



Monroe County Reassessment Information & Clarification

By Senator Scavello

MONROE COUNTY - This week, property owners throughout Monroe County received in the mail their new property assessment valuations as part of the county-wide reassessment. This is a process that was embarked upon by the county in order to restore equity to county-wide property values, since a reassessment has not been completed in almost 30 years.

Many have reached out to my office with very valid concerns about the valuations they received on their properties and I want to highlight several points of clarification for you as this process moves forward.

PLEASE NOTE: No state office or official has influence over the reassessment process. The county contracted with Tyler Technologies to perform the reassessment and specific procedures have been set for verifying or challenging your new property assessment.

The County is moving from a 25% assessment value to a valuation based on 100% of the "market value" of your home. This does NOT mean that your taxes will increase fourfold. Rather, this simply means that millage will be calculated and assessed based on the full value of your home, not the old 25% rate. **EXAMPLE:** A home with a market value of \$100,000 in 1989 had an assessed value of \$25,000. Under the reassessment, a home with a market value of \$100,000 will have an assessed value of \$100,000.

It is CRITICAL that you review the assessment information you received for accuracy. The proposed market value assigned to your property is NOT your new tax – it is simply a valuation of your property. Many residents have reported that they received information that reflects inaccurate details about their properties. If you would like to challenge or correct information about your new assessment value, you can schedule an informal review with Tyler Technologies at 570-517-3895 until April 1st.

If you are still dissatisfied with your property valuation, you can file a formal appeal with the Monroe County Assessment Office beginning July 1st through August 9th. Formal appeals will be heard by the County Assessment Appeals Board.

The actual tax you owe will not be known until the millage rates are adjusted accordingly after the assessed values are finalized. Under the 1989 assessment, property owners have a lower 25% assessment value with a higher millage rate. Under the new reassessment, property owners will have a higher 100% assessment value and the millage will be adjusted downward. A reassessment does not mean that you will automatically pay more taxes. Reassessments are revenue neutral meaning, as values are adjusted, some will go up, some will go down and others will remain the same. The county/school district/municipality cannot use the reassessment to increase taxes.

Your taxes are determined by multiplying your Assessed Value by your Millage Rate. No property owner will know what their taxes will be until the new millage rates are determined. Currently, the priority is to ensure that your new assessed value reflects the market value of your home.

The new assessment values and millage rates will not take effect until the 2020 tax cycle.

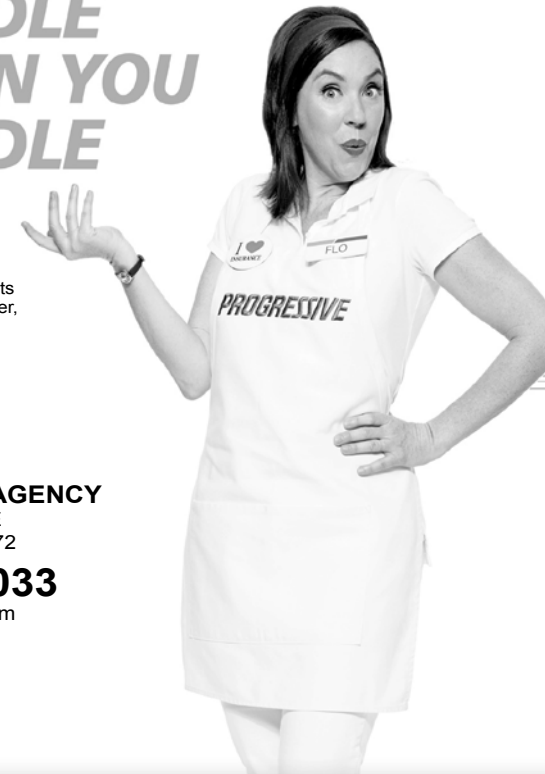
To check your new property assessment value and to view the data and comparable properties that were used to arrive at your valuation, please go to the following link and select "Property Search": www.monroecountypa.gov/reassessment



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**Ken
Field**

Owner of Slate
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Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

Smart Controls

There are some really cool features finding their way into new heating systems. As with most new things they seem complicated and hard to learn at first but once they are in place and working, they really can make things safer and work better.

One of those things helps us setup a new furnace. The controller has Bluetooth communication built in and we have to connect with a tablet or phone and set fan speeds and things to work best with the duct system we connected to. Even though we could do it from outside the house, there is security that is built in to prevent unauthorized changes to the system. This system also records the information of the person making the changes so there is a record of the adjustments. One day you may be able to request service, and we will be able to check your system remotely but I'm not rushing things.

Another feature found more and more in new boilers that are used in systems for homes that have radiators or baseboard heaters is freeze protection. Most of the new high efficiency systems have outdoor temperature sensors so that they can match the water temperature to the actual heat loss of the home. This makes them more efficient by not sending as much heat out the exhaust. And since they know what the outside temperature is, when there is a problem like running out of fuel or a part failure, they have a failsafe mode to prevent pipes from freezing. When there are pipes on the perimeter of your home and the system stops producing hot water on a cold night, they might freeze and burst. If the system knows that it is cold outside and it's not producing heat, it will circulate water through the pipes anyway to prevent them from freezing in a cold spot. I have seen this feature save more than one place from frozen pipes this winter. I have also seen broken pipes in a home with this feature. The problem was that the homeowner thought he would be doing a good thing by turning off the power once the system wasn't working. That prevented the failsafe from working and pipes froze.

Many newer controls save the data from why they shut a system down and can help us to locate an intermittent component. Some don't store the data so it is best to always leave the system powered for a technician to diagnose unless there is a valid reason to turn it off.

Ken Field is the owner of Field's Service, Inc. and Slate Belt Energy Services. He has over 40 years of experience in heating, air conditioning and is certificated by RESNET and BPI in various areas of energy conservation. He can be reached at 610-599-8832 or at www.SlateBeltEnergy.com

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2019

**Bangor Area High School
M. Craig Paine Performing Arts Theatre
187 5 Points Richmond Rd.
Friday March 29th, 7:30 pm
Saturday March 30th 2:00pm And 7:30pm
Sunday March 31st 2:00 pm**

#Good Jobs 4 PA

By Rep. Joe Emrick

BANGOR - House Republicans are focusing on good jobs and careers for all Pennsylvanians, working to improve our workforce development and career and technical education opportunities, and advancing policies to help transition people from minimum wage jobs to family-sustaining careers.

This week, a package of bills that will help us achieve these goals earned committee approval and will now advance to the full House for a vote.

This package includes bills that would boost awareness of workforce needs and increase the flexibility for secondary CTE programs. Bills would also create a comprehensive online CTE resource center and coordinate a state-level career exploration and workforce development opportunities.

Improving the way CTE works in Pennsylvania also would include putting at least one K-12 career and technical center administrator on each Workforce Development Board and creating a database with information on where courses, programs, certificates, and diplomas transfer among public schools and institutions of higher education.

Learn more about #GoodJobs4PA at Pahousegop.com/goodjobs.



**Initiatives
Move
Forward**

FREE

**Is someone in your household interested
in a career change or higher education?**



You're Invited

**Thursday, April 25, 2019
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

**Nazareth Area High School
501 E. Center Street
Nazareth, PA 18064**

**I am hosting a free College & Career Fair on
Thursday, April 25th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at
Nazareth Area High School.**

The fair includes exhibitors for people of all ages looking for a career change and/or higher education. Special informational sessions for parents sending their child off to college are as follows:

**Financial Aid Review -
Paying for Higher Education**

- PHEAA • FAFSA • Available Aid • Scholarships
- How to Make Affordable Decisions

Session Begins @ 6:00 PM

For a List of Exhibitors and/or to Register for a Special Session go to www.senatorscavello.com/learn-more/.

Mario M. Scavello
Senator Mario Scavello • 40th District

