



**OFFICE OF THE TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR
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PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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First Installment Property Tax Payment Deadline

Orange County Treasurer-Tax Collector Shari Freidenrich reports that the first installment of the 2013-2014 secured property taxes must be paid by December 10, 2013 to avoid any late charges. Any first installment payments received after Tuesday, December 10, 2013 that do not have a U.S. Postal Service (USPS) postmark of the 10th, or earlier, will be charged a 10% delinquent fee. For important information about postmarks, please go to ocgov.com/postmarks. The second installment of property taxes is due February 1, 2014 and is delinquent after April 10, 2014.

Treasurer Freidenrich encourages taxpayers to save the cost of a stamp and pay their property tax bill on-line by eCheck at no cost using their bank checking or savings account at ocgov.com/octaxbill, on the County's secure website. Freidenrich states, "The most cost effective way for my office to process tax payments is by eCheck." To further assist taxpayers, tax payments submitted up until midnight on Tuesday, December 10, 2013, using the Orange County Treasurer-Tax Collector's website at ocgov.com/octaxbill will be accepted as timely payment of taxes. A taxpayer can either print or receive a payment confirmation e-mail that is the same as a receipt from their office.

Payments by eCheck, which allows a taxpayer to pay using their bank account on-line without a convenience fee, represents over 15% of the tax payments received since July 1, 2013, an increase of over 86% in the last two years. Mailed tax payments currently represent 76% of the tax payments received since July 1, 2013, but have declined by 2% from the same time last year.

In October 2013, over 850,000 secured property tax bills totaling \$5.2 billion were mailed out to Orange County property owners, and the total amount of the tax bills has increased by 3.4% from the prior year.



**/S/ Shari L. Freidenrich
Orange County Treasurer-Tax Collector**