



ELK GROVE TOWNSHIP

2400 S. Arlington Heights Road Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005

PRESS RELEASE

APPLICATION FORMS FOR SENIOR FREEZE MAILED; NEW PROCESS IN PLACE FOR OTHER SENIOR EXEMPTIONS

Elk Grove Township senior citizens who received the Senior Freeze exemption last year should have received their Senior Freeze renewal applications, and will have until March 19 to return them to the Cook County Assessor's office. The applications are for 2007 property taxes, (paid in calendar year 2008) and the savings from the exemptions will appear on tax bills mailed in the fall of 2008. Seniors should feel free to call the office of Elk Grove Township Assessor Connie Carosielli for help completing the forms.

Eligibility and Application Rules for Senior Exemptions

There are two senior citizen property tax exemptions. The Senior Exemption is available to all seniors regardless of income. It reduces property taxes by about \$200 to \$300, and is available to any owner-occupied residential property whose owner was born in 1942 or earlier. The Senior Freeze provides seniors with additional tax savings if the combined income of all occupants in a senior's household is less than \$50,000, and if the senior has been an owner-occupant of the house since January 1, 2006.

In prior years, seniors had to complete applications every year to obtain the Senior Exemption and the Senior Freeze. This year, however, the rules have changed. All seniors who received the Senior Exemption last year will have the exemption automatically renewed this year; applications to renew the Senior Exemption will no longer be required. Seniors seeking additional tax savings through the Senior Freeze program, however, will have to complete and return the Senior Freeze application, as has been the case in the past.

Information for Seniors not Receiving Mailings

Homeowners who were born in 1942 turned sixty five (65) in 2007, and thus are likely to be eligible for one of the senior exemptions for the first time. Taxpayers who recently turned sixty-five (65) will not receive application forms when the senior renewal forms are mailed. We encourage all Elk Grove Township residents to call the Elk Grove Township Assessor's office to obtain the forms and information necessary to receive the senior benefits.

In addition, seniors who have **NOT** received the Senior Freeze in prior years will **NOT** receive Senior Freeze renewal applications in the mail this year. Anyone who is eligible for the Senior Freeze for the first time should feel free to come to Elk Grove Township Assessor's office to obtain application forms. The forms are also available online at **www.CookCountyAssessor.com**.

Contact Person: Connie Carosielli- Elk Grove Township Assessor- 847-437-0300

Release date: March 3, 2008



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LOWER-INCOME SENIORS RECEIVE REBATES BY FILING TAX RETURNS

Thanks to the stimulus package passed by Congress and signed into law by President Bush in mid-February, millions of Americans will be receiving tax rebate checks in a few months worth at least \$300. To receive the rebates, most Americans will merely have to complete their federal income tax returns as they normally do. The Internal Revenue Service will then calculate the rebate and send a check.

But some Americans, including many senior citizens, some veterans, and some low-income citizens, do not have to file income tax returns. This is because their income is either too low and/or because the income that they do earn comes from Social Security or veterans benefits, which are often not taxable. Although such citizens are not required to pay federal income tax, the stimulus package will give them refund checks if their income from Social Security or other sources is at least \$3,000. **But they will get a tax refund only if they file federal tax returns this year.**

The Cook County Assessor has just mailed out Senior Freeze application forms to many senior homeowners. In Elk Grove Township Assessor's office experience, many of the lower-income seniors eligible for the Freeze do not complete federal income tax returns, because they are not required to do so. **This year, however, the assessor's office is encouraging all seniors, to complete their federal income tax returns so that they can receive federal tax rebates.**

Although the Senior Freeze program is available for seniors who own their own homes, **the federal tax rebates are available to all seniors, not just homeowners. Whether or not you own a home, if you are a senior citizen you should file an income tax return this year to receive a rebate check from the federal government..**

Elk Grove Township residents who are not senior citizens should call their accountants or the IRS for further information on the federal tax rebate program. The IRS can be reached at 1-800-829-1040.

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