



# Motor Vehicle News & Views

A publication of the Hillsborough County Tax Collector's Office Volume 6, Issue 4

4th Quarter 2007

We are wrapping up the year with our final edition of News and Views. One of our friends and yours will also be closing a chapter of her book.

For 20 years, Rosemary Johnson has been a part of the Tax Collector organization. Seventeen of those years have been dedicated to the development and presentation of Motor Vehicle training to our employees and vehicle dealers around the state of Florida.

Rosemary will be trading in her time in front of

the classroom for some quality time at home with her family. She will also carry forward her beloved husband's legacy by presiding over the Blessed Hope Bible College in Tampa.

Please join us in wishing Rosemary the very best in her new adventures.

Happy Holidays and

Kindest Regards,

*The Dealer Newsletter Staff*

A one day seminar on preparing Paperwork for Title and Registration will be held on January 17, March 6 & May 15. To sign up online [click here](#) or contact our Training Department at (813) 635-5238 or via email at [training@hillstax.org](mailto:training@hillstax.org).

## We've got your help numbers

**Tallahassee DMV Help Desk**

(850) 922-9000

**Dealership Hotline**

(813) 635-5210 ext 5720

**Local DMV**

(813) 740-4288



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## Parents Can Check Their Minor's Driving History

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles has expanded its Internet services to allow [parental access to a minor's driving history](#). The new law provides a system that allows a parent of a minor, a guardian, or other responsible adult who signed a minor's application for a driver license to have Internet access to inspect the minor's driving history.

You will need to enter the driver license number, the last four digits of the minor's social security number and the date of birth.

For other valuable online driver's license checks and information visit us on the web at: <http://www.hillstax.org/motor/driverlicense/driverlicmain.htm>

## Two For You, Biennial Registration Plan by Dale Hoffman

In the 2007 Legislative session, the Florida House and Senate passed bills 275 and 442. Together, they established an extended registration period for certain motor vehicles, mobile homes and vessels to be known as a biennial registration. This new law will go into effect on January 1, 2008.

The goal is to provide citizens another renewal option that will save the taxpayer time and money while also helping Tax Collector offices deal with the tremendous growth of customers over the last several years. Some of the important points of this new law include: a six-year plate replacement, no discount for the biennial registration and no refunds for unused portions.

Instead of a mandatory five-year replacement, plates will be staggered to expire in six-year increments. This will also mean an additional year of the \$2 ARF credit.

No discount is being offered for the purchase of a biennial registration, so state and local budgets will not be negatively impacted. Tax Collectors from small Florida counties are very dependent on the fees from registrations to support their budget since their property tax base is much smaller than large counties such as Hillsborough.

Some customers may want to cancel their valid biennial registration and feel entitled to a refund for the unused portion.

As with our current one-year registration, there will be no refunds for any unused portion of the registration.

As with our own strategies to improve efficiency, we envision the biennial registration to be another step in reducing the number of customers we serve each day, thereby freeing up our resources to concentrate in other areas.

### Biennial Registration Highlights

- There is no refund for unused portions
- 5 year replacement extended to 6 years
- Law goes into effect on January 1, 2008
- No discount applied to 2 year registrations

## Downtown Gets a New Look

By Juanita Bauer

The Downtown Branch has undergone many changes; most recently, our lobby has been expanded for your convenience and comfort. The dealer windows are aligned with the rest of the counters to streamline your experience.

Tori Sydnor took the Management reigns of Downtown and AAA offices in January 2007. She was formerly the Manager of the South County Office. Our offices have benefited from her twenty three years of experience centered on Customer focus and teambuilding. Our agency team consistently reviews our processes seeking to improve service and efficiency.

When visiting the downtown office, you may be required to pay to park. There are several options including parking meters, surface parking lots, or parking garages. The closest parking garage to our

downtown office is the Pierce Street Parking Facility. This parking facility is located across the street from our office at 601 E Kennedy Boulevard. The garage is bordered by Kennedy Blvd on the north side (one -way traveling west) and Jackson Street on the south side of the garage (one- way traveling east). The entrance to this parking facility is on Jackson Street. The garage is open from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. **The first 30 minutes of parking in the garage is free.** The second half hour is \$1.60. If you are parked in the garage for more than an hour, you will be charged \$.80 per half hour thereafter.

Did you know you can check the wait time at our branches prior to your trip? Go to: <http://www.hillstax.org/waittime.asp>. Remember estimated wait times may change between the time you access this information and visit an office.

## From the Desk of Gary W. Konopka, Region VI Administrator

All franchise motor vehicle dealer licenses will expire on December 31, 2007. Per F.S. 320.27, the renewal application should be received in our office at least 30 days prior to the expiration date. Renewal applications must be accompanied by an original surety bond, an original bond continuation certificate, or an original irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of \$25,000. The renewal application must also be accompanied by a Certificate of Garage Liability Insurance which must depict at a minimum; \$25,000 combined single limit liability coverage including bodily injury and property damage protection. If the dealership is a corporation, a copy of the Division of Corporations printout from Sunbiz.org showing the corporate status is active must also be furnished with the renewal application. The renewal fee is \$75 for the primary location and \$50 for each supplemental location. (**NOTE:** If PIP is reinstated by the legislature, then the garage liability insurance certificate will have to

reflect \$10,000 of PIP coverage.)

Rebuilt/ASPT Vehicle inspections conducted by DMV are **NOT** safety inspections. Per F.S. 319.32, the purpose of our inspection of such vehicles is to "Assure the vehicle's identity." The individual who rebuilds or assembles the vehicle from parts is required to initial a block on the Statement of Builder that the vehicle is "Complete and in road operable condition." The applicant also signs this form which contains a perjury clause. We have received some complaints that dealers who rebuild vehicles are advertising that the vehicle has passed a DMV Safety Inspection. That is a false statement and will subject the dealer to sanctions.

F.S. 316.605 deals with the display of license plates on vehicles and was updated this year. There are two significant changes which were effective July 1, 2007:

It now states that "...all letters, numerals, printing, writing, and other identification marks upon the plates regarding the word "Florida," the registration decal,

and the alphanumeric designation shall be clear and distinct and free from defacement, mutilation, grease, and other obscuring matter, so that they will be plainly visible and legible at all times 100 feet from the rear or front." I would suggest that dealers examine any license plate frames they provide to their customers to preclude any problems. Law enforcement agencies enforce this provision and a recent news article advised that the Punta Gorda Police Department was issuing citations to motorists for such violations.

It now states that "Vehicle license plates shall be affixed and displayed in such a manner that the letters and numerals shall be read from left to right parallel to the ground." I have observed many motorcycles with a license plate displayed up and down rather than parallel to the ground. It must be displayed parallel to the ground.

All of us in Region VI wish each of you the best of Holidays and a Great New Year.



We all want to have our work processed right the first time around but occasionally it is necessary to make changes or corrections to the title.

What are these corrections really costing you in addition to time and frustration? Due to recent procedural changes, title fees will be charged when correcting errors on title certificates. Exceptions will be made if it is clear that the errors were made by our staff. To avoid rework when applying for a correc-

tion, remember these important things:

- \* When a dealer is requesting a correction, the title must be submitted with an affidavit on letterhead stationery stating the error made and the correction required.
- \* When a lienholder is requesting a correction, they must submit a photocopy of the lien instrument showing the correct lien information, an affidavit on letterhead stationery stating the error made and the title.

## Let Cars Inc. Work for You

By: Juanita Bauer



Looking for a particular vehicle? Why not let CARS Inc work for you. Their primary purpose is to demonstrate to shoppers the high quality of vehicles they can find. Their inventory mainly consists of BMWs, Mercedes, Jaguars, and Porsches. If a customer does not see exactly what they are looking for on the lot, Judd and his staff will work diligently to locate it. Judd states, "We literally have no unhappy clients."

CARS Inc acquires their inventory from dealers throughout Central Florida. Each acquired vehicle goes through a thorough inspection from the paint down to the tires. Approximately twenty-five vehicles are sold monthly.

Judd and his wife/ partner Teresa, have been operating CARS Inc for eight years, five of which have been at 1107 W Kennedy Blvd. Peter Novia, their assistant and three others are employed at this dealership. Two of the associates have attended our dealer class. Judd has been in the car industry for over thirty-eight years and has seen the industry evolve. They have also witnessed the many positive changes in the Tax Collector's office. Judd states, "The service we receive at

the Downtown location has been a positive experience. The representatives are very sociable, courteous and kind to us."

Outside the auto industry, Judd is very involved with the Christian Business Man's Committee and Baylife Church in Brandon. Teresa is also involved with the Parents Association at Wilson Jr High.



## Do You Have an Emergency Contact on File?

By Marty Rodriguez

Each day many motorists experience an accident or other emergency that requires the attention of law enforcement. In most cases when this happens we want a family member or close friend to come to our aide. One year ago the Department of Highway and Motor Vehicles created a system that allows Floridians to provide the name, address and phone number of two contacts for use by law enforcement in case of an emergency. We encourage individuals who have a valid Florida driver license or

Identification Card to go online at [http://www.hillstax.org/motor/driverlicense/emergency\\_info.asp](http://www.hillstax.org/motor/driverlicense/emergency_info.asp) and enter this vital information. To date, more that 743,000 Floridians have done so. This secure information is available only to law enforcement officials. Please tell your family members, coworkers and associates about this process and help law enforcement better serve the public in case of an emergency.

Be prepared for emergencies by recording your info now



## Electronic Titles Save Time and Money

Electronic Titles are the latest effort to provide customers with the most cost effective and efficient service. It is designed to eliminate the risk of lost documents, reduce the fees incurred with duplicate issuance and reduce the opportunity for theft and fraud.

On August 15, 2007, the Electronic Title Program was expanded from electronic liens to the current electronic title phase.

Customers won't need a paper title to trade a vehicle into a dealership. The form HSMV 82994 with a revision date of April 2007 was modified to allow re-assignment of ownership when a vehicle is traded into a dealer and the title status is electronic. You should continue to use forms with a revision date of 01/03, when the title is not electronic. Once current stock of the old forms is depleted, the revised form will be used for all transactions.

Do you have questions like this one?

If there is an electronic lien on the title, would the dealer need to wait for a paper title to be printed before ownership can be transferred to a new retail purchaser or to another dealer? *Answer. No, the payoff will be submitted as usual and then have your customer complete a form HSMV 82994 (Rev 04/07) to reassign the vehicle to your dealership.*

Other questions and answers may be found on our dealer webpage at [http://www.hillstax.org/motor/dealers/elec\\_titlesmain.asp](http://www.hillstax.org/motor/dealers/elec_titlesmain.asp).

If customers wish, a paper title can be printed and mailed at no charge via the internet at [www.hsmv.state.fl.us/html/emt.htm](http://www.hsmv.state.fl.us/html/emt.htm) or they can request a paper title in person at a branch office or through correspondence to our Processing Operations Department. Verbal requests via telephone are not acceptable.

Be aware that the \$7 fast title fee will apply for same day title printing.

### By: Donna Forteau

There are many different types of Dealer licenses. License fees are nonrefundable and are not prorated, therefore, the cost and duration of the license will not be affected by the date of purchase. Here are a few licenses you may be familiar with:

**A. "Franchise motor vehicle dealer"** means any person who engages in the business of repairing, servicing, buying, selling, or dealing in motor vehicles pursuant to an agreement as defined in s. 320.60(1), F.S. This refers to dealers who sell new motor vehicles under an agreement with the manufacturer.

**B. "Service Facility"** means any

franchised dealer wishing to operate their service and repair facility at a location other than their licensed dealership. No vehicle sales are permitted at this facility.

**C. "Independent motor vehicle dealer"** means any person other than a franchised or wholesale motor vehicle dealer who engages in the business of buying, selling, or dealing in motor vehicles, and who may service and repair motor vehicles. This essentially refers to dealing in used motor vehicles exclusively.

**D. "Wholesale motor vehicle dealer"** means any person who engages exclusively in the business of buying, selling, or dealing in motor vehicles at wholesale or

with motor vehicle auctions. Such person shall be licensed to do business in this state, and shall not sell or auction a vehicle to any person who is not a licensed dealer.

**E. "Motor vehicle auction"** means any person offering motor vehicles or recreational vehicles for sale to the highest bidder where both sellers and buyers are licensed motor vehicle dealers.

**F "Salvage motor vehicle dealer"** means any person who engages in the business of acquiring salvaged or wrecked motor vehicles for the purpose of reselling them and their parts.

## Coming Soon ~ More New License Plates!



Among the many legislative issues that passed this session it looks like biennial registrations will start in January, additional insurance will be required for DUI offenders and some new specialty plates will join the current array. Here's a sneak peak at some new specialty plate prototypes. Tallahassee reps tell us we should receive shipment of the Correction Foundation, NASCAR and Support Our Troops license plates in November just in time to beat the Christmas rush!



## Title Information Verification now available online

Do you know how to inquire on a title online? Visit the Highway Safety & Motor Vehicle's web site and complete a [Motor Vehicle Check](https://www6.hsmv.state.fl.us/rrdmvcheck/mvchecking) at <https://www6.hsmv.state.fl.us/rrdmvcheck/mvchecking> Simply enter the Title or Vehicle Identification number and all the vehicle information, e.g., year, make, odometer, brands, liens, color, last issue date, vehicle type and number of owners will be available to you. Due to the Driver Privacy Protection Act the owners name and address are not accessible.

Vehicle Information Check	
Vehicle Information	
Vehicle Identification Number: 1G66L5788GU615083	Year/Make: 1986 CADILLAC
Previous Title State: FLORIDA	Registration Expiration Date: 10/17/2000
Title: 43651234	Title Issue Date: 05/07/1996
Odometer Reading/Status: 106,766 ACTUAL MILEAGE	Odometer Date: 04/26/1996
Color: BLUE, DARK	Vehicle Type: AUTO
Title Status: ACTIVE	Owner Information: 2 owners joined by 'OR'
Brands:	
Lien Information	
There is no lien on this vehicle.	

→  
**Your Vehicle Information Check will look like this...**