

MOORE FROM THE HILL



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REMINDER OF FILING DEADLINES FOR FLOOD VICTIMS

Tennessee homeowners and business owners affected by historic floods this spring have only one week remaining to seek relief on their **local property taxes**.

Governor Phil Bredesen signed into law a bill unanimously approved by lawmakers in May that allows local taxing districts in the 46 counties that were declared federal disaster areas to reassess homes that were damaged in the storms.

Under the new law, Public Chapter 1036, any home that has been deemed unfit for use for more than 30 days or any home that sustained damages equal to more than 50 percent of the home's pre-flood value would be eligible for an assessment reduction. ***Applications must be filed with the local property assessor's office by Sept. 1.***

Tennessee businesses, which are required to pay property taxes on tangible personal property, are also eligible for tax relief. Under the law, businesses can receive reduced assessments for their property if their business was destroyed, demolished, or substantially damaged and is not replaced or restored by Sept. 1.

Even if a property owner is not sure whether there was enough damage to qualify for a reassessment, the paperwork should be filed by the deadline. That will allow an inspector from the local assessor's office to visit the property and determine the amount of damage. A property owner who isn't satisfied with the damage estimate can appeal to the State Board of Equalization.

We want every Tennessean who was impacted by these floods to get whatever relief is available to help them restore their property, their community and their lives.

The Davidson County Property Assessor site is http://www.padctn.com/flood_real.html

The U.S. Small Business Administration has approved over \$150 million in disaster loans for Tennesseans in relation to the May flooding.

Two loan outreach centers are still open Monday through Friday until further notice. They are located at:

Fifty Forward, 174 Rains Road (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

Bellevue Church of Christ, 7401 Highway 70 South (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

In addition to the property tax flood relief, flood survivors also have a little more time to take advantage of a **sales tax refund program** offered by the Department of Revenue that also was approved by legislators and signed into law by Governor Bredesen.

Any household that qualified for FEMA aid can receive a sales tax refund – of up to \$2,500 - for cleaning and building supplies, replacement furniture and appliances. The purchases must be made by Sept. 30 and the refund claim must be filed with the Tennessee Department of Revenue by Nov. 30. For more information about the sales tax relief, call toll-free 1-800-342-1003 or visit <http://www.tn.gov/revenue/misc/floodrelief.htm>.

Childhood Injury Prevention Week is September 1-7. The statistics on childhood injuries are staggering. There are many on-line resources for injury prevention information. I am listing a few below and hope you will check out these and others if you have young children or take care of young children.

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/children.htm>

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/childpas.htm>

<http://www.childrenssafetynetwork.org/links/default.asp>

Labor Day is around the corner on September 6. Please have a safe and enjoyable holiday as we celebrate the American workforce.

September 11 will mark the 9th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the U.S.A. A short memorial service will be held at the Firefighter Memorial (outside the Schermerhorn Center) at 8:00 a.m. on September 11. The public is welcome to attend.

As always, please call me if I may assist you in any way.



741-4317

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