



# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 19, 2023

## **ST. CHARLES COUNTY ASSESSOR SENDING NOTICES OF REAL ESTATE ASSESSMENT STARTING APRIL 24**

**ST. CHARLES COUNTY, MO** – The St. Charles County Assessor will mail 2023 Notices of Real Estate Assessment to property owners starting the week of April 24. State law requires the Assessor to revalue all real estate property in the county as of Jan. 1 of odd-numbered years.

The valuation notices reflect the change in value since Jan. 1, 2021. In the past two years, St. Charles County has had a substantial increase in the residential market. Some of the contributing factors include high demand and low supply, recovery from COVID, purchases by real estate investment companies, low interest rates, and St. Charles County continuing to be an area of high desirability.

The notices will be sent in three mailings: Washington, Wentzville, and St. Charles school districts first; Fort Zumwalt and Orchard Farm school districts second; and the Francis Howell School District third. This year, the notices will include a QR code that property owners can scan with their smartphone to view more detail about their property through the Assessor’s property database. Additionally, the interactive Assessor Dashboard at [sccmo.org/Assessor](https://sccmo.org/Assessor) provides a summary analysis of assessment and local data including a comparable sales search and interactive map.

Taxpayers have 10 days from the mailed date on the notice to schedule an informal hearing with a staff member from the Assessor’s office to discuss the property value or classification. They can schedule by calling 636-949-7431, 8 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday–Friday. These scheduled informal hearings will be conducted from the last week of April through early June. If an agreement is not reached after the informal hearing, the property owner could then file an appeal with the Board of Equalization. Information on the appeal process and answers to frequently asked questions are available at [sccmo.org/Assessor](https://sccmo.org/Assessor), or taxpayers can contact the Assessor’s office.

### **Caution About Using Valuation Service Companies**

St. Charles County Assessor Scott Shipman warns property owners about paying valuation service companies to help determine if their property is overvalued and/or to assist in the appeal process. Many valuation service companies buy public data and use information homeowners can access for free through the Assessor’s office.

“The services they provide are inferior to the services our office provides, or what a homeowner can research on their own or discuss with our office at no cost,” Shipman says. “These companies do not perform due diligence, which bogs down the appeals process with inaccurate information and wastes time and taxpayer dollars.”

Shipman says that in many cases, the information presented by these companies is usually of little relevance to the market value and is generated without considering important aspects such as the location and size of the property, architectural type and condition. Additionally, Shipman notes that representatives or tax agents performing appraisal or

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valuation analysis information must be certified or licensed in the state of Missouri and that offers to provide market value to contest assessments based on contingent fees are in violation of Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.

The Assessor is responsible for establishing the fair market value of both real estate and personal property within St. Charles County to assure taxes are distributed fairly among those responsible for payment. Real estate and personal property values are adjusted as necessary to reflect current market and economic conditions such as interest rates, inflation rates, supply and demand, and changes in tax laws. Political subdivisions, which include school, city and fire districts, establish property tax rates/levies based on budgetary requirements needed to appropriately fund services provided within their jurisdiction. The Collector of Revenue receives these rates annually by Oct. 31 and is charged with issuing property tax bills and the collection and disbursement of taxes to the political subdivisions.

For more information, visit [sccmo.org/Assessor](http://sccmo.org/Assessor) or call 636-949-7428.

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### ***About St. Charles County:***

*St. Charles County, Missouri, founded in 1812, is one of the fastest growing counties in Missouri. With a population of 405,262, it is the state's third largest county. It is home to 21 scenic county parks of which three are in reserve, encompassing 4,349 acres.*

*With one of the largest economies in the state, St. Charles County is home to multinational companies including General Motors, Citi, MasterCard Worldwide and Boeing. It is ranked among the top 25 counties in the nation in high-tech job growth by the Progressive Policy Institute and consistently has the lowest unemployment rate in the Metropolitan St. Louis area.*

*St. Charles County Government has more than 1,170 employees in more than 30 departments and offices who work to make the county an excellent place to live, work and shop. For more information, please visit [sccmo.org](http://sccmo.org).*