

Item #1



STAR Registration Program

Overview

- New legislation requires all homeowners receiving the Basic STAR exemption to register with the Tax Department in order to receive the exemption in 2014 and beyond
- Program applies to more than 2.6 million Basic STAR recipients
- Senior citizens receiving Enhanced STAR exemption are not impacted by this legislation
- **All property owner questions should be directed to DTF at (518) 457-2036**

Purpose

Successful implementation will:

- Ensure that benefits provided by the STAR program (\$2.6 billion annually) go only to qualified homeowners
- Eliminate intentional fraud and unintentional duplicate exemptions

NYS Department of Taxation and Finance

Process

- DTF collects 2013 assessment rolls from all cities and towns
- A unique STAR code is assigned to every property with a Basic STAR exemption
- Beginning mid-August, property owners are mailed letters including:
 - STAR code
 - How to register
- Property owners register on DTF Web site
 - Also can call **(518) 457-2036** for help

NYS Department of Taxation and Finance

Online Registration

- Online registration available through DTF web site ***www.tax.ny.gov***
- Starts with STAR Overview homepage with description of what is needed to complete registration
- Property owner enters STAR code
- Web site displays property address for confirmation

Online Registration

- Property owner enters all owners and spouses names and social security numbers
- For each owner and spouse, answer the following:
 - Is the property their primary residence?
 - Does individual own any other property receiving a residency-based benefit in another state (e.g., Florida homestead exemption)?
 - If yes, user will be asked to provide an address for such property

Online Registration

- User confirms that the total combined 2012 federal adjusted gross income (less taxable amount of total IRA distributions) of all resident owners and their spouses is not more than \$500,000
- User provides contact information
- User certifies that the information is accurate and receives confirmation number

It's that easy!

NYS Department of Taxation and Finance

STAR Registration Schedule

- August 19 - October 4 Send notices in batches by region to all Basic STAR recipients
- December 1 Send reminder notices to property owners that have not registered
- December 31 Deadline for STAR registration
- March 1 Final notification to assessors of Basic STAR removals

NYS Department of Taxation and Finance

Appeals Process

- Property owners that are denied an exemption will receive notice to appeal directly to DTF
- If they are not satisfied with the DTF decision, they can appeal to State Board of RPT
- There is no appeal to the local Board of Assessment Review

STAR Code Lookup

- Property owners can look-up their STAR code on DTF web site
- Beneficial for:
 - Those who can't find their STAR registration letter
 - Registering at a remote location (State Fair, school board meeting, etc.)

Communication

- Communication to 2.6 million Basic STAR recipients and media is critical
- Public relations program will be targeted along with mailing schedule
- DTF will be sending out press releases, posters, and palmcards, leveraging social media and attending statewide and local events

NYS Department of Taxation and Finance

New STAR Applicants for 2014

- Homeowners submit a paper application to assessor
- ORPTS collects assessment roll data in July 2014 and identifies new Basic STAR recipients
- ORPTS notifies new Basic STAR recipients that they need to register with DTF

NYS Department of Taxation and Finance

For More Information

- Visit www.tax.ny.gov
- Call (518) 457-2036
- Email ORPTS.STAR@tax.ny.gov

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?

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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How does a homeowner register?

Online registration

The fastest and easiest way for homeowners to register is through the Tax Department's Web site, **www.tax.ny.gov**.

Homeowners will need their STAR code to register. In addition to being included in the instructions that were mailed to them, homeowners will be able to find their STAR code through an online lookup or by calling the Tax Department at (518) 457-2036.

Online registration is a simple process that will require homeowners to provide some basic information about their eligibility for the STAR exemption. Homeowners will need to:

- provide the STAR code and confirm the property address
- provide the names and social security numbers for all owners of the property and spouses
- confirm that the property is the primary residence of one of its owners (married couples with multiple residences may only claim one STAR exemption)
- confirm that the combined income of the owners and their spouses who reside at the property does not exceed \$500,000
- confirm that no resident owner receives a residency-based tax exemption from another state

Telephone registration – (518) 457-2036

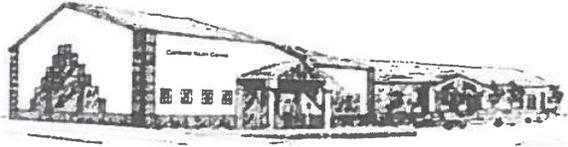
Homeowners who are unable to register online will be able to register over the phone. The Tax Department will also provide telephone support to any homeowners who have questions about online registration.

What happens when homeowners do not register?

The Tax Department will send homeowners additional letter reminders in December 2013 and January 2014.

In February 2014 the Tax Department will give assessors the names of any homeowners who did not register, or who were determined not to be eligible for STAR. The assessment roll entries for these homeowners will not include the STAR exemption.

- Homeowners who the Tax Department found to be ineligible for STAR will have the right to administrative review within the Tax Department, and review before the State Board of Real Property Tax Services.



Item #2

CORTLAND YOUTH BUREAU

35 Port Watson Street • Cortland, NY 13045 • (607) 753-3021 • Fax: (607) 753-3023 • www.cortland.org

TO: Mayor Brian Tobin
Members of the City Council
Mack Cook, Director of Administration and Finance
Lori Crompton, Finance Department

FROM: John McNerney, Youth Bureau Director

RE: Wickwire Pool Trust Fund Deposit

DATE: September 9th, 2013

As you are fully aware the Wickwire Pool fund-raising committee has been busy seeking donation for the renovation of Wickwire Pool. I would like to ask the common council to accept and recognize the following donations:.

<i>Donation</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>Minnella Family</i> <i>(Jean, Vince, Todd, Stephanie, Christopher, Bernedette)</i>	<i>\$700.00</i>
<i>Van Burd & Joyce Hicks</i>	<i>\$150.00</i>
<i>Catherine Wilde</i>	<i>\$20.00</i>
<i>Maribeth Mc Ewan</i>	<i>\$20.00</i>
<i>Total Donations =</i>	<i>\$890.00</i>

Funds should be deposited into the Wickwire Pool Trust Fund. Attached are copies of the checks. Feel free to contact me with any questions at 753-3021 ext.23.



“Nothing More, Nothing Less For All People with Disabilities”

Executive Director

Mary E. Ewing

Chief Operating Officer

Chad W. Underwood

Board of Directors

Lisa Perfetti,
Chair

Larry Pfister,
Vice Chair

Cynthia Schlenker,
Treasurer

Dr. Daniel Pukstas,
Secretary

Dr. Judy Bentley

Mary Betters

Gail Bundy

Kim Collins

Laura Eaton

Elizabeth Haskins

Rev. Tomi Jacobs-Ziobro

Garra Lloyd-Lester

Sandy Price

William Siedenburg

John Suarez

26 North Main St.
Cortland, NY 13045
ph: 607-753-7363
fax: 607-756-4884

e-mail:
info@aticortland.org

website:
www.aticortland.org

August 27, 2013

Mayor Brian Tobin
City of Cortland
City Hall
25 Court Street
Cortland, NY 13045

Dear Mayor Tobin:

We were sorry you were unable to be part of ATI's 23rd ADA Anniversary Celebration this year. But were very pleased that Deputy Mayor Ken Dye was able to come in your stead!

I'm writing today, to reserve the Courthouse Park for next year's ADA celebration.

We have chosen Saturday, July 26, 2014 as the date for ATI's ADA celebration picnic. Please let me know if the Courthouse Park is available on that date.

Thank-you,



Frances A. Pizzola, M. S. Ed.
Community Education Coordinator

Resources and Advocacy for People with Disabilities

Item #4

mayorofc

From: Eamon O'Shea [eamonoshea@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 9:06 PM
To: sue@cortlandny.com
Cc: mayor
Subject: CITY Application for Commission (Eamon O'Shea)

Name: Eamon O'Shea

Email Address: eamonoshea@gmail.com

Street Address: 7 Harmony Cir

City/State/Zip: Cortland NY 13045

Phone: 585-750-4029

Commission or Board you would like to be considered for: Cable Commission

Why are you interested in this position? I would like to participate in the governance of the city's infrastructure.

What qualifications do you have for this position? I have professional technical experience related to both cable and video systems. I also have an understanding of how these franchise systems works.

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Date/Time: 2013-09-09 18:06:19 PDT
Sender IP: 24.59.211.152 [United States] | qjvbu9w0374imlpf
Referrer: <http://www.cortland.org/city/commissions/application.htm>

Item #5



CITY OF CORTLAND
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
THOMA DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS

25 Court Street, Cortland, New York 13045 Ph. 607.753.1433 Fx. 607.753.6818
www.cortland.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Tobin and Members of the Common Council

FROM: Thoma Development Consultants

RE: Assistance for income-eligible flooding victims in City

DATE: September 11, 2013

At the Department Head meeting today, the Mayor made note that there does not appear to be any assistance for City residents that were impacted by flooding during the storm in early August. Judy Chamberlain noted that there are City residents that still did not have working furnaces.

As you may remember, the City is allowed to keep income derived from repayments on loans made with Community Development dollars for use on like-kind "eligible activities" (program income). The income derived from housing grants can be used on other housing activities such as funding the City's Emergency Repair Program (ERP). When we first implemented the Program, it was agreed that the City would appropriate \$25,000 each year for the ERP and once gone, applicants would have to wait until the next year for possible financing.

The appropriation of the \$25,000 per year is a local determination. The City can opt to appropriate additional funds for the purpose of assisting flooding victims under the ERP, if it so chooses. These funds could only be used to assist income-eligible households pursuant to the current HUD income limits noted in the chart below. Any assistance would be subject to the same terms as the existing ERP, which briefly are:

- Applicants must be income eligible (See below)
- Applicants cannot have more than \$20,000 in available assets
- Only owner occupied, single family or two unit properties are eligible

"The Crown City"

- Funds provided as a non-amortizing deferred loan payable, without interest
- Funds must be repaid upon sale, rental of the property or when it is no longer the primary residence
- The City takes a mortgage on the property for the amount of assistance provided
- The City increased the amount of assistance an applicant can receive from \$4,000 to \$5,000 recently and agreed that any fees incurred for required lead or asbestos testing would not be counted toward the \$5,000 maximum
- Taxes and other fees must be current
- No outstanding code violations

Household Size (Number of persons)								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Maximum Income	\$34,400	39,300	44,200	48,100	53,050	57,000	60,900	64,850

If you decide to appropriate additional program income for victims of flooding, you may want to establish a limit to be used, or leave the amount to be appropriated open ended and establish a deadline by which applicants must contact the City. Linda Armstrong will be attending the 9/17/13 Council meeting at which this will be discussed. If you have any questions before the meeting you can contact her at 753-1433 or Linda@thomadevelopment.com

Health Care Reform Taxes

	Paid by	Amount	Due
Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Tax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insurer for insured groups Employer/Plan Sponsor for self-funded Stand alone HRAs considered separate plan and must be paid by employer/plan sponsor FSA considered a separate plan only if they are not considered an excepted benefit under HIPAA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$1 per covered life for policy and plan years ending between 10/1/11 and 09/30/12 \$2 for policy and plan years that end between 10/1/12 and 09/30/13 \$ to be determined for policy and plan years ending after October 1, 2013, based on the projected health care inflation rate 	<p>First payment due 7/31/2013 for plans.</p> <p>Payment due each year on 7/31 through 2020.</p>
Transitional Reinsurance Program Fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insurer for insured groups Employer/Plan Sponsor for self-funded 	<p>Estimated fee for 2014 is \$5.25 per enrollee per month (dollar amount has not been finalized).</p> <p>Applicable from 2014-2016.</p> <p>Beginning 11/15/2014, report the number of enrollees to HHS. HHS will notify total amount due for payment</p>	<p>December 15th of the applicable plan year, or 30 days after notification from HHS (whichever later)</p> <p>The first payment is due December 15, 2014</p> <p>The final payment is due December 15, 2016</p>

Health Care Reform Taxes

	Paid by	Amount	Due
<p style="text-align: center;">Health Insurance Excise Tax</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Insurance providers • Self-funded plans are exempt 	<p>The amount of the tax is determined by the percent of the health plan's market share, based on net premiums, reported to the IRS.</p> <p>Total Amount of Annual Tax, to be divided among insurers</p> <p>2014: \$8 billion 2015: \$11.3 billion 2016: \$11.3 billion</p> <p>Continues with no expected end date</p>	<p>Annually, by September 30 of the applicable year</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Cadillac Tax</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employer for plans with premiums that exceed \$10,200 individual, \$27,500 family annually • Thresholds may be adjusted upward before tax takes affect 	<p>40% on annual value of costs that exceed the threshold</p> <p>More details to be available with future guidance.</p>	<p>2018</p>

MAYOR TOBIN LAUNCHES 2013 ENERGY CHALLENGE PROGRAM

Cortland and Oswego to Compete on Energy Savings

*Tobin: Program Presents Opportunity for Citizens to Set an
Example for their Neighbors*

CORTLAND, NY – Mayor Brian Tobin has announced the launch of the 2013 Central New York Energy Challenge program. The Challenge welcomes neighborhood groups, businesses, and community organizations to form teams to take action to reduce energy waste. Mayor Tobin has issued his own challenge to Mayor Gillen of Oswego to see which community can garner the most participants.

“This program presents an opportunity for citizens in our community to learn about energy conservation measures, to save money and to take steps to lower their environmental impact in a way that builds community and sets an example for their neighbors,” said Mayor Tobin, “Cortland has a unique perspective and passion for the environment. I challenge our citizens to bring that passion into their neighborhoods and work collaboratively around saving energy.”

For the Energy Challenge, the greater Cortland community is encouraged to form teams of 5-8 households who work together through a 5-unit curriculum over a period of 6 weeks to learn about energy use and take energy saving actions within the home. The typical household in Central New York wastes about 30 percent of its energy consumption. The Challenge Team program is designed to reduce that energy waste. Participants’ energy consumption will be tracked over a period of 36 months to determine how effective the overall program is for reducing energy consumption.

An informational public meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 24, 2013 at 7:00 PM in the Common Council Chamber of City Hall, 25 Court Street. Representatives from the City of Cortland and partner agencies will be in attendance.

The Energy Challenge Team program was developed in partnership with the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board (CNY RPDB) and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) Office of Energy Efficiency and Exploratory Research based on several findings released in the US Department of Energy Driving Demand report. The DOE study determined providing information and financing tools is not enough to encourage the adoption of positive energy behaviors. Individuals need to develop an understanding of appropriate energy behaviors, make a

public commitment to change, and be provided with feedback on their efforts. The Energy Challenge Team program encourages peer-to-peer conversations and collective action to generate a “buzz” in the community about energy efficiency.

“We are pleased to partner with the cities of Cortland and Oswego to provide assistance to households within these two cities to reduce their energy waste. The Energy Challenge Team model has proven to be effective – with participants reducing household electric consumption by 30 percent,” said Samuel Gordon, Energy Challenge Coordinator with the CNY RPDB, “In one way this is a simple task – because 30 percent of the energy that our homes use is wasted – on the other hand we often need support from our friends and neighbors to make even small changes in our daily routines. The Energy Team model provides just that vehicle.”

“Many of us simply don’t make the link between our actions and our energy use. The bill comes once a month and we often forget the specific actions that resulted in our usage. By using a team approach, the Energy Challenge Team program offers a promising new strategy for reducing energy consumption. By working together, groups of friends, neighbors, or co-workers can really see a difference and help make saving energy easy, fun, interesting, and engaging.” said Professor Wesley Schultz, co-author of *Social Marketing to Protect the Environment: What Works* and scientific advisor to Action Research, a consulting team working with the project.

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Item # 12

September 12, 2013

Common Council
25 Court Street
Cortland, NY 13045

Dear Aldermen:

I am writing to ask that Common Council add 8 parking spots on North Main Street, from Lincoln Avenue south to the Downtown Parking Improvement Program approved on May 21st, 2013. During the implementation of the trial Downtown Parking Improvement Program it was brought to our attention by members of the downtown community that spaces should be added to meet the demand of this area. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Best,

Adam Megivern
Executive Director
Cortland Downtown Partnership