TAX EXEMPTIONS

The Assessor’s office has an array of different tax programs available for Salem residents. Below is a list for qualified applicants:

1) Veteran’s & Additional Veteran’s Exemption*
2) Blind/Disabled Exemption
3) Elderly Tax Program*
4) Totally Disabled Program*
5) PA 490 Farm & Forest
6) Active Duty Military Exemption
7) Solar Energy Systems Exemption
8) Antique/Rare/Special Interest Motor Vehicle
9) Handicapped Motor Vehicle Tax Exemption

*Income Qualification Required

Contact the Assessor’s office for more information regarding these tax programs. Also, blank applications are available at the counter for the public during non-business hours.
THE ASSESSMENT CYCLE

Grand List – October 1st through September 30th

Per state statute, October 1st of each year marks the beginning of the next assessment cycle and succeeding Grand List. The Assessor signs the Grand List by January 31st (unless granted an extension) which finalizes the values for Real Estate, Personal Property, and Motor Vehicles pertaining to that particular Grand List. Applicable residents are then sent change notices for Real Estate and Personal Property following the signing of the list. At this time Salem residents have the opportunity to appeal their assessments for RE, PP, & MV through the Board of Assessment Appeals. An additional avenue for appeal is held in September with the BAA for motor vehicles only. Important dates to remember corresponding to the Grand List each year are as follows:

- September 1st – PA 490 filing begins
- September 30th – DD214 Veteran’s Discharge filed with Town Clerk deadline
- October 1st – Uniform Assessment Date, Blind/ Totally Disabled Applications due, Additional Veteran’s Applications due, Forester’s Report Due
- October 31st – PA 490 applications due (Reval year due December 30th)
- November 1st – Personal Property Declarations due, Local Solar Energy Application due
- December 31st – Active Duty CT Resident Motor Vehicle application due
- Feb 1st – October 1st – Additional Veteran’s application filing period
- Feb 1st – May 15th – Filing period for Elderly and Totally Disabled meeting income requirements
- February 20th – Grievance Date for BAA applications due, hearings held in March
- June 1st – Income & Expense forms due for all businesses located in Salem
- *Active Duty Non CT Resident Application - please file annually
- *All dates are subject to change on an annual basis

The duties of the Assessor’s office are governed by State of Connecticut General Statutes. Reference the link below for more information:


REAL ESTATE

Assessments for real estate parcels are derived from taking 70% of the appraisal figure established in the year of revaluation. Revaluations occur every 5 years. Market, income, and cost approaches are utilized to establish values during the revaluation. Values determined during the 2016 revaluation will take effect on the October 1, 2016 Grand List and will carry forward for five years. Additional work done to a parcel throughout the year as a result of building and demolition permits as well as certificates of occupancy can increase or decrease the assessment.

MOTOR VEHICLES

Registered motor vehicles located in Salem are assessed at 70% of average/clean retail. Our office uses the state recommended National Automobile Dealership Association (NADA Guides) as the resource to establish average or clean retail as of October 1st of each year (C.G.S § 12-71d). Residents with registered motor vehicles that dispose of the automobile within the Grand List year have a 27-month window for pro-ration dating back from the uniform assessment date – October 1st (C.G.S § 12-71c-b). Pro-ration of motor vehicle tax liability requires two forms of documentation. See the Assessor’s office for acceptable forms of proof.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

All businesses and owners of tangible personal property are required to file a personal property declaration form with the Assessor’s office by November 1st of each year (C.G.S. § 12-41(e) Postmark sec 1-2a). The form must include all personal property located at the place of business as of October 1st. The Town of Salem houses four campgrounds for residents and visitors to utilize throughout the year. Campers are also responsible for filing a declaration of personal property indicating what they have at their campsite as of October 1st. Campers registered as a motor vehicle in a different municipality can fall subject to Salem taxation via the Connecticut 3 month rule (C.G.S § 12-43 – Property of nonresidents). Unregistered motor vehicles and vehicles registered out-of-state and garaged in Salem must also be declared as personal property on an annual basis.

Visit www.cfba.org/pa490guide.htm for more information relating to Public Act 490