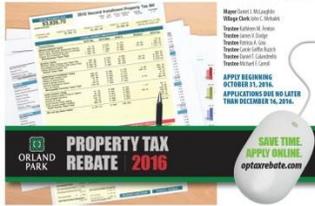


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Eligible Village Residents May Apply for Property Tax Rebate Beginning October 31st

2016 Property Tax Rebate Applications Will Be Available Oct. 31, 2016



Eligible Village of Orland Park residents may apply for the village's residential property tax rebate beginning October 31, 2016.

For 2016, the Village Board has approved a property tax rebate in the amount of \$2.2 million. Including the upcoming rebate, the village will have rebated property taxes for 12 of the last 15 years.

"We began rebating property taxes to residents in 2003, and despite a suspension of the program during the economic downturn, we're pleased that the village is again in a strong financial position to offer the rebate," said Orland Park Mayor Dan McLaughlin.

In total, the Village of Orland Park will have rebated approximately \$38.9 million since 2003.

"Even though the village's portion of the property tax bill is only about seven percent of the total, the rebate does give some relief for residents," McLaughlin said. "We're fortunate to be able to provide the rebate utilizing the village's Home Rule Sales Tax collections, while continuing to provide a large number of valuable services and projects for village residents."

"Once again, residents will have three ways to apply for the rebate. They can apply online beginning October 31 at www.optaxrebate.com," said Trustee Jim Dodge, chairman of the village's Technology, Innovation and Performance Improvement Committee.

"Applicants can download a paper application and bring the completed application in to the Village Hall or they can pick up an application at specific buildings in the village and apply in person or by mail," he added.

On-line and paper applications will be available beginning at 8 a.m. on Monday, October 31. Paper applications will be available at the Frederick T. Owens Village Hall at 14700 South Ravinia Avenue; the Recreation Administration Building at 14600 South Ravinia Avenue; the village's Sportsplex at 11351 West 159th Street and at the Orland Park Public Library, 14921 South Ravinia Avenue.

Trustee Carole Griffin Ruzich, chair of the village's Finance Committee, helped with the implementation of a one-on-one application assistance program for residents that the village will once again offer this year, as an alternative to applying online or by mail.

"We were glad to be able to provide the one-on-one help because several residents indicated that they would appreciate that type of help with completing their applications," stated Ruzich.

"The one-on-one assistance will ensure that all residents, with or without access to a computer or the internet, will experience a seamless application process."

One-on-one assistance for all applicants will be available from Tuesday through Friday, November 1 - 4 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, November 12 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; Tuesday, November 15 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Thursday and Friday, December 15 and 16 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Appointments are not required.

Staff will also be available to offer one-on-one application assistance for seniors immediately following Mayor McLaughlin's Autumn Senior Coffee on Monday, October 31. Two Senior Coffees are being held,

the first at 9 a.m. and the second at 12 p.m.

Additionally, village staff will be available to answer questions and accept applications at the Village Hall during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on the first and third Mondays of the month, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Along with the required application, residents must include copies of their 2015 second installment property tax bill, driver's license and a utility bill. Those applying online can scan and upload copies of the documents or take a picture of them with a cell phone or tablet.

If a Village of Orland Park water bill account number is provided on the application, a copy of a recent utility bill is not required.

"The online process makes it more convenient for those who are familiar with computers and uploading documents," McLaughlin said. "However, we have paper applications for those who don't use computers." Eligible residents may elect to receive their rebate via check, credit to a water bill account, donation to the Open Lands of Orland Park Foundation, or direct deposit into a checking or savings account.

Applications must be received before 5 p.m. on Friday, December 16, 2016.

The dollar amount of an individual applicant's rebate will be determined when all applications received by the due date have been processed and approved.

Rebates will be mailed or credited the week of March 20, 2017.

Questions may be directed to the village's Tax Rebate Hotline at 708/403-3086 beginning October 31, 2016.