## **Calhoun County**

# License & Tag Update

## Barry E. Robertson Commissioner of Licenses

Volume 1 Issue 1 Summer 2003

#### LOCATIONS AND HOURS



The Calhoun County License Commissioner operates locations throughout the county.

Calhoun County Administration Building 1702 Noble Street, STE 107 Anniston, AL 36201 (256) 241-2900

8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday (We are located in the old Sears Building)

#### **Piedmont Municipal Complex**

(County Annex)
109 Center Avenue North
Piedmont, AL 36272
(256) 447-9007
8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday
Closed 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. daily for lunch

#### Jacksonville Trooper Post (Public Safety)

1703 Pelham Road South Jacksonville, AL 36265 (256) 435-7006 (Drivers License Only, all other motor vehicle transactions must be done in Anniston or Piedmont.)

#### **New Tag Designs for 2003**

- AGRICULTURE
- ATOMIC NUKED
- BATTLE OF THE BULGE
- DELTA SIGMA THETA
- DESERT SHIELD/STORM
- KOREAN WAR VET
- RECYCLE YOURSELF
- SUPPORT THE ARTS
- SUPPORT ADOPTION
- VIETNAM VET
- FOREVER WILD

## **New Tool Speeds Search For Suspect Vehicles**

Calhoun is first county with new database

(Special to The Anniston Star)

Calhoun County law enforcement officials now have a new tool to track down suspicious vehicles. A searchable database of all cars registered in Calhoun County is now available to local law-enforcement agencies.

The system unveiled by Calhoun County Commissioner of Licenses Barry E. Robertson and Calhoun County Sheriff Larry Amerson is simple, but local officials have praised it as a huge leap in efficiency.

The system, which contains the information connected with the county's 130,000 tag numbers, will help fill holes that now exist in car tag searching capabilities. In the past, officers could collect information on vehicles easily only if they knew the entire tag number. Now records can be obtained with partial tag numbers by cross-referencing bits and pieces of data. With the new system, an officer could go to a personal computer at the police department and enter in "Blue," "Chevrolet," and a few digits of the tag number. In about a minute, the officer would have a list complete with names, addresses and vehicle identification numbers.

The new system will be extremely helpful with hit and run investigations. The program is just one of many ways officials hope to improve communications among law enforcement and local government agencies in Calhoun County. The system is the first of its kind in the state of Alabama.

## MANDATORY LIABILITY INSURANCE

Just as a reminder when registering or renewing a vehicle in Alabama, vehicle owners are required to verify by-signature that their vehicle is currently insured. By their signature, individuals will indicate that the registration and ownership information shown on the motor vehicle receipt is correct and that the vehicle is currently insured. No proof of insurance is required at the time of registration or renewal, only a signature by the vehicle owner or the owner-designated representative, indicating that the vehicle is insured, unless requested by the license-issuing official. It is important to remember, when using the mail-in service to renew a tag, to include a driver's license number of the vehicle owner and the signature of the vehicle owner.

## **How Long To Register?**

When purchasing or leasing a new or used vehicle, the new owner must register the vehicle within ten (10) calendar days at the Commissioner of Licenses office. If the vehicle is acquired from a licensed Alabama dealer, then the dealer may apply for your Alabama certificate of title. But it is the owner's responsibility to register the vehicle in his home county within ten (10) calendar days.

Commercial vehicles owned by firms, corporations, or associations will be registered in the county where the vehicle is based.



There is an easy way to provide additional funding for public schools—buy a Helping Schools Tag for your vehicle.

It's easy, it's inexpensive and it will help to improve conditions in our public schools. It's only an additional \$15.00-and it's tax deductible.

Nearly 75% of the purchase price goes directly to Alabama's public schools. Show your support for public education by putting a Helping Schools Tag on each of your vehicles.

### **Highlights Of Ad Valorem Tax Credit Vouchers**

The owner of a motor vehicle may be eligible for a tax credit voucher upon the sale, trade, total destruction, permanent removal from Alabama, theft without recovery, or other transfer of a vehicle.

The owner should apply to the county licensing official for a tax credit voucher within 60 days of the sale or transfer of the vehicle

The owner must redeem the tax credit voucher within 12 months of voucher's issue date. The tax credit may be applied to the ad valorem tax payable on a replacement vehicle acquired by the owner by trade or to the ad valorem tax payable on other vehicles for the current tax year during the owner's registration renewal month.

The ad valorem tax credit voucher may be transferred by the owner to the owner's spouse or dependent child. At the time of redemption, the original voucher copy must be surrendered and endorsed by the owner.

#### PAY NOW WITH DEBIT CARDS

Calhoun County residents can now pay for the renewal and registration of motor vehicles with their debit card. Debit cards are also known as check cards. Over two-thirds of American households use debit cards for purchases nation wide. In addition to motor vehicle transactions, residents can also use their debit card for boat renewal and registration, as well as for title issuance and business license applications.

Since January 2002, approximately 3,360 debit card transactions have been processed in the Commissioner of Licenses office at no additional charge to the customer.

#### **MANUFACTURED HOMES**

One Stop Program

Beginning April 1, 2003 the Calhoun County Commissioner of Licenses office assumed the full time duties and responsibilities of all manufactured home registration and inspections. Previously anyone registering a manufactured home paid applicable sales tax and title fees to the License Commissioner's office, then applied for a manufactured home decal from the Tax Collector's office, as required by law.

In an attempt to make the registration process more efficient and convenient to the taxpayer, Calhoun County Tax Collector Virginia Dothard and License Commissioner Barry Robertson formally agreed to turn the registration and inspection process over to the Commissioner of Licenses office, thus insuring a "One Stop Program" for manufactured homes

Basic registration fees for manufactured homes are as follows:

\$29 Owner-Occupied, Single-Wide Residence

\$53 Owner-Occupied, Double-Wide Residence

\$53 Commercial Single-Wide (rental)

\$101 Commercial Double-Wide or Larger (rental)

Manufactured homes are due for renewal annually in the months of October & November.