

## TAX EXEMPTION FORMS MAILED TO NEW HOMEOWNERS

Contact Person: Ali ElSaffar, Oak Park Township Assessor

Oak Park homeowners who bought their homes in 2007 will be receiving application forms from the Cook County Assessor's Office this week for the Homeowner, Senior Citizen and Senior Freeze Exemptions. Also receiving application forms are homeowners who did not receive any property tax exemptions last year. Oak Park Township Assessor Ali ElSaffar urges anyone who receives an application form and is eligible for one of the exemptions to complete it by the April 23 due date. The applications can be sent to either the Oak Park Township Assessor's office or the Cook County Assessor's Office.

Property owners who received the Homeowner Exemption last year and did not sell their homes in 2007 will not receive application forms. Such property owners will instead have their Homeowner Exemptions automatically renewed by the Cook County Assessor's office. A letter confirming the automatic renewal of the Homeowner Exemption will be sent later this year.

The Homeowner Exemption will save Oak Park residents between \$450 and \$2,000 on their fall tax bills. The exemption is available to owners of homes, condominiums, and small apartment buildings of six units or less if the current or prior owner of the property used it as a principal residence on January 1, 2007. "Nearly all homeowners who bought their homes in 2007 were not in residence on January 1, 2007," ElSaffar explained. "However, if the *prior* owner was in residence on January 1, 2007, the home will be eligible for the Homeowner Exemption."

The Homeowner Exemption application form also includes space for homeowners to apply for senior exemptions. Homeowners who turned 65 or older in 2007 and were in residence at any time during 2007 are eligible for the Senior Citizen Exemption, which provides savings of as much as \$350. Seniors who have been in residence since January 1, 2006 whose household income in 2006 was less than \$50,000 should be eligible for further tax savings from the Senior Freeze. Those applying for senior exemptions for the first time must submit proof of their age with their applications.

Anyone with questions about their homeowner or senior citizen exemptions should feel free to call the Oak Park Township Assessor's Office at (708) 383-8005.

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