



# **NOTICE TO CITIZENS**

## **TAX CHANGES NEW FOR 2010**

### **Personal Property Taxes Due in Two Installments**

In April of 2009, the Accomack County Board of Supervisors voted to require personal property taxes be paid in two installments. The first installment will be due June 5, 2010 and the second installment December 5, 2010. In previous years, personal property taxes were due annually in December. Each installment must be paid by its due date in order to avoid penalty and interest charges.

### **Motor Vehicle Decals Eliminated**

In September of 2009, the Accomack County Board of Supervisors voted to eliminate Accomack County decals on vehicles, motorcycles and trailers. As of April 16, 2010, citizens can remove the County vehicle decals off of their property, as the actual decal will not thereafter be required. This action by the Board of Supervisors joins Accomack County with several other Virginia localities which have also eliminated the decal.

The County continues to charge an annual license fee for vehicle and motorcycles. This fee will be automatically billed on the tax bill for the first installment of personal property taxes due in June 2010. The 2010 vehicle fee is \$20.25 while the fee for motorcycles is \$18.75. Fees on trailers have been eliminated.

County license fees do not currently apply to vehicles and motorcycles garaged in incorporated towns (See FAQ #11 below).

#### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Regarding License Fees:

- 1. Do I still need a County decal for my vehicle's windshield in 2010?**  
Decals must be displayed until April 15, 2010. You can remove the decal after this date.
- 2. On what vehicles will I have to pay the license fee?**  
Beginning in 2010, all assessed and licensed vehicles registered in Accomack County but garaged outside of incorporated towns will be subject to a license fee. There is no fee on trailers as the Board of Supervisors voted to eliminate this fee effective 2010.
- 3. Will I receive a bill in the mail for my license fee?**  
Yes. The license fee will be included as a separate item on the 1<sup>st</sup> installment of the Personal Property Tax bills sent by the Treasurer.
- 4. How much is the license fee?**  
License fees have been reduced by 25% for 2010 only. The 2010 vehicle license fee is \$20.25 for autos/trucks and \$18.75 for motorcycles. License fees in subsequent years will increase back to previous amounts.
- 5. When is the license fee due?**  
The fee is due, together with your 1<sup>st</sup> installment of Personal Property taxes, on or before June 5<sup>th</sup>, or as indicated on your tax bill.

**6. What will happen if I do not pay my license fee on time?**

All collection tools available for personal property taxes will be used for collection of the fee including “Vehicle Registration Withholding – VRW” placed through the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). This collection tool prohibits registration of your vehicle until all license fees and personal property taxes are paid.

**7. If I receive 100% tax credit under the Personal Property Tax Relief Act (PPTRA) for my vehicle, which is valued at \$1,000 or less and used for non-business purposes, will I receive a bill for a license fee?**

Yes, the fee will now be included on the 1<sup>st</sup> installment of your Personal Property tax bill. If, due to the PPTRA tax credit, you do not pay personal property taxes, you will still receive a bill for just the license fee.

**8. Is the fee pro-rated?**

Yes, the license fee will be prorated on the same basis as the personal property tax. For example, if you acquire a vehicle on 7/1, your fee would be 50% of the current annual fee. If you sell the vehicle on 7/1, you will receive a 50% credit.

**9. What period is the fee valid for?**

The license fee will be imposed on a calendar year basis (January 1 to December 31).

**10. Are there exemptions to the fee?**

Yes. The same exemptions that apply to the County decal will apply to license fee.

**11. Does the fee apply to citizens of incorporated towns who are already required to obtain Town decals?**

The County license fee does not currently apply to vehicles garaged inside incorporated towns. The County has, however, been approached by several Towns who would like the County to levy a Town license fee on Town citizens on their behalf. As of the writing of this notice, no formal agreement had been reached between the County and any incorporated Town. Should one be reached, the County would include Town license fees on the County’s personal property bill. Collections of this fee by County would be remitted to the Towns. Citizens will be advised on this issue as conditions warrant. *It should be noted that citizens will not be required to pay both a County license fee and a Town license fee.*

**Due Dates for the Annual Return of Business Tangible Property and Senior/Disabled Tax Relief Applications Changed**

The due date for the annual return of business tangible property has been changed to February 15<sup>th</sup>. All furniture, fixtures, machinery, tools, and computer equipment used in Accomack County businesses is considered tangible personal property and must be reported to the Commissioner of Revenue on this return. Questions about taxation of business tangible property should be directed to the Commissioner of Revenue at (757) 787-5747 or (757) 824-6451.

Applications for tax relief under the County’s Senior/Disabled Relief Program are due to the Commissioner of Revenue by March 1<sup>st</sup>. The County of Accomack offers real estate and mobile home tax relief to taxpayers 65 years of age or older or taxpayers determined to be permanently and totally disabled. In order to qualify, total household income cannot exceed \$28,000 and net worth cannot exceed \$80,000. For more information about this program, contact the Commissioner of Revenue at (757) 787-5747 or (757) 824-6451.