Oconee County tax collection still on hold

Auditor's office receives second state extension to delay notices

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WALHALLA — Two things you can be sure of in life, they say, is death and taxes.

In Oconee, taxes remain on hold, at least for the time being.

On Thursday, Oconee County Auditor Ken Nix announced that for the second time in recent weeks he has asked for and been granted an extension on letting residents know how much they'll owe in taxes in 2009.



Nix

Specifically, the Auditor's office received a second 30-day extension in the preparation of the so-called "duplicate," which lists every taxpayer in Oconee County along with their tax obligation. State law

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requires the duplicate to be made available for public inspection at the Auditor's office by Sept. 30.

The hold up also keeps tax notices from being sent out by mail, which delays the collection of taxes for the county.

The glitch has to do with the conversion of the Oconee County Assessor computer system to the auditor's Smith Data QS/1 system, Nix said in a written notice to the state Department of Revenue in making the new extension request.

> **'We anticipate sending** out notices in the near future but at this time cannot give a specific date.'
>
> **Ken Nix**
> Oconee County auditor

Nix said the conversion was completed last week; however, errors were found in the data that was converted, which led to an extensive review of the Assessor's data.

In a statement issued Thursday, Nix said: "We are now reviewing the information to ensure that it is correct before sending out tax notices. We anticipate sending out notices in the near future but at this time cannot give a specific date."

DOR spokeswoman Adrienne Fairwell said the delay in getting tax notices sent out in Oconee should not change the Jan. 15 deadline for tax bills to be paid. She said the law requires payment no later than Jan. 15 or 30 days after the mailing date of the tax notice.

Fairwell said Oconee County expects tax bills to be out by Dec. 15 to give taxpayers a 30-day window to pay the tax bill.

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