

Information Regarding Preliminary FY 2013 Tax Bill

Enclosed is your preliminary tax bill for fiscal year (FY) 2013 property taxes. As provided for by the State quarterly tax bill law, your first two bills (July and October) are an estimate of half of your total FY2013 property taxes. This preliminary bill is based on your FY2012 net tax bill, as well as allowable adjustments, including any tax changes allowed under Proposition 2 ½ and increases attributable to approved general overrides and debt exclusions. Actual FY2013 home values and tax rates are not established until your January 2013 bill.

FY2013 Tax Change

This preliminary tax bill reflects a 2.15 % increase in taxes from FY2012. This increase is consistent with information provided to you in the Finance Commission 2012 Annual Report mailed to you before Town Meeting. This tax increase results from votes taken at the May 7, 2012 Town Meeting as well as the completion of the Martha Jones and Downey School project debt exclusion bond which was completed in 2012.

As a debt exclusion, the principal and interest for the Martha Jones and Downey School bond has been included in the tax levy for the past ten years outside of the limitations of Proposition 2 ½. The bond is now complete and has been fully repaid in 2012.

Actual FY2013 Tax Bill

In accordance with State quarterly tax billing law, your tax bill in January 2013 will reflect your actual FY2013 property taxes. The January bill will be based on your certified assessed value as well as the state certified tax rate for FY2013.

A detailed insert will be provided with your January tax bill. This insert will provide detailed information on changes in assessed value, distribution of taxes between the residential and commercial property classes, as well as specific tax change information.

How Do I Make a Donation to the Aid to the Elderly and Disabled Tax Fund?

At the Annual Town Meeting held on May 3, 1999, Article 12 was voted to accept Chapter 60, Section 3D of the Massachusetts General Laws that permits cities and towns to establish a separate fund. This fund is a means of establishing aid to the elderly and disabled for the purpose of defraying the real estate taxes of elderly and disabled persons of low income in the Town of Westwood.

- Over the years, the fund has assisted many long-time Westwood residents who wish to remain in the Town and homes they love. It is becoming increasingly difficult for these residents to afford living here on fixed incomes, particularly due to rising home heating costs and real estate taxes; and this fund can help.
- Since its inception, the fund has provided assistance to a number of these qualified residents by paying a portion of their tax bill. The typical recipient in FY12 was 84 years old; had lived in Westwood for 50 years; and lived in a home valued at approximately \$400,000.
- Since 1999, over \$288,000 has been distributed to help these residents.

We ask again that you consider a small donation to help these individuals. Even a small donation will make a difference in the level of assistance this fund can provide.

Thank you for your help this past year and for your consideration of a donation in the upcoming year.

If you would like to donate,

Please make your separate check payable to:

Town of Westwood – Aid to the Elderly & Disabled Trust Fund

Please detach the following form and return it with your donation.

Your donation can be mailed separately or it
can be included with your tax payment.

Mail to:

**Aid to the Elderly & Disabled Trust Fund
Tax Collector's Office
Westwood Town Hall
580 High Street
Westwood, MA 02090**

_____ \$10.00 _____ \$25.00 _____ \$50.00 _____ \$100.00 _____ \$500.00 \$ _____ Other