

## **PURPOSE OF THIS NOTICE**

This notice provides information regarding three important property tax matters: **(1)** the Homestead Declaration, **(2)** Property Tax Adjustment, and **(3)** the Use Value Appraisal Program.

## **HOMESTEAD DECLARATION**

**IMPORTANT:** Homestead Declarations must be filed each year so that you are correctly assessed the homestead tax rate on your property. A “homestead” is the principal dwelling and parcel of land surrounding the dwelling. Declare your homestead by filing Form HS-122 if you are a Vermont resident and you own and occupy a homestead as your domicile as of April 1, 2016. A principal dwelling that is fully leased on April 1, 2016, is still a homestead if it is not leased for more than 182 days in 2016.

## **PROPERTY TAX ADJUSTMENT CLAIM**

Homestead owners may be eligible for a Property Tax Adjustment based on their housesite value and their household income. The Property Tax Adjustment is a credit applied against your property tax bill. The credit is reflected on your 2016/2017 property tax bill as a state payment.

Property Tax Adjustment Claims are made to the Department of Taxes by filing Form HS-122, Section B. To be eligible for a Property Tax Adjustment Claim, you must **(1)** have been a Vermont resident all of calendar year 2015; **(2)** not have been claimed as a dependent for tax year 2015; **(3)** have property as your homestead as of April 1; and **(4)** have declared the property as your homestead on the 2016 grand list. You may be eligible for a Property Tax Adjustment even if you do not have a requirement to file a Vermont income tax return. Visit our website at [www.tax.vermont.gov](http://www.tax.vermont.gov) or call 1-866-828-2865 for more information.

***PROPERTY TAX ADJUSTMENT CLAIMS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE OCTOBER 17, 2016 DEADLINE***

## **VERMONT USE VALUE APPRAISAL PROGRAM**

Owners of agricultural and forest land may be eligible to have land taxed at the lower “use value” rate by enrolling in the Current Use Program. At least 25 acres are required for enrollment, but there are some special eligibility criteria for smaller active agricultural parcels. Farm buildings can also be enrolled in the program. Applications are due by September 1 in order to enroll for the following tax year. For additional information, go to [www.fpr.vermont.gov/forest/your\\_woods/use\\_value\\_appraisal](http://www.fpr.vermont.gov/forest/your_woods/use_value_appraisal) or [www.tax.vermont.gov](http://www.tax.vermont.gov).

*To apply for a new enrollment or to change your existing enrollment, please use our online eCuse program, <https://secure.vermont.gov/TAX/ecuse/>.*

## **ASSISTANCE & ORDERING FORMS**

For assistance call 1-866-828-2865 (toll-free in VT) or 802-828-2865 (local or out-of-state).

For forms, e-mail [tax.formsrequest@vermont.gov](mailto:tax.formsrequest@vermont.gov) or call toll-free in the U.S. at 1-855-297-5600.