



September 2018

# The Auditor's Report

Travis County Auditor's Office Newsletter



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## Notes from Nicki

Shhhh, don't tell Nicki, but we hijacked her column for this newsletter.

We just wanted to shout out and let everyone know that she was recently re-appointed by the District Judges for another two-year term as County Auditor.

She was initially appointed County Auditor in 2012, so this marks her fourth re-appointment. We congratulate her and look forward to the next two years and beyond!

Travis County Auditor's Office Staff



## Juneteenth Celebration

It was a great time at the Travis County Juneteenth celebration. There were many departments selling food, drinks and wares. Our lemonade stand featured watermelon fresca, lemonade, and snacks. It was a huge success and we appreciate everyone who came by.

Special thanks to **Nisha Sharma** who cut up and made the fresh watermelon syrup for the drinks and **Valarie Hernandez** who planned and coordinated our participation in the event.

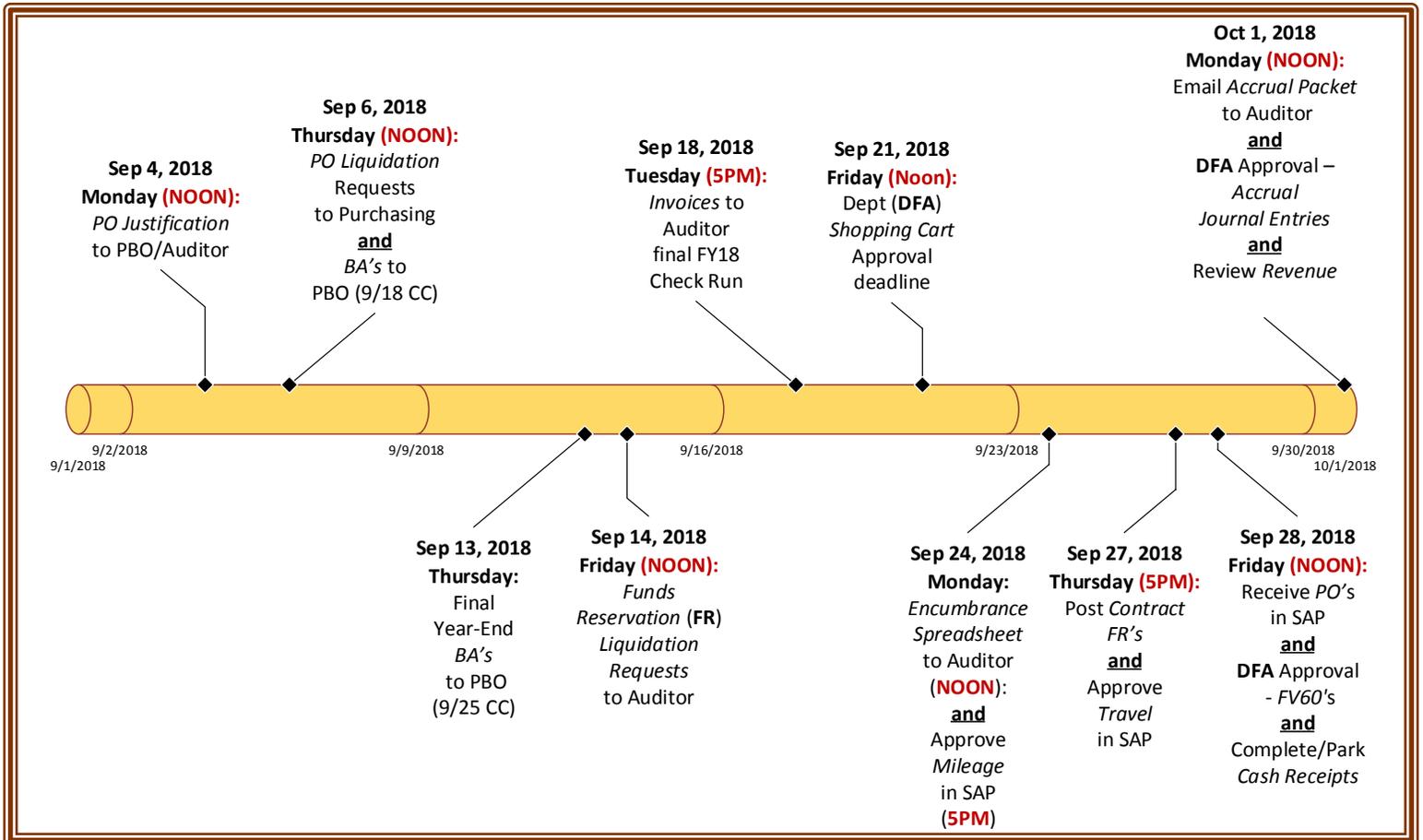


**"Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago."**

**– Warren Buffet, Investor & Philanthropist**

# Mark Your Calendar—Important Year End Dates

It's that time of year again. Take note of important actions and deadlines as we approach closing Fiscal Year 2018. When in doubt, check it out. Call our Office with any questions.



## Super Stars



**Patrick Kutac**—ITS for getting the two-factor authentication ready in time for Open Enrollment.

**Cheree Voigt** and **Andres Rodriguez**—Treasurer's Office for assistance in sending out ACH confirmation letters to vendors.

**"You just don't luck into things. You build them step by step, whether it's friendships or opportunities."**

**— Barbara Bush, Former First Lady**



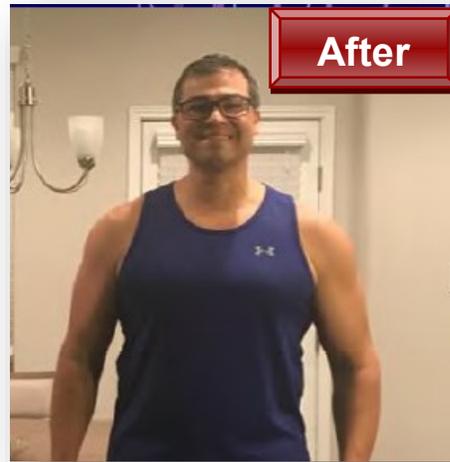
# I scream, you scream! We all scream for Ice Cream!

On June 22nd, the Auditor's Office celebrated employee June birthdays with an ice cream social. The twist to the monthly celebration—employees' children were welcome to come to work with their parents and then to celebrate at the birthday ice cream social.

Judging by the photos — everyone had a good time, young and old!



# Biggest Loser (Really a Winner)



**Luis Rodriguez** (Payroll Division) was recognized in the County's Biggest Loser weight loss competition. Luis placed 8 out of the top 10 finishers in the *individual losers that were not part of a winning team* category. **His weight loss results: 33.4 pounds (11.86%).** The before and after photos show it all. Pardon the pun, but weigh to go, Luis!



**Transparency Stars**

Recognizing Local Transparency Achievements

The Texas Comptroller has recognized Travis County's transparency initiatives by its award of the **Traditional Finances** Transparency Star. The Transparency Stars program "*recognizes local governments for going above and beyond in their transparency efforts.*"

The Financial Systems Integration & Reporting (FSIR) division spearheaded the effort to obtain the Star. A special shout out to the "stars" who helped accomplish this: project manager **Rhett Perry**, who researched and identified the data requirements; **Tonya Mills**, who did the data transformations and visualizations that form the transparency applications and reports; and **Beth Adams** and **Cameron Van Noy**, from the Consolidations and Financial Reporting division, who tested and validated the data.

Check out the transparency portal at: <https://financialtransparency.traviscountytexas.gov/>.



From left to right: Cameron Van Noy, Beth Adams, Rhett Perry, and Tonya Mills

# Employee News

The Auditor's Office:

- ◆ Welcomes **Anthony Truong**, who joins the Financial Systems & Maintenance Division (SAP Support Team) as a Business Analyst supporting procurement.
- ◆ Welcomes **Carlos Meda**, who joins the Administrative Division as the 12th floor Office Specialist.
- ◆ Welcomes **Joanna Pappas**, who joins the GL/Disbursements Division as an Associate Auditor.
- ◆ Congratulates **Valarie Hernandez** on her promotion to Associate Auditor in the GL/Disbursements Division.



## Volunteer Spotlight—Foster Angels

Auditor's Office staff participated in a school supply drive for the Foster Angels of Central Texas. **Jennifer Proctor-Romero** spearheaded the drive, challenging staff to donate supplies to fill backpacks. The backpacks are distributed to children in foster care.

Sharon Martindale	Sandy Hendrix	Andy Pearson
Woody Whitten	Patty Turner	Rachel ("Rocky") Ortiz
Donna Scarbrough	Beth Blankenship	Melinda Grahmann
Rhett Perry	Holly Huff	Ely Allen
Tara Hollingsworth	Bernadette Gutilla	Hailan Zhang
Beth Adams	Brooke Greenfeder	Stephanie Villarreal
Valarie Hernandez	Christina Adair	Shannon Clayboss



If you want to learn more about the program or its impact—check out the following links:

[Foster Angels Website](#)

[KXAN New Story](#)

## Meet the Auditor's Office

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# Meet Karen



Karen Doane, a Financial Auditor Analyst with General Ledger & Disbursements Auditing, audits social services-related contract payments and troubleshoots/corrects POs prior to payments. Karen's had a varied career—working in hotels and at car dealerships (title transfers) before coming to the County. She started at the Tax Office in 1994, working her way up to a Lead Financial Analyst. Because it was on her bucket list to join the Auditor's Office, she got her Bachelor's in Business from Concordia University in 2016, while working full time. She joined the Auditor's Office shortly after that.

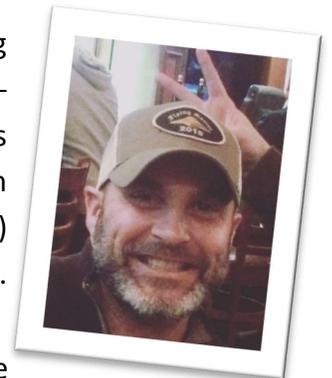
She moved to Austin with her daughter Audrey, in the 1990's and has been married to her best friend, David, for 21 years. They have one grandson, Jess David — the apple of grandma's eye.

### Ask Karen

- \* *What is your proudest moment at Travis County?* When I am able to teach someone something and see them develop/learn a new concept.
- \* *What is on your wish list?* I want to see my grandson on the road to success—as it's too late for the rest of us.
- \* *What is the most unusual work experience you had?* As a gag on my birthday, I was trying to cut the cake, and the knife wouldn't go through the slice. I was getting flustered because I couldn't cut it and I didn't want to be rude. I found out that they had frosted a piece of Styrofoam.

# Meet Rhett

Rhett Perry is a Business Analyst in the Financial Systems Integration & Reporting Division, where he primarily is responsible for providing SAP grant-related support, training, and report developments. Rhett received a Bachelors in Business Administration from Baylor in 1995 and a Masters in Accountancy in 2009 from Texas State. He is single, with 16-year old Zeke (a blind, but lovable dachshund) for a companion. Rhett, an avid singer, performs regularly with Chorus Austin. He also underwent a major transformation—losing 40 pounds.



### Ask Rhett

- \* *What is one thing you can't live without?* Chocolate chip cookies—I am a notorious cookie monster and have been known to go to Tiff's Treats on a break just to get one.
  - \* *What are three career lessons you have learned?* To remain humble, constantly learn, and remember that everyone can contribute.
  - \* *What is one of the most unusual jobs you've had?* I was the Baylor mascot (Go Bears) and was recruited by the National Cheerleading Association of Texas to teach/train mascots.
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# Audit Schedule

## Upcoming Reviews

Commissary

Forfeited Property Audits

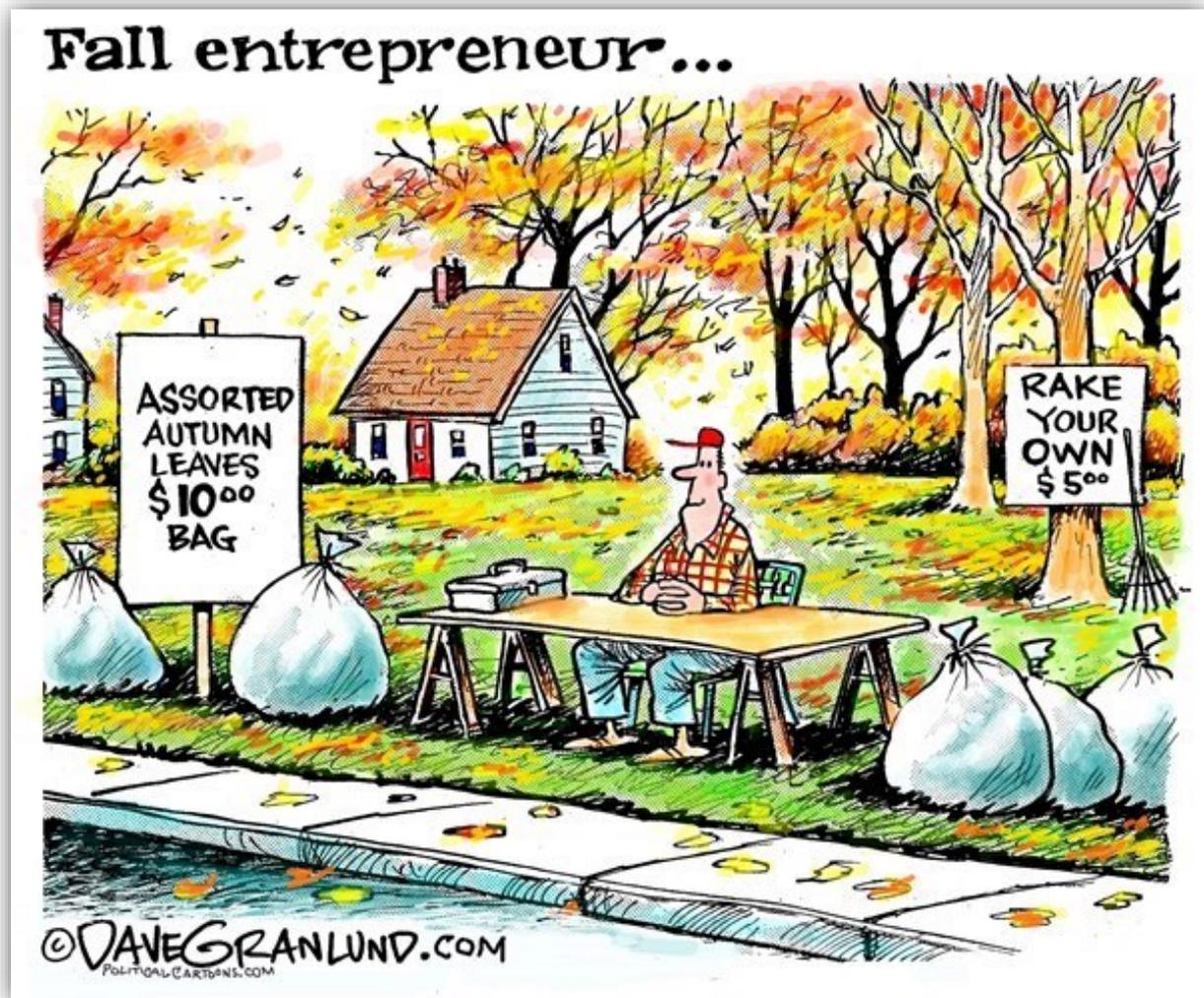
1099 Review

Bail bonds

Tax Office Vehicle Inventory Tax

"A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work"

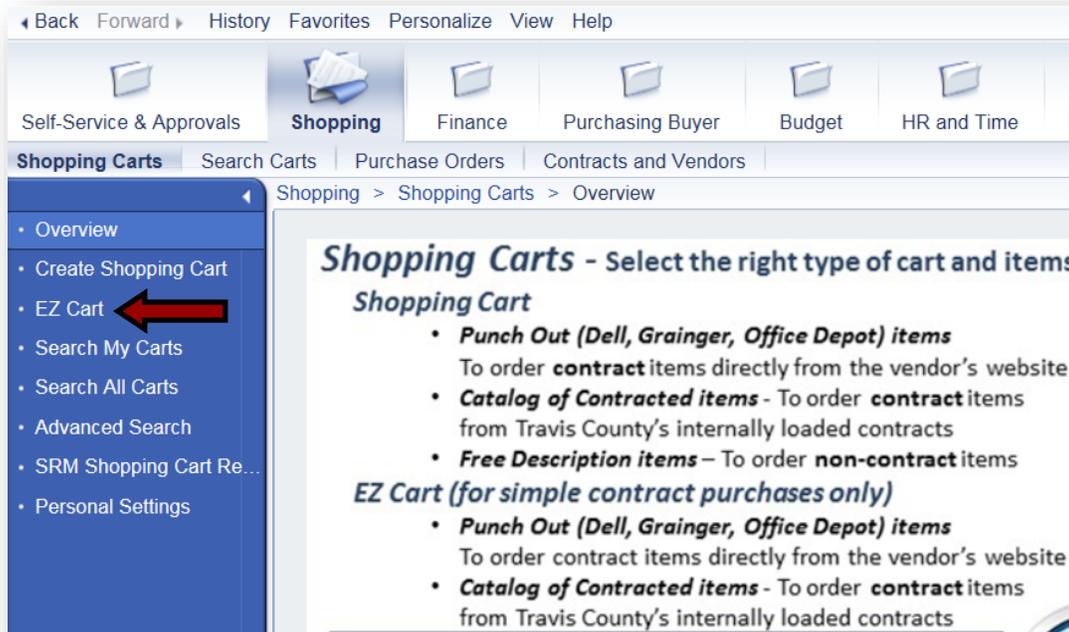
- Colin Powell, former Secretary of State and retired four-star general



# SAP — Simplified Shopping



Buying items from a County contract (internal or catalog)? Speed your shopping with SAP **EZ Cart**. With **EZ Cart**, you can quickly select and then order contract items.



Check out the latest [Shopping Tips and Tricks](#) webinar on the *SAP Neighborhood* to learn more techniques that save time, including customizing the look and feel of your shopping cart data entry screen to meet your needs.



## Riddle Me This



Test your logic skills with these puzzlers.

1. What has a head and a tail but no body?
2. There was a green house. Inside the green house there was a white house. Inside the white house there was a red house. Inside the red house there were lots of babies. What is it?
3. A man is pushing his car along the road when he comes to a hotel. He shouts, "I'm bankrupt!" Why?

1. A coin. 2. A watermelon. 3. He was playing Monopoly.