



## **“Commitment to Service”**

For Immediate Release

Contact: Kara Stallings,  
Director of Administration  
(850) 892-8121  
stakara@co.walton.fl.us

## **TAX COLLECTOR’S OFFICE TO BEGIN ACCEPTING BEACH DRIVING PERMIT RENEWAL APPLICATIONS, MAY 17 *ORDINANCE REVISIONS IMPACT PERMIT ELIGIBILITY***

**DeFuniak Springs, FL** (May 10, 2010) – The Walton County Tax Collector’s Office will begin accepting Beach Driving Permit Renewal Applications on Monday, May 17 at both the DeFuniak Springs and South Walton Annex offices. New requirements have been established by the Board of County Commissioners for the Beach Driving Permits and individuals are encouraged to visit the Tax Collector’s Web site for detailed information regarding the changes.

### **What does the Beach Permit entitle the holder to?**

- Driving privileges in the designated limited access areas on the public beaches in Walton County for a one year period, with the permit expiring on June 1.
- Qualifies the permit holder to apply for a launch permit should he/she wish to launch a vessel in the designated limited access areas.

### **Significant Ordinance Changes:**

- No new permits will be issued. Applicants must have had a permit in his/her name as of January 12, 2010 and for the preceding year.
- Only one permit renewal will be issued for each qualifying parcel of property owned.
- Applicants must own real property in Walton County with a habitable residence constructed on it. (Walton County residents who are immediate family members residing with the property owner may obtain the permit if the additional criteria detailed below are met. Property titled in the name of the business or with multiple owners, requires the permit applicant to show proof of owning a controlling interest in the property.)
- Walton County ad-valorem taxes for the real property cannot be delinquent.

-more-

## **Beach Driving Permits**

**May 10, 2010**

### **Add One**

- Vehicle being registered for the permit must be four-wheel drive and be titled in the name of the permit holder.
- Applicant must provide proof of real property ownership (deed or tax receipt) and/or residency to the Tax Collector at the time of application. (Proof of residency required only for immediate family residing with property owner.)

### **Charter Permit**

The ordinance revision by the Board of County Commissioners created a new Beach Driving Permit specific to Charter Operators. The Charter Permit is limited to the first 20 applicants who meet the following criteria:

- Charter permit applicants must show proof of Walton County residency, proof of current Coast Guard Captain's License and proof of current Florida Charter Fishing License.
- Charter permits require the boat and vehicle being registered for permit be owned by the charter operator and be used for the charter operation.

Due to the limited number of Charter Permits to be issued, applications for this permit will only be accepted beginning on June 1. Application cannot be made early for the Charter Permit.

### **Permit Costs:**

- Vehicle on the Beach/ Charter Permit- \$105.00
- Vessel Launch- \$30.00

### **Where can you view a copy of the ordinance?**

- The revised ordinance is available on the Walton County Tax Collector's Web site at [www.waltontaxcollector.com](http://www.waltontaxcollector.com). Under the main services menu, select Permits, Beach Driving Permits.

The Walton County Tax Collector's Office issues Beach Driving Permits on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners. The renewal period for the Beach Driving Permit is June 1 – August 1 of each year, with permits expiring annually on June 1 regardless of the purchase date. Applicants desiring to renew a permit will have to complete an application form each year and show proper documentation. Applications will be accepted 15 days prior to June first each year, with the exception of Charter Permits which can be applied for beginning on June 1. Applications are available for download on the Tax Collector's Web site.

For more information on Beach Driving Permits or other services provided by the Walton County Tax Collector's Office, please visit [waltontaxcollector.com](http://waltontaxcollector.com) or contact the office at (850) 892 – 8121.

###