

Auditor Kovack to Allow Informal Value Appeals

For Immediate Release

Date: July 6, 2009

Contact: Nancy P. Girton, 330.725.9756

“Without question, we are facing exceptional economic times. That calls for exceptional measures.” With that statement Medina County Auditor Michael Kovack today announced his office would accept real estate valuation appeals outside the formal process.

“Between now and August 1st any Medina County property owner can forward an appeal package to me,” Kovack said. “My staff and I will consider the information in setting calendar year 2010 values.” Medina County is slated to undergo a State-mandated reappraisal in 2010, for calendar year 2011 values, but Kovack realizes many people don’t want to wait that long. “This will allow us to address those concerns.”

The auditor has three people dedicated to appraisal in his office. The county has over 85,000 parcels. Outside of mandated appraisal years, the auditor’s office doesn’t have the staff to review every parcel in the county. Because of that, there will be no in-person hearings for these informal appeals. The auditor’s staff will review the information. If a change is made a “Change of Value” notice will be sent to the property owner in November. Those that have no change will receive no notice. Property owners will still have the opportunity to formally appeal their value to the Medina County Board of Revision between January 1st and March 31st of 2010.

What information should you use to appeal your value? Actual market sales of similar type homes to yours in your neighborhood are the best indicator of value. You can search for these sales on the auditor’s website at www.medinacountyauditor.org. Click on “Transfers” on the front page. Appraisals from refinances are helpful also. Make sure to present the entire

appraisal. Also indicate whether there are any unique features of your home that might detract from value.

This information is necessary, Kovack said, because the State requires the auditor to document why changes to value are made. “Unfortunately, a newspaper article talking about general values is not good enough,” he noted.

Property owners can mail packages to Auditor Kovack at 144 N. Broadway Street, Medina, OH 44256 or they may drop them off during business hours.

To reach the office by phone, please call:

**Medina: 330.725.9754
Brunswick: 330.225.7100, ext. 9754
Wadsworth: 330.336.6657, ext. 9754**

“We realize these are difficult times for many homeowners in Medina County,” Kovack said. “We will do our best to ensure property owners entitled to a reduction get them.”