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**Just the Facts**

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## Assessor lists exemptions to help property owners save on taxes

Susie Drollinger, Grant-Butler Multi Township Assessor, wants local property owners to take advantage of every exemption they're entitled to take. While some, like the general homestead exemption, are well known, others are not. To help taxpayers, Drollinger has listed available exemptions, most of which can be filed in her office in the Grant Township building, 525 S. Market, Hoopeston.

Drollinger suggested property owners filed the necessary paperwork by October 31.

The list of exemptions and how often property owners must file for them includes;

**General Homestead Exemption** - A one-time signup, unless the owner moves, this exemption is available for residential property occupied by its owner(s) as the principal dwelling place or that is a leasehold interest on which a single-family residence is situated, which is occupied by a person who has an ownership interest there. It may also be claimed by someone leasing the property if that person is responsible for paying the property taxes. Lease forms are available at the Supervisor of Assessments office in Danville.

**Senior Citizen Freeze Homestead Exemption** - also called the Senior Citizen Freeze, must be filed yearly. It is for those ages 65 or older, with a total household income of \$65,000 or less. Proof of income is required. The exemption freezes the assessed value as long as the senior qualifies for the it. It does not freeze the tax bill.

**Senior Citizen Homestead Exemption** - A one-time signup is required for this, which is for people 65 or older who are liable for the property taxes on the property and are the owners of record of the property or have an equitable interest.

**Homestead Exemption for Persons with Disabilities** - must be filed annually and provides a \$2,000 deduction in the equalized assessed valuation (EAV) of the primary residence owned and occupied by a person with a disability. The person by be liable for paying property taxes. Proof of disability is required.

**Standard Homestead Exemption for Veterans with Disabilities** - available to qualified veterans with a service-connected disability, it provides a reduction in EAV based on percentage of disability: \$2,500 for 30 percent to under 50 percent; \$5,000 if 50 percent but less than 70 percent; and 70 percent or more, the property is exempt from taxation. Forms must be filed annually.

A surviving spouse of a disabled veteran who has died may continue receiving the exemption as long as he or she reside and hold legal title to the primary residence and have not remarried.

**Returning Veterans Homestead Exemption** - available  
See TAXES on other side

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