



Police Foundation: *Crime Takes No Holiday...*

by Tom Murphy (December 2014)

Holiday Safety

As we approach the end of the year, get into the festive season and anticipate the start of the new year, it's worth reminding ourselves that crime prevention and community safety are 7-day a week, 365-day a year projects. **Crime has no upcoming holidays.**

The holiday season, along with the seasonal population growth, can often result in an increase in crime in most all communities in South Florida, including Palm Beach Gardens. The criminal element often decides that the holidays are the perfect time to break the law. It is also a time when busy people become careless and vulnerable to theft and other holiday crime.

CRIME

TAKES NO HOLIDAY

Your Palm Beach Gardens Police Foundation reminds residents and businesses that they play a vital role in keeping our community secure. As you go about your shopping this holiday season, remember to **NOT** give criminals an opportunity. Help prevent and reduce theft by **NOT** making your vehicle a target.

- lock items in your trunk
- do not leave any possessions visible in your car
- don't make multiple trips to your car to drop off your shopping
- report suspicious people and activities to the police

With the hustle and bustle of the season, distracted shoppers are easily vulnerable to crime.

Your Palm Beach Gardens Police will have a strong presence this holiday season as part of their ongoing crime-prevention strategy.

The holiday season is also a time for holiday cheers, office parties, celebrations, and spending time with friends and relatives. The Police Foundation urges you to please be responsible and have a plan in place prior to drinking so you get home safely. Have a designated driver, or



hire a taxi to take you to and from an event or bar or stay at a hotel within walking distance. Don't risk injuring yourself or others by driving impaired. And don't put yourself in a position to receive a new pair of silver bracelets for the holiday... along with a night in the County jail.

Annual Police Foundation Fund Drive



Your Palm Beach Gardens Police Foundation joins other non-profits across the country in encouraging people to **open this year's holiday season on a philanthropic note.** Our Annual Appeal began in mid-November and will continue through the end of the year. Funds raised through the appeal allow us to invest in ***Equipment, Training and Technology, Officer Safety, Innovations in Policing and Community and Youth Outreach Programs*** that would not otherwise be available through the City budget

process.

If you've received the Foundation's appeal letter, I urge you to return it with your tax-deductible donation so that we may continue to ensure that our Palm Beach Gardens Police Officers and Crime Scene personnel have the tools they need to keep our community safe.

You can also donate easily and quickly by going to our website at www.pbgpf.org/donate

Police and Fire Joy Drive

The 13th annual Joy Drive, sponsored by the Police Foundation is well under way. The toys and gifts are being collected at many locations and brought back to the Emergency Operations Center where our Police and Fire personnel along with other City employees are busy wrapping them and getting them sorted into various categories for delivery on December 24th. We are anticipating reaching nearly 1500 children and families this holiday season. If you have a new, unwrapped gift that you'd like to donate to the Joy Drive, it can be dropped off at any of the following locations or **brought to any Palm Beach Gardens Fire Station between 8 AM and 6 PM.**



- Burns Road Community Center – 4404 Burns Road
- Riverside Youth Enrichment Center – 10170 Riverside Drive
- Palm Beach Gardens Police Department – 10500 N Military Trail
- Palm Beach Gardens City Hall – 10500 N Military Trail

If you are having a holiday event, why not ask your invited guests to bring a new, unwrapped gift for the Joy Drive? You can then call Ms. Judy Brandt, Joy Drive coordinator, at 799-4488 to arrange pickup from your home or office.

Happy and Safe Holidays to you and yours from all of us at the



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.