
Dealer Connection



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June 2004

Dear Taxpayer / Motorist:

A few years ago, the State of Florida's Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) began ceasing operations at many of their Driver License Offices statewide. Prior to their closing, the DHSMV offered County Tax Collectors the option of taking over these facilities. I personally felt it was important to maintain these services locally so that the residents of Pinellas County would not be inconvenienced.

This letter is to inform you that we have formally taken over these driver license locations. Also, I have added my traditional services to these offices and in some instances, I found it necessary to relocate them. The result — after June 28, 2004, nearly all Pinellas County residents will be within a six-mile radius or a 15 minute drive to walk-in services.

Office Relocations:

- The Mid-County Tax Collector office located at 8040 Bryan Dairy Road-Largo has been relocated to 13025 Starkey Road-Largo, in the Starkey Lakes Business Park.
- The McMullen Booth Driver License office located at 2465-J McMullen Booth Road-Clearwater will close on Friday, June 4th. It will re-open on Monday, June 7, 2004 in our new Mid-County Service Center located at 13025 Starkey Road-Largo in the Starkey Lakes Business Park. Driving tests will be offered at this new location also.
- The Skyway Driver License office currently located at 4827-34th Street South-St. Petersburg will close on Friday, June 25th. It will reopen on June 28th at 1067-62nd Avenue South, in the Skyway Plaza Shopping Center-St. Petersburg.

Residents of Pinellas County can now go to several Tax Collector offices to pay property taxes, acquire a driver license, register a motor vehicle, mobile home or vessel, purchase a hunting or fishing license, and apply for a voter's registration, all in one convenient location. Maps, hours of operation, and specific services offered can be found by going directly to the Pinellas County Tax Collector's web site at www.taxcollect.com. You can also call the Tax Collector's e-Service Center at (727) 562-3262 for more information or to make an appointment.

Combining Tax Collector services ultimately results in improved convenience and savings. My staff and I look forward to serving you at all of our Tax Collector offices.

Sincerely,

Diane Nelson, CFC
Pinellas County Tax Collector

Newest Specialty Tags are Available for Sale

Laurel Swim Whitney

Here are the latest specialty license plates available at all Pinellas County Tax Collector Offices:



Hospice: Every Day is a Gift. Funds are distributed to Florida Hospices and Palliative Care, Inc. for hospice care projects for special groups such as children, and for education and other programs. \$27.00 plus plate fee

<http://www.floridahospices.org>



Fees from the **Fish Florida** license plate are distributed to the Florida Foundation for Responsible Angling, Inc., to fund aquatic education and stewardship and ethical angling practices in Florida. \$24.00 plus plate fee

<http://www.ffra.org/>



Proceeds from the first ever **motorcycle specialty plate** go to the Able Trust Fund and are distributed equally to the Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program Trust Fund, Prevent Blindness Florida, the Foundation for Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Florida Association of Centers for Independent Living. Motorcycle dealers, show your colors and promote this plate! \$17.00 plus plate fee

<http://www.abletrust.org>

More Specialty Tags May be on the Way

Laurel Swim Whitney

The Florida Legislature approved a dozen new specialty plates in the 2004 session, and once cleared by the governor, they will be available for purchase with the next year. All are \$27 plus the normal plate fee.

Save our Seas and Aquaculture



Proceeds from the *Save Our Seas* and *Aquaculture* plates benefit marine science and aquaculture research and education, respectively, and are administered by the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, Inc. Commercial fleets of more than ten vehicles qualify for a discounted fee of \$12.00 plus plate fee.

Family First

Proceeds from the specialty fee will be distributed to Family First to promote principles for building marriages, guiding parents, and raising children.

Sportsmen's National Land Trust

The Sportsmen's National Land Trust proceeds will fund programs that promote conservation, improve wildlife habitat, and establish and preserve open space for the perpetual use of the public.

Live the Dream



Proceeds shall be distributed from the Dream Foundation as follows: 25% for research, care, and treatment for sickle cell disease; 25% to the Florida chapter of the March of Dimes to improve the health of babies; 10% to the Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions to decrease racial disparity in infant mortality and to increase healthy birth outcomes; and 10% to the Community Partnership for Homeless, Inc., to provide relief from poverty, hunger, and homelessness.

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Florida Food Banks



Proceeds will go to the Florida Association of Food Banks, Inc. to fund programs to end hunger in this state.

Discover Florida's Oceans



The Hubbs Florida Ocean Fund, Inc. shall distribute 20% to the Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc., for ocean, estuarine, or coastal research, conservation, and education projects. Other funds shall be used for various projects and programs associated with the state's aquatic habitats and related species.

Family Values

Sheridan House, Inc. will use the proceeds to fund residential care programs, family counseling, social services for single parent families, resources materials, and facilities construction.

Parents Make a Difference

The Gathering/USA, Inc. will fund personal counseling for parents, marriage seminars, Dads and Moms That Make A Difference seminars, father/son and mother/daughter retreats, and personal parenting behavioral assessments.

Support Soccer



The Lighthouse Soccer Foundation, Inc. shall distribute 20% each to the Florida Youth Soccer Association and as grants to promote participation by economically disadvantaged; 10% to the Florida State Soccer Association to promote soccer; 10% as grants to support field construction; and 10% as grants for programs that foster health, fitness and educational opportunities through soccer.

Kids Deserve Justice

The Florida Bar Foundation, Inc. shall operate a grant award process to fund legal services programs for children

Animal Friends



Proceeds will be distributed to the Humane Society of the United States for animal welfare and spay and neuter programs in the state. ☺

Power of Attorneys required for Lessees

Suzan McVeen

Effective June 1, 2004, in order to comply with DMV procedure TL-09, Odometer Disclosures and Declaration Requirements, we will require a Power of Attorney from the lease company authorizing the lessee to sign for the vehicle.

I have listed some legitimate questions and responses below:

1. GMAC and CAB East issue a blanket "Limited Power of Attorney", which is a fill in the blank type; are these acceptable? The answer is no. Original or certified documents are required, and should be specific to that vehicle.
2. Some security agreements have a built in "Power of Attorney"; are those acceptable? These would be acceptable IF they clearly state the lessee's authority to sign the title application. Again, these agreements need to be original or certified documents.
3. Can a Lease Company appoint the Dealer? No, because the dealership cannot be buyer and seller due to odometer disclosure requirements.

If you are processing multiple lease vehicles for a company or business and plan on submitting multiple transactions on the same day, one Power of Attorney is sufficient.

As always, if you have any questions about your paperwork, please call. ☺

CORRECTION

Non-residents have 45 days to register their vehicles in their home state when claiming a partial exemption from Florida sales tax. An article in the March 2004 Dealer Connection stated it was 10 days.

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 18	Auto Dealer Class
July 5	Closed for Independence Day
August 18	Mobile Home Dealer Class
September 6	Closed for Labor Day

Note: The July 14 Auto Dealer Class located at our Mid County Service Center has been rescheduled to June 18. Interested dealers can call 464-3261 to sign up.



P.O. Box 749
Clearwater FL 33757-0749

TagTalksm Update.

Pam Crawford

Accountholder Updates

In April, the Tax Collector's Office mailed an update letter to all active TagTalksm accountholders. The letter requested that you review the information we had on file and update it if necessary. We also asked that accountholders respond to the request by April 30th.

If you did not respond, your account has since been deactivated. If you did not receive the letter or neglected to respond and wish to reactivate your account, please call (727) 562-3271, ext 1 or 2. We appreciate your cooperation in helping us maintain the security of Florida's motorist records.

Helpful Hint when Inquiring on Mobile Homes

It's best to enter a decal number instead of a VIN to avoid multiple records. By entering the decal year along with the decal number you will get information only on your specific mobile home. ☺