

ATTENTION ALL TIFT COUNTY TAXPAYERS

DEADLINE TO FILE RETURNS/APPLICATIONS

Homestead Exemption applications for tax year 2011 must be filed no later than APRIL 1, 2011. Applications for Homestead filed after APRIL 1, 2011, will apply to the following tax year. In order to qualify for Homestead Exemption, you must own your home and it must be your legal residence as of January 1, 2011. If you own a mobile home, you must own the land and reside in the mobile home to qualify. If you or your spouse are 62 years of age or older, you may qualify for a higher exemption if your household income is within certain limits set by Georgia Law. Bring proof of your income for the year 2010 to determine if you meet the qualifications. If you or your spouse are 65 years of age or older, bring acceptable identification showing your date of birth to claim the State ad valorem tax exemption.

Mobile Home Decals must be purchased and displayed by MAY 1, 2011. Failure to purchase and display a mobile home decal will result in penalties and interest. **Mobile Homes receiving Homestead Exemption must display a decal.** Failure to display a decal is a violation of **Georgia Law** and will result in a penalty.

All Personal Property reporting forms are due no later than **April 1st**. The U. S. Postal Service postmark is required on returns sent by mail, office postage meter marks are not acceptable proof of timely filing. Georgia Law 48-5-299 (B) demands a 10% penalty on unreturned property. Applications for **Freeport Exemption** on certain inventories held by Manufacturing and Production businesses must be filed by April 1. The law does not allow the Board of Assessors to extend the filing deadline.

April 1st is also the deadline to apply for **Conservation Use Exemption; Agricultural Preferential Exemption or Forest Land Protection Act** if you own qualified agricultural property.

If you have questions regarding application requirements, please call the Tift County Assessors office between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday at **386-7840**, or come to the **Tift County Assessors Office**, Room 110, Charles Kent Administrative Building, 225 Tift Avenue.