

Yesterday I sent out a memo to the e list subscribers about the new STAR registration requirements. The only forms available are going to be on line through new York state. A property owner can only fill them out once they get their code from NY state department of taxation.

We will, have a guide on the Towns website as to what a property owner should do once they get their code. The renewals do not go through three local assessors office. The town does not take over over the process until an owner fails to apply. Residents will lose their benefits if they don't re-apply. We will keep reminding residents to re-apply. This is only the first of many reminders. PAUL FEINER

New York State Department of Taxation and Finance
STAR Registration Fact Sheet

New legislation requires all homeowners receiving a Basic STAR exemption to register with the New York State Tax Department in order to receive the exemption in 2014 and subsequent years.

This is part of a new initiative to protect New Yorkers against inappropriate or fraudulent STAR exemptions.

Who must register?

Resident homeowners who currently receive the Basic STAR exemption must register with the New York State Tax Department in order to receive the exemption in 2014 and subsequent years.

- Homeowners do not need to re-register every year.
- Based on the information provided in the registration process, the Tax Department will confirm homeowners' eligibility in future years.

Senior citizens

Senior citizens receiving the Enhanced STAR exemption are not affected by the new registration requirement. However, in order to receive Enhanced STAR, seniors must continue to:

- apply annually, or
- participate in the Income Verification Program.

Resident homeowners applying for STAR for the first time are not affected by this year's registration procedure. To apply for STAR a new applicant must:

- use Form RP-425, *Application for School Tax Relief (STAR) Exemption*, available on the Tax Department's Web site, and
- file the application with their local assessor.

When does registration begin? *SEPTEMBER FOR WESTCHESTER*

Registration will begin **August 19, 2013** and continue through **December 31, 2013**.

- The Tax Department will mail instructions to all homeowners who currently receive the Basic STAR exemption. The letters will include a STAR code that homeowners will need to register.
- Because seniors who receive Enhanced STAR are not affected by the new requirements, they will not receive new instructions from the Tax Department.

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RP-425-FS (8/13) **www.tax.ny.gov**

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