

Legislative Report
January 2017
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1. Town of Blacksburg Council and Airbnb. Our Council is now dealing with an organization (AIRBNB) in an emerging industry. They rent out rooms/lodging to guests with people who are registered with them (home owners/property owners) on a short-term basis. They collect a fee for connecting customers with the providers. Customers do not pay a room tax fee for this service like those who stay at traditional hotels in our community. Airbnb also does not pay room/lodging taxes for their paid referrals. In a couple of recent cases residential neighborhoods have become almost like tourist zones. Our Council has developed a number of rules/regulations to minimize any adverse consequences to our neighborhoods. They will be voting on these proposals soon. Other Virginia communities are also discussing similar actions to protect their communities. Some feel that our State Legislators should be dealing with this situation so there is uniformity across the State. Please communicate your thoughts to our representatives both in the Town and at the State.

2. Tax Scammers. Its tax time again and our Internal Revenue(IRS) Scammers are with us again. So far over \$300 million dollars has been turned over to them. If you receive a contact from anyone claiming to be from the IRS: contact the IRS directly at 800-829-1040 or your local police department. The IRS Agency does not initiate phone calls demanding immediate payment of back taxes.

3. Age discrimination. Is it a "Senior Myth?" Would you believe the 55 and over age population in the U.S. is the only age group with a rising labor force participation? And sixty percent (60%) of workers 65 and older have full time positions! Is this a good example of "LIFE REIMAGINED?"