

# Property appraiser now open 24/7

FROM STAFF REPORTS

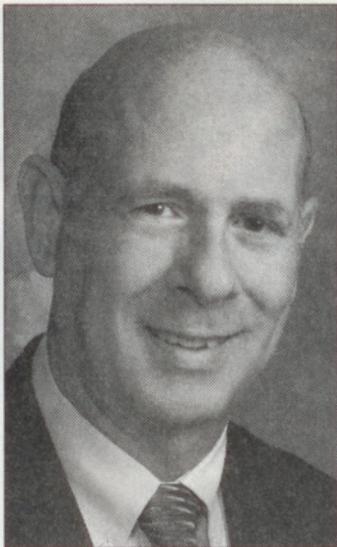
Property Appraiser Gary R. Nikolits, CFA, has announced that the new Exemption E-File is up and running on the Property Appraiser's popular Web site: [pbcgov.com/PAPA](http://pbcgov.com/PAPA). And that means new home owners do not have to leave home to file for the 2007 Homestead Exemption.

"It can be done online, in the comfort of home," Nikolits said.

"We are excited to launch our Web site's Exemption E-File," said Nikolits. "This feature was the one the public requested the most, and we are very pleased to provide it."

The Exemption E-File service also means no traffic and parking hassles, and best of all, no long lines at the Property Appraiser's five Service Centers. Crowds typically build up in February every year as the March 1 Homestead Exemption filing deadline looms.

"Exemption E-File streamlines the application process and is changing the way government does business," said Nikolits. "Our office is one of only five in the state's 67 counties to provide E-File for homestead exemptions and we are very proud to be among the leaders to make government more efficient and more responsive to the public."



*Gary R. Nikolits*

Previously, new homeowners could only download the application from the Property Appraiser's Web site, [pbcgov.com/PAPA](http://pbcgov.com/PAPA). They would then either mail the application or visit the Service Centers in West Palm Beach, Delray Beach, Palm Beach Gardens, Royal Palm Beach or Belle Glade.

On the site's Home Page, users can now go directly to online filing either by clicking the Exemption E File navigation bar or by the Exemption E File link. Easy instructions guide the user to successfully complete Exemption E File.

"The process is seamless, which is a hallmark of the entire PAPA site," said Dorothy Jacks, Director of Taxpayer Services at the Property Appraiser's Office. "We received 20 applications without a hitch the first hour E-File was up."

## Since 2004

Nikolits said he commissioned Palm Beach County's Information Systems Services to develop the new online service. ISS designed the original PAPA site, which was launched in 2004. Jacks lead the effort to expand PAPA'S services to Exemption E-File and she was in charge of the project to develop the Property Appraiser's Web site in 2004.

"PAPA began the process by providing quick access to public records, which is something Mr. Nikolits strongly believes in, and we are bringing even more services to the public with Exemption-E File," said Jacks.

The site has been expanded several times since then, including enhanced mapping features and direct links to the Clerk of Courts and the Tax Collector's Office. In 2005, the International Webby Awards named the site "Webby Worthy." The award honors Web sites that set Internet standards.