FALL 2011

PALM BEACH Crime WATCHER

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

crimeprevention@palmbeachpolice.com

GET TO KNOW YOUR OFFICERS!

Adam Zeller

Age: 28

How long have you been a police officer: 6 years

Current position: Day Shift Road Patrol

Where do you see yourself in 10 years: Excelling in law enforcement

Favorite food: Italian

Favorite holiday: Christmas

Favorite movie: Top Gun

Favorite sports team: New York Yankees

Favorite vacation spot: Lake Champlain, VT

What's playing on your ipod right now: Different music genres

What are you reading right now: Decision Points

Three things you can't live without: My mother, brother, and vacations

1st Annual Public Safety Open House

Palm Beach Crime Watch, Inc. sponsored the inaugural event which was held on Wed. Oct. 12, 2011. Over 300 residents, business community members and families were able to meet town staff and learn more about their operations. Both police and fire departments showcased their equipment and enjoyed interacting with both new and familiar faces! Those who attended snacked on hot dogs and ice cream. An airbrush tattoo artist was on hand for some creative fun. Those brave enough faced the Mobile Training Tower and sprayed the fire hose from atop the tower. A big thank you to the VIPS volunteers who helped make this event a huge success. Director Blouin and staff are all looking forward to this annual event!

Photo Captions (page 2)

Citizen Police Academy Class 19
Now Accepting Applications

See page 3 for more information.

Watch Your Mailbox!

Membership renewals are due January 2012.

Get ahead and renew online now!

CODE CORNER INSIDE!

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National Night Out

August 2, 2011

Coming together on the first Tuesday in August has become a tradition of sorts in the Town of Palm Beach....residents, business owners and visitors unite with members of the police department to celebrate their partnership in preventing crime. This year was no exception. Programs and services were showcased, equipment was on display and giveaways were abundant. Guests enjoyed hot dogs, spectacular balloon and tattoo artists and stayed cool with a variety of Italian ices. For the first time in over 29 years, Palm Beach Fire-Rescue joined the festivities. A special thanks to our teen volunteers and VIPS for their efforts in making this another successful event.

National Night Out Photos, From the top, left to right: SOU team members; Sgt. Luke Pintacuda and Ofc. Mike Dunn; Future Bomb Robot Operator; VIPS Xiomara Ordonez Modeling Balloon Art; VIP Jack Cohen, Crime Scene Mgr. Greg Parkinson with Residents; Lt. Mark Bradshaw and PIO James Weber; VIP Clare O'Keeffe takes information for Child ID Packet; Josephine Defina, Mark Foley and Angela Defina; Marine Unit Officer Mick Keehan gives tours of Marine One; Director Kirk W. Blouin and Ted Cooney; VIPS Mercedes Cassidey, Trudy Brekus, Clare O'Keeffe and Betsy Berkshire; Robin Miller, Councilman Richard Kleid and Sherry Frankel

2011-2012 Members' Breakfast

Keynote Speaker, State Attorney Michael F. McAuliffe

Friday, February 3, 2012 at 8:00am The Colony

Michael McAuliffe took office as the State Attorney on January 6, 2009. Since taking office, State Attorney McAuliffe has pursued his vision of building a national caliber prosecutors' office. He created one of the nation's most effective predator units which identifies, investigates and prosecutes child sexual predators including child pornographers. He also created the special victims unit (SVU) which focuses on sex crimes and crimes against children. State Attorney McAuliffe has been instrumental in Palm Beach County's ethics reform and in 2009-2010 created a public integrity unit and a corruption task force to investigate and prosecute corrupt public officials and employees.

All members will receive invitations. Space in limited so please respond promptly.

1st Annual Public Safety Open House

continued from page 1

Front cover:
VIPS Shirley Cowen; Group of students touring the jail; Mobile Training Tower; Students practice putting out a fire; Councilman William Diamond and O'Neill Family

To the right:
Director Blouin greets a group of children; VIPS Betsy Berkshire and Audrey Austin; VIPS Clare O'Keeffe and Trudy Brekus with Mary Weiss

Citizen Police Academy

Plans are now being made for the 2012 Citizen Police Academy - Class 19!

Palm Beach Citizen Police Academy
Class #18

Classes will be held on Wednesday afternoons from 1:00pm - 5:00p.m. on Feb. 15 - March 21, 2012. Participation in all six classes is required. Students will also be expected to take part in a patrol ride-along and a communications sit-in with an option to ride-along with the marine unit. There is a charge for attendance at the Citizen Police Academy. Applicants must be residents of the Town of Palm Beach or members of our business community.

Graduates of the Citizen Police Academy are eligible to become members of the Palm Beach Police Department's Volunteer Program, Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS). The goal of VIPS is helping communities prevent, prepare for, and respond to crime, natural disasters, and other emergencies.

Don't miss the opportunity to participate. There are a limited number of spaces and if you are interested, please contact Jennifer Recarey at (561) 227-6358 as soon as possible. The spaces are first come, first serve.

Cops & Cookies

Have a question to ask a police officer? Want to hear personal safety tips? Do you know how to protect yourself? Schedule a Cops & Cookies meeting with one of our officers. We will come to your location and answer any questions you may have or present the latest crime prevention information in a formal or informal manner. We will tailor the meeting to your needs. For more information, please call 838-5467 (and of course, we'll bring the cookies!)

UPCOMING EVENTS

FLOW MOBILE (Florida Licensing on Wheels) will be at the police department on Wednesday February 8, 2012 from 10:00am- 2:00pm. Please call 838-5467 to reserve a spot. Be sure to visit www.gogatherget.com to ensure you bring the appropriate paperwork!

Safety Council of Palm Beach County's Mature Driving Course
Thursday, January 26, 2012 9:00am - 4:00pm
Friday, March 30, 2012 9:00am - 4:00pm
Registration is required. Please call 838-5467 to secure your space.

Community Shred Event
February 7, 2012 10am - 1pm
Phipps Ocean Park (South Lot)

Crime Watch Members' Breakfast
Friday, February 3, 2012 8:00am at The Colony

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

Homeland Security

The Department of Homeland Security has implemented a new National Terrorism Advisory System that replaces the Homeland Security Advisory System that has been in place since 2002. The National Terrorism Advisory System, or NTAS, will include information specific to the particular credible threat, and will not use a color-coded scale. When there is credible information about a threat, an NTAS Alert will be shared with the American public. It may include specific information, if available, about the nature of the threat, including the geographic region, mode of transportation, or critical infrastructure potentially affected by the threat, as well as steps that individuals and communities can take to protect themselves and help prevent, mitigate or respond to the threat. The advisory will clearly indicate whether the threat is Elevated, if we have no specific information about the timing or location, or Imminent, if we believe the threat is impending or very soon. The Secretary of Homeland Security will announce the alerts publically. Alerts will simultaneously be posted at DHS.gov/alerts and released to the news media for distribution. The Department of Homeland Security will also distribute alerts across its social media channels, including the Department's blog, Twitter stream, Facebook page, and RSS feed.

Sample Alert:

National Terrorism Advisory System

Alert

www.dhs.gov/alerts

DATE & TIME ISSUED: XXXX

SUMMARY

The Secretary of Homeland Security informs the public and relevant government and private sector partners about a potential or actual threat with this alert, indicating whether there is an "imminent" or "elevated" threat.

DURATION

An individual threat alert is issued for a specific time period and then automatically expires. It may be extended if new information becomes available or the threat evolves.

DETAILS

- This section provides more detail about the threat and what the public and sectors need to know.
- It may include specific information, if available, about the nature and credibility of the threat, including the critical infrastructure sector(s) or location(s) that may be affected.
- It includes as much information as can be released publicly about actions being taken or planned by authorities to ensure public safety, such as increased protective actions and what the public may expect to see.

AFFECTED AREAS

- This section includes visual depictions (such as maps or other graphics) showing the affected location(s), sector(s), or other illustrative detail about the threat itself.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- This section provides information on ways the public can help authorities (e.g. camera phone pictures taken at the site of an explosion), and reinforces the importance of reporting suspicious activity.
- It may ask the public or certain sectors to be alert for a particular item, situation, person, activity or developing trend.

STAY PREPARED

- This section emphasizes the importance of the public planning and preparing for emergencies before they happen, including specific steps individuals, families and businesses can take to ready themselves and their communities.
- It provides additional preparedness information that may be relevant based on this threat.

STAY INFORMED

- This section notifies the public about where to get more information.
- It encourages citizens to stay informed about updates from local public safety and community leaders.
- It includes a link to the DHS NTAS website http://www.dhs.gov/alerts and http://twitter.com/NTASAlerts

If You See Something, Say Something™. Report suspicious activity to local law enforcement or call 911.

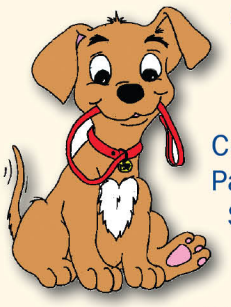
The National Terrorism Advisory System provides Americans with alert information on homeland security threats. It is distributed by the Department of Homeland Security. More information is available at: www.dhs.gov/alerts. To receive mobile updates: www.twitter.com/NTASAlerts

If You See Something Say Something™ used with permission of the NY Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

CODE Corner

Town of Palm Beach Code of Ordinances

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



It's not just the law, it's your "doodie"

Code of Ordinances of the Town of Palm Beach
Section 1. Chapter 10, Section 10-4
The "POOPER SCOOPER" Law

Please note that whenever an individual is out walking an animal, they are REQUIRED to carry something with which they can remove any feces or excreta of that animal.

Sec. 10-4. Depositing of offal, feces or excreta; allowing or abetting prohibited; removal required.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person to have any animal under their custody or control, while on any of the public or private sidewalks, parkways, or walkways, or parts of streets, or public parks or ways on the oceanfront devoted to the use of the public, or upon the grassy area located between the Lake Trail and Lake Worth, the town bicycle path, beaches, or upon premises owned by any person, firm or corporation other than the owner or custodian of such animal, *without having on his or her person a device which would be capable of removing any offal, feces or excreta of such animal.*

Violations of the Pooper Scooper Law are considered Class III Violation Under the Citation Fine Schedule Sec. 2-439 as follows: First offense $250.00 Second and subsequent offense $500.00

For more information or if you would like a leash buddy, please call Code Enforcement at 561-227-7080

REPORT CRIMINAL ACTIVITY CONFIDENTIALLY
227-6464 or www.palmbeachpolice.com

Know the Scam...
SO YOU DON'T BECOME A VICTIM

If you have a computer, telephone or a mailbox, you could become a victim. Your best defense is to know a scam when you see (or hear) one. Following are a few common scams that criminals pitch to innocent people every day:

Credit-related Schemes: You are promised a credit card regardless of your credit history, for an advance fee. Or you are promised credit card protection or credit repair services, also for a fee. You pay, but the card or service is never delivered.

Magazine Sales Scams: You are offered a magazine subscription at a very low price by someone who claims to work for the magazine company. The price is misrepresented and is actually much higher, or the magazine is never delivered.

Investment Fraud: You are invited to participate in an investment opportunity and promised spectacular profits with no risk. Instead of making money, you lose it.

Overpayment Scams: You advertise something you want to sell, and a potential buyer offers to purchase it. The buyer sends a check for more than the asking price and asks you to wire back the difference. You do, but later the buyer's check bounces.

Work-at-home Scams: Advertisements promise big earnings for people who want to work at home. You send a check for training or materials and receive a kit with cheap craft materials and discover there are no clients to pay for your work.

Vacation/Travel Fraud: You accept an offer for a free or very cheap travel package but end up paying hidden costs, such as reservation fees or taxes, or listening to a high-pressure sales pitch for a timeshare or club membership.

Phishing: You get an email or pop-up message that says your account must be updated immediately or it will be closed. You click on a link to a website that looks like it belongs to your bank or other institution and "update" your account by entering personal identifying information. Soon you discover you are a victim of identity theft.

Pharming: Also called domain spoofing, this technique is used by criminals to redirect Web traffic from a legitimate server to their own server, where they can steal any personal information that the user types in. Pharmers "poison" the Domain Name Service in order to "fool" a user's browser into linking to a bogus website.

Nigerian Money Scam: You are contacted by someone from Nigeria and offered millions of dollars if you will transfer money from a foreign bank to your bank account for safekeeping. When you agree, you are asked to pay huge transfer fees or legal expenses but receive no money.

Prize and Sweepstakes Scam: You are told that you have won a fabulous prize but must buy something or pay taxes up front in order to claim it. The prize is a cheap trinket, worth far less than the money you paid to claim it.

Foreign Lotteries Scam: You are offered tickets to enter a foreign lottery and send money, but either the lottery doesn't exist or the tickets never arrive. It is illegal to promote a foreign lottery by telephone or mail in the United States.

Pyramids and Multilevel Marketing: For a fee, you are promised big profits in exchange for recruiting new members. Plans that promise profits for recruitment of members rather than for selling goods and services are illegal and usually collapse.

Scholarship Scams: A company guarantees scholarship money for an upfront fee, but it only helps locate scholarships rather than awarding them.

Charity Scams: A natural disaster is dominating the news and you get a letter/email/phone call asking you to donate funds to help its victims. You send money, but the victims never receive your donation or receive only a tiny portion—the rest goes to cover administrative costs like salaries.

Bogus Merchandise Sales: You purchase something advertised for sale on the Internet or through a telemarketing call. You pay for the merchandise but never receive it or receive an inferior or counterfeit product in its place.

Telephone Cramming: Unauthorized charges for goods or services appear on your phone bill, but you miss seeing them because your phone bill is complicated with authorized charges such as voice mail and Internet service.

Telephone Slamming: Your telephone service is switched from your current company to another one without your knowledge or permission, resulting in higher charges for long distance and other services.

For more information please call The Palm Beach Police Department at (561) 838-5454 or visit us @ www.palmbeachpolice.com

Palm Beach Crime Watch, Inc.
P.O. Box 3401
Palm Beach, FL 33480

www.palmbeachpolice.com

Holiday Tips

The Palm Beach Police Department encourages everyone to enjoy this most festive time of year. Unfortunately, crime never takes a holiday and, in fact, criminal activity flourishes during the holiday season. To avoid being the victim of crime, follow these safe shopping tips and don't let the thieves rob you of your holiday spirit:

Online Shopping Safety Tips:

Retailers are now offering online holiday savings. Follow these simple guidelines when making online purchases to reduce your risk:

- Know who you are dealing with. Confirm the online seller's physical address and phone number in case you have questions or problems.
- Know exactly what you are buying. Read the seller's description of the product closely, especially the fine print. Check out the terms of the deal, like refund policies, privacy policies and delivery dates.
- Know what it will cost. Factor shipping and handling, along with your needs and budget, into the total cost of the order.
- Pay by credit card only and do not use your debit card to maximum your protection. Make sure the payment site is secure. Keep your passwords safe and don't share them with other people.
- Print and/or save records electronically of your online transactions.

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

Shopping Safety Tips:

- Keep your car doors locked when driving or parked. Stay alert to your surroundings. Walk assertively. Muggers and purse snatchers will try to catch you by surprise.
- Remember where you park your car. Try to park near in a well lighted area to assist you in finding your car and getting into your car. Whenever possible shop before dark or bring a friend along if you plan to shop at night.
- Avoid parking near vans or other vehicles with cargo areas. Look around the parking lot for suspicious persons before exiting your car. Don't get out of your car until you are ready. If you don't feel safe, stay in your car or drive away. Don't walk alone to your car if you are parked in a remote area. Ask a sales assistant to call security to accompany you to your car.When shopping, always be cautious with your wallet or purse. Keep your wallet in a secured pocket or in your purse. Don't carry large amounts of cash. Use a single credit card or debit card instead. You can eliminate a target if you don't carry a purse and don't wear expensive jewelry or watches when shopping. If an attempt is made to take your purse or valuables – give them up!! There is nothing more important than your safety.
- Make several trips to your car to drop off packages. When approaching your car, have your keys in your hand. If your hands are full of packages while you rummage through your purse for your keys – you become an easy target for thieves.
- Place all of your valuables such as packages, briefcases, and backpacks in the trunk of your car. DO NOT LEAVE VALUABLES IN PLAIN SIGHT. If you have a van or SUV, keep the packages in an enclosed container or under a blanket in the very back of the vehicle.
- Talk to your children before you go shopping as to where to go or who in the store is a safe person, should you get separated. Teach your children to look for mall/store security or the person behind the cash register.

Follow these safety tips to help you reduce the risk of becoming a victim. However, if you do become a victim please call police immediately by dialing (561) 838-5454. In any emergency, dial 9-1-1.