



2018 Assessor's Report



HELP FOR SENIORS

With increasing property taxes we often hear the refrain, "We are being taxed out of our homes." While it may not be true for some, for many of our low-income senior citizens it is a reality.

This year we made it a priority to reach out to senior citizens. We already have helped many, and we may be able to help many more.

Our first stop was at senior centers to provide information about our Senior Exemption Program and help with applications.

Sometimes, senior citizens only learn about the program when their home is about to be foreclosed on by the county or when they are included with a Current Use Audit by the Assessor's Office. While this may start out as a scary time for our most vulnerable senior citizens, there may be help to lower taxes and make staying in their homes more affordable.

To illustrate, we included on the back of this report Mary K's first-hand story of her experience with your Assessor's Office.

NEW PHONE NUMBERS

Please note that Clark County has an updated phone system, with new phone numbers and a new area code. Remember to use the new area code, 564, when contacting the Assessor's Office: **564.397.2391**



Peter Van Nortwick
Assessor

Property values continued to grow in 2017. That, along with implementation of the state school funding and voter-approved levies, impacted our taxes in 2018. The good news is that in 2019 you will get some relief as local school levies will begin to have a \$1.50 levy limit imposed on them. In addition, for 2019 the legislature has reduced the state school levies about 11 percent. For many this will lead to a reduction in school taxes in 2019.

My office has little control over tax increases from the state or voters, but I will commit to you that we will continue to educate and inform you about what is impacting your property taxes.

MARY'S STORY...

We had 10 acres and had to divide it into two, 5-acre parcels as income began to dwindle. But it was our little piece of Heaven here on Earth. We would sit in our yard swing just savoring the peace and quiet, and my 80-year-old husband would say, "I just love this place and the view of the barns and animals across the street." We were trying to hang on in spite of mounting medical bills and diminishing income.

Then, one day, we got a letter from the Assessor's Office saying we needed to come in to the office. That began the first of many visits to determine what could be done to help us as senior citizens keep our home. There were options and monetary aids we did not know about. Because of the caring and concern of all the workers in the Assessor's Office we were able to stay in our home.



Above: Mary's little piece of heaven.
Right: Mary with Assessor's Office team member Stacy Martin.

My husband died in July of 2017. He was happy and busy outside right up to the day before he died—cutting up and picking up twigs as he rode around our little place in his electric scooter.

I am so grateful to the workers who saw a way to help us and made it possible for us to be together here. All the employees I have met and worked with were so helpful, patient, and determined to do all they could to help us.

I am so thankful to them and the programs that are in place so we could be blessed to stay in our home.

- Mary K and beloved husband Al



NEXT SENIOR OUTREACH

Friday, June 15

10:30 am to 12:30 pm



Luepke Center
1009 E. McLouglin Blvd.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Assessor's Office

1300 Franklin Street, second floor
Joint Lobby 564.397.2391

www.clark.wa.gov/assessor

Assessor email addresses

Senior citizens or people with disabilities:

taxreduction@clark.wa.gov

Current use: current.use@clark.wa.gov

Assessor: peter.vannortwick@clark.wa.gov

For other formats, contact the Clark County ADA Office

Voice: 360.397.2322 / Relay: 711 or 800.833.6388 Fax: 360.397.6165 / Email: ADA@clark.wa.gov