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The forum dedicated to helping you better understand your government

*This week's question: " **Do I have to renew my exemption**"*

As we promised, we will continue with this forum any time there is information that the residents in the Town of Newstead and Village of Akron need. Last week, the Assessor's office mailed out renewal forms for the Enhanced STAR/Senior exemptions. If you received the exemptions last year, you should have received a yellow or purple form in the mail. There have been many phone calls asking why another form has to be completed this year, since the form was already completed back in February.

Even though it is still 2011, the Assessor's office has begun their **next year**. Any exemptions that are completed now will be used for the assessments in 2012. The exemption renewal forms that were submitted ANY time before March 1, 2011 have already been used for the school tax bills that were recently mailed out and which are due October 17, 2011.

So..... if you are **over the age of 65** (or will turn 65 **BEFORE December 31, 2012**) **you must renew your exemption.**

Please complete the yellow/purple renewal form and bring it in (or mail it) with the front page of your **2010** Federal Income Tax Return. If you did not get a yellow/purple form in the mail, the Assessor's office has extras. If you are unsure of what to do, please call the office at 542-4574.

The Assessor's office will be available at the Newstead Senior Center on Friday, October 7th from 10am – 12noon to take exemption applications.

Basic STAR exemptions (for those under the age of 65) **DO NOT** need to be renewed.

We would like to thank the residents for all the questions that were submitted to date. As a result of your input, this forum has been awarded the New York State Assessor's Association Innovation Award for 2011. New York State recognizes the need and importance of better communication with residents.

THANK YOU & PLEASE, KEEP SENDING US YOUR CONCERNS AND QUESTIONS!!!!

Articles are archived on our website www.erie.gov/newstead.

Please submit questions to aac@townofnewstead.com