

Councilman Panico Addresses Recent Commercial STAR Exemption Advisor Solicitation

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Farmingville, NY - Brookhaven Town Councilman Dan Panico would like to remind all homeowners to refrain from spending money on companies that are now offering to fill out the basic STAR property tax exemption forms for a fee equal to 50% of the first year's tax savings.

"Brookhaven residents should be acutely aware of the fact that the Brookhaven Town Tax Assessor's Department and our elected officials and staff members stand-by to assist homeowners in filling out the relatively simple and quick paperwork needed to submit an application for this exemption," commented Brookhaven Town Councilman Dan Panico.

The deadline for filing submitting an application for a basic STAR property tax exemption is March 1st. The basic STAR exemption is available for owner occupied primary residences where the owner's total annual household income is less than \$500,000.

"While this practice may be perfectly legal, it is simply wasteful for anyone to pay one-half of their first year's reduction to anyone for assisting them to fill out these forms to apply for a basic STAR exemption. People should be aware that this is not an offer to commence a tax grievance on their behalf, which the fee commonly associated with a positive outcome is one-half the first year's reduction, rather this is a service to simply fill out a form," concluded Panico.

Should you need any further information, or wish to find out more information about basic STAR or any other exemptions, please contact 451-6502 or email CouncilmanPanico@Brookhaven.org.

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