

## SENIOR CITIZENS AND GENERAL HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION INFORMATION

Anyone born in **1955** is eligible to apply for the Senior Citizen Homestead Exemption. You do not have to wait until your birthday to apply. The Senior Citizen Homestead Exemption is 5,000 off of your assessed valuation. If the household income is **\$65,000** or less you may qualify for the Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze. Applications are available in our office as of April 15, 2020. Just bring your 2019 income tax return with you.

Anyone born in **1954 or before** and have not already signed up for the senior exemption, come into our office as soon as possible and we will process the necessary paper work to get the exemption added to your tax bill. Do not delay as we have a limited time to make corrections on the 2019 tax bills. The tax bills should be in the mail on May 1, 2020.

The General Homestead Exemption is 6,000 off of your assessed valuation. The exemptions and requirements are as follows:

General Homestead Exemption 6,000 off the assessed value

- The property must be your primary residence
- The property must be owner occupied

Senior Citizen Homestead Exemption 5,000 off the assessed value

- The property must be your primary residence
- The property must be owner occupied
- At least one owner will be 65 during the tax year

The 2020 Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze applications for the 2019 income will be mailed out April 15, 2020. **They are available in our office after April 15th, if you did not receive one in the mail.** The household income limit is **\$65,000**. Please fill out as much of the information that you can, and then bring the form and all your income information to our office and we will assist you with copies and turn your paperwork over to the Will County Supervisor of Assessments Office for approval. If you think you are eligible and did not receive an application, we have them available in our office April 15th. Remember to bring all your income information with you, i.e. your 2019 Federal 1040 income tax return and or your Social Security 1099. If you do not file a 1040, then just bring all the income statements you received for 2019 and your Social Security 1099 and we will help you with the completion of the form.

The Will County Treasurer's Office mails tax bills out usually by the first of May. When the bills are mailed by the first, then the first installment is due June 1st, and the second installment due date is September 1st. If the bills are not mailed by May 1st, then the first installment is due 30 days from the day of the mailing and the second installment due date remains September 1st. Please read your tax bill to be sure that the exemptions are listed in the calculations. **The tax bill is the only place where you actually see the exemptions being applied to your property. Please read them carefully, as we only have a limited time frame to make corrections for any missed exemptions.** If you think there is an error, please call the office as soon as possible so we can look into the matter. Our office hours are 8:00 am to 3:30 pm Monday through Thursday and 8:00 am to 3:00 pm Fridays. The telephone number is **815-485-9419**.

*Bonnie Luckhart Hernandez, C.I.A.O.  
New Lenox Township Assessor*