

Questions/Answers from the Senior Town Hall Meeting

What are the eligibility requirements for tax deferment? Is it prorated? Who establishes the criteria?

- The requirements for the Tax Relief Program are: You have to be 65 or older or totally and permanently disabled. Your gross household income cannot exceed \$69,600 and your net financial worth cannot exceed \$340,000 not including the home that you're claiming the relief on. The percentage of relief is based on a sliding scale of income ranges from 0 to \$48,000 being 100% relief up to \$69,600 being 25% relief.
- The relief is prorated based on the date that you turned 65 or the date that you purchased your home.
- The Board of County Supervisor establishes the criteria. However, they must be in the Parameters set by the State Code

Do county residents pay for the services provided in the cities and towns located in Prince William?

- Cities are separate jurisdictions and have their own taxing authority, which they use to pay for services to city residents. The County does not pay for services to the 2 cities (i.e. Manassas and Manassas Park) surrounded by the County. We do have shared service agreements with the cities whereby city residents may use certain County services such as libraries; however, the cities pay for their portion of the usage.
- There are 4 incorporated towns within the County as follows: Dumfries, Haymarket, Occoquan, and Quantico. The towns are part of Prince William County and, for the most part, town residents pay the same taxes as all other County residents. Major tax categories that town residents pay to the County include real estate tax; personal property tax on vehicles, trailers, and motorcycles; business personal property taxes on business equipment; fire and rescue levy (except for Quantico); gypsy moth levy.
- Since Town residents pay these same taxes as County residents, they are entitled to the same services as County residents.
- Town residents do not pay storm water fees or solid waste fees; as a result, these 2 County services are not available to Town residents.
- While Towns are part of the County, they have authority to impose certain taxes and fees, and use this authority to raise revenue for town services

beyond those provided by the County. Major categories of town taxes include: property tax, sales tax, meals tax, business license and permits, utility tax, and cigarette tax.

Please explain why in Newport Estates, Indus Road is not opened all the way through?

- Indus opened all the way through in early October. Signs indicating that the speed limit is 25 mph have been ordered for the area where Indus hits Port Potomac.

How does Prince William County determine which streets are cleaned by the street sweeper?

- The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) schedules sweeping of roads within the state highway system. Two factors regulate the frequency of sweeping. 1. Need. 2. Available funds. VDOT tries to accomplish at least one sweeping cycle of all roads with curb and gutter within the county at least once each year. This is not always possible however due to funding. When funding is short VDOT must prioritize its work and thus sweeping may be delayed in lieu of other higher priority repair work.

When the Senior Citizen Center bus breaks down, many people are unable to get to the Center. Is there anyway we can get a backup van?

- Supervisor Principi is working with staff and local groups that have vans to determine the possibly of entering into a public/private partnership that will ensure transportation is available for the Senior Center. Liability, logistical and funding issues are in the process of being addressed

When is the size of the parking lot at the Woodbridge Senior Center going to be increased?

- At this point, due to budget constraints, there are no plans to increase the size of the parking lot.

Please explain how seniors can qualify for home repairs through the Housing Office.

- This program available to Prince William County owner occupied residents for corrections to health and safety items including energy conservation. Seniors and disabled household have a preference on the Waiting List. Currently the Waiting List is low which means that within 30 days of making a preliminary application the household would be

pulled from the List to make a formal application. For those interested homeowners they need to call Kelly Beard, at 703-792-5927 who is the person at the Office of Housing handles the intake process.

- Criteria for Eligibility:
 - The income of the household must be at or below 80% of the Area Median Income published by HUD each year. Currently for a household of 2 that level is \$49,200 a year gross income.
 - Minimum rehabilitation cost \$2,000.
 - The total of all liens on the property and the estimated rehab dollars including the cost of testing and correcting lead-based paint cannot exceed 100% of the assessed or appraised value of the property. This requirement was waived on June 30, 2008 to allow the Office of Housing to assist homeowners with \$50,000 or less of negative equity. In the event that a household has more than \$50,000 of negative equity assistance is only offered if the household is in jeopardy of losing their home because of health or safety issues such as septic failure or condemning a property by Code Enforcement.
 - Property must have health and safety corrections to include access to property, structural defects, water supply, interior air quality, electrical problems, heating/air condition, bathroom facilities, roofing, windows, etc. The program is not a remodeling program.
 - The County will not accept placement of their lien beyond second place.

Describe the Senior Citizen Police Academy? How do you register for this program?

- The award-winning Senior Citizen Police Academy gives County residents who are at least 55 years old an overview of the Prince William County Police Department. Graduates of the course will have a better understanding of the operation of the Department and a greater awareness and appreciation of the challenges and decisions faced by Prince William County police officers each day. While no physical activity is required, class participation and a police ride-along are encouraged. The free Senior Citizen Police Academy provides citizens with insight into the operation and activities of the Prince William County Police Department.

- Applications are accepted on a continuing basis by calling the Crime Prevention Unit at 703-792-7270. Future sessions are based on community interest.

Does the Prince William Police Department do Home Security Surveys for residents?

- Yes , they can be provided for any County resident free of charge. Call 703.792.7270 and a police officer will come to your home and point out ways to increase the security of your home. This program includes an array of hardware to give the participants a "hands-on" experience in crime prevention. The Crime Prevention Unit also conducts security surveys for homeowners and renters, using the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.

What is available in the way of Prescription Assistance for Senior Citizens?

- **Medicare/Medicaid** - Most Senior Citizens are on Medicare and/or Medicaid. For persons receiving either of these benefits, their prescriptions are covered by a Part D plan and the Area Agency on Aging help support their plan decisions and applications through the VICAP (Virginia Insurance Counseling Assistance Program which is funded by the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services). Medicare benefits persons 65 and older (some at 62) and adults 18 and older who been determined disabled by the Social Security Administration. Medicaid benefits persons of any age who are living in poverty and Medicare Part D covers their prescriptions. Persons must decide upon a specific Part D plan and the open enrollment is November 15 – December 31 or they will be thrown into a plan. To make an appointment with AAA staff, call 703.792.6364.
- **Discount Prescription Program** -Prince William County offers a free prescription discount card to County residents. You may get a card by calling 1.877.321.2652 or calling DSS at 703.792.7500. This plan is not insurance; it is a prescription discount program. The card provides immediate discounts at the pharmacy. Upon presenting your card to the pharmacist, you will pay the lower of a discounted price or the pharmacy's regular retail price. There are no claim forms to fill out and no limit to the number of times you can use the card. These discounts are available only at participating retail pharmacies. Your card cannot be used in conjunction with other insurance. However, you are able to use your card to purchase prescriptions that are not

covered by these plans. You may also use your card for your pet's prescribed medications.

- **Pharmacy Central** -Provides low-income, uninsured adults taking medications for chronic illnesses with assistance in applying to pharmaceutical companies' patient assistance programs. This program serves persons with incomes up to 200% of the federal poverty level. Through participation in a patient assistance program, individuals can obtain their chronic medications from the drug manufacturer either free or at a greatly reduced cost. This program is operated by Northern Virginia Family Services at- 703.490.1662.

Will you update us on what is happening along Route 1 in the Woodbridge District?

- Route 1 at Neabsco Creek has just shifted traffic to the new "detour" alignment. The new detour will alignment will be in place for approximately one year while the old bridge is demolished and a new bridge is constructed.
- The schedule for the widening of Route 1 will be determined in the next few months as VDOT evaluates all projects based on the reductions in the state revenues.
- The Woodbridge VRE station is currently in the construction phase of the Woodbridge second platform/kiss and ride project. The project will construct a platform on the west side of the tracks along with an overhead pedestrian bridge connecting into the existing parking garage on the east side. This project is expected to be completed in about a year.