

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: December 23, 2002

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Re: Real Property Tax Exemptions Renewal Forms in the Mail

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On December 27, 2002, the Tompkins County Department of Assessment will mail out renewal applications to all senior citizens who received an exemption pursuant to Real Property Tax Law Section 467 for 2002 – (Senior Citizens with a limited income).

Approximately 1,300 senior households will received the renewal application in the mail which **MUST** be returned to the Department of Assessment by **March 1, 2003** to be applicable for the 2003 Final Assessment Roll. In addition to the filing of the application at the Department of Assessment by **March 1, 2003**, all supporting documents must be filed by April 16<sup>th</sup>, including the 2002 State/Federal Income Tax Form.

Since the Senior Citizen Exemption eligibility is based upon income, the renewal application must be filed each and every year by **March 1**.

In addition, the Enhanced Star Exemption renewal forms were mailed out on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2002. Only 40% of the applications have been returned to date. To qualify for the Enhanced Star, the **2001** income tax return should be submitted if it hasn't already been filed with the Department of Assessment. The Department of Assessment urges all prospective applicants to file their applications as soon as possible but certainly by the **March 1, 2003** deadline.

Renewal applications for the Disability, Clergy, and Agricultural Land were also mailed out during this time period and must be returned to the Department of Assessment by **March 1, 2003**.

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