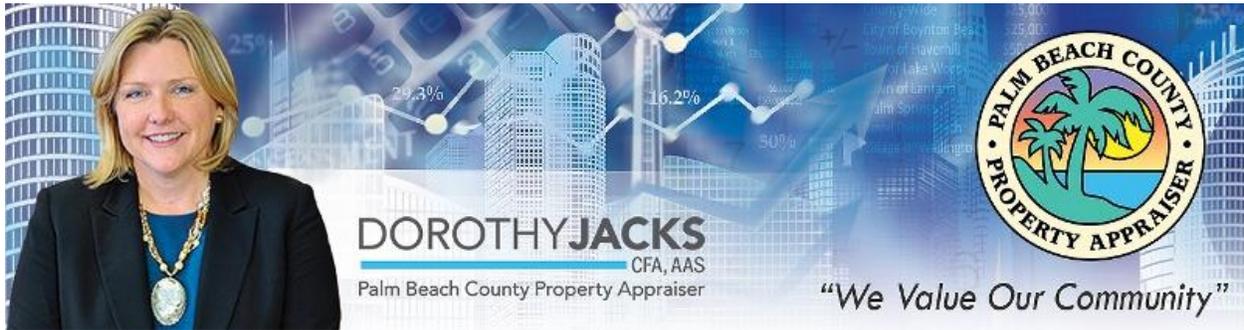


**Palm Beach County Property Appraiser's Office
Homeowner Association Newsletter – February 2017**



Dear Taxpayers:

It has been a busy start to the New Year for my office. I was sworn in as your ninth Palm Beach County Property Appraiser on January 3, 2017, in a ceremony in the historic 1916 Palm Beach County Courthouse. The occasion was very symbolic for me and my family having been raised in Palm Beach County.

In the coming years, I expect the growth in our area to challenge all levels of government and I am confident the expertise and commitment of our staff will lead us through these exciting times.

I've spent the first few weeks in my new role meeting with employees to discuss my goals which include producing a fair and equitable tax roll, concentrating on new technology that will provide more accuracy with the assessment of property, and increasing exceptional customer service for our taxpayers.

I wish you a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Respectfully,

**Dorothy Jacks, CFA, AAS
Palm Beach County Property Appraiser**



**Retired PBC Judge Mary E. Lupo swears in
Dorothy Jacks as Property Appraiser**

The Property Appraiser's Office is now on social media

The Property Appraiser's Office (PAO) understands that rapidly emerging social media networks have set the course for growing communications between individuals and organizations. Many of our constituent groups maintain a presence on social media channels. In an effort to reach out and educate our taxpayers on significant topics related to property matters, we are now on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. Like us...Follow us...Share...Retweet!



**Palm Beach County Property Appraiser
Dorothy Jacks, CFA, AAS**



@PBCPAO



**Palm Beach County
Property Appraiser's Office**

February is a good month to review your homestead exemption status and examine other exemptions.

Annual homestead exemption on real property

Florida grants a standard \$25,000 exemption on the assessed value of qualified residential property. An additional exemption up to \$25,000 also may apply to your property.

A homestead exemption is granted to permanent Florida residents only. You must own the property and it must be your permanent residence on January 1st to qualify. The deadline to file for Homestead Exemption is March 1 of the qualifying year.

Discount on homestead property for disabled veteran, 65 or older

A property tax discount from the amount of the ad valorem tax otherwise owed on homestead property that the veteran owns and resides in, is available. To be eligible, a veteran must:

- be at least 65 or older and partially or totally and permanently disabled;
- have a disability that was combat-related;
- have been honorably discharged upon separation from military service.

The deadline to file an application for the discount is March 1.

Portability (Homestead assessment difference transfer)

Residential property owners with a qualified Homestead Exemption can transfer all or a significant portion of their "Save Our Homes" benefit to their new property. Portability allows you to transfer up to \$500,000 of your property's actual 3% assessment cap to your new property anywhere in Florida. The deadline to file an application for portability is March 1.

For more information on these exemptions, call us at 561.355.2866 or visit www.pbcgov.com/papa/ExemptionServices.htm

Agricultural Classification

Agricultural property such as timber, pasture, groves and nurseries are granted a classification if they qualify as a bona fide commercial agricultural use of the land. Agricultural land has value because of its productivity and its ability to generate income. An official application must be submitted between January 1 and March 1. For questions call our office at 561.355.2646 or log onto <http://www.pbcgov.com/papa/ReturnLandsAgriculturalPurposesApplication.htm>

Palm Beach County Property Appraiser's Office Announces 23rd Annual Scholarship Awards Program



The Palm Beach County Property Appraiser's Office is pleased to announce the 23rd Annual Scholarship Awards Program for Palm Beach County area high school seniors.

Each year, the PAO awards five college scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each to college-bound students. To be eligible for a scholarship award, a student must be a resident of Palm Beach County, have a minimum of 3.0 GPA, and plan to attend accredited higher-education institution (college or junior college).

Since 1994, the PAO has awarded \$130,000 in college scholarships. The program is particularly special to the PAO because the money raised for the scholarships is 100% funded by our employees who participate in, "Friday Casual Dress Day", a volunteer donation program.

The Scholarship Awards Employee Committee typically reviews more than 100 applications - all from exceptional high school seniors throughout Palm Beach County. Most of the students have impressive portfolios, ranging from proficient test scores to high GPA's to meaningful community service projects. It's always a very challenging selection process for the committee, as they choose five winners. The scholarships are awarded in May of each year.

Applications are now being accepted and the deadline to submit is March 31, 2017. Visit <http://bit.ly/2iTORiU> for more information or call our office at 561.355.3230.

Office closed due to upcoming holiday

The Palm Beach County Property Appraiser's Office (including all of our Service Centers) will be closed in honor of Presidents' Day on **Monday, February 20, 2017.**