



## Overall Reductions Countywide in 2010: But decreases in assessed values could be misleading



No, that headline's not a misprint. It's true; Will County will see an overall reduction in assessments countywide for 2010. This is the first time in over 20 years the county will see that type of decline.

Of course, these reductions make sense. Property values are down across the country, and assessments are starting to reflect that. Because local township assessors are required to use a three-year sales ratio study to determine market value, they will look at 2007, 2008 and 2009 sales for 2010. And as any homeowner can tell you, those were down markets.

But this news is not necessarily the break that taxpayers have been waiting for. Assessors will still make decreases by neighborhood, so although there will be an overall decrease in assessed value throughout the county, it is possible that not every parcel will receive a reduction. In addition, those taxpayers who will see the largest reductions will be those in areas where prices fell the most.

In addition, taxpayers should not assume that lower assessed values equal lower tax bills. Yes, your property might be worth less in 2010 than it was worth in a prior year. Yes, you might see a decreased assessment to reflect that. But because tax dollars are partially based on the budgets of local taxing districts, which include schools, park districts, fire protection districts and other local government bodies, if taxing districts hold the line on their budgets, tax bills could stay the same or even increase.

As assessments fall, I'm sure the news that tax bills might not reflect these reductions won't sit well with many taxpayers. But the truth is, the only way bills will go down is if taxing districts curb spending.

In the meantime, the Supervisor of Assessments Office is committed to helping taxpayers through education, outreach and making the assessment process as transparent as possible. Informed taxpayers are empowered taxpayers, and empowering taxpayers is an important responsibility of the Supervisor of Assessments Office, especially in these tough economic times.

### Inside this issue:

*Production Report* 2  
*Ask Rhonda!*  
*PTAB deadline!*

*2010 Senior Events* 3

*Employee Spotlight* 4

## Attention, Seniors!

We've set our  
calendar for  
senior events.  
See page 3 for  
dates and  
times we'll be  
in your area.

# Production Report

Documents Processed	December 2008	December 2009	January 2010
Parcel Count	270,755	271,314	271,668
B of R Final Assessed Value	23,547,911,612	23,913,924,267	23,721,950, 291
Name/Address Changes	39,949	35,540	812
Subdivisions/Condos	134	59	4
Divisions/Consolidations	511	374	---
Tax Parcels Added	---	1,558	448
Tax Parcels Deleted	---	1,078	94
Real Estate Transfer Declarations	9,894	8,350	---
Senior Freeze Exemption Applications	11,528	12,959	---
Certificates of Error	3,476	2,985	0
Property Tax Appeal Board Filings	181	209 for 2007/155 for 2008	214 for 2007/155 for 2008

## Ask Rhonda!



**Question:** I filed an appeal with the Property Tax Appeal Board last year and won. Do I need to file again this year?

**Answer:** If you received a favorable decision from the PTAB last assessment year, you should file again for the following assessment year. That's because PTAB decisions are only for the assessment year that you appealed. And since the PTAB decision process can take as long as one year or more, your local assessing official likely set your property's assessment for the next year before the PTAB's decision for the prior year was rendered. By filing again, you can ensure that your assessment for the current year is corrected as well.

For more information about the PTAB, please visit <http://www.state.il.us/agency/ptab/default.htm>.

If you have an assessment question, e-mail Rhonda at [rnovak@willcountyillinois.com](mailto:rnovak@willcountyillinois.com).



Board of Review notices dated January 20, 2010 were mailed on January 14th.

If you are not satisfied with the Board of Review's decision, you can file with the Property Tax Appeal Board. The deadline for all townships to file with the PTAB is February 19, 2010.

If you have any questions, please contact The Supervisor of Assessments Office at (815) 740-4648 or call the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board at (217) 782-6076.

# 2010 Senior Events



For the 5th year, the Supervisor of Assessments Office will host numerous senior education events across the county. Staff will be on hand at all of the events below to answer questions and help with applications. Seniors and their families are encouraged to come and find out about how to sign up for senior exemptions.

Seniors can still sign up for the senior freeze and senior exemption at various township assessor offices and the Supervisor of Assessments Office. For more information about any of the upcoming senior events or to talk with someone about senior exemptions, please contact Jennifer Scharf at the Supervisor of Assessments Office at (815) 740-4321. You can also visit [www.willcountysoa.com](http://www.willcountysoa.com) to download and print application forms.

**March 17** 9:00am - 12:00pm  
Senior Expo, Joliet Junior College  
Seniors in Motion  
1216 Houbolt Road  
Joliet, IL 60431

**April 6** 10:00am - 2:00pm  
Monee Township Assessor's Office  
46 Towncenter Drive  
University Park, IL 60484

**April 7** 10:00am - 2:00pm  
Frankfort Township Assessor's Office  
11000 W. Lincoln Highway  
Frankfort, IL 60423

**April 8** 10:00am - 2:00pm  
Romeoville Recreational Center  
900 Romeo Road  
Romeoville, IL 60446

**April 9** 10:00 - 2:00pm  
Manhattan Library  
240 E. Witson Street  
Manhattan, IL 60442

**April 13** 10:00am - 3:00pm  
Dupage Township Assessor's Office  
241 Canterbury Lane  
Bolingbrook, IL 60440

**April 16** 10:00am - 2:00pm  
Homer Township Assessor's Office  
14350 W. 151st Street  
Homer Glen, IL 60491

**April 17 (Sat.)** 8:00am - 12:00pm  
Supervisor of Assessments Office  
302 N. Chicago Street  
Joliet, IL 60432

**April 19** 9:30 - 2:00pm  
Plainfield Township Assessor's Office  
22525 W. Lockport Street  
Plainfield, IL 60544

**April 21** 10:00am - 2:00pm  
Washington Township Assessor's Office  
30200 Towncenter Drive  
Beecher, IL 60401

**April 23** 11:00am - 3:00pm  
Carillon Lakes (Residents Only)  
21325 Carillon Lakes Drive  
Crest Hill, IL 60403

**April 26** 10:00am - 3:00pm  
Joliet Public Library  
3395 Black Road  
Joliet, IL 604311

**April 27** 10:00am - 2:00pm  
Channahon Township Assessor's Office  
25461 S. Fryer Street  
Channahon, IL 60410

**April 29** 10:00am - 3:00pm  
Carillon (Residents Only)  
21146 W. S. Carillon Drive  
Plainfield, IL 60544

**May 3** 10:00am - 3:00pm  
Grand Haven (Residents Only)  
1520 Grand Haven Road  
Romeoville, IL 60446

**May 6** 10:00am - 2:00pm  
Monee Township Assessor's Office  
46 Towncenter Drive  
University Park, IL 60484

**May 7** 10:00am - 3:00pm  
Jackson Township Assessor's Office  
100 E. Mississippi Street  
Elwood, IL 60421

**May 11** 10:00am - 3:00pm  
Carillon (Residents Only)  
21146 W. S. Carillon Drive  
Plainfield, IL 60544

**May 12** 10:00am - 2:00pm  
Willow Falls  
1681 Willow Circle Drive  
Crest Hill, IL 60403

**May 14** 10:00am - 2:00pm  
Crete Township Assessor's Office  
1367 Wood Street  
Crete, IL 60417

**May 15 (Sat.)** 8:00am - 12:00pm  
Supervisor of Assessments Office  
302 N. Chicago Street  
Joliet, IL 60432

**May 19** 10:00am - 2:00pm  
Will County Farm Bureau  
100 Manhattan Road  
Joliet, IL 60433

**May 21** 10:00am - 2:00pm  
Wilmington Library  
201 S. Kankakee Street  
Wilmington, IL 60481

**May 24** 10:00am - 3:00pm  
Joliet Public Library  
3395 Black Road  
Joliet, IL 60431

**May 26** 10:00am - 2:00pm  
Crete Library  
1177 N. Main Street  
Crete, IL 60417

**June 11** 10:00am - 2:00pm  
Manhattan Township Assessor's Office  
23465 Eastern Avenue  
Manhattan, IL 60442

**June 19 (Sat.)** 8:00am - 12:00pm  
Supervisor of Assessments Office  
302 N. Chicago Street  
Joliet, IL 60432



Will County Supervisor of Assessments  
302 North Chicago Street  
Joliet, Illinois 60432

Assessments: 815-740-4648  
Mapping: 815-740-4664  
Fax: 815-740-4696

**Committed to serving  
Will County taxpayers with  
fairness and pride.**

Lawrence M. Walsh, County Executive  
Rhonda R. Novak, Supervisor of Assessments

**Visit us on the Web!**  
[WWW.WILLCOUNTYSOA.COM](http://WWW.WILLCOUNTYSOA.COM)

According to state law, the Supervisor of Assessments Office provides statistical assessment performance data to the Illinois Department of Revenue. In addition, it gives technical advice and provides statistical analysis of assessment data to the township assessors and the Will County Board of Review. These statistics are derived from data gathered in the processing of approximately 25,000 Real Estate Transfer Declarations annually.

The Supervisor of Assessments Office also maintains records of total exempt properties and administers other special exemptions, such as the Senior Homestead Exemption, the Senior Assessment Freeze, the Veterans Exemption, the Veterans/Fraternal Organization Assessment Freeze, the Open Space Preferential Assessment Type, and the Model Home Exemption. In all, our office will grant over 30,000 Senior Homestead Exemptions and 13,926 Senior Assessment Freeze Exemptions for the 2009 tax year.

The Supervisor of Assessments acts as an equalization authority and, as such, works closely with the twenty-four township assessors, who are responsible for the initial assessed valuation calculation. The Supervisor of Assessments also serves as Clerk of the Board of Review

Other duties of the Supervisor of Assessments Office include: issuing parcel PIN numbers, maintaining the county's base parcel map, publishing assessment change notices and mailing notices to taxpayers.

## Employee Spotlight: Jan Soto



Jan has been with the mapping department for 28 years. She started working for the county in 1982 as an administrative clerk, and she currently works as a mapping clerk III.

Jan and husband Bob have been married for 23 years, and they have two children: Kaitlyn, 17 years old, and Bobby, 13 years old.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**  
Hang out with my sisters and watch movies with my family.

**What are your guilty pleasures?**  
I love going for pedicures.

**What is your pet peeve?**  
Waiting for the doctor.

**What is your favorite restaurant?**  
Texas Roadhouse

**What are your favorite sports teams?**  
Chicago Bears and Chicago Cubs

**What do you like best about your job?**  
I like everything I do.

**What was your best vacation?** Hawaii

**What is something most people don't know about you?**  
I like to scrapbook.



*The Assessment Review* is a quarterly publication of the Will County Supervisor of Assessments Office. All articles written and edited by Shavahn Dorris-Jefferson unless otherwise indicated.