



# Department of Assessment

128 East Buffalo Street

Valeria Coggin  
Director

Jay Franklin  
Assistant Director

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Re: Real Property Tax Exemptions Renewal Forms in the Mail

On December 20, 2004, the Tompkins County Department of Assessment will mail out renewal applications to all senior citizens who received an exemption on the 2004 Final Roll pursuant to Real Property Tax Law Section 467 for 2004 – (Senior Citizens with a limited income).

Approximately 1,300 senior households will receive the renewal application in the mail which **MUST** be returned to the Department of Assessment by **March 1, 2005** to be applicable for the 2005 Final Assessment Roll. In addition to the filing of the application at the Department of Assessment by **March 1, 2005**, all supporting documents must be filed by April 19<sup>th</sup>, including the **2004** State/Federal Income Tax Form. (Income information will be accepted anytime up to April 19<sup>th</sup> as long as the application for exemption was filed by March 1, 2005).

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

Also, the Enhanced Star Exemption renewal forms will be mailed out on December 20<sup>th</sup> for those senior citizens who opted **NOT** to have the Department of Assessment verify their income with the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance. These renewal forms must to be returned to the Department of Assessment by **March 1, 2005** to be applicable for the 2005 Final Assessment Roll.

The New York State Department of Taxation and Finance has completed their verification for the Enhanced Star exemption for those seniors who opted into the Income Verification Program. For those that the state could verify that the property owner's income was less than \$64,650, a green post card will be mailed stating "Approved for Enhanced STAR". Those individuals do not need to do anything else. If the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance could not verify their income, the Department of Assessment will be mailing a letter to those describing the next steps to be taken.

Renewal applications for the Disability, Clergy and Agricultural Land will also be mailed out during this time period and must be returned to the Department of Assessment by **March 1, 2005**. Also, any and all new exemption applications must be filed by **March 1, 2005** as well.

**Media contact:** Valeria Coggin, Director of Assessment, 274-5517.  
Jay Franklin, Asst Director of Assessment, 274-5517