records information about the property. Tyler Technologies hired Williams and O'Quinn, who are local residents, to work on Oconee County's reassessment of residential and commercial properties.

Data collectors already canvassing neighborhoods in Seneca

BY CARLOS GALARZA
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Melissa O'Quinn stood in front of a home in downtown Seneca on Thursday and could tell right away that the owners had made changes.

O'Quinn is one of five new data collectors hired by Tyler Technologies, Inc., a private company that is reappraising every residential home and commercial property in Oconee County.

It is O'Quinn's job to use a tape measure and check if the dimensions of the property have changed and to make notes of any obvious alterations.

Looking at a data sheet with a photo taken last year of the property she was inspecting at 2009 E. South Third St., she stared at a carport that was not there before.

On this occasion, O'Quinn was able to meet the owners, Brad LeCroy and his wife, Kim. LeCroy, the owner of Integrity Builders of Oconee, Inc. made his own improvements to the home.

Bill Grizzle, Tyler's field manager who supervises the data collectors that will canvass the county,

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Knock, knock... it's reassessment time

REASSESSMENT: Notices will be mailed July 1, 2011

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said the updated information would be used to determine the value of each property during this year's countywide reassessment.

The new valuations recorded as of Dec. 31 will be used to send out reassessment notices by July 1, 2011.

Oconee County is paying Tyler $1.8 million to get the reassessment done right and on time. A countywide reassessment takes place every five years.

Grizzle said the first five data collectors hired by Tyler began knocking on doors in Seneca on June 1. He expects to hire 10 more data collectors and will eventually have three groups of five employees canvassing neighborhoods.

Each data collector is trained and supervised.

Grizzle said data collectors do not have to go inside a property owner's home to get the needed information, and they could proceed with their work even if the property owners are not home.

"They have to knock, ring the bell and knock again," Grizzle said.

If someone answers the door, data collectors are to stand back so as not to intimidate the homeowner and identify themselves as being with Tyler for the state-mandated reassessment. If no one answers, the employee is to hang a "Sorry, we missed you" notice on the door. The yellow notice includes a brief description of reassessment and a phone number to contact Tyler Technologies with any questions.

Grizzle said data collectors could spend a few minutes with small properties or several hours at more elaborate and larger homes.

Roger Williams, another of the new data collectors hired, is no stranger to reassessment. He is a retired former Oconee County assessor.

"The problem I have is that everybody knows me," Williams said. "They'll start talking to me and that holds me up from getting my work done."

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