

“Librarian’s Shelf” by Heather St. Clair

The Columbus Public Library has made many federal tax forms available. You can find these forms on the left and right just after the new bookshelves, as you enter the library. New this year, the Nebraska Department of Revenue is no longer making forms available to institutions, such as libraries, so we will unfortunately be unable to provide Nebraska tax forms.

While we provide some of the most needed forms and we cannot provide all of the forms; however, you can still have access to them. If we don’t have a form you are looking for, the IRS, www.irs.gov, and the Nebraska Department of Revenue, www.revenue.state.ne.us, webpages have forms available to print out.

If you would rather e-file, both websites have links to online tax software for e-filing, including free filing, but you may need to meet certain requirements.

If you don’t have a computer at home, you can use one of our twenty-five public access computers. Just remember to bring your Columbus Public Library or Platte County Bookmobile card to get on the computer. You can receive two, one hour sessions. Please keep in mind that you must complete or be able to save what you are working on within the hour, session is time to automatically end after the hour. We also charge 10 cents a page for black and white printing, should you want to print your return or tax forms.

Please remember, while the library does provide forms and computer access, our staff are not tax preparers and can only help you locate forms and provide basic computer help. Should you need additional help, both Revenue websites have “Frequently Asked Questions” links. The IRS’s is located toward the bottom, right side of the homepage, but is found in the menu on the left side for most other pages within the site. For the Nebraska Department of Revenue, it is in the menu on the left side of the page. The Nebraska Department of Revenue also provides a toll free number to call for assistance, 1-800-742-7474.

The IRS has various phone numbers you can call depending on your needs, which can be found through the IRS website by clicking on “Help” and then “How to Contact the IRS.” The phone numbers are listed under “Call Us With Your Tax Questions.” Should you need to speak with someone in person, also under “How to Contact the IRS,” you can find local IRS offices by clicking on “Contact Your Local IRS Office.” Two important numbers are the number to order tax forms, 1-800-829-3676, and the number for tax advice, 1-800-829-1040. For listings of local tax preparers look in the yellow pages (business section) of the phone book under either “Tax Return Preparation” or “Tax Preparation Services.”

If you have questions about these or other materials, please feel free to stop in the library, call us at 564-7116, or email us at library@columbusne.us.