

## Online Tax Resource Center

On Thursday February 7th, the House of Representative passed a bi-partisan economic stimulus plan. The bill included a one time tax rebate up to \$600 for individuals and \$1,200 for couples with an additional \$300 per child. The bill, which was recently signed into law, will be based on 2007 tax returns. This makes it very important that individuals file a return for 2007. Also, the earlier one files their return for 2007 the quicker the IRS will be able to process their rebate. It is expected that the IRS will begin to deliver checks by early summer.

The Economic Stimulus Package will provide over 95% of families in our area with a tax rebate. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has recently created a webpage which outlines the specific details of the tax provision in the Economic Stimulus Package. To view more information click [here](#).

It is important to remember that the earlier you fill out your tax return forms the sooner you will receive your check from the IRS. The IRS website offers many free comprehensive tax preparation services. You can view the list of free tax assistant providers by clicking [here](#).

Simply choose the one that best suites your needs or allow the IRS to help you choose one for you.

Where's My Refund:

You filed your tax return and you're expecting a refund. You have just one question and you want the answer now!

- Where's My Refund?

Whether you split your refund among several accounts, opted for direct deposit to one account or asked IRS to mail you a check, you can track your refund through the IRS secure Web site by clicking [here](#) .

The online version of "Where's My Refund" allows taxpayers to check the status of their refunds and provides instructions on how to resolve delivery problems.

You can access the telephone version of "Where's My Refund?" by calling 1-800-829-1954.

#### Unclaimed Funds:

The IRS is currently holding tax payer money in unclaimed funds. In 2003 alone, the IRS reported that Florida had nearly \$188,087,000 worth of unclaimed funds. This is sometimes due to problems with addresses and the postal service or with forms that have been incorrectly filled out. [Click here to Check](#) and see if some of this money belongs to you!

#### Warning Identity Theft Scams:

Taxpayers should be aware that several identity theft scams have begun circulating due to the attention surrounding the rebates included in the Economic Stimulus package. Several email and telephone scams have recently utilized the IRS name to lure taxpayers into providing personal information such as bank account and credit card numbers. To learn more about these potential threats and how to protect your self, [click here](#).

#### Additional Tax Information you may find Helpful:

##### The Earned Income Tax Credit:

The EITC is the federal government's largest tax credit for working families; however, an estimated 20% of eligible taxpayers do not claim the EITC. Families earning less than \$40,000 may be eligible for the EITC, and the credit can put an extra \$4,700 back in the pockets of taxpayers. Last year, more than 22.4 million taxpayers received more than \$43.7 billion in EITC returns.

With the recent sharp increases in education, health care and gas prices, the money from the EITC can make a real difference to hardworking families in our area. In this time of economic uncertainty, Rep. Mahoney wants to ensure that taxpayers receive relief as quickly as possible.

##### Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) - How the AMT affects 2007 Tax Filing:

Last December, the House passed the bipartisan Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2007, legislation that will prevent 23 million American taxpayers, including 66,400 local families, from paying the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) this year.

The AMT was created in 1969 to ensure that 155 wealthy families paid their fair share in taxes. Congress never indexed the AMT to inflation, and the AMT would affect an additional 23 million households if this bill is not signed into law. The average AMT taxpayer will pay an additional \$6,700 in taxes, and the majority of new AMT taxpayers are considered middle class.

The upcoming tax season is expected to start on time for everyone except for certain taxpayers potentially affected by the AMT. Taxpayers using five forms related to the AMT legislation will have to wait to file tax returns until the IRS completes the reprogramming of its systems for the new law.

IRS has targeted February 11th, as the potential starting date for taxpayers to begin submitting the five-related returns affected by the legislation.

Returns that include the following forms cannot be filed until February 11, 2008:

- Form 8863, Education Credits

- Form 5695, Residential Energy Credits

Schedule 2, Form 1040A , Child and Dependent Care Expenses for Form 1040A Filers  
Form 8396, Mortgage Interest Credit

Useful Phone Numbers:

Order tax forms: 800-829-3676

Individual tax questions: 800-829-1040

Business-related tax questions: 800-829-4933

TTY/TDD: 800-829-4059

EITC Information: 800-352-3792

Local IRS Offices:

City

Street Address

Days/Hours of Service

Telephone \*

Fort Myers

2891 Center Pointe Dr.

Fort Myers, FL 33916

Monday-Friday - 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

(239) 938-7601

Port St. Lucie

7410 South US 1

Port St. Lucie, FL 34952

Monday-Friday - 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

(Closed for lunch 12:00 Noon - 1:00pm)

(772) 340-5606

Sarasota

5971 Cattle Ridge Blvd.

Sarasota, FL 34232

Monday-Friday - 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

(941) 378-6448

West Palm Beach

1700 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd.

West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Monday-Friday - 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

(561) 616-2002