



Sarasota County Tax Collector

Exceptional Staff
Exceptional Service!

Barbara Ford-Coates

www.SarasotaTaxCollector.com

Info@SarasotaTaxCollector.com

(941) 861-8300, option 3

Dear Taxpayer,

Enclosed is your 2011 tax bill. Since the Tax Collector does not decide how much to collect, this newsletter includes contact information for those who do make that decision. You will also find the answers to questions about paying your bill. Please read carefully to ensure that you receive full advantage of any discounts and do not have to pay any interest or penalties. If you have a question that is not answered, do not hesitate to ask. Also, if you have any suggestions as to how my office can serve you better, please let me know.

Barbara Ford-Coates

EBILL

Electronic Tax Bills

Three years ago, in response to a customer suggestion, we began a program of sending an electronic notification to taxpayers, in addition to mailing the paper tax bill. If you would like to participate, complete the online form at www.SarasotaTaxCollector.com/ebill.htm. Recently, the law changed to allow the Tax Collector to send the tax bill electronically, instead of by mail, to property owners who choose that option. Stay tuned for more information as this **convenient, cost saving alternative** becomes available.

Be First in Line - EVERY TIME! www.SarasotaTaxCollector.com

Save money * Pay online * It's safe and secure!

Instead of writing a check, paying for postage and waiting for the mail, pay from the comfort of your own home or business and get a receipt instantly. It's safe, secure and easy. To save the most, use **Echeck - it's free!** Credit card payments will have a 2.45% fee added by our payment processor.



ADDITIONAL PAYMENT OPTIONS

- **PHONE (TOLL FREE)** - (877) 729-2001 Credit cards only - 2.45% fee added by our payment processor.
- **ELECTRONIC BANKING/BILL PAY** - From your bank's bill paying program.
- **BY MAIL** - Return the bottom portion of your tax bill and your check in the enclosed envelope. Checks must be in U.S. Funds only, made payable to Tax Collector Barbara Ford-Coates for the amount due. Please do not staple your check to the bill. Payments will be processed immediately upon receipt - do not postdate your check. As soon as your payment is received and processed, a receipt can be printed at www.SarasotaTaxCollector.com.
- **IN PERSON** - Pay at any service center (see below) with cash, check, debit card (\$1.50 fee charged by processing company) or credit card, **except Visa**, (2.45% fee charged by processing company). Unfortunately, due to Visa restrictions, we **cannot accept Visa** credit cards in person.

Service Centers

Downtown Sarasota

Terrace Building
101 S. Washington Blvd.
Mon-Thurs 8:30-5:00
Friday 8:30-5:30
24 hr. drop box available

South Sarasota

8484 S. Tamiami Trail
(across from Palmer Ranch Plaza)
Mon-Thurs 8:30-5:00
Friday 8:30-5:30
24 hr. drop box available

Venice

Anderson Administration Center
4000 S. Tamiami Trail, Room 134
Mon-Thurs 8:30-5:00
Friday 8:30-5:30
24 hr. drop box available

North Port

Sprv. of Elections Office
U.S. 41 & Biscayne Drive
Mon-Fri 8:30-12:00
and 1:00-5:00
Drop box-checks only
North Port City Hall
4970 City Hall Blvd.
2nd & 4th Wednesday
10:00-2:00
No cash or debit

Service At Your Fingertips • www.SarasotaTaxCollector.com • (941) 861-8300

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW IS THE TOTAL TAX AMOUNT DETERMINED?

The total amount due is determined by multiplying the taxable value by the millage rate for each taxing authority, then adding the non-ad valorem assessments. Millage rates and assessments are established by the taxing/levying authorities listed on the next page.

WHO DO I TALK TO ABOUT MY ASSESSED VALUE AND EXEMPTIONS?

The Property Appraiser is responsible for assessed values and exemptions. For information about your assessed value or exemptions, visit the Property Appraiser's website, www.SC-PA.com, or call (941) 861-8200.

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ESCROWED TAXES?

If your bill was requested by an escrow company, a message is printed in the shaded box at the top of your tax bill. If your bill has that message and your taxes are escrowed, you do not need to do anything - this notice is for your records. If your taxes are **not escrowed** through a mortgage company but your bill has that message, you can pay your taxes online or send your payment with the bottom section of the bill. ***If your taxes are escrowed but your bill has not been requested by your mortgage company, you need to contact your mortgage company immediately.*** Escrow companies typically submit their payments at the end of November.

WHAT IS HOMESTEAD TAX DEFERRAL?

Homestead tax deferral allows Florida residents to delay paying all or part of their taxes if requirements concerning income and liens on the property are met. The deferred portion becomes a lien and interest accrues until the taxes are paid. The application deadline is March 31, 2012. Visit our website or contact our office for more information.

IS MY ENTIRE PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT DEDUCTIBLE ON MY INCOME TAX RETURN?

If you itemize your deductions, the non-ad valorem assessments on this bill may not be deductible on your federal income tax return. You may want to discuss this with a tax professional.

WHAT IS THE INSTALLMENT PAYMENT PROGRAM?

The installment plan allows the taxpayer to pay property taxes in four payments rather than one. An application to pay **NEXT YEAR'S** real estate or tangible taxes in installments must be filed with the Tax Collector on or before April 30, 2012. In order to qualify, your 2011 taxes must be more than \$100. (You cannot apply for the bill you just received.) Applications are available at www.SarasotaTaxCollector.com.

PLEASE NOTE: If your property is on the installment plan for the 2011 tax year, you will be automatically re-enrolled.

I OWN MULTIPLE PROPERTIES. WILL I GET A TAX BILL FOR EACH ONE?

You should have received a separate tax bill for each property you own. **Verify that the legal description on each tax bill is for all of that property.** If you have not received all your bills, print them at www.SarasotaTaxCollector.com.

IF I NO LONGER OWN THE PROPERTY, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

If this bill is for **real estate** which you have sold, please disregard this notice. If this bill is for **tangible personal property which you have sold**, but you were the owner on January 1, 2011, you are responsible for the tax. If you sold the property before January 1, 2011, please notify us immediately with the new owner's name and address.

MAILING ADDRESS CHANGE

*If your mailing address is different from the one on your tax bill, you can change it at www.SC-PA.com. Click on the "Address Change" link on the left, fill out the form, then click "submit" **OR** fill in this form and mail it to: **Address Change, Sarasota County Property Appraiser, 2001 Adams Lane, Sarasota, FL 34237-7005***

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Name as shown on tax bill _____

Account # (Shaded area in upper left corner of tax bill) _____

New Mailing Address _____

Effective Date _____ Reason for Change _____

Phone Number _____ Signature _____

YOUR 2011 TAX BILL

Your tax bill is a combination of ad valorem taxes collected for taxing authorities and non-ad valorem assessments collected for levying authorities. Below is the complete list of all authorities. If you have a question regarding one of the charges on your bill, please contact that authority directly. If you have a question regarding your assessed value, homestead exemption or any other exemptions, contact the Property Appraiser at (941) 861-8200. If you have questions regarding the recording of public records, including property deeds, contact the Clerk of Circuit Court at (941) 861-7400.

AD VALOREM TAXING AUTHORITIES are responsible for setting millage rates. Taxes are calculated by multiplying the taxable value of the property by the millage rate. Ad valorem taxes are for January 1 - December 31, 2011.

Taxing Authority	Phone	Email Contact or Website
City of North Port	(941) 429-7106	www.cityofnorthport.com
City of Sarasota	(941) 954-4185	CHRISTOPHER.LYONS@sarasotagov.com
City of Venice	(941) 486-2626 ext. 23002	www.venicegov.com
Emergency Medical Services	(941) 861-5000	www.scgov.net
Golden Gate Point Streetscape District	(941) 954-4185	CHRISTOPHER.LYONS@sarasotagov.com
Lighting Districts	(941) 861-0927	RMONTAGU@scgov.net
Mosquito Control	(941) 861-5000	www.scgov.net
Navigable Waterways	(941) 861-5000	PSEMENEC@scgov.net
Public Improvement Districts (PIDs)	(941) 861-0927	RMONTAGU@scgov.net
St. Armands Business Improvement District	(941) 954-4185	CHRISTOPHER.LYONS@sarasotagov.com
Sarasota County General Revenue & Bonds	(941) 861-5000	www.scgov.net
Sarasota Downtown Improvement District	(941) 954-4185	CHRISTOPHER.LYONS@sarasotagov.com
Sarasota Memorial Hospital	(941) 917-1732	NELSON-LANE@smh.com
Sarasota School Board	(941) 927-9000 ext. 31300	MITSI_CORCORAN@sarasota.k12.fl.us
SW FL Water Management District	(352) 796-7211 ext. 4129	EXECUTIVE@swfwmd.state.fl.us
Town of Longboat Key	(941) 316-1999 ext. 230	TKELLEY@longboatkey.org
West Coast Inland Navigation District	(941) 485-9402	WCIND@comcast.net

NON-AD VALOREM LEVYING AUTHORITIES are responsible for setting non-ad valorem assessments. Non-ad valorem assessments are not based on value, but a unit of measure determined by the levying authority.

Levying Authority	Assessment Period	Phone	Email Contact
Bobcat Trail CDD	10/11-9/12	(954) 603-0034	KELLIS@severntrentms.com
Englewood Fire Control	1/11-12/11	(941) 474-3311	BJ1@englewood-fire.com
Englewood Water/Sewer District	1/11-12/11	(941) 460-1012	SSTRALL@ewdfi.com
Glen Oaks Special Assessment District	1/11-12/11	(941) 954-4185	CHRISTOPHER.LYONS@sarasotagov.com
Holiday Park - Parks & Recreation	10/11-9/12	(941) 426-1585	HOLIDAYPARK@comcast.net
Lakeside Plantation CDD	10/11-9/12	(813) 873-7300	JCOLE@dms-us.com
Lighting Districts	1/11-12/11	(941) 861-0927	RMONTAGU@scgov.net
Navigable Waterways	10/11-9/12	(941) 861-5000	PSEMENEC@scgov.net
Non-Maintained Secondary Roads (NMSR)	1/11-12/11	(941) 861-0927	RMONTAGU@scgov.net
North Port Fire & Rescue	10/11-9/12	(941) 429-7106	WTAAFFEE@cityofnorthport.com
North Port Floribanna & Sumter Gardens	10/11-9/12	(941) 429-7106	CSCANLON@cityofnorthport.com
North Port Road & Drainage	10/11-9/12	(941) 429-7106	LBANISH@cityofnorthport.com
North Port Solid Waste	10/11-9/12	(941) 429-7106	MBRAMBLE@cityofnorthport.com
Public Improvement Districts (PIDs)	1/11-12/11	(941) 861-0927	RMONTAGU@scgov.net
St. Armands Special Assessment District	1/11-12/11	(941) 954-4185	CHRISTOPHER.LYONS@sarasotagov.com
Sarasota County Fire Rescue	1/11-12/11	(941) 861-5000	KVAIL@scgov.net
Sarasota National CDD	10/11-9/12	(877) 276-0889	SZYMONOWICZM@whhassociates.com
Sewer Districts (except Englewood)	1/11-12/11	(941) 861-6762	WHARGART@scgov.net
Solid Waste Service Districts (except North Port)	10/11-9/12	(941) 861-5000	WEBMASTER@scgov.net
South Siesta Key Restoration District	10/11-9/12	(941) 861-0503	LCECE@scgov.net
Stoneybrook CDD	10/11-9/12	(407) 382-3256	JENNIFERG@fishkind.com
Stormwater Districts (including basins)	10/11-9/12	(941) 861-5000	SEU@scgov.net
The Woodlands CDD	10/11-9/12	(954) 603-0034	KELLIS@severntrentms.com
Tri-Par Estates - Parks & Recreation	10/11-9/12	(941) 355-8747	TRIPARESTATES@comcast.net
Venetian CDD	10/11-9/12	(877) 737-4922	JWALKER@sdsinc.org
Wastewater Districts	1/11-12/11	(941) 861-6762	WHARGART@scgov.net
Water Districts (except Englewood)	1/11-12/11	(941) 861-6762	WHARGART@scgov.net
West Villages Improvement District	10/11-9/12	(877) 737-4922	JWALKER@sdsinc.org

Partial Payments Allowed - Read Carefully!

Florida law allows the acceptance of partial payments on your current tax bill. However, if you send a partial payment, you need to be aware that **it will cost you additional money**. In order to make a partial payment, you must send the "Notice of Partial Payment" form (on the reverse side of your tax bill or at www.SarasotaTaxCollector.com). You may also want to consider applying for quarterly installments for 2012 taxes as costs that apply to partial payments do not apply to installments.

Regulations and costs for partial payments:

- You forfeit **any discount** regardless of when paid.
- A \$10 fee will be deducted from **each** payment.
- Taxes must be paid in full by March 31, 2012 or a tax lien may be sold on the property for the unpaid taxes.
- A **Notice of Partial Payment** must be completed for **each property account** (on the back of the tax bill).

All requirements and costs are mandated by Florida law.

Important Dates

NOV 2011 - 4% Discount

- Offices closed:
11th Veterans Day
24th & 25th Thanksgiving

DEC 2011 - 3% Discount

- Offices closed:
23rd & 26th Christmas
- 31st Third Installment due
(Note: 31st falls on a holiday – ONLY payments in person are extended until the next business day - 1/3/2012.)

JAN 2012 - 2% Discount

- Offices closed:
2nd New Year's Day
16th Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

FEB 2012 - 1% Discount

- Offices closed:
20th Presidents Day

MAR 2012 - Total Due

- 1st Deadline for exemptions
- 31st Final Installment due
- 31st Deferred Appl. Deadline

APR 2012 - Taxes Delinquent

- 1st Deadline to file Tangible Tax Return
- 30th Deadline to file 2012 New Installment Application

Florida Driver's License Requirements

Florida has documentation requirements for renewing or obtaining a new driver's license or identification card. Below are the most common documents accepted. Other types of acceptable documents can be found at www.GatherGoGet.com.

1. **Identification**
 - a. U.S. Citizen (certified U.S. birth certificate, U.S. passport)
 - b. If applicable, proof of legal name change (certified marriage certificate)
2. **Social Security Number** (social security card, W-2, 1099 or pay check/stub showing complete social security number)
3. **Residential Address** - not P.O. Box - must bring two documents (deed, monthly mortgage statement, car or vessel registration/title, recent utility bill, voter information card, W-2 or 1099)

www.GatherGoGet.com

Gather your documents · Go to a driver's license office · Get your new card

Own a Business or Rental Property? You may owe additional taxes.

- If you own a **rental property** or operate a **business**, you may be required to pay a TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX. Go to www.SC-PA.com.
- If you own a **business** which operates in Sarasota County or you own **rental property** with a tenant staying less than one month, you are required to pay the Sarasota County BUSINESS TAX, formerly known as an Occupational License. This is in addition to any city regulations or taxes.
- If you own **rental property** which is available to be rented for periods of six (6) months or less, you may be required to collect the TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX. If you know of someone who is renting but not remitting the tax, report them anonymously through our Tourist Tipline (see below).

Tourist Development Tax Tipline

If you suspect someone is renting for six (6) months or less but is not collecting tourist tax, make an anonymous referral to our tipline. Call (941) 861-8393 and leave a message or go to www.SarasotaTaxCollector.com. Although Florida law does not allow us to share information, be assured that every referral is investigated.