



Dear Friend,

July marks the height of the summer. This means hot weather, summer storms and time spent outside. In this issue we focus on summer safety, a new discount for vessels, a chance to win safety gear, mini lobster season and helpful relocation information. As a reminder, you can download our pocket-sized 2016 Hurricane Guide at www.pbctax.com/content/publication. If you'd like free copies for your community, email ClientAdvocate@taxcollectorpbcc.com.

Discounts for Safe Boaters

Boater safety is a priority in our community. Did you know during 2014 Florida had the most boating accidents in the country? More accidents than the second and third states combined. 2015 was even worse with 737 reported boating accidents and 55 accident fatalities. One of which was the loss of Austin Stephanos and Perry Cohen, the Tequesta teens lost at sea. In the midst of this loss, the teens' parents worked closely with legislators to create a boating-safety bill. Effective July 1 boaters who install or own an Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) are eligible to receive a discount on vessel registrations. The discount will vary between 12 – 23 percent depending upon the size of the vessel. To qualify, register the EPIRB with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. I urge all boaters to consider the purchase of this emergency safety device.

Safety Gear for Selfies

Our social media contest *Picture It... Who Rides with You?* is in full swing. The contest was launched to utilize social media and technology to connect with our community about services, tax requirements and driver safety. We invite you to share photos on Twitter and Instagram showing your favorite auto passenger. If you haven't entered yet, there is still time. Do you have a fun photo of a golf cart loaded down with tennis rackets, golf clubs or fishing gear? Grab your pal and share your creative photos for a chance to win emergency roadside safety gear, universal smart phone charger and more. Hurry! Contest ends July 20.

Lobster Mini Season

It's that time of year again, when Florida lobster hunters flock to the coastal areas for lobster mini season. Lobster mini season runs Wednesday, July 27 - Thursday, July 28. Did you know the boat density during mini season can be up to 900 times the density during the regular season? If you plan on participating in the mini season we have a few tips:

- Make sure you have a lobster permit as well as a saltwater fishing license. You can obtain these online.
- Be aware of your surroundings above and below the water.
- Never dive alone. Review hand signals prior to descending.
- Plan your dive and dive your plan. Don't be distracted by hunting for lobster.
- Know your limits:
 - Bag limit of 6 per person per day for Monroe County and Biscayne National Park. 12 per person per day for the rest of Florida.
 - Carapace must be larger than 3" when measured in the water. Bring a gauge for easy measurement.
 - Night diving is prohibited in Monroe County.

Moving Pains

Are you or someone you know new to Palm Beach County? Ease some of the stress by downloading our New Neighbor Kit. This kit is a guide to the transactions you'll need to complete with our agency, including property tax payments, updating your driver license, registering and titling cars and boats and more. Download your copy at www.pbctax.com/NewNeighbor. If your community would like printed copies, contact us at ClientAdvocate@taxcollectorpbcc.com.

HOA Partnerships

Homeowner associations are an integral partner with our community outreach efforts. These partnerships make it possible to distribute information about our services, legislative changes that impact you and create the opportunity for direct community feedback. Is your HOA hosting an event or expo that you would like us to participate in? Our staff is available to give a short presentation, provide an expo table, handouts and answer questions. If your association has questions or is interested in hosting us at your next event, email your request to ClientAdvocate@taxcollectorpbcc.com.

I wish you a safe and pleasant Independence Day.

Best regards,



Anne M. Gannon