



ANNE M. GANNON CONSTITUTIONAL TAX COLLECTOR

presents

# Property Matters

October 2016

Dear Friend,

I want to thank you for entrusting me to serve Palm Beach County as your constitutionally elected Tax Collector. Despite our name, the Tax Collector's Office is not funded by tax dollars. We collect fees on services provided. The Florida Department of Revenue approves our operating budget, and every excess dollar is passed along to your local taxing authorities such as the School District, County, and municipalities.

## Cyber Safety

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month. Practicing safe judgment is critical whether you're online banking, shopping, or downloading the latest app. Here are a few simple cyber safety tips:

- Avoid imitation sites. Visit [www.pbctax.com](http://www.pbctax.com) for all your driver license and motor vehicle needs.
- Do not enter credit card information on unsecure websites. Secure websites begin with "https" so check your browser. Our online payment page (<https://www.pbctax.com/pay-online>) is an example of a secure website.
- Pay attention to your home Wi-Fi. Use a strong password to protect your router.

## Identity Safety



REAL ID compliant licenses and ID cards have a star in the upper right corner

The Tax Collector's Office is committed to protecting the public from identity theft. This is especially important as the sole driver license and ID card issuing agency in Palm Beach County.

The Florida driver licenses and ID cards issued in our offices are compliant with the Federal REAL ID Act of 2005. This law set new standards to improve the integrity of ID cards. REAL ID standards reduce the risk of fraud.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security requires everyone to have a REAL ID by October 1, 2020. Not sure if your ID is REAL ID compliant? Check for a star in the upper right corner. If you do not have a REAL ID, visit our office before the REAL ID deadline. You cannot upgrade to a REAL ID online.

## Financial Safety

The 2016 Property Tax season is right around the corner. Our agency mails property tax bills by November 1. Paying property taxes early has its benefits, especially for your bottom line. There's a 4% discount for Property Tax bills paid in November. The discount drops to 3% in December, 2% in January, and 1% in February. There is no discount for property tax bills paid in March. 2016 Property Taxes become delinquent April 1, 2017.

## Driver Safety

October 16<sup>th</sup> through 22<sup>nd</sup> is National Teen Driver Safety Week, but we all know driver safety is a priority year-round. According to the National Safety Council, 95% of parents who drive distracted admit they continue these unsafe habits in front of their teens.

Did you know we have a free driver license mobile app? "In the Driver's Seat" is loaded with helpful features, including:

- Quick access to Florida's driving laws
- Easy online driver license appointments
- Tools for first time drivers, including updated study materials, the official practice test, and driving logs
- Calendar of important dates and deadlines

"In the Driver's Seat" is a helpful tool whether you're preparing for your first license or you've been driving for decades. It's available for Apple and Android devices in the Apple App Store and Google Play.

## Storm Safety

October is historically one of the most active months in the Atlantic Hurricane Season. Is your family ready to weather the storm? A few simple steps ahead of time can make all the difference.

There's still time to access our free 2016 Hurricane Preparedness Guide. It's loaded with local insight, key phone numbers and tips to prepare your family and property. Print out a copy at <https://www.pbctax.com/content/publications>.

Please note that our offices are closed on Monday, October 10 in observance of Columbus Day.

Best regards,



Anne M. Gannon