LORAIN COUNTY TAX SERVICE

884 Cleveland Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035-4141
Phone: 440-365-4010 or 440-365-7978 | Fax: 440-366-9709 | Web: www.lcts.net

TO OUR CLIENTS

It's that time of year again! Time to start thinking about taxes, and scheduling your appointment with one of our professional tax consultants.

We would like to remind you to visit our web site: http://www.lcts.net. There you will find valuable tax tips, a downloadable copy of the "Guide To Income Tax" worksheet that is included in this mailer, and a variety of other helpful information.

Lastly, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy and rewarding New Year, and we look forward to seeing you in the office real soon!

Warmest Regards,

Joel W. Shupp & George M. Shupp

P.S. - Fill out the included "Guide to Income Tax" – it could save you money!

TAX CONSULTANTS AVAILABLE

Joel W. Shupp, AFSP	George Shupp, AFSP
Diane Shupp, AFSP	Tom Tomasheski, AFSP
Al Urban, AFSP	Joel M. Shupp, AFSP

EXTENDED HOURS

Beginning February 1, 2018
Monday through Friday: 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM
Saturday: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Sunday: Emergencies Only

ELECTRONIC FILING – NOTICE – REMINDER

Since January 1, 2011 our firm is **required by law to file both Federal and State returns electronically**. Electronic filing is the fastest way to get your refund. From our office, to the government, to your account (Direct Deposit) in less than two weeks!

All clients filing electronically must bring proof of account in the form of check book or savings book. These forms of verification must show your account number and the bank's routing transit number. If a joint return is filed **both** spouses must be present to file.

Please remember that payment for returns is due upon completion. To help keep the cost of preparation down, we do not accept credit or debit cards, cash or checks only.

STANDARD MILEAGE RATES

	2017	2018
Business Mileage	.535	.545
Medical Mileage	.17	.18
Moving Mileage	.17	.18
Charitable Mileage	.14	.14

2017 LATER FILING DEADLINE

The filing deadline to submit 2017 tax returns will be Tuesday, **April 17, 2018**. This is due to the traditional April 15th date falling on a Saturday and Monday being a legal holiday in the District of Columbia.

TO SEE MORE 2017 TAX UPDATES, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: WWW.LCTS.NET.

CALL NOW TO SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT!

PHONE: (440) 365-4010 OR (440) 365-7978.

LORAIN COUNTY TAX SERVICE, INC. GUIDE TO INCOME TAX

INCOME

Interest Income: $______

______

______

______

______

Dividend Income: $______

______

______

______

______

If Stock sold, for each sale we need:

Date Purchased: ______

Cost: $______

Date Sold: ______

Sale Price: $______

Alimony Received: $______

Pension Received: $______

Unemployment Received: $______

Gambling Winnings: $______

Social Security Received: $______

MEDICAL (PER INDIVIDUAL)

Prescriptions: $______

Hospitalization Ins.: $______

Long Term Health Care Premiums: $______

Doctor: $______

Eyecare: $______

Dentist: $______

Medical Equipment: $______

Medical Miles Driven: $______

TAXES

Real Estate Tax: $______

State Due Paid: $______

City Due Paid: $______

City Estimate Paid: $______

State Estimate Paid: $______

Mobile Home Tax: $______

New Vehicle Sales Tax: $______

INTEREST PAID

Mortgage Interest Paid: $______

Second Mortgage Paid: $______

Home Equity Loan: $______

Points Paid: $______

If you paid interest on a seller financed mortgage we will need:

Name:______

Address:______

Amount Paid: $______

Margin Interest: $______

Student Loan Interest: $______

CONTRIBUTIONS

Total cash/check contributions: $______

Written substantiation records - See contributions on next page. For donations of other than cash or check greater than $500 we will need for every item donated:

Description:______

Condition:______

Date Purchased:______

Cost: $______

Fair Market Value: $______

MISCELLANEOUS

Tax Preparation Fees: $______

Union/Professional Org. Dues: $______

Safety Shoes: $______

Safety Deposit Box: $______

Uniforms: $______

Safety Equipment: $______

Tools: $______

Gambling Losses (To Extent of Winnings): $______

Malpractice Ins.: $______

Alimony Paid: $______

Money Management Fees: $______

Teachers Classroom Expenses: $______

Child Care Expenses (Per Child): $______

Tuition & Educational Expenses (Per Student): $______

2017 IRA Contributions (Per Individual): $______

Ohio Contributions to 529 Plans (Per Individual): $______

NOTICE - Some refunds will be held until Mid - February

Taxpayers who claim the Earned Income Tax Credit or the Additional Child Tax Credit may experience a refund hold. According to the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes (Path) Act, the IRS cannot issue these refunds before mid-February. The IRS expects the earliest EITC/ ACTC related refunds to be available in taxpayer bank accounts or debit cards starting Feb. 27, 2018, if they chose direct deposit and there are no other issues with the tax return.

SECURITY REMINDERS FOR TAXPAYERS

Again we are warning taxpayers to learn to recognize and avoid phishing emails, threatening phone calls and texts from thieves posing as legitimate organizations such as your bank, credit card company and government organizations, including the IRS. Do not click on links or download attachments from unknown or suspicious emails.

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

For 2017, the maximum amount of the credit is:

- $6,318 with three or more qualifying children
- $5,616 with two qualifying children
- $3,400 with one qualifying children
- $510 with no qualifying children

Investment income must be $3,450 or less for the year.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Have health insurance or be prepared to pay the price at tax-filing time. The price keeps going up. The individual responsibility payment penalty for not having minimal essential medical coverage is based each month on the number of uninsured members of your family and your household income. An uninsured household of 3 or more during the 2017 tax year could face a maximum penalty of $2,085.

As in prior years, From 1095-A will be furnished to individuals who purchased coverage through the marketplace. For 2017, an individual should receive Form 1095-B *Health Coverage,* from the person providing minimum essential coverage to such individual. Please furnish these forms to your tax consultant when available. Note: The penalty for failing to maintain minimum essential coverage for individuals (individual mandate) is repealed beginning in 2019.

EDUCATIONAL TAX CREDITS

Many depend on federal tax breaks to help offset the cost of higher education for themselves and dependents. A provision in trade legislation enacted in 2015 requires taxpayers to have in hand the 1098-T to claim any education tax benefits. This statement, which for several years has been sent by schools to students and copies to the IRS, verifies that you paid what the IRS calls "qualified educational expenses" in the preceding tax year. Please remember to bring your **1098-T** statement with you along with any receipts for books, course materials and required equipment for this year's tax filing, it will save you time and money. Beginning in 2017, educational institution can report only the qualified tuition and related expenses actually paid on Form 1098-T.

TAX REFORM BILL - Tax Cuts and Jobs Act *(TCJA)*

The newly passed tax reform bill is arguably the most significant change to the Internal Revenue Code in decades. This tax reform affects virtually everyone. Families, homeowners, residents of high-tax states, the medically uninsured and small businesses will be especially affected. Most taxpayers will experience changes that could reduce or increase their taxes owned.

Some of the changes: increases in the standard deductions; loss of the personal exemption, increase in the child tax credit, new family tax credit, capped tax deductions, small business tax credit for the self-employed and pass-through entities, repeal of the minimum essential coverage penalty and changes in deductible mortgage interest.

The bottom line is that with this new tax legislation, it's more important than ever to talk to your tax professional about how this affects you to ensure that your taxes are done right and that you have a clear understanding of how changes that take effect in 2018 will impact how you file in 2019.

Need Financial Advice?

May we suggest:

Jason Leppla
Owner, Investment Advisor JL Financial Services
613 Cleveland Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035
Phone: 440-366-4829
Email: jason@frcenter.com