

## Update from the Assessor

We would like to take this opportunity to inform you about a few things that are happening now. Tax bills have been mailed. If you do not receive your school tax bills in the next few days **PLEASE** contact the Eden Tax Office at 992-3406.

New York State has mailed out the Property Tax Relief checks. This program is **NOT** the STAR program. These checks are based on the following:

1. The school district HAS to have stayed below the 2% cap
2. The property owner has to be eligible for the STAR exemption
3. The amount of the check is based on income

So, not everyone will receive the same amount. If you have any questions, you must contact NYS at 518-453-8146 or view the detailed information at [www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property-tax-relief.htm](http://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property-tax-relief.htm) The **Town of Eden Assessor and Town Clerk are unable to help.**

The STAR program has undergone more changes. This past year, NYS has decreased the income limit for Basic STAR from \$500,000 to \$250,000, has offered the possibility of registering for the check program instead of receiving an exemption, required/Enhanced STAR recipients to register in the automatic Income Verification Program where the state verifies the income eligibility, and has offered the possibility of applying for the exemption AFTER the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for Good Cause. If you are in the new STAR check program, you may be receiving your checks before October 15, 2019 (depending on when you registered). Unfortunately, if you have any questions or concerns, you **MUST** contact NYS at 518-457-2036. We do not have any information or access to information regarding these properties.

Because there are now so many different situations, **you may not be required to follow the same renewal as your friends & neighbors.** If you have a question, contact the **Eden Assessor Office** at 992-9135. We will advise you according to your specific situation.

We have mailed out the Senior Aged Renewal forms. **ALL** exemption applications and renewals are due by March 1, 2020. You will need to provide **ALL** income documents for **2018**. The IRS changed the 1040 forms for 2018. As a result, we ask that you bring in your Federal **AND** State Income forms and **include ALL 1099s**. **If you ONLY received the Enhanced Exemption last year and completed the automatic Income Verification Program application – YOU DO NOT NEED TO RENEW.**

**New York State, Erie County and the Town of Eden will NOT call any property owner asking for personal information over the phone.** There have been some reported cases of people (mostly seniors) receiving phone calls stating they are in jeopardy of losing their exemptions unless they provide their social security number, income, driver's license numbers, etc. **DO NOT GIVE THIS INFORMATION OVER THE PHONE!** If we have any questions, we may call, but will ask you to bring in or send the information to our office. If you are unsure, err on the side of caution and call our office at 995-9135 to confirm.