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## E-mail updates inform seniors about changes

Record numbers of Oklahoma retirees will apply for Social Security benefits in the coming years. Why? This January, the first wave of the 78 million-strong baby boom generation will turn 62 and become eligible for reduced Social Security retirement benefits.

In fact, those turning 62 in the last quarter of 2007 are already beginning this gravitation toward retirement across Oklahoma and America. This means that about 10,000 people per day will be newly eligible to apply for benefits. Social Security wants this experience to be as convenient as possible, so we are encouraging people to be aware of the benefits of filing online.

If you are ready to retire, and if the prospect of waiting in line at a government office does not appeal to you, then save yourself a trip and consider the advantages of applying for retirement benefits online. The Social Security Web site makes the process easy and convenient.

Just go online to [www.socialsecurity.gov/applytoretire](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/applytoretire). Here, you can apply for your retirement benefits from the comfort of your home or office.

Before you begin the online application, we will tell you that it will be signed electronically. When you click on the "sign now" button at the end of the application, you are signing the application electronically and accepting responsibility for the accuracy of the information you submit to Social Security.

Of course, we may still need to have appropriate proofs to make a decision on your claim, such as proof of age, earnings, marriage and sufficient medical evidence for disability claims. But we will be able to streamline the claims process and provide better service to you by eliminating the need to complete, sign and return a paper application form.

So remember: If you are planning to retire right away like so many of your fellow Oklahomans, you may wish to apply now and get the process completed before the start of the busy holiday season. And for convenience, apply online! Then you can expect your benefits to begin on time later this year or in early 2008.

Also, if you are not quite ready to retire but are thinking about doing so in the near future, you may want to go online to [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov), to keep abreast of the latest updates to Social Security.

You can sign up to get e-mail alerts sent right to your inbox any time there is a change to a Web page in which you've expressed an interest.

E-mail consistently ranks as the No. 1 use of the Internet. That's why Social Security now offers an e-mail alert system to communicate important news and information to the public. Social Security's e-mail alerts are free, fast and effective — and signing up is easy.

To get e-mail alerts, go online to [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) and click on the mail icon that says "receive updates by e-mail" in the upper right-hand corner. You can learn more about this new service by going online to [www.socialsecurity.gov/govdelivery](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/govdelivery).

You can learn more about Social Security by going online to the Web site or calling (800) 772-1213, or (800) 325-0778 for TTY users.

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