

It's that time of the year again, and appraisers working for the Bee Appraisal District may be seen out in the county conducting site inspections. This year, the focal area is Skidmore ISD, but appraisers do work throughout the county. Appraisers will never ask to come into a home. If residents have concerns about whether an individual is legitimate, they may call the appraisal district.

It is also time to file business personal property renditions, annual wildlife reports, homestead exemption applications, agriculture special value applications and income surveys. Documents have been mailed out with instructions on completion of these important tax documents.

The new year is bringing important changes to the property tax system, including value limitations for non-homesteaded properties as well as requirements to reverify homestead exemption eligibility.

Starting this year, property owners may see limits on the growth of the net appraised value of multiple properties they own. Property valued at \$5 million or less will benefit from a 20 percent circuit breaker limitation on the net appraised value of the property used to calculate property taxes. Property owners must own the property for at least one full calendar year and do not need to submit an application to take advantage of the benefit. Because the Texas Legislature has currently only authorized this limitation for the 2024, 2025 and 2026 tax years, it will not apply to 2023 property tax bills due in January 2024.

Property owners who own and live on a property can continue to save money on their property tax bills by filing for their homestead exemption. Several types of homestead exemptions are available, including a general residence homestead exemption and exemptions for people over the age of 65, people and veterans with disabilities, and the surviving spouse of service members or first responders killed in the line of duty. Exemptions continue to be the easiest and fastest way to lower property tax bills. If the taxpayer currently has a homestead, it is not necessary to refile unless requested to do so by the appraisal district as a part of the new law change.

All appraisal districts are required every five years to verify a property owner's eligibility to receive the homestead exemption. Taxpayers may receive a notice from the district with an application to update district records.

Bee County property owners can view the current exemptions on their property, review a list of available homestead exemptions and download exemption applications forms online at [beecad.org](http://beecad.org).

Please contact the appraisal district office with any questions. (361) 358-0193.