



Police Foundation: “National Night Out” and “CravingFashion”
by Tom Murphy (August 2014)

Crime Prevention Awareness and **Community Safety** are two of the key objective of the Palm Beach Gardens Police Foundation. We reach those objectives in a number of ways, most recently by the sponsorship of "**Garden’s Night Out Against Crime**" an event that was organized on August 5th by our Palm Beach Gardens Police Department. A major portion of the city's municipal complex was used to not only exhibit numerous pieces of Police vehicles and equipment but also to present demonstrations by the SWAT (Special Weapons And Tactics) Team, the K9 Unit, the Traffic Unit's Motorcycle Squad and the Detective Division's CSI (Crime Scene Investigation) Unit.

Numerous other Law Enforcement, Community Safety and Crime Prevention organizations also participated in the evening's family oriented event. Florida Highway Patrol brought in their "roll-over" simulator which teaches the dangers of not wearing your seat belt. The U.S. Marshal's Service spoke of their role in apprehending the nation's most dangerous fugitives and in providing judicial security. Our own Palm Beach Gardens Fire Rescue Department demonstrated their abilities in rescue, fire suppression, fire safety and inspection services. And Florida's Fish and Wildlife Commission exhibited their off-road swamp buggies and airboats. The Florida Forest Service had exhibits on their mission to protect and manage the forest resources of Florida. Local security companies like **Elite Security, G4S Wackenhut** and **Victory Security, The Gardens Mall Security** and **Downtown at the Gardens Security** also participated and presented information on the service they provide to the many gated communities and shopping malls within the city. And the **National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)** brought their mascot "Clicky" and provided information on their efforts to help protect children and prevent the devastating crimes committed against children. The Healthcare District of Palm Beach County even landed their **Trauma Hawk helicopter** on one of the city's ball fields so attendees could get a closer look.

It wasn't all business however... there was face-painting for children, funnel cakes and cotton candy, Lollicakes and popcorn! Chick-fil-A and our Palm Beach Gardens volunteer firemen were on hand with food and sodas for hungry families. Keeping the evening lively was "**Quiet Girls Productions**", the ultimate in professional DJ, Karaoke, comedy, & live band entertainment.

The overall objective of the event according to **Sergeant Paul Rogers**, head of the Police Department's **Community Involvement Unit**, was to “give crime a going-away party” and to send the message that Palm Beach Gardens is dedicated to being a strong, safe city for people to live, learn, work, and play.

The Police Foundation recognizes how important strong communities are to our city and realizes that safety issues can most effectively be addressed at the neighborhood level. By funding events such as this we help to reinforce the relationship between the police and the community and to build upon the hand-in-hand partnership that is so important to lower crime rates.

UPCOMING: The Palm Beach Gardens Police Foundation has just been named as the benefitting not-for-profit organization for "**CravingFashion**" a food, wine and fashion event at **The Gardens Mall!** The date is **September 26th from 6 to 9 PM with VIP entry at 5 PM.** Many of Palm Beach County's top-rated restaurants along with your favorite fashion designers will all be participating.

CravingFashion at The Gardens Mall in Palm Beach Gardens promises to be both a culinary and fashion extravaganza. Over 1,000 guests are expected to attend the event and the proceeds will benefit the **Palm Beach Gardens Police Foundation.**

The event will be a celebration of food, wine, beer, and spirits - coupled with outstanding fashions from The Gardens Mall retailers. Come join the event and enjoy food and drink samplings galore, plus live music, entertainment, and fashion.

A limited number of VIP tickets will be available for CravingFashion allowing guests to access an exclusive area with some of Palm Beach County's finest 5-star restaurants. Signature cocktails, delicious food and a swag bag from **Muses & Visionaries Magazine** filled with gift cards from many of the participating restaurants. VIP hours are from 5PM to 9PM and Valet Parking is also included.

Come join the event and enjoy food and drink samplings galore, plus live music, entertainment, and fashion, fashion, fashion! **For more details and to purchase tickets go to <http://www.craving-fashion.com> or the Police Foundation website at <http://www.pbgpf.org/cravingfashion>**

Tom Murphy has been president of the Palm Beach Gardens Police Foundation, Inc. since its inception in 2007. Before helping to form the foundation he was a marketing executive with the IBM Corporation and earlier a member of the Nassau County (NY) Police Department.