



# MARION COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR NEWSLETTER

HONORABLE GEORGE J. ALBRIGHT III VOLUME 2019-1

## HOPE Scholarship Fund

Beginning October 1, 2018 the purchaser of a motor vehicle shall be granted a dollar-for-dollar tax credit, up to \$105, through the Hope Scholarship Program for an eligible contribution to a nonprofit scholarship funding organization.

For the purposes of the Hope Scholarship, the term “purchase” does not include the lease or rental of a motor vehicle and a “motor vehicle” does not include a heavy truck (truck with a net weight of 5,001 lbs or more), truck tractor, trailer, motorcycle, moped, motor home, bus, recreational vehicle or golf cart.

The purchaser will be provided a Contribution Election Form, as provided by the Department of Revenue, at the time of title and/or registration of a qualifying vehicle at the Tax Collector’s Office. If the purchaser is purchasing a vehicle through a licensed Florida dealership, the dealership will provide the necessary documentation to the consumer and submit their contribution electronically to the scholarship funding organization.

This innovative scholarship opportunity allows students who are systematically bullied to refocus on their education by utilizing a Hope Scholarship to help provide financial assistance to attend a Florida Department of Education-approved private school or for transportation to an out-of-district public school.

Step Up is the only organization administering the Hope Scholarship Program for the 2018-2019 school year and scholarships will be awarded throughout the state.

When you get in the car,  
eliminate distractions.

**FOCUS ON DRIVING.**

FLHSMV   **FOCUS ON DRIVING**

## Letter From George Albright, Tax Collector

Like many of my colleagues in other Tax Collector offices throughout the state we are balancing the needs of our customers and the cost of providing the needed services. Being efficient and having competent and knowledgeable staff is what it takes to achieve this balance.

Fourteen years ago we began cross-training all employees to perform all functions. It has been a tremendous success! However, we have taken note that over the past two years we have seen a higher volume of customer traffic at all eight offices. With this increase we have noticed that the lines in our offices have gotten longer and wait times have increased. This is due to the improving economy, an influx of new residents, state scheduled renewals of drivers licenses and identification cards, etc.

Today, we have approximately the same number of employees as we did ten years ago. In addition, duties have expanded and training takes longer and is more complicated. Finally, many of our most knowledgeable employees have retired or will be retiring.

We are constantly looking for ways to improve customer service. We have installed real-time web cams in each of our locations to view customer traffic. By going to [www.mariontax.com](http://www.mariontax.com) and clicking on the Office Locations & Lobby Cameras link, you can view the real time web cam for the office of your choice, and see how busy the office is at that time. As a customer you can help us serve you faster by planning your visit to our office during our slowest times. Currently those times are Tuesday through Thursday during the mid-morning and mid-afternoon hours. For those customers who cannot come to our office during the off-peak times, we understand. Our staff will continue to work diligently to get your transactions completed quickly so you can return to your jobs and businesses. When we all work together we can reduce the waiting times for everyone.

Finally, in order to hire and retain quality employees we have recently raised our starting salary to \$12.00 per hour plus benefits. We are able to do this within our existing budget. If you would like to work with us, please go to our website at [www.mariontax.com](http://www.mariontax.com) and click on employment. If you are diligent, hardworking and enjoy public service we would appreciate your submitting an application.

As your Tax Collector for the past fourteen years, I will continue to strive with our team to provide you the top quality customer service you deserve.

Sincerely,

George Albright

# Charities Updates

Our 9th Annual Car Show was a huge success! Thank you to all that participated and came out to visit us. Because of your support, we were able to donate \$5000 to Interfaith Emergency Services!



Mark your calendars for our 10th Annual Car Show to be held on February 22nd, 2020!

Stay tuned for more details on our upcoming Annual Crape Myrtle sale in June! Pre-orders are recommended. Please call 352-368-8245 for more details.



Mark your calendars for our next Bunco Event on September 13th!

