



Bill R. McCracken Accounting, Tax & Financial Services

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*Like our new, cute little friend,
Winnie, we are ready to have
some summer adventures! We
won't stray out of telephone range!*



May 2016

Dear Clients –

All of us on the Bill R. McCracken “tax team” thank you for the privilege of preparing your taxes this year. Even with the extra days this year, it was still a sprint to the finish! We appreciate both your trust in our knowledge and our work. Please remember we are open all year to answer your questions, consult on financial decisions and assist with any tax issues that may arise.

Meet our 2015 Tax Team!



Tim has been with Bill for 8 tax seasons and **Erin** for 7. You likely have talked with one or both of these amazing, rock-steady people. Tim prepares returns that are mailed in or dropped off, and helps with accounting for some of our corporate clients. Erin scans and processes all the returns we do, files and makes phone calls. We are grateful for their loyalty!

If you receive any kind of letter from the IRS, Oregon Department of Revenue or other tax authority, do not ignore it. If you are paying on a tax liability and the letter is a billing, respond with a payment as soon as you are able. Something is better than nothing! If you do not understand what the letter is requesting, please forward a copy to us and we will help interpret it.

Remember, too, that no legitimate tax agency demands payment in full over the phone without allowing you the opportunity to secure representation. The IRS and ODR always will contact you by letter first. And they will give you several chances to respond before threatening a lien or other means to collect a tax debt. They will NOT email or telephone as a first contact. Do not respond if you are not positive the contact is legitimate. This is not the time to be polite!

Some scams try to trick you into thinking you have refund money waiting. Don't be tempted into revealing your personal information and/or paying a fee to get this phantom refund. Contact our office if you have any questions or concerns.

Tax-related identity theft may happen in spite of all our best efforts. If you find yourself a victim, the IRS suggests the following steps:

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Brandon completed his second tax season with us. He met with some new clients, prepared returns and worked with business owners on their bookkeeping. He recently became an Enrolled Agent and is moving on to further his career. **Sherry** joined us this year reviewing returns on Saturdays. During the week, she worked full-time at another tax office. We are lucky she had energy and brain-power to spare for us!

- File a report with the local police.
- File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission.
- Contact at least one of the major credit bureaus to place a fraud alert on your records.
- Complete the IRS Form 14039, Identity Theft Affidavit
- Continue to pay your taxes and file all returns on time; respond immediately to any IRS notice you may receive.

The IRS has a program to issue an Individual Personal Identification Number (I-PIN) to taxpayers who have had their Social Security number compromised. This I-PIN electronically identifies the return filer as you and must be used when filing your return. The IRS will send a new I-PIN each filing year or until they develop a secure

method for taxpayers to apply for his/her I-PIN. If you are in this situation and receive an I-PIN letter, it is vital to save it and bring it in with your tax information each year. If you change addresses, you should also notify the IRS so correspondence follows you to your new home. If you lose the I-PIN letter, you will have to call the IRS to get a replacement number.

Please contact our office if you have questions.

Upcoming Office Closures

After the busy tax season, we are spending some time away from the office to attend classes, conventions and play a little. Phone messages and emails will be checked when possible.

1-8 May	15-30 May	10 June
16-17 June	26 June-11 July	

Where is My Copy of the Tax Return?

Because of identity theft issues, we began using registered mail for mailing out copies of tax returns and original supporting documents this year. The change necessitated a \$15.00 charge to cover the

additional costs. If you have not received your copy of your 2015 return, it is safe at our office and can be picked up at your convenience. Please call first to make sure we are in the office when you want to come by. As a rule, we are not in the office on evenings or Saturdays except by appointment.