

March 2, 2023


Town of Windsor Board Members:

For the month of January, February and early part of March, I was extremely busy. The governor mandated that the towns send out second notices to everyone that owns a home 30 days prior to the March 1st deadline for the STAR exemptions. Talk about a mad house. Those postcards started hitting the mailboxes Thursday, January 26th in the late afternoon, by the time I came in to work on Monday, I had over 40 voicemails. Monday, January 30th I felt that the phone was glued to my ear. I was answering the phone non stop and when the taxpayers couldn't get through to me, they called the Town Clerk. That evening when I finally left for the day, I had over 100 voicemails. (How do you answer all those people back?) Call waiting was my enemy for the next week or so.... Tuesday morning, I changed my voicemail message and it kinda helped. For the next month until the deadline, it was extremely busy either answering the phone calls or people coming into see me with their exemption paperwork. I ended up receiving 68 New Enhanced STAR exemptions and 38 New Low Income Senior exemptions. Between the postcard 30 days prior and then the Senator sent out a letter to everyone that is 65 and older days before the deadline my exemption numbers really went up this year. I didn't have time to do anything else but exemptions in February.

The first couple day in March, I will be sending out a some missed deadline notices. 7 people missed the low-income senior exemption, 2 people missed the disability exemption and 1 person missed their agricultural exemption.

In the month of March and April, I will be focused on getting my assessment work done. I need to get all my exemptions and assessment work into the county before the middle of April, since the tentative roll comes out May 1st. Our Equalization Rate went down again for 2023, in 2022 the Eq. rate was 59% and now in 2023 the Eq. rate is 52%. The equalization rate keeps dropping because of the high sale prices.

Thank you,


Becky A. Herzog-Ottens
Town of Windsor Assessor