

January 2026 Tax Talk

Anne's Note

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the New "Tax Talk"!

I am thrilled to share some exciting news about **Tax Talk** -- your source for information about the Tax Collector and our community.



For more than a decade, we have been dedicated to keeping you informed, and in our ongoing commitment to enhance accessibility, transparency, and efficiency, I am proud to announce that the January 2026 edition of **Tax Talk** is launching in an **all-new, fully electronic format!**

This change means our newsletter is now an **email/online-only publication**, which allows us to provide more information as we are no longer restricted to a 2-page document. Our goal is to bring you new and expanded articles with greater flexibility and creativity. Don't worry, **Tax Talk** will continue to be emailed to you monthly allowing us to deliver timely, informative, and friendly updates directly to you.

As we embrace this new digital platform, please note that my office will **no longer be producing or emailing a hard copy version of Tax Talk**.

For those who prefer a printed version, we have made it simple for you. You can easily visit our website at

www.pbctax.gov/tax-talk to view, download, and print a **printer-friendly version** for your own records.

Thank you for being a valued reader. We look forward to connecting with you in this dynamic, new format!

And before I close, I want to wish you and your family and friends, a very happy holiday season and a happy new year!

Anne

Anne M. Gannon
Constitutional Tax Collector Serving Palm Beach County

FACES OF THE TCO: HAMPTON PETERSON

Title: General Counsel

Hometown: North Palm Beach, Florida

Favorite Activity: Restoring old cars

Favorite Cuisine: Mediterranean

For the past five years, Hampton Peterson has been leading our office's Legal, Field Services, and Facilities departments.

The Legal department handles everything from contracts and litigation to bankruptcy proceedings filed by individuals and businesses, public record requests, and collections support for the organization, and whose team also processes tax deed applications for past due property tax deed auctions.



"What I enjoy most about my job is the variety of things I have to deal with each day," says Hampton, who also fields any day-to-day legal questions that may arise.

Our Field Services team pursues payments from taxpayers who have unpaid fees, handles charges for delinquent accounts, and identifies businesses that do not have required Local Business Tax Receipts.

The Facilities team deals with all sorts of issues, primarily in our Palm Beach Gardens, Greenacres and Westlake offices. They oversee such tasks as getting bids from contractors and making sure the HVAC systems are working, as well as day-to-day maintenance of our buildings.

I am grateful to Hampton and his team for the support they provide to all of us at the TCO!

Surrender Plate, Don't Wait!

Did you know that failing to surrender a valid Florida license plate that is no longer in use could lead to unexpected consequences, including the possible suspension of your driver's license?

Why Surrender Your Plate?

When a license plate is no longer attached to a registered vehicle, it must be properly surrendered for the following reasons:



- **Avoid License Suspension:** The most immediate concern is preventing a driver license suspension that can be triggered by having an unused, but still valid, license plate on file.
- **Prevent Fraud and Misuse:** An improperly surrendered plate can be vulnerable to fraud or misuse. If the plate is used in a fraudulent or illegal manner, it will always be connected back to **your name**.
- **Peace of Mind:** Properly surrendering your plate severs the legal connection to you, giving you assurance that you won't be held responsible for its future use.

How to Surrender Your License Plate

It's a simple process that can save you significant trouble down the road. You can surrender your valid Florida license plate in one of two ways:

- **By Mail:**

Please mail the following items to the address listed below to the following address:

Mailing Address: Tax Collector, Palm Beach County P.O. Box 3828 West Palm Beach, FL 33402-3828

1. License Plate you wish to surrender
2. [Surrender License Plate Affidavit](http://pbctax.gov/surrender-plate-form) (Found here pbctax.gov/surrender-plate-form)

- **In-Person:**

You can surrender your license plate in the lobby of any of our [Service Center Locations](#) (pbctax.gov/locations). No reservation is required. You will need to bring the following items with you:

1. [Surrender License Plate Affidavit](#) (Found here pbctax.gov/surrender-plate-form)
2. Bring the license plate you wish to surrender

Vietnam Veteran Pin Conclusion

For the past six years, I have had the privilege of honoring our Palm Beach County Vietnam Veterans and their spouse and family members through our participation in the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration pin distribution program. Over 1,300 local veterans and their families have participated in the program since we started distributing in 2020.

Along with the Florida Highway Safety Motor Vehicles, we have been proud partners with The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration. This national Commemoration was authorized by Congress, established under the secretary of defense and launched by the president in 2012. Its primary purpose ... to thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice.

2025 marked the end of this commemoration program and as we conclude our participation in the program, I encourage everyone to Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!



TCO Gives Back

Every year we participate in the Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller's, holiday Money Drop event. The Money Drop is an annual tradition that takes place in the Palm Beach Governmental Center where offices compete to make the best vessel decorated with money donated by staff. Each vessel, constructed with materials donated by employees, is lowered through the six-story atrium down to the ground floor, where the



money is collected and donated to the selected charities. Each vessel is then judged by the Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller.

This year's we created a cozy fireplace chimney, featuring realistic looking flames and a small stream of steam to mimic smoke rising from the chimney. The hard work that went into this was well worth it; we are thrilled to announce that our vessel once again took home the Clerk's for a Cause Celebrating Community Cup! This year the event raised over \$3,000 which was donated to **Clinics Can Help** and **United Way of Palm Beach County**.

Kudos to our team of volunteers (Leon Richardson, Alyssa Botsko, Amy Ebersbach, Lori Doolin, Tamekia Wright, Melanie Hoult, Yvette Klepper, Kayla Simler and Hampton Peterson) for their creative spirit in designing the winning vessel and securing the trophy on display on the Third Floor of the Governmental Cener.



JANUARY <i>Important Dates & Holidays</i>		
THU 01	New Year's Day Holiday - Offices Closed	!
FRI 02	Tourist Development Tax Due	!
TUE 20	Martin Luther King Jr. - Offices Closed	!
SAT 31	Deadline for Property Tax 2% Discount	!
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