

FAX AND E-MAIL BROADCAST - MARCH 11, 2005

Issued by Debra Scott, Technical Tax/H&F Supervisor
Office of Manatee County Tax Collector

TO ALL ATTORNEYS AND TITLE COMPANIES

2004 PROPERTY TAXES ARE DELINQUENT IF NOT PAID PRIOR TO APRIL 1, 2005

Visit our website www.taxcollector.com to pay taxes online by e-check or credit card:

PERSONAL PROPERTY - Online Payment Service Available until APRIL 30TH for 2004 taxes only

REAL ESTATE - Online Payment Service Available until MAY 30TH for 2004 taxes only

Our Online Payment FAQ's: http://www.taxcollector.com/services_property_tax_online_payments.asp provide more information about online payment services.

THE TAX CERTIFICATE SALE WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 1, 2005 - TO AVOID THE SALE OF A TAX CERTIFICATE, PAYMENT MUST BE **RECEIVED** AND POSTED IN ONE OF OUR OFFICES BY 5:00 PM MAY 31ST OR PAID ONLINE BY 11:59 PM EST MAY 30TH.

****** Please read the Press Release below for more information ******

2004 Property Taxes Become Delinquent April 1, 2005

The 2004 Ad Valorem Property Taxes become delinquent if payment is not postmarked or received by the Manatee County Tax Collector on or before March 31, 2005. Payments may be made by mail, online at www.taxcollector.com or at any Tax Collector's office.

"This is the last opportunity to pay 2004 property taxes before interest, advertising charges and late fees are assessed," Tax Collector Ken Burton Jr. said. "There were nearly 8,500 delinquent real estate and tangible personal property parcels last year."

Nearly 4,000 taxpayers have taken advantage of online payments this year. Frequently asked questions (FAQ's) are provided for guidance when paying taxes online at www.taxcollector.com. There is no fee for e-check payments (online electronic debit to a checking account); however, online credit card payments carry a convenience fee (credit cards are not accepted when paying by mail or in person). Taxpayers may verify that their payment has been received by accessing the Tax Collector's website, which is updated daily.

Delinquent Real Estate and Personal Property Tax Notices will be mailed to all property owners with unpaid 2004 property taxes {Section 197.343, Florida Statutes} starting April 15th. Due to the time required to prepare the bills for mailing, property owners who pay their taxes after April 6th will still receive a delinquent notice. Payments made in person or by mail must be received by May 31st to qualify for the May amount due. April 30th is the cutoff to pay 2004 Personal Property Taxes online; and 2004 Real Estate Taxes may be paid online until May 30th. Prior years delinquent taxes cannot be paid online.

Per Florida Statute, Delinquent Personal Property Taxes will be advertised once and Real Estate Taxes will be advertised three times. If real estate taxes remain unpaid, tax certificates will be sold at the annual tax sale June 1st. At the tax sale, bidders have the opportunity to pay the taxes at an interest rate determined by the auction and are issued a certificate. If the taxes remain delinquent after two years, those holding a two-year-old certificate can apply for a tax deed. If a tax deed is applied for by the certificate holder, and not redeemed by the date of tax deed sale, the property could be sold on the courthouse steps to the highest bidder.

Tax Collector locations are 819 301 Blvd. W., adjacent to the DeSoto Mall; 415 10th St. W., downtown Bradenton; 3340 East Bay Dr., Holmes Beach; and 1341 10th St. E. (US 301 N), Palmetto. For more information, visit www.taxcollector.com or phone 941-741-4800.