

**FAYETTE COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT
PO BOX 836; 111 SOUTH VAIL ST
LA GRANGE, TX 78945
979-968-8383 FAX 979-968-8385**

PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS RELEASE

January 21, 2010

Property Tax Deadline Nearing

Payment options for property tax outlined

Karen Schubert, chief appraiser for the Fayette County Appraisal District, would like to remind all taxpayers that February 1, 2010 is the last day to pay 2009 property taxes without any penalties. Since January 31 falls on Sunday, the Fayette County Appraisal District will accept your payment in their office on Monday, February 1 without any penalties. The February 1 date also applies if you mail your payment; the envelope must be postmarked no later than February 1, 2010 to be accepted without penalty and interest. Any unpaid taxes will be considered delinquent and incur a penalty and interest of seven percent beginning February 2, 2010. If you have any questions about the deadline to pay your taxes, please call our office.

Taxpayers who are 65 years or older prior to January 1, can make installment payments on their residence homesteads without penalty and interest as long as the payment dates are met. One-fourth of the taxes (first installment) must be paid on or before February 1, 2010 or the delinquency date and the balance in three equal installments. The second installment must be paid before April 1, 2010 the third installment must be paid before June 1, 2010 and the fourth (final) installment must be

paid before August 1, 2010. If the individual fails to make a payment before the applicable date, the unpaid amount is delinquent and incurs a penalty of six percent plus interest. This payment option also applies to any disabled person claiming a homestead exemption under Sec 11.13(c), Texas Property Tax Code. Please contact the Fayette County Appraisal District for an agreement form.

Taxpayers can also make partial payments if taxes cannot be paid in full. Monthly payments can be made until all taxes are paid. However, any unpaid balance will incur penalty and interest after February 1, 2010.

Escrow payments can be set up for 2010 taxes at this time by annual written contract. The contract requires the taxpayer to make monthly deposits into an escrow account until the contracted amount has accrued, or until the 2010 tax statement is prepared. The contract will be based on the amount of 2009 taxes. When the billing occurs, any shortage will be billed to the taxpayer. Any overage will be refunded upon request or it may be applied toward next year's escrow.

If taxpayers have any questions concerning any of these payment options, please contact the Fayette County Appraisal District office at 979-968-8383 or visit the office at 111 South Vail Street, La Grange, Texas and someone will be happy to assist you.

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