



TOWN OF DEERPARK

KARL A. BRABENEC, SUPERVISOR
DAVID M. HOOVLER, COUNCILMAN
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December 12, 2011

Dear Senior Shuttle Rider:

The town board had to once again make some really tough decisions this year to keep the taxes stable for all town residents. In addition, we were faced with a 2% tax levy cap imposed by the state of New York. This means that the town could only raise the tax levy by a maximum of **\$50,000 for 2012**. We adopted a budget that was below this cap in the spirit of trying to keep taxes stable. We all know that times are really tough for everyone right now.

The town board members and myself know that the senior shuttle program is very important and we do want to do all we can to preserve the program for **Deerpark residents**. This is one of the reasons why we outsourced the program to Quality Bus Service, which is saving the taxpayers around \$3,000 per year. Also, we no longer have to pay a dispatcher (as a dispatcher is provided at Quality Bus Service) which saves the taxpayers an additional \$13,000 per year.

We had Quality Bus Service look at the ridership numbers over the past few months and it was reported to us that an average of 4-6 Deerpark residents actually use this service. The rest of the riders are residents of Port Jervis. Yet we are spending \$36,000 of your tax dollars to subsidize rides for Port Jervis residents. With the economy the way it is and decreasing revenue in the town, we can no longer afford to do this.

It was recommended by Quality Bus to budget \$12,000 for 2012 and to decrease the amount of days for the shuttle from 5 days to 2 days. In addition, it was suggested that we only service Deerpark residents, since these are your tax dollars. These changes will decrease costs for gas, payroll, and maintenance of the bus and will allow us to **sustain the program**.

Be assured that the program is **NOT being eliminated**, we are just trying to make it a little more cost effective. As always, your suggestions are always welcomed!