



Palm Beach Crime Watch, Inc.
P.O. Box 3401
Palm Beach, FL 33480
561-838-5467

crimeprevention@palmbeachpolice.com

PALM BEACH Crime WATCHER

GET TO KNOW YOUR OFFICERS!



Officer Carlos Rodriguez

Age: 42

How long have you been an officer with the Town:
16 years

Current position: Police Officer

Where do you see yourself in 10 years: Working for the Palm Beach Police Department

Favorite food: Spaghetti and Clams

Favorite holiday: Thanksgiving

Favorite movie: Donnie Brasco

Favorite sports team: Miami Dolphins

Favorite vacation spot: Hope Town

What's playing on your ipod right now: Kenny Chesney

What are you reading right now: "One Nation" by Ben Carson, M.D.

Three things you can't live without: Wife, kids and family!

Introducing our new Palm Beach Police Public Information Officer – Philip Salm!

Photo by Meghan McCarthy/Palm Beach Daily News



The Palm Beach Police Department welcomes our new Training and Community Relations Coordinator, Phil Salm. In addition to the responsibilities of the Training Unit, he also serves as our Public Information Officer. Phil hails from Middletown, Ohio where he served as a police officer for seventeen years.

During his tenure, he worked in various assignments including patrol, narcotics, honor guard and SWAT. His most recent position prior to his departure was as a school resource officer in the local high school, which he enjoyed immensely.

The driving force in Phil's decision to withdraw as a police officer was his desire to spend more time with his wife and three children, Daniel, Tristan and Madelyn. They also have four dogs which require a great deal of extra attention. The entire family is thrilled to be spending winter in warmer south Florida weather!

Phil is excited to bring his many years of police experience to Palm Beach, and for opportunities to create lasting relationships within our community. Please take the time to stop and introduce yourself to Phil, and allow him the opportunity to make suggestions on how you can create a safe environment in your residential or business setting.

GET TO KNOW YOUR VIPS!



John W. Annan

How long have you volunteered with the Police Department: 11 years

Current position:
Palm Beach Police Crime Scene Evidence Unit – 3 days a week
Good Sam Hospital – 2 days a week

Favorite food: Salads

Favorite holiday: Labor Day

Favorite movie: Sound of Music

Favorite sports team: Chicago Bears

Favorite vacation spot: Palm Beach

What's playing on your ipod right now:
Don't own a cell phone or IPOD

What are you reading right now: "A Spy Among Friends" by Ben Macintyre

Three things you can't live without: Family, Friends & Books

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Life After Citizens Police Academy

By Phil Salm



On September 3rd, 2014 Trudy Brekus was at home enjoying her day when a strange car pulled into her driveway. She immediately knew something was not right, and called the police department to report the suspicious vehicle. The dispatchers knew right away what was happening, and due to Trudy's quick thinking and the quick response of the Palm Beach Police Department, a dangerous felon was taken off the streets.

Trudy credits her actions to always being aware of her surroundings, but also credits attending the Citizens Police Academy for helping apprehend a felon. An investigation revealed the suspect had driven to Palm Beach in a stolen vehicle, caused a traffic accident from which he fled, and then attempted to steal another vehicle. Trudy credits the

Citizens Police Academy for reinforcing her beliefs that an individual needs to call in all suspicious activities, no matter how small. She felt confident the dispatchers and officers would not question her about her concerns.

When I asked Trudy what she remembers most about the Citizens Police Academy, she immediately told me she remembers the personal relationships she and her family had with the officers. Not only did Trudy attend the class, but her late husband of 59 years Gordon, also attended. Trudy grew up with an appreciation for law enforcement, but Gordon did not. She credits the experiences of the Citizen's Police Academy for changing her late husband's attitude towards law enforcement. Learning about the duties officers perform was enlightening, but what she loved most about the experience was the relationship she formed with the officers, especially Officer Mike Dunn.

You could see the impact Officer Dunn had on her life, and she was thankful for the lasting relationship Mike carried on with her and her husband Gordon well after the class was over. It was clear the Citizens Police Academy provided a unique experience that she will not forget. "I could have never experienced this anywhere else other than here in Palm Beach." She credits that special relationship to the citizen's police academy and was excited to hear one is scheduled for the Fall, 2015.

For more information or to register, please contact the Training Office at 561-838-5467.

Save the Date

IDENTITY THEFT PREVENTION COMMUNITY SHREDDING EVENT

Tuesday, April 28, 2015 from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
South Parking Lot - Phipps Ocean Park

(South of the tennis courts)

2145 South Ocean Blvd., Palm Beach, FL 33480

For more information, please call Police Community
Relations Unit at (561) 838-5467.

TEEN POLICE ACADEMY

We are holding open registration for our next
Palm Beach Police Teen Police Academy to be held
June 8 - 12, 2015 from 9:00am – 4:00pm.

Please call Palm Beach Police Community
Relations at 561-838-5467 to sign up.
Must currently reside in the Town of Palm Beach.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME

Tuesday, August 4th from 5:00pm – 7:00pm
St. Edwards Parish Hall

4th Annual Public Safety Open House

The Palm Beach Public Safety Open House was held on Tuesday, February 17th, from 4:00pm – 7:00pm and was sponsored by Palm Beach Crime Watch, Inc. Residents, business owners, community members and families were able to meet Police Officers, Fire-Rescue personnel and civilian teams. Police and Fire staff opened their doors with tours of both facilities. The Fire-Rescue Department had its fire training tower set up to climb and fire hoses for children could take turns to spraying traffic cones down Australian Avenue. Behind the Police Department various weapons were displayed along with the Police Department vehicles for inspection. At the Communications Display residents were able to test state of the art life safety software and make mock 9-1-1 calls. New this year...a firefighter maze drill located in the fire station bay. Guests participated by walking through a smoke filled maze for search and rescue, just like a firefighter!

Those who attended enjoyed a complimentary serving of PDQ chicken and fries at the food truck. Also, kettle corn and ice cream were available for those with a sweet tooth. The ice cream was donated by The Ice Cream Club, a local company which started in 1982 making ice cream out of their Manalapan, Florida location. Children of all ages were happy to receive a Lego Police or Fire Rescue vehicle. Staff from Good Samaritan Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital were on hand to provide stroke, blood pressure and BMI screenings. A big thank you to the VIPS volunteers who helped make this 4th annual event a huge success!





Town of Palm Beach Police Department

LIGHTS OUT

SHARE THE BEACH

The federal Endangered Species Act lists all five species of sea turtles in Florida as either threatened or endangered.

Sea Turtles are protected by Florida Statute 370.12, the Marine Turtle Protection Act.

Anyone found harassing a sea turtle or interfering with the nesting process faces criminal and civil penalties.

Call the Palm Beach Police Department to report:

- Stranded Hatchlings
- Harassment of sea turtles
- Disturbance of nest
- Dead or injured sea turtles or hatchlings
- Entangled sea turtles



Sea Turtles Dig the Dark

All Oceanfront property owners must ensure that their lights are not visible from the beach at anytime from **March 1st until October 31st**. Please shield or redirect any such lights, or simply turn them off *during this time of year*.

Town Ordinance requires all Oceanfront property owners to comply with this "Lights Out" policy to protect endangered sea turtles which nest on local beaches and the hatchlings which come from those nests. Artificial lighting confuses the sea turtle hatchlings causing them to veer off course from their intended destination directly to the Atlantic Ocean. It is believed that the resulting disorientation of sea turtle hatchlings from artificial lighting sources is a major cause in the decline of sea turtle populations worldwide. If you have been sent this reminder, the Town considers your property to be subject to the "Lights Out" ordinance.

The rule of thumb is

"WHEN IN DOUBT, TURN IT OUT."



Dedicated to Excellence in Law Enforcement

Residential Direct Connect Alarm Enhancement Now Available – Sign Up Today!

The Palm Beach Police Department announces the launch of Residential Direct Connect Alarm Program. The Direct Connect system, already used to protect many businesses throughout the town, is now available to all residents.

The Direct Connect system works with your existing alarm monitoring service as an enhancement, so that police can respond more quickly to any alarm activation. Without Direct Connect, police are unaware of the alarm during the period when monitoring companies attempt to contact the owner and verify whether the alarm is valid. If the owner or representative is not reached, or if they are contacted but do not know the alarm code, the alarm company will then notify police. With Direct Connect, when your alarm is activated, both the alarm monitoring company and the Palm Beach Police Department are notified simultaneously. This saves valuable response time when an alarm is triggered at your home and allows the police department to be immediately dispatched to your residence without delay.

The Direct Connect system works in conjunction with your alarm company and in order to participate, you must maintain your burglar alarm monitoring service. If your current alarm does not include a duplex reporting system or does not send the signal over a landline, your alarm company may charge you a one-time fee for installation of this feature. In accordance with Town Ordinance No. 18-02, the registration fee to enroll in the Residential Direct Connect Program is \$100 and an annual fee of \$100; **however, if you enroll before 9/30/2015 all of the initial fees will be waived** (annual billing will resume 10/1/2015). Residents will only be required to have a registered Town of Palm Beach Alarm permit.

To receive additional information, contact Lead Telecommunications Supervisor Christine Cunningham at ccunningham@palmbeachpolice.com or telephone 561-227-6460 or visit www.palmbeachpolice.com



CODE Corner

Town of Palm Beach Code of Ordinances

For more information, contact the Code Enforcement Office at (561) 227-7080

SEC. 42-199

HOURS FOR CONSTRUCTION

Out of Season 7 months – May 1st thru November 30th

Mondays thru Saturday

- Start work at 8 am • Stop work at 6 pm

Sundays and Town Holidays

- No construction permitted



C-WA Zoning District (Worth Ave.)

- Work permitted May 1st thru October 31st

SEC. 102-45

CURBSIDE PLACEMENT AND COLLECTION OF TRASH

Out of Season 6 months – May 1st thru October 31st

Yard trash may be placed on the public right-of-way adjacent to the property from which it came no more than three (3) days prior to the scheduled day of collection.

SEC. 122-78

IRRIGATION SYSTEM USAGE

Irrigation is prohibited from 9:00AM to 9:00PM every day and no irrigation is allowed on Friday at any time

EVEN Numbered Addresses, North of Southern Blvd.

- Lawn watering is permitted on SUNDAYS, TUESDAYS, and THURSDAYS from 12:01 AM to 9 AM, OR, from 9 PM to 12 AM. NOT DURING BOTH TIME PERIODS

ODD Numbered Addresses, North of Southern Blvd.

- Lawn watering is permitted on MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, and SATURDAYS from 12:01 AM to 9 AM, OR, from 9 PM to 12 AM. NOT DURING BOTH TIME PERIODS

WEST Side of South Ocean Blvd., South of Southern Blvd.

- Lawn watering is permitted on SUNDAYS, TUESDAYS, and THURSDAYS from 12:01 AM to 9 AM, OR, from 9 PM to 12 AM. NOT DURING BOTH TIME PERIODS

EAST Side of South Ocean Blvd., South of Southern Blvd.

- Lawn watering is permitted on MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, and SATURDAYS from 12:01 AM to 9 AM, OR, from 9 PM to 12 AM. NOT DURING BOTH TIME PERIODS

You can avoid receiving a Notice of Violation for watering newly planted sod or landscaping by providing documentation of the new planting, including the date of installation, to the Code Enforcement Unit. A copy of the invoice or other documentation may be sent or dropped off at the Police Department at 345 South County Road, Palm Beach, or may be faxed to the Code Enforcement Unit at 561/835-4736. If you have not provided the documentation and receive a Notice of Violation, please call the Code Enforcement Unit at 561/227-7080 for instructions. With proper documentation, the Notice of Violation will be rescinded.



NEWLY PLANTED LANDSCAPING & SOD

All Property Sizes

In place from the first day to 45 days:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday Thursday, Saturday AND/OR Sunday

(any days except Friday): 12:01 AM to 9 AM AND/OR 9 PM to 12 AM



Know the Scam...



TAX-RELATED IDENTITY THEFT

The IRS uses your Social Security number (SSN) to make sure your filing is accurate and complete. Identity theft can affect how your tax return is processed. An unexpected notice or letter from the IRS could alert you that someone else is using your SSN, however, the IRS doesn't start contact with a taxpayer by sending an email, text or social media message that asks for personal or financial information. If you get an email that claims to be from the IRS, do not reply or click on any links. Instead forward it to phishing@irs.gov.

An identity thief may use your Social Security number to get a tax refund or a job. If you receive a notice saying their records show that you were paid by an employer you don't know or if more than one tax return was filed using your Social Security number – **Contact the IRS at IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit 1-800-908-4490 to report the fraud. Send a copy of your police report or an IRS ID Theft Affidavit Form 14039 and proof of your identity.**

When dealing with Identity Theft – it's important to limit the potential damage. Visit www.FTC.gov for help with:

- Putting a fraud alert on your credit reports
- Ordering your credit reports to review
- Creating an Identity Theft report

DON'T FORGET TO REPORT IDENTITY THEFT TO YOUR LOCAL POLICE AGENCY.

HOW TO BECOME SCAM SAVVY!!

- **Do not extend payment to anyone you have not met in person.**
- **Beware of offers involving shipping** - deal with locals you can meet in person.
- **Never wire funds (e.g. Western Union)**
- **Don't accept cashier/certified checks or money orders** - banks cash fakes, then hold you responsible.
- **Transactions are between users only**, no third party provides a "guarantee".
- **Never give out financial info** (bank account, social security, paypal account, etc).
- **Do not rent or purchase sight-unseen**—that amazing "deal" may not exist.
- **Refuse background/credit checks** until you have met landlord/ employer in person.

BEWARE OF SCAMS USING GREEN DOT MONEYPAK CARDS



People are losing thousands of dollars in a phone scam involving Green Dot MoneyPak cards. After receiving a call from someone who claims to be collecting a debt for either a Utility Company, missed Jury Duty or the Internal Revenue Service, people are being threatened with the loss of their heat, electric or told they will be deported or missed jury duty and must pay up. Green Dot MoneyPak

cards themselves are legitimate products when used for the right purposes.

These cards are untraceable, so they are more attractive to scammers than money wires.

Jury Duty Scam:

Someone will telephone the victim claiming to be a law enforcement officer or court official and tell the victim they have missed jury duty. In order to avoid being arrested they are ordered to pay a fine. The victim is instructed to purchase Green Dot MoneyPak cards, found in local retail outlets including Walmart, Publix and CVS. The victim is told to read the numbers off the card to clear the fine. These numbers allow access to the cash on the card and will work like a debit card.

Palm Beach Police Department cautions residents to be wary of this scam and remember that no law enforcement agency would ever call and ask for payment of any kind.

Crime Prevention Tips To Help You Avoid Falling Victim To the Green Dot Money Pak Scam:

- Be suspicious of callers who demand immediate payment for any reason.
- Remember that anyone who has the number on a Green Dot MoneyPak card has access to the funds on the card.
- Never give out personal or financial information to anyone who emails or calls you unsolicited.
- Never wire money, provide debit or credit card numbers or Green Dot MoneyPak card numbers to someone you do not know.

**REPORT CRIMINAL ACTIVITY
CONFIDENTIALLY**

227-6464 or www.palmbeachpolice.com

Visit our website www.palmbeachpolice.com and sign up for alerts about upcoming events, crime prevention tips and more.

SO YOU DON'T BECOME A VICTIM

VACATION RENTAL SCAM ALERT & CRAIGSLIST RENTALS

Be aware and protect yourself! The Town of Palm Beach has seen an increase in a common scam involving Vacation Rental Properties. Scammers know that finding the right apartment or vacation rental can be hard work, and a seemingly good deal is hard to pass up. It's now become commonplace to search for a deal on Craigslist or other online website, when looking to book a condo or a home, rather than through a traditional hotel. These listings may have tons of pictures and a lengthy description of a real house. But in many cases the poster of this ad doesn't even own the property!

HOW IT WORKS:

Hijacked Ads - Some scammers hijack a real rental or real estate listing by changing the email address or other contact information, and placing the modified ad on another site. The altered ad may even use the name of the person who posted the original ad. In other cases, scammers have hijacked the email accounts of property owners on reputable vacation rental websites.

Phantom Rentals - Other rip-off artists make up listings for places that aren't for rent or don't exist, and try to lure you in with the promise of low rent, or great amenities. Their goal is to get your money before you find out.

To completely avoid scams, it's best to shy away from sites like Craigslist and book properties from legitimate vacation home rental sites. **If you are a victim of this crime or find your property posted for rent on a website that you did not authorize, contact the Police Department immediately at 561-838-5454.**

DOOR TO DOOR SOLICITATIONS IN THE TOWN OF PALM BEACH

The Palm Beach Police Department reminds all residents that any company wanting to solicit business in the Town of Palm Beach by going door-to-door must first obtain a permit** by applying to the Code Enforcement Unit of the Palm Beach Police Department. No general solicitation permit covering all representatives of a particular company is ever issued. If a salesperson comes to your door, ask to see his/her Town of Palm Beach issued door-to-door solicitation identification card bearing the photograph of the individual representative of that company.

If you want to avoid unwanted visits from salespersons, you may register for the Town's No Solicitation List by calling Joan Dunn, Code Enforcement Specialist, at (561) 227-7080. Anyone who is approved for a permit to solicit door-to-door will be given a list containing the addresses of those residents who should not be solicited. If your address is on the list and someone comes to your door, he/she is in violation of a town ordinance and you should notify the police department at 838-5454.

**Religious organizations are exempt from obtaining a permit - Due to federal laws providing a provision for such entities. Often members from these organizations will approach residences in town to relay a spiritual message and may ask if anyone would like to donate to their cause. Residents are under no obligation to donate and should never feel pressured, harassed or intimidated. If at any time you feel uncomfortable, please do not hesitate to contact Palm Beach Police Department's non-emergency number at (561) 838-5454 and an officer will respond. In the event of an emergency call 9-1-1.

UPDATE YOUR ANTI-VIRUS SOFTWARE - PROTECT YOUR COMPUTER

What Can I Do to Minimize My Risk?

Here are some tips to help you from the security experts at the Federal Trade Commission (FTC):



- Protect yourself from viruses by installing anti-virus software and updating it regularly. The best software recognizes old and new viruses and update automatically.
- Make sure your passwords have both letters and numbers, and are at least eight characters long. Avoid common words: some hackers use programs that can try every word in the dictionary. Don't use your personal information, your login name or adjacent keys on the keyboard as passwords-and don't share your passwords online or over the phone. Password manager software tools can help, as long as they encrypt your passwords.
- Prevent unauthorized access to your computer through firewall software or hardware, especially if you are a high-speed user. A properly configured firewall makes it tougher for hackers to locate your computer.

Firewalls are also designed to prevent hackers from getting into your programs and files. Some recently released operating system software and some hardware devices come with a built-in firewall. Some firewalls block outgoing information as well as incoming files. That stops hackers from planting programs - called spyware - that cause your computer to send out your personal information without your approval.
- Don't open a file attached to an e-mail unless you are expecting it or know what it contains. If you send an attachment, type a message explaining what it is. Never forward any e-mail warning about a new virus. It may be a hoax and could be used to spread a virus.
- When something bad happens - you think you've been hacked or infected by a virus - e-mail a report of the incident to your Internet provider and the hacker's Internet provider, if you can tell what it is, as well as your software vendor.



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 P.O. Box 3401
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www.palmbeachpolice.com for more information

GOING SOMEWHERE?

Don't forget about the Closed Home Program. Notify police and protect your property while you're away. Visit www.palmbeachpolice.com to complete the Closed Home Information Form.



STAY INFORMED

Visit our homepage and sign up for our community alerts. You will be notified of upcoming events such as the next shredding event, mature driver course as well as crime prevention alerts.



Community Shredding Event

was held on November 13, 2014 at Phipps Ocean Park



Residents and small business owners came out and shredded their documents to help reduce their risk of Identity Theft. All the documents and information was safely and securely destroyed on scene.

Thank you to Shred Assured for providing their shredding van and volunteer services for this event.

ATTENTION PALM BEACH RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES

Officers are available for security needs, as well as for traffic and parking assistance. If you would like additional information or to set-up a special detail assignment – please contact Palm Beach Police Business and Community Relations Unit at 561-838-5467.

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT

In any emergency (police-fire-medical) 9-1-1
 Police NON-Emergency 838-5454
 Code Enforcement 227-7080
 Parking Enforcement 838-5465
 Voluntary ID Cards 838-5466
 Crime Watch Office 838-5467
 Anonymous TIPS 227-6464