



Dear Friends,

October is here, bringing slightly cooler weather and important safety campaigns. National Cybersecurity Awareness Month and National Teen Driver Safety Week both take place this month. I'm passionate about sharing helpful information to keep you and your loved ones safe and protected, whether you're on the computer or behind the wheel.

Speaking of driving... I recently read that Florida is one of many states where women pay more for auto insurance. A NerdWallet.com analysis found auto insurance rates for a 40-year old woman were \$31-\$81 more than for a comparable male driver. Check your policy for this gender disparity. Rates vary widely so shop around for a better rate!

To those observing Yom Kippur, I wish you peace and goodness. And don't forget, our offices will be closed Monday, Oct. 14, for Columbus Day. Enjoy the long weekend!

Sincerely,

Anne M. Gannon

Did You Know? Facts From Our Annual Report

During the 2017 property tax season, which took place Nov. 1, 2017 to Mar. 31, 2018, we collected more than \$3.6 billion in property taxes and distributed these funds to Palm Beach County's taxing authorities to support critical public services. For a full

accounting of funds collected and distributed, we invite you to download *A Report to Our Citizens for Fiscal Year 2018* at www.pbctax.com/publications.

Ask Anne: Is REAL ID Really Necessary?

Anne: Over the last several years, our agency has been working with residents to become REAL ID compliant. Roughly 10% of Palm Beach County residents still do not have a REAL ID driver license or ID card. Are you one of them? If your driver license or state ID card is missing a star in the upper right corner, you do not have a REAL ID.

Oct. 1, 2020 is the REAL ID deadline when every U.S. resident must present a REAL ID driver license or ID card to a board commercial flight or enter a federal building. Residents who do not provide a REAL ID must present an alternate acceptable form of identification, such as a valid passport.

Don't get caught in the last minute rush! Palm Beach County residents can make an appointment at www.pbctax.com to renew their driver license or ID card up to 18 months in advance of the expiration date.

Help Your Teen Stay Safe on the Road

According to the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, teens make up approximately 5% of Florida's licensed drivers and account for 12% of all crashes on our roads. No parent wants to receive a phone call with news their child has been involved in an accident, that's why nothing is more important than educating teens on safe driving habits.



In recognition of National Teen Driver Safety Week, remind your teen to always buckle up and never drive distracted. Remember, teens are always watching, so be a good example of safe driving!



Visit www.pbctax.com/teedriver for more resources to help your teen build skills for a lifetime of safe driving.

Stay Safe and Secure Online

We lead internet-connected, digital lives. From work to home and on the go, the internet supports our everyday lives, even if we're not directly connected to a computer or device. October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, a great time to learn how you can stay safe and secure online. Three simple tips to get started include:

- **Own it:** Only use sites that begin with https:// when shopping or banking online.
- **Secure it:** Apply multi-factor authentication to your accounts ASAP!
- **Protect it:** Look for the "green lock" icon when online, it signifies a secure connection.



For more tips, visit the Department of Homeland Security's National Cybersecurity Awareness Month website at <https://www.dhs.gov/national-cyber-security-awareness-month>.

Helping You Plan Ahead

- Oct. 14** – Columbus Day – Offices Closed
Nov. 1 – 2019 Property Taxes Open for Collection

Do you have a birthday this month? Privately owned vehicle registrations expire at midnight on the first owner's birthday. Renew your registration for motor vehicles, mobile homes, motorcycles or vessels online at www.pbctax.com. If you have trouble renewing online, make sure your insurance information is up-to-date and there are no stops, holds or violations on your driver license.



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