

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Friday, January 27, 2017

ELDERLY HOMEOWNERS MAY FIND RELIEF BY DEFERRING PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS

Property owners who are age 65 or older or who are disabled as defined by law may defer paying current and delinquent property taxes on their homestead (main home) by filing a **tax deferral affidavit** form at the Webb County Appraisal District.

Once the affidavit is on file, property taxes are postponed - but not cancelled as long as the owner continues to own and live in the home. Taxes accumulate with 8% interest per year. The law extends the tax deferral to the surviving spouse of the person who deferred taxes on the property if the surviving spouse was at least 55 years old when his/her spouse died.

A tax deferral affidavit keeps homeowners from losing their homestead because of delinquent property taxes. A pending sale to foreclose on the homestead's tax lien will also stop as a result of filing a tax deferral affidavit. In addition, no taxing unit can start or continue a lawsuit to collect delinquent taxes once an affidavit is filed with the Appraisal District. There are no penalties on delinquent taxes during the deferral period; however, a tax deferral does not cancel penalties that were already due.

All deferred taxes and interest become due when the homeowner or surviving spouse no longer own and live in the home. If the tax debt remains unpaid at that time, penalties may be imposed and taxing units may take legal action to collect the past due amount.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON DEFERRING PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS, CONTACT THE CUSTOMER SERVICE DEPARTMENT STAFF AT (956) 718-4091, OPTION 1; OR VISIT OUR OFFICE LOCATED AT 3302 CLARK BLVD., LAREDO, TEXAS 78043. WEBSITE, WWW.WEBBCAD.ORG.