



EDWARD J. LEONARD

Franklin County Treasurer

373 S. High Street, 17th Floor, Columbus OH 43215-6306 (614) 462-3438
www.franklincountyohio.gov/treasurer

April 1, 2009

Contact: Lillian Williams 614-462-3379
lbwillia@franklincountyohio.gov

For Immediate Release

Columbus, (OH) - Many homeowners use an escrow service, either through their bank or their mortgage company, to pay their property taxes. The Franklin County Treasurer's office recently discovered that American Escrow has closed effective March 31st, 2009. This means that homeowners who have this company as a servicer may now be delinquent in their property taxes for this year.

Taxpayers who have their taxes escrowed by their mortgage company can verify that their taxes are being paid by performing the following simple research:

- First and easiest – check the Treasurer's website at www.franklincountyohio.gov/treasurer and select the payments link. You may search by name, address or parcel number. This link will show tax payment history for the property entered.
- Contact your mortgage company and ask them if they use a mortgage servicing company and ask them how they ensure their customers actually have their taxes paid.

The Franklin County Treasurer will always accept direct payments from taxpayers. However, if they want to stop escrowing their taxes and begin making direct payments, they must work with their mortgage holder to make those arrangements. When taxes are escrowed, mortgage companies request that their bills be "coded" in Franklin County's real estate system so that they receive a "bulk" billing file. This file eliminates a paper tax bill from being produced. Therefore, the mortgage company will need to request that this code is removed from the real estate system here at Franklin County in order for the paper bill to be sent directly to the homeowner.

Finally, to file a complaint with the Ohio Attorney General's office, please go to their consumer protection website at <https://www.ag4ohio.gov> or call 1-877-244-6446

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/chi-biz-missing-money-american-escrow-march26,0,3998138.story>