

# TOWN OF CICERO REASSESSMENT UPDATE NEWSLETTER

## Property Owners Benefit From Reassessment Workshops

GAR Associates, Inc. conducted a series of informational workshops to inform the public about the reassessment process.

**Over 714 residents attended 9 education workshops**



These workshops were held between July 25th and August 12th at various locations

throughout the town.

The workshops focused on the following items:

- What is reassessment
- What is involved with a reassessment project
- The project schedule
- The data collection process
- General information regarding the process

The *Young at Heart Senior Citizen Center* in Cicero was host to

seven of the information sessions. These were well attended by between **70 to 80 residents per session.**

The *South Bay Fire Hall* was host to two sessions that catered to the waterfront properties. These sessions were well attended by **over 230 residents.**

Feedback in the form of course evaluations were collected at the conclusion of each session, and the general opinion was that the classes were well received and informative.

### Did You Know:

- > The last full reassessment in the Town of Cicero was prior to 1980
- > The current equalization rate in the town is 4.9% - this represents one of the lowest in the state
- > There are 13,738 active parcels in the town.

Residential = 12,832

Commercial = 906

## Property Owner Participation Exceeds Expectations

Introductory letters were mailed to all property owners in July 2009. These letters were the first contact between the contractor and the residents of the Town of Cicero. The letter provided information regarding the reassessment process, the opportunity to attend the workshops and information relating to the data

collection process. In addition to the letter, property owners were requested to fill out a Property Inventory Survey. This survey requested basic information such as number of bedrooms, bathrooms, age of the house, etc.

The return of these surveys was optional. Nearly **67%** of the residential property owners

**completed and returned** the survey to the assessor's office. This is strong indication that the project is supported in the community.

These surveys will be taken into the field to assist the data collectors with interior information and other critical data and inventory.

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GAR Associates, Inc  
in conjunction with the Town of  
Cicero Assessors Office



**GAR Associates,  
Inc.**

## Data Collection Process Begins in Cicero

Data collection began in late August with little fanfare, as experienced collectors started out in the northern portions of the Town. Collectors worked their way through Brewerton and along the Waterfront, eventually arriving at Route 31.

As of November 15th, the entire area north of Route 31 had received an initial site visit by the data collection team. Some of the

results at this point include:

- Roughly **40%** of the homes are measured and listed **on the first visit.**
- Properties where nobody was home were provided with a door hanger requesting permission to return to the property for an inspection
- Over **6,000** properties have been **visited to date**
- GAR is taking a front and rear photograph of all properties where permission is granted
- Less than **10%** of the homes visited have allowed an **interior inspection.**
- Commercial collection has begun in the Village of North Syracuse area.
- Collection will continue as weather permits and resume at full capacity in April 2010.

## Notes from the Assessor:

The assessment department has been very involved in the reassessment project from the very beginning. During this data collection phase, the assessor has been in contact with the project manager on a weekly basis to discuss procedures and the progress of the project.

Brad Brennan (Assessor) and Mary Beth Togni (Appraisal Aide) have both been out in the field with GAR data collectors verifying collection techniques and accuracy.

The Assessor's Office remains ready and available to answer any questions or concerns property owners may have concerning assessments, exemptions or the reassessment project, at 699-1410.

## Project Schedule

### July 2009 to June 2010

- Data Collection Process

### July 2010 to December 2010

- Valuation of Property

### March 2011

- Reassessment Notices mailed to all property owners

### June 1, 2011

- Grievance Day

### July 2011

- Values are Finalized

