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The bi-weekly forum dedicated to helping you better understand your government

For the past 5 months, The Newstead Assessment Advisory Committee has been working to provide you with information regarding the assessment process, as well as the general workings of your government. We work hard to make sure the info makes sense, is easy to read and relevant to your concerns. We hope you have found them informational, honest and forthcoming. As we move into the month of July, the 2012 Revaluation Project will begin. The Assessor reports that there's been a very good response to the residential data mailers, corrections are being made and questions answered. We'd like to sincerely thank you for helping in this process.

Grievance day has come and gone and for those who chose to meet with the Board of Assessment Review they have made their decisions and those notices were mailed out. The only deadline remaining for residents is Aug 1st. This is the date for anyone who disagreed with the Boards' decision to file a petition for a Small Claims Hearing. If you have questions about this process, please don't hesitate to call the Assessor's office – we're here to help! The required forms are available online at www.erie.gov/newstead (under the forms link) or www.orps.state.ny.us

The volume of questions and concerns from everyone is down. On one hand it tells us that we were able to provide information when it was needed most. On the other hand it gives us the opportunity to be flexible with our articles and this column. We will continue Taxes Taxes Taxes, but will be switching to a bi-weekly format. We will continue addressing questions & concerns submitted via mail, email or phone. As the revaluation project progresses, we'll continue to inform you of deadlines, processes, procedures and meetings.

For the revaluation project, the Town has contracted with Emminger, Newton, Pigeon and Maygar for commercial and agricultural properties. Residentials will be handled by the Assessor. Over the next few months, you may see vehicles stopped in front of your property to review information or take photographs. At times, they may come to your door to ask a few questions. You're not required to allow them access into your home or building, but please keep in mind that it's important to have as much information as possible to insure an accurate assessment value. **All town employees or representatives for this project will have valid ID.**

Articles are archived on our website www.erie.gov/newstead. Please submit questions to aac@townofnewstead.com