

## FIRST INSTALLMENT TAX BILLS ARE DUE MARCH 3

Contact: Ali ElSaffar  
(708) 383-8005

First installment property tax bills for tax year 2014 arrived in the last week of January, according to Oak Park Township Assessor Ali ElSaffar. "Property taxes are paid in two installments," ElSaffar said. "The first installment bill is fifty-five percent (55%) of the total property tax bill for the previous year, and will be due on March 3, 2015."

Taxpayers should note that first installment tax bills will not reflect homeowner, senior citizen or other exemptions, nor will they reflect the impact of successful assessment appeals that were filed in calendar year 2014. "The first installment is just an estimate based on what was paid last year," ElSaffar explained. "When the second installment bill is mailed in the summer, it will reflect all exemptions for which the property is eligible, as well as any savings due to successful 2014 tax appeals."

**Details about Paying Taxes.** If money for property taxes is paid into an escrow account with a taxpayer's mortgage company, the financial institution should receive the tax bill electronically, even if the taxpayer also receives a copy of the bill. Assessor ElSaffar advises taxpayers with property tax escrows held by their mortgage companies not to pay property taxes on their own. If they do, an overpayment of property taxes may result.

Property owners who do not have mortgage companies paying their taxes can make tax payments in person, by mail, or on-line at the Cook County Treasurer's web site, **[www.cookcountytreasurer.com](http://www.cookcountytreasurer.com)**. In-person payments are accepted at the Cook County Treasurer's downtown office at 118 N. Clark Street and at any Chase Bank in the Chicago area. Chase branches most convenient to Oak Park residents are located at 800 Madison Street, 933 Madison Street and 1048 Lake Street in Oak Park, 630 N. Harlem Avenue in River Forest, and 6612 W. North Avenue in Chicago.

Release date: January 27, 2015