



Property Matters



with Anne M. Gannon, Constitutional Tax Collector *Serving Palm Beach County, Serving You*

April 2015

Dear Friend,

In April, many observe Easter or Passover. If you are celebrating, I wish you a wonderful and happy holiday. The 2015 property tax season doesn't begin until November, but now is the time to take steps to save! In this edition, you'll find information about a money-saving plan, the steps you should take if you still owe 2014 property taxes, and a helpful kit for anyone new to the neighborhood.

A "Sale" You Want to Skip

Still haven't paid 2014 property taxes? Pay now to avoid the annual tax certificate sale on June 1, 2015. A tax certificate is a first lien created when someone else pays your delinquent taxes. If you fail to pay delinquent taxes within 2 years, the tax certificate buyer can file a Tax Deed Application. This begins the process of the property being sold at public auction.

Unpaid 2014 property taxes are now delinquent. Delinquent taxes are charged a minimum of 3 percent interest plus advertising fees. Interest accrues up to 1.5% per month (18% annually). Delinquent taxes cannot be paid online. We only accept cash and certified funds including bank draft, certified check, money order, United States postal money order, cashier's check, or wire transfer for delinquent payments.

If you've paid your 2014 property taxes, that's great news! Your tax dollars are used to fund the essential services that keep our families safe and communities thriving. This includes county and municipal services, law enforcement, fire rescue, public schools, libraries, and many other services.

Save with the Installment Payment Plan

Did you know you can pay property taxes in smaller installment payments instead of one lump sum? If you prefer this option, act now! The clock is ticking on the April 30 deadline to enroll in our Installment Payment Plan. Participants make four payments with a discount of slightly under 4%. Installments are due by the last day in June, September, December, and March.

Enrollment is easy. Just complete our short application. You can apply online at www.pbctax.com/installment-payment-plan. You can also pick up an application at any of our eight service centers. If you are already participating in the Installment Payment Plan, you do not need to re-enroll. Just be sure to make your first payment in June.



save! Apply today!

Catch a Break.
Sign up for the Installment Payment Plan and receive a discount.
Hurry, offer ends April 30.

ANNE M. GANNON
CONSTITUTIONAL TAX COLLECTOR
Serving Palm Beach County
Serving you.

Application online at www.pbctax.com

April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month

Texting while driving is illegal in Florida. It's also dangerous to talk on a cell phone behind the wheel. A driving simulator study by the University of Utah found drivers talking on cell phones have slower reaction times than drivers with a 0.08% blood alcohol content. That's the legal intoxication limit in Florida!

Our policy prohibits employees from texting or talking on a mobile device while driving for business purposes. No message or call is more important than your life or the lives of others on the road.

New Neighbors?

Anyone relocating to or in Palm Beach County must complete 1 – 10 transactions with our office. New residents need to change the address on driver licenses, register and title cars or boats, pay property taxes, and more. We created a toolkit to help make the transition easier. Our "New Neighbor Kit" has required forms, important information about REAL ID driver licenses, property, local business and Tourist Development taxes, and our pocket guide for hurricane preparedness. We even share tips on how to save time and money! Access our kit at www.pbctax.com/NewNeighbor. For printed copies, email ClientAdvocate@taxcollectorpbc.com. Please include your contact information.

Serving You

The numbers are in! I'm proud to share that we helped nearly 1 million people in our service centers last year with an average wait time of just 29 minutes. Find out what we accomplished and where we're going in our Annual Report. Pick one up at any service location or at www.pbctax.com/content/publications. As always, it is an honor serving you.

Sincerely,

Anne

Anne M. Gannon