

Dear Township Officials:

First and foremost, HAPPY NEW YEAR! May 2012 be better than 2011 - it can only get better, right?

Please find below some information that we hope you will find useful. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

The next alert will likely be in 2 weeks. Again, HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Heidi

INTRODUCED THIS WEEK

HB 407 RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY TAXES (Beck, P.) To exempt from real property taxation the value of single-family residential property owned by a developer or builder until the developer or builder transfers possession or title. Am. 5709.29

*The OTA has opposed this bill in the past. Please find **attached a letter** expressing concern with SB 109 (128th General Assembly), which would have done the same thing as HB 407.*

LOOKING FOR WINTER CONFERENCE VOLUNTEERS

We need your help! The OTA is looking for sergeant-at-arms volunteers for the annual Winter Conference. Serving as a sergeant-at-arms includes arriving at the workshop a few minutes early, passing out handouts, encouraging attendees to turn off or silence cell phones, and contacting an OTA or Convention Center staff member if any room changes are needed or if the speaker has requests. **Attached is the list of workshops that have been filled to date and those that need a volunteer.** Please email Kaitlin Hall at hall@ohiotownships.org if you are interested in volunteering.

CELL PHONE USAGE IN COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLES

While the U.S. Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), which regulates drivers of commercial motor vehicles, did recently issue a final rule that prohibits drivers of commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) in interstate commerce and intrastate hazardous materials CMVs from using a hand-held mobile telephone while operating a commercial vehicle, it does NOT apply to township CMV drivers.

NEWSLETTER FROM OPERS

The December 2011 newsletter from OPERS is available. **Please find the December 2011 OPERSource attached.**

OHIO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION TASKFORCE REPORT

Back in October, the State Association asked for your participation in the SWCD survey to help the Taskforce determine if there are impediments to doing business, duplication of services or other roadblocks that are negatively impacting the state's SWCD's program delivery effectiveness and efficiency. The **Taskforce** released a **report** and it is **attached**.

NEWS FROM NATaT

Please find **attached** the monthly newsletter from NATaT called **"The Washington Report."**