



# Tampa Letter Carrier

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2014

## Around The Horn from The President's Desk

Brothers and Sisters, this month I want to change the normal union content of my article in order to inform everyone of a traumatic event I experienced. By the overall response I received, many of you are aware of my situation, but wondering what really happened. **First and foremost I want to thank every one of you** who visited me, contacted me, left a voicemail, texted, posted on Facebook, sent or signed a get well card, sent flowers, teddy bears, books or used any other means of social media. The response has been truly, I mean truly humbling and overwhelming, I am talking hundreds of get well wishes. I will never forget the support from family, friends, coworkers, national, state, and regional union leaders.

**Friday, January 31,** I was awoken by my puppy at 3:30 AM on Friday morning, and I was in the kitchen, that is the last I remember. I then collapsed; my wife hearing commotion, called out and heard no response. She proceeded to the kitchen to find me laid out on the floor and not

breathing. Lucky for me she had just completed a CPR class and began to perform CPR. I do not think she would have ever thought her first CPR audition would be a life or death situation on her husband. As the police, paramedics, and firefighters arrived, they took over and had to paddle my heart twice to get it back into rhythm. I was then transported to St. Joseph's Hospital where I was given a brain scan and had a catheter procedure. Within four hours, with total brain function and clear arteries the doctors decided I was a prime candidate to be induced into hyperthermia. This is when your body temperature is lowered to protect your vital organs for 24 hours. They say it is a painful procedure as you are shivering cold; I never felt a thing.

**Saturday, February 1,** The doctors began to raise my temperature which took 8 hours. As they began to lower the sedation I opened my eyes for the first time and was able to squeeze the doctors hand and wiggle my toes, which was a good sign.

My family was very relieved, not knowing when I was going to awaken with the sight of having all kinds of tubes running in and out of me.

**Sunday, February 2,** On Sunday, I fully awoke as the medication was stopped and I was wondering what I was doing in the hospital. The ventilator was still in my mouth but it was removed in the morning and I started to shake the cobwebs. I then started asking a million questions, wanting to know what had happened and a reason. I remember my hospital guests beginning Sunday afternoon, however, I had no recollection of what I had been through to this point.

**Monday, February 3,** More tests were conducted and with all the tests they found clear arteries, a healthy heart, good oxygen in my blood, good heart rate and very healthy blood



**Tony Diaz**  
President  
Branch 599

**Branch 599  
Meeting**

Thursday  
March 6  
7:30 PM

*(Continued on page 3)*

**Branch 599 Office**

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Tampa FL 33609-1617  
813.875.0599  
Fax 813.870.0599  
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**Tampa Letter Carrier**

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National Association of Letter Carriers, Branch 599, 3003 W Cypress Street, Tampa FL 33609-1698, publishes the *Tampa Letter Carrier* monthly. The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Branch 599, NALC. It is the policy of this publication that all articles submitted for print must be signed by the writer.

Please submit any and all articles to be published in the *Tampa Letter Carrier* to the Editor via email at editor@nalc599.com no later than the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month in order for us to meet our time limits to the publisher.

# Officers

Position	Officer	Phone	Email
<b>President</b>	Tony Diaz	813.765.0599 office 813.875.0599	tony_diaz599@yahoo.com
<b>Vice President</b>	Alan Peacock	813.892.9378	apeacock.nalc@verizon.net
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Michael Brink	813.661.1639	recording.sec@nalc599.com
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Gilbert Cabanas	813.855.0516	financial.sec@nalc599.com
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<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	J.C. Howard	813.310.0689	
<b>MBA/NSBA</b>	Al Guice	813.465.9754	
<b>Health Benefit Rep.</b>	Lance Jones	813.220.1292	
<b>Director of Retirees</b>	Don Thomas	813.963.0653	retirees@nalc599.com
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	Maggie Lancaster	813.317.7522	joelunaticplayer@aol.com
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<b>Labor Management</b>	Alan Robinson	813.843.9762	
	Warren Sumlin	813.486.7612	
<b>Presidents Emeritus</b>	Garland Tickle • Orbe Andux Donald Thomas • Michael Anderson James Good • Alan Peacock		

# Shop Stewards

Station	ZIP	Steward	Station No.	Steward's No.
Tampa Stations/Branches		Chief Steward, Brian Obst		727.458.0679
Brandon	33510/11	Warren Sumlin	813.661.1636	813.486.7612
Carrollwood	33618	Eddie Berroth	813.960.8894	813.493.5224
Commerce	33602	Detlev Aepfel	813.242.4507	813.505.7914
Forest Hills	33612	Alan Robinson	813.935.2954	813.843.9762
Forest Hills Annex	33613	Nick Cullaro	813.935.2954	813.541.8159
Hilldale/Annex	33614/34	Varick Reeder	813.879.4309	315.491.6234
Hyde Park	33606	George McEndree	813.873.7189	813.935.0244
Interbay/Port Tampa	33611/16	Marie Brown	813.831.2034	727.331.9907
Interbay/Peninsula	33629	Clement Cheung	813.831.2034	813.758.5910
Palm River Annex	33619	Pam Benton	813.663.0048	813.475.0753
Plant City	33564	Mike Thomsen	813.719.6793	303.916.3196
Produce	33610	Elvin Rodriguez	813.237.4280	646.346.3288
Ruskin/Sun City Ctr	33570	Aric Person	813.634.1403	813.545.7779
Seminole Heights	33603	Walt Rhoades	813.237.4569	813.389.1708
Sulphur Springs	33604	J.D. Lewers	813.237.4569	813.528.5519
TCA/Peninsula	33609	Troy Figueroa	813.873.7189	347.403.1644
TCA/West Tampa	33607		813.873.7189	
Temple Terrace	33617	Warren Sumlin	813.988.0152	813.486.7612
Town 'N Country	33615/35	Brian Obst	813.884.0973	727.458.0679
Ybor City	33605	Detlev Aepfel	813.242.4507	813.505.7914

# Around The Horn from The President's Desk

*(Continued from page 1)*

pressure. The doctor did mention that the fact I was in very good physical health helped me in the recovery process. My questions again began when they classified what had happened as cardiac arrest, not a heart attack. What caused my heart to get out of rhythm?

The specialists had no answers, so I asked if this could be related to the cold medicine I was taking the week prior, z-pack, sinus spray, and cough medicine. There were no definitive answers. I had many guests throughout the day, including 7 or 8 carriers from my office, Sulphur Springs, who came by after their deliveries.

**Tuesday-Thursday, February 4-6,** More tests, many more guests and phone calls, EKGs, Transesophageal Echocardiogram (TEE), blood work, monitoring heart rate and blood pressure. I was getting very frustrated; I informed the nurses I was planning a break-out...it did not work. I was told on Thursday, they had run all the tests there were and could not find anything. However, before I would be released on Friday, the cardiologist wanted to place a defibrillator inside of me for a precaution. I was not in favor of this surgery at first and requested a second opinion. Upon the second opinion I agreed and now I have a defibrillator as insurance just in case I get out of rhythm.

**Friday, February 7,** I was released from St. Joseph's Hospital, much to the relief of my entire family. I rested over the week-

end and was back in the union office on Monday, February 10. I am feeling great, feeling lucky, and feel fortunate to have all your support. I will never forget the power of positive thoughts and prayers. Thank You again!

### **CPR Classes**

Stay tuned, I am looking at the possibility of bringing a CPR Training Class to our Branch 599 Hall. I know first-hand the importance of having someone close that has had CPR training. It can help save a life, a loved one, a co-worker, or even yours. We will notify every office when we get all the information. These classes may have limited seating, however if there is a good response we will add more classes.

### **Quick Hits:**

#### **Information you should know**

##### **\*) Route Inspection Classes**

Carriers have had the opportunity to attend two route inspection classes. The first was on Thursday January 23, and the second on Sunday, January 26. Both were held at Branch 599's union hall; the Thursday class was presented by our branch and the Sunday class was presented with district support. Both classes went well; our Thursday class was attended by the largest number of carriers that I am aware of over recent years. In fact our local training was attended by more than the district session, which included Clearwater, St. Petersburg, and Lakeland. Both classes covered much detail and were very educational. Please make plans to attend our next scheduled inspection classes...looking

at the 2nd week of March.

**\*) At press time for this article** we had just been notified that the Route Inspections in Brandon had been cancelled on the last day. Management must follow several procedures when a cancellation occurs. The union office is monitoring the situation.

##### **\*) Notes from the District Meeting, January 30:**

1) 34 zones in the Suncoast District will begin Express Mail with a 10:30 AM delivery time for \$5 additional. For those customers not wishing to pay the additional fee, their Express Mail will have a 3 PM delivery time...stay tuned.

2) Suncoast District handled almost 1 million total pieces of mail over the holidays...that is tops in the Nation.

3) USPS was #1 in scanning of parcels throughout the holiday period...beating our competitors, UPS and Fed Ex.

4) Temple Terrace, a level 22 station, ranked first in a variety of service indicators.

5) Nationwide package revenue rose \$900 million, standard mail rose \$500 million. This offsets the \$800 million loss in revenue of the First Class letter...a \$600 million overall profit.

**\*) Next work party** will be held Sunday, March 9. We will be working on the grounds and moving boxes in the storage area in the back of the building.

**Look forward to talking to you again on the next *Around The Horn* from The President's Desk**

## **Shop Stewards will Meet**

Tuesday 7 PM  
March 4  
April 1

## **Executive Board Meets**

Thursday 6:30 PM  
March 6  
April 3

# Alex Sink endorsed by AFL-CIO of Florida



## **December 2013 AFL-CIO Candidate Screening**

Joe Henschen, President, Branch 1477, St. Petersburg

Gene Carroll, Branch 1477

Alex Sink, Candidate for Congressional District 13

O.D. Elliot, Branch 1477

Alan Peacock, President, Branch 599, Tampa

Al Friedman, President, Florida State Association of Letter Carriers

Alex Sink was endorsed by the AFL-CIO of Florida.

# The Birdseye View

## Route Count & Inspections

Well it continues to be two steps forward and three steps back. We are in the middle of doing Route Count and Inspections to the tune of \$6,000 per route for a total cost in the Suncoast District alone of \$8 million plus. Currently there are continued negotiations at the national level for another Joint Alternate Route Adjustment Process (JARAP). With the Postal Service beginning to make a financial rebound it would make a lot of sense to return to the process that saves billions of dollars and has a lot less issues. The NALC introduced the idea of data based adjustments 20 years before the Postal Service starting taking advantage of the idea and it was a great cost savings that was lost for all the years they refused to agree to it. If you want to really run something like a business, then engage the people doing the work for you and it will get accomplished a lot better than the top down mentality that is closed to the people with the hands-on experience. First, the workers feel disenfranchised, then they grow with apathy regarding the failures that exist, and finally they just get to the point where they simply want to retire and could care less about the future of the place they spent their career and majority of their life working for. Now another change that might have a different outlook on things locally is that we are going back to the previous process where all grievances will be heard at the lowest level and all formals will be done by each station manager. The new OIC Chenise LeDoux had indicated to us at our first meeting with her after arriving in Tampa, that she was inclined to help the process run smoother rather than having just one or two designated Formal A Reps for management that seemed to create a backlog in cases.

WE will see if this improves the process or identifies managers who continue to avoid resolving issues at the lowest level.

## President Diaz

Every one of you must be aware of the recent episode that our President Tony Diaz experienced during his recent hospital stay and ultimate recovery. It was a very anxious experience for all of his family, friends and coworkers. Thanks to the grace of God and tons of prayers from all over the country it just turned into a good wakeup call for Tony to pace himself a little and delegate some things to others and we have many able and ready to assist in the work that will be done. All of us that know Tony are aware of his high energy pace, and that he is very active and health conscious, and will be hard to hold down...just ask the staff at St. Joseph's Hospital when they caught him pacing the halls!

## National Convention

Planning for the upcoming National Convention this summer in Philadelphia is underway and the representatives that will be our delegates at this convention need to know all the concerns that our members have and would like to have addressed. President Diaz has appointed Brian Obst to be the Chairman of the Convention, and who better than a native of Philadelphia. We can expect him to direct us to the local flavor and we are not just talking Philly Steak and Tastee Cakes. If there is any particular item that needs to be addressed for the future contract or resolution that needs to be proposed regarding the NALC Constitution we need to work on that as soon as possible for the deadline is fast approaching.

An involved membership is a

knowledgeable membership and a knowledgeable membership is a stronger membership.

Get involved and help us to be the strongest Branch that we can be!



Alan Peacock  
Vice President  
Branch 599

## Installation of Officers & Banquet

The installation banquet was one of the best we ever had and there has been nothing but positive feedback regarding everything, the food was outstanding, the atmosphere was upbeat and our State Vice President Lynne Pendleton did an outstanding job with everything from the Remembrance Program and the actual Installation of Officers and Stewards. It was an enjoyable evening for all our members and their families that attended.

Fraternally In Union Brotherhood and Sisterhood for Working Families,

Alan Peacock  
Vice President

**Sunday  
Work Party  
at our Hall**

March 9 9-11 AM

# January and February Retirees



Alan Peacock and Robert Piparo



Alan Peacock and Cathlene Berry



Alan Peacock and Tony Diaz

President Peacock recognized **Robert Piparo** [Tampa Carrier Annex 33609], **Cathlene Berry** [Produce], and Vice President **Tony Diaz** [Seminole/Sulphur Springs] during our January Branch meeting and presented them with a check from the Branch for their retirement.



Alan Peacock and Frank Wengyn



Alan Peacock and William Newsome



Alan Peacock and Don Weller



Alan Peacock and Donna Dayton



Alan Peacock and Mark DeMichelli

Vice President Peacock recognized **Frank Wengyn** [Forest Hills], **William Newsome** [Plant City], **Don Weller** [Forest Hills], **Donna Dayton** [Carrollwood], and **Mark DeMichelli** [Town 'N Country] during our February Branch meeting and presented them with a check from the Branch for their retirement.

# Retired, But Not Tired...

The membership has spoken and has chosen the direction that they want to go in the next three (3) years. Congratulations to our new President, Tony Diaz, also to all the branch officers and shop stewards who were elected or by acclamation.

**United We Stand – Divided We Fall.** I am sure you have heard this before. As you know, if you attended any of the Union Meetings, we have to start working together. We don't have to agree on certain matters, but let's try to work for the betterment of the membership and Branch 599. Being a good union member goes beyond paying union dues, attending meetings, attending branch functions, giving to COLCPE or becoming an activist. A union is only as good as its membership. This membership is supreme; this pertains to all active and

retired members. Our Installation and Retirees Banquet held on January 18, was a great success. The Letter Carrier Hall really shined, with linen tablecloths, china, silverware and glasses thanks to those who make this a special night for our members and guests! It seems like it's always the same people that step forward. Once again, I say, *Thank You*.

For me personally, it was a night of seeing some of the retirees that you only see at this type of function; reminiscent of the old days and how it used to be. Thanks to all of you who attended. These were the ones who served before us and made this Union Hall what it is today. One of those in attendance was Brother Cloyce Fritts. He was a good union brother and a good friend. On Friday, January 24, I received a phone call that he passed away; I'm so glad that I got to talk to

him and see him one last time before his trip home with his maker.

*Thanks* to Ray Garcia, who has made the transitional period easier for me. Ray and I go back a long time, from being shop stewards, branch officers, board members, TLC Inc. and other committees. We didn't always agree, but we worked for the betterment of the membership; I am sure that Ray will remain active in the Union.

So as Roy Rodgers and Dale Evans sang, *Happy trails to you, until we meet again....*

Fraternally,  
*John Gebo*



**John Gebo**  
Treasurer  
Branch 599

# From the Sheriff's Office — Reporting Information

**Trust your instincts.**

**Do not place yourself in danger or become physically involved.**

Who is reporting the incident? What is your phone number?

Location of incident of suspicious/criminal activity.

What is the suspicious/criminal activity or incident? Is it In-Progress, Just Occurred or Delayed?

Are there any weapons visible?

Describe the weapon(s): Gun, Rifle, Handgun, Knife, Baseball Bat, Screwdriver, Pipe, etc.

Description and number of suspects:

Sex, Race, Height, Clothing Description, Hair Color, Glasses, Build, etc.

Any vehicle(s) descriptions with direction of travel:

Make, Model, Color, and Approximate Age/Year of vehicle.

Tag description:

State, Color, Number.

Any damage to or unusual characteristics of the vehicle.

**Keep Yourself Safe!**

# Do you remember...



## Trip to Washington D.C.

How many Letter Carriers can you name?

## Retirees Breakfast

Monday March 3 9 AM

Coffee Cup Restaurant • 4407 N Hubert Avenue, Tampa



# Outside the Lines

First let me thank former president and newly elected Vice President Alan Peacock and my good friend and re-elected Financial Secretary Gil Cabanas for their friendship and support during the three years I was honored to be Treasurer of the Branch. During the January 9, 2014 meeting, I made my last financial report to the attending membership of the Branch. At this meeting one of the two Bylaw proposals passed 45 for and 20 against, while the second one was defeated 43 against and 17 for. Since the election in December of 2013, I have had the honor to train newly elected Treasurer John Gebo to the best of my limited ability. It is my hope that our branch continues to utilize the services of our current tax lawyer/CPA to do our filings to the Federal, Department of Labor, and State revenue facilities on a quarterly basis as well as a yearly basis. One important thing I learned was that the filings of these reports must be done in a timely manner because the financial penalties are rather expensive and could lead to audits that are sometimes embarrassing. The continued utilization of a tax lawyer/CPA will help maintain *checks and balances* on all our revenues and property. These *checks and balances* were implemented through conversations with our national officers and Department of Labor personnel at several training seminars. As many of you should know, in 2011 new tax regulations were placed into effect by the Federal government that put stricter mandatory guidelines on all Union finances. (These are some of the changes that were made by those of the previous administration from 2011–2013.)

The political battles in Congress continue and are not good for the working class of America. Our great and benevolent Republican congressman from California, John Issa, continues to attack the USPS with the blessings of the

Postmaster General and the Board of Governors. Now we have to change the mind of President Barack Obama on the issue of 5-day delivery. As a retiree and supporter of the president, I am furious with his agreement on the 5-day issue! I never liked delivering on Saturdays either. However, I did not want several thousand letter carriers to lose their jobs either (only management). I worked Saturdays for only 36 years. Since my retirement there have been changes at the USPS and I believe they are not conducive to productivity or quality whatsoever. Management has eliminated routes, only to add those sections of those routes to surrounding delivery areas that increase the street times. I know mail volume is down, but driving times are not. Then you have the idiotic stupidity to change all begin tour times to 8:30 AM and end tour times to 5 PM. Where is the logic in this other than to endanger the letter carriers' lives? Let me see if I can comprehend this tactic. In the summertime, the hottest part of the day is from 3–6 PM (daylight savings time). Does the delivery vehicle have AC (the supervisor does in his vehicle)? No, but you do have a GPS system. I guess it is for finding you if you die from heat prostration? (Don't do that because you'll probably get a suspension!) Then in the winter you are on Eastern Standard Time and dusk starts setting in around 4:30 PM. You turn your headlights on, strobe lights and maybe the 4-way flashers to make sure other vehicles see you. But is there enough light to see a child running out of the shadows or a vehicle without lights on? Oh yes, I forgot you have less mail so you should finish sooner. If this is true why don't all routes have a 6 AM starting time and a 2:30 PM end tour? There I go again, management has combined processing of the mails from several cities and it is all about logistics that the paper pushers have thought up to make

every letter carrier and clerk live a living hell.

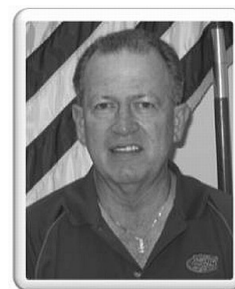
I believe that the main way to combat this is to learn how to properly deliver your route every day. Management is not there to help you...they are there to push you to absorb more work for less pay. First off, get a pocket pad to put or log info on daily. Take the time to know how many minutes it takes to deliver every business stop, street, and your entire route with house to house or on so-called light days. Make a list for every day of parcels, accountables, DPS trays, and cased mails you deliver daily. Do you know how much time you are allowed for casing and loading your vehicle? What about personal time? How much actual time are you allowed for lunch and breaks? Your route is your job! Your family depends financially on you knowing how to properly perform your job! Management could care less about your health, you, or your family because they have their own agenda.

**Your wages and any benefits are not given to you by management. They are negotiated by the National Association of Letter Carriers.**

To find out some of these facts on delivery, talk to your Union Steward. If s/he does not have an answer, call the Branch Office at 813.875.0599 and especially come to the monthly union meetings. The meetings are the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month at 7:30 PM. The address is 3003 W. Cypress Street, Tampa FL 33609-1617 and they are only about 1½ hours long.

Remember this, *Management hires you to deliver the mails but they spend the next thirty years trying to fire you.*

—Anonymous



Ray Garcia  
Member  
Branch 599

**"Mary Lou Jackman-William Corbeau" Scholarship Application**  
**(Please do not reduce the size of this application)**

Name of Student \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_  
(print legibly)  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone number \_\_\_\_\_

NALC Branch # \_\_\_\_\_ Branch Contact Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Name (must be printed legibly) \_\_\_\_\_

This is to certify that the above named member of the FSALC is a member in good standing.

**(Must be signed by Branch President or Secretary)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature Branch President or Secretary

Return all applications to:  
**Jesse A. Costin, FSALC Director of Education**  
**232 Glen Eagle Circle**  
**Naples, Florida 34104**

**The following requirements must be adhered to in order to qualify.**

- 1. Student must have graduated from an accredited high school or have a GED.**
- 2. Student must be a dependent of a member or the spouse of a deceased member of the FSALC who has not remarried.**
- 3. Applicant must enroll as a full-time student in an accredited college or university, and submit proof of enrollment to receive the funds if awarded. (DO NOT SUBMIT PROOF NOW)**
- 4. Applications must be postmarked on or before July 1, 2014.**

This scholarship award is based on a random drawing, not on academic records or qualifications. There will be four scholarships awarded - two for a female, and two for a male - each in the amount of \$2000. The drawing will be held during the NALC National Convention July 21-25, 2014.

**Please do not reduce the size of this application/ Do not cut in half**

# Sharing Our Members' Joys and Sorrows

**Our deepest sympathy** and prayerful support is extended to the family of **Cloyce Fritts** [retiree] whose passing was January 23; to **George Czanko** [Palm River] and family at the passing of his sister; to **Bill Mandikas** [retiree] and family at the passing of his son Anthony, February 6; and to **Carlos Licier Reyes** [Seminole] and family at the passing of his wife.

**Get well wishes and prayers** are extended to President Tony Diaz for his continued recovery.

## Remember to contact the Branch Office when...

...you move and/or change your phone numbers. or email address  
We need to keep our membership records up-to-date!

...you know of members' joys and sorrows, including your own. We won't know if YOU don't tell us!

# ARSLAN UNIFORMS

*Bill & Shirley Moran*

Gold Card Member Branch 1477 St. Petersburg

Honorary Member Branch 599 Tampa

**NEED UNIFORMS IN A HURRY?  
SHOP BY PHONE FROM HOME**

320 Patlin Circle East, Largo FL 33770-3063  
BILL'S CELL 727.543.0705 ▪ SHIRLEY'S CELL 727.543.0708  
FAX 727.585.9367  
bilmor@tampabay.rr.com



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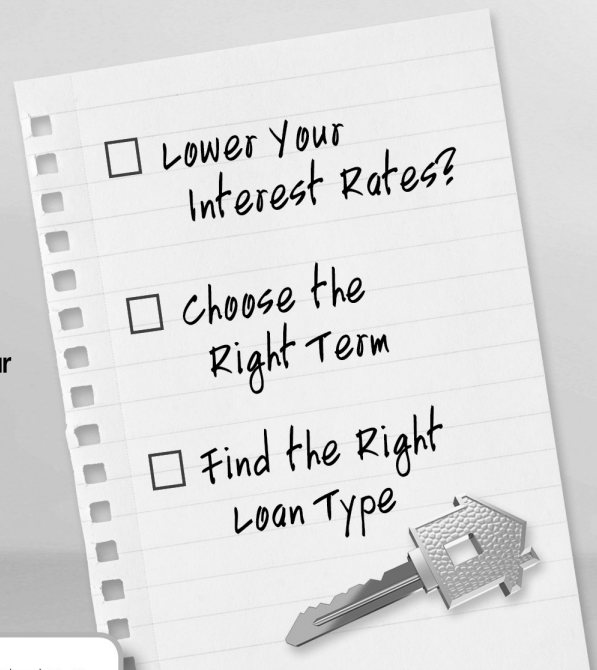
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PERMIT NO. 1285

# ***DOUBLE Check Your Home Loans!***

Owning a home is a great achievement. However, it's also probably your greatest expense – and it will be for quite some time. So why not make sure you have the best loan for you?

Finding ways to lower your monthly home loan payments can be one of your greatest means of saving in 2014 and years to come. Our Home Loan Experts are trained to look at your loan(s) and current financial situation and find the right solution for you.



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