

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS AGAIN AVAILABLE

January 30, 2008

Senior citizens aged 65 and over who didn't apply for the homestead exemption last year – and the tax savings it means – have another chance to sign up.

The Washington County Auditor's Office is again accepting applications for the homestead exemption through June 2, 2008.

According to the State, last year nearly 97% of the estimated eligible Ohioans signed up for the tax cut, and are already seeing the benefits of the tax break on their bills this year.

Seniors who are already signed up do not need to reapply; the new enrollment period is designed primarily for individuals who were not previously eligible for the newly-expanded homestead exemption.

But, for senior citizens and permanently and totally disabled Ohioans who were eligible last year and missed the Oct. 1 deadline to sign up, the new enrollment period presents another opportunity to claim the exemption for the 2007 tax year.

Homestead applications for the 2008 tax year (bills payable in 2009) are now available from the Auditor's Office. The new applications include a box, "Late application for prior year," that taxpayers may check if they also wish to claim the exemption for the 2007 tax year.

Taxpayers may check the box as long as they are seeking the exemption for a home they have owned and lived in since Jan. 1, 2007.

Completed applications may be submitted to the Auditor's Office.

How taxpayers receive the credit for late homestead exemption applications for 2007 will depend on when the applications are received and approved. Taxpayers may receive a corrected first half tax bill that includes the homestead savings, have the entire tax savings applied to the second half bill or receive a refund in the form of a check later this year.

The exact amount of savings from the exemption will vary from area to area based on the tax rates. On average across Washington County, homeowners enrolled for the homestead exemption are expected to save about \$300-400 this year.

The homestead exemption form, DTE-105A, is available on this website by linking to "Forms"