

FAX AND E-MAIL BROADCAST - MARCH 29, 2004
Issued by Debra Scott, Technical Tax/H&F Supervisor
Office of Manatee County Tax Collector

TO ALL ATTORNEYS AND TITLE COMPANIES

2003 PROPERTY TAXES ARE DELINQUENT IF NOT PAID PRIOR TO APRIL 1, 2004

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 2003 taxes only

Real Estate - Online Payment Service Available until MAY 30TH for 2003 taxes only

See Online Payment FAQ's: http://www.taxcollector.com/services_property_tax_online_payments.asp

TAX CERTIFICATE SALE WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 1, 2004 - TO AVOID THE SALE OF A TAX CERTIFICATE, PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED IN ONE OF OUR OFFICES BY MAY 28TH OR PAID ONLINE BY 11:59 PM EST MAY 30TH.

Please read Press Release below for more information.

Thanks!

Debra Scott

Office of Manatee County Tax Collector

2003 Property Taxes Become Delinquent April 1, 2004

The 2003 Ad Valorem Property Taxes will become delinquent if payment is not postmarked or received by the Manatee County Tax Collector on or before March 31, 2004. 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 2003 property taxes before interest, advertising charges and late fees are assessed," Tax Collector Ken Burton Jr. said. "There were about 9,000 delinquent real estate and tangible personal property parcels last year."

When paying taxes online, frequently asked questions (FAQ's) are provided for guidance. There is no fee for online e-check payments (electronic debit to a checking account); however, a convenience fee is charged for online payments using a credit card.

Delinquent Real Estate and Personal Property Tax Notices will be mailed April 16th to all property owners with unpaid 2003 property taxes {Section 197.343, Florida Statutes}. Property owners, who pay their taxes after April 7th, will still receive a delinquent notice, due to the time required to prepare the bills for mailing. April 30th is the cutoff to pay 2003 Personal Property Taxes online; and 2003 Real Estate Taxes may be paid online until May 30th. Prior years delinquent taxes cannot be paid online.

Taxpayers may verify that their payment has been received on www.taxcollector.com which is updated daily.

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 date of tax deed sale, the property could be sold on the Court House steps to the highest bidder.

Tax Collector offices are located at 819 301 Blvd. W., adjacent to 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.