

**TRENT WOODS POLICE DEPARTMENT
TO SPONSOR
CLASSROOM IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM FOR OLDER DRIVERS**

The Trent Woods Police Department is sponsoring an AARP Driver Safety Program class. The four hour classroom refresher course was developed by AARP to help drivers 50 years and older improve their driving skills and prevent traffic crashes.

Over the past two years, the course underwent significant review, reorganization and testing. Several new topics have been introduced or expanded in Edition VI and include the use of car phones, aggressive driving/road rage, anti-lock brakes, driving on freeways and driver retirement.

The AARP has recently moved to a one day four hour class format rather than the two day eight hour class. The move to shorter courses, represent a gradual trend moving across the county. Reasons for the change are participants have less tolerance for the two day eight hours and that there will be greater reach for first time takers of the program. AARP has attempted to make the class more appealing to the active and busy lifestyles of today's seniors. Currently twenty two (22) states are moving to the four hour course. Initial research by AARP shows no difference in the learning outcomes between the eight and four hour courses.

The class will be held Thursday February 18, 2010 from 8:45 am to 1:00pm at the West of New Bern Volunteer Fire Department Station #31, located at 900 Chelsea Road, Trent Woods. The fee for the class is \$12.00 for AARP members and \$14.00 for non-members. AARP Membership cards will be required to qualify for the reduced rate. Checks should be made out to AARP. The instructor will be Verne Van Beek of New Bern.

To register for the class call Trent Woods Town Hall at 252-637-9810 – Monday – Friday from 9 AM – 5 PM. The Safety Program is designed to meet the specific needs of older drivers. It covers age related physical changes, declining perceptual skills and how to cope with these changes. Volunteer instructors recruited and trained by AARP conduct the course, which is presented through a combination of video and group activities.