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Shalimar, FL 32579

310 Van Matre Ave.
Building 210, Suite 179
Eglin AFB, FL 32542

120 Simpson Ave.
Building 90320, Room 111
Hurlburt Field, FL 32544



302 N. Wilson Street, Suite 101
Crestview, FL 32536

701 E. John Sims Parkway
Niceville, FL 32578

4012 Commons Dr. West, Unit 122
Destin, FL 32541

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(850) 651-7300

BEN ANDERSON
OKALOOSA COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR
OkaloosaTax.com

PRESS RELEASE

MILLIONS SAVED BY OKALOOSA COUNTY PROPERTY OWNERS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 17, 2020

Press Release 20-12

Contact: Justin Gordon (media inquiries only) | JGordon@OkaloosaTax.com | (850) 651-7603

Shalimar, FL - Okaloosa County Property Owners **saved more than \$8.4 million** by taking advantage of the 4% early payment discount last month. "Our offices collected \$211.9 million during November, with over \$126 million of that total collected using our convenient and secure online services," states Tax Collector Ben Anderson. Anderson continues, "The millions saved is better spent in the hands of citizens rather than in the hands of government!"

In response to COVID-19, earlier in the year, the Tax Collector Office shifted to appointment-only services. As a result, they faced significant challenges in accommodating the 20,000 customers they expected to visit their offices in November.

"To address these concerns, our team worked hard to provide secure and convenient payment options in place of an in-person office visit. These included drop box locations and a **redesigned secure online payment website**," says Justin Gordon, Director of Tax Services. Gordon adds, "We saw a 51% increase in online payments this year versus last year, a huge success! Collections reached an all-time high of 82% of the entire 2020 tax roll. Accomplished in only 24 working days from the opening of the tax roll. We owe this success to those who took advantage of our secure online payment option, and we thank them."

Several payment options are available to property owners needing to pay property taxes. The most convenient is by using your Bank Account (*E-check*) at OkaloosaTax.com. Chief of Financial Operations, Keri Holguin explains, "Paying online with your Bank Account (*E-check*) is a smart and easy way to make your payment. It's as if you were writing us a check, but only electronically using your routing and account number. **It's convenient, secure, and it's FREE!**" In November, over 12,000 property owners took advantage of this FREE option, saving time and nearly \$900,000 in convenience fees.

All Tax Collector Offices will be **CLOSED** on **December 24th** and **25th** in observance of Christmas. Offices will again be **CLOSED** for the New Year beginning at **2 PM on December 31** through **January 1**.

Citizens with questions concerning Tax Collector Services should visit OkaloosaTax.com or call from their mobile device by dialing #TAX (#829).

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