



April 2019

Dear Friends,

Now that March is behind us, we are closing the books on the 2018 property tax season. If you have not yet paid your 2018 taxes, please pay now to avoid a tax certificate being sold on your property. Remember, delinquent taxes cannot be paid online; you must pay in person at one of our service centers. In this issue I'll review everything you need to know about tax certificates, why they are important and explain the sale process.

Also in this issue, learn about the more flexible and budget friendly way to pay 2019 property taxes.

If you are observing Easter or Passover this month, I wish you a wonderful and happy holiday.

Best regards,

Tax Certificates 101

What are tax certificates?

March was the last month to pay property taxes before becoming delinquent April 2. In the event property taxes are delinquent, Florida law requires our agency to hold a tax certificate sale on or before June 1. It is important to note that a tax certificate is a lien on a property and not the purchase of a property.

Why are tax certificates important?

Our agency collects and distributes over \$3 billion in property taxes each year. Agencies funded by tax dollars such as public schools, the county, cities and fire rescue rely on those funds. Tax certificates ensure taxing authorities receive the money to fund their budgets and provide much needed services.



What is the tax certificate process?

Tax certificates are advertised in a local newspaper once a week for three consecutive weeks before the auction. The sale is conducted electronically over the internet in a reverse style auction. Participants bid down on interest rates and the certificate is awarded to the bidder who is willing to accept the lowest interest rate. The bidder will then pay the delinquent taxes, late-payment penalties, costs of the sale and advertising charges.

Important notes

If the property owner fails to pay the delinquent taxes within two years, the certificate holder may file a Tax Deed Application. This application allows the property to be sold at a public auction.

Last Chance to Sign Up for Our Installment Payment Plan

Every property tax season our agency receives phone calls and emails from clients who inquire about an easier way to budget for their property taxes. Many property owners find it difficult to make an annual lump sum tax payment. Making smaller payments throughout the year may be a more flexible and better planning option.

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. Sign up at www.pbctax.com/installment-payment-plan.

Palm Awards Celebration

The Public Relations Society of America Palm Beach Chapter hosted its annual Palm Awards Celebration on February 28 to recognize public relations and marketing professionals for excellence in communication campaigns. Our agency was honored with three Palm Awards:

- Best Multicultural Campaign for our new multi-lingual client feedback surveys on kiosks located within our service centers.
- Best Special Events and Observance (Two or More Days) for our 2018 employee appreciation internal communication campaign.
- Best Newsletter for *Tax Talk with Anne Gannon*.



Stop by and see us at Belle Glade Black Gold Jubilee

Join us at Torry Island Campground in Belle Glade for Black Gold Jubilee April 6. We look forward to meeting you and answering your questions about taxes, motor vehicles and REAL ID. Be sure to pick up your copy of our popular 2019 *Tax Planner & Services Guide*.

This annual event offers something for everyone, games & rides, corn hole tournament, kids fishing tournament, art show, green market and headlining this year John Michael Montgomery. We look forward to seeing you there.

