

## **CITY OF COLUMBUS GENERAL TAX INFORMATION – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **HOW DO I CHANGE MY MAILING ADDRESS FOR MY TAX BILL?**

Columbia County has asked that any request to change an address for mailing a tax bill be done through their website or by completing their address change form. Please ask for the form to fill out. You must mail it to the County directly.

### **HOW DO I CHANGE MY NAME ON THE TAX BILL?**

The City cannot change your name on the tax bill. Owner information on the tax bill is obtained by a legal document such as the deed or title to the property. Contact the Columbia County Register of Deeds office in Portage at (608)742-9677 for information on how to change your name.

### **I WOULD LIKE TO CONTEST MY TAX AMOUNT – WHAT DO I DO?**

You are actually taxed by five different entities – Columbus School District, State, Columbia County, MATC and City of Columbus. The only way to contest the taxes is to attend and participate in the budget process for each of the entities involved in taxing your property. Each of these are listed on your tax bill for your information. The City has no control on the decisions or levies from these other taxing entities.

### **I WOULD LIKE TO CONTEST MY PROPERTY'S VALUE – WHAT DO I DO?**

The City's assessor, Associated Appraisal Consultants, reviews and sets the property values in the City of Columbus. Please contact Luke Mack from Associated Appraisal Consultants with any questions you might have. The toll-free telephone number is: **800-721-4157** or the website is [www.apraz.com](http://www.apraz.com) – you can use either method to contact the main office of Associated Appraisal.

### **I DIDN'T GET A LOTTERY CREDIT WHAT DO I DO?**

To qualify you have to live in your home as of January 1<sup>st</sup> and/or purchased a home that was a primary residence for the prior owner. The application form is available by asking. You can complete the form here and have it applied immediately. Note: We can change the current tax bill but Columbia County maintains the database for the lottery credit information and what properties it's applied to. Please check your tax bill next year as well to ensure that the credit was applied.

### **MY ESCROW COMPANY PAID TOO MUCH – HOW DO I GET MY REFUND?**

The City will process refunds twice monthly in conjunction with the normal Council meetings. Any tax payment that is has a refund under \$2.00 will not be refunded due to the cost of processing the refund unless it is being paid in person.