



Capitol
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CITY OF BOCA RATON
TOWN OF HIGHLAND BEACH
CITY OF PARKLAND
CITY OF COCONUT CREEK
CITY OF BELLE GLADE
CITY OF SOUTH BAY
VILLAGE OF WELLINGTON

*For information purposes only. Be advised that times and dates are subject to change.

Wellington
36th Annual Holiday Parade
December 8, 2019
1:30pm

Delray Beach
Old School Square Park
December 5, 2019
5:00pm - 9:00pm

Boynton & Delray Beach
Annual Holiday Boat Parade
North of the Boynton Beach
Inlet December 13, 2019 6:30 pm

Delray Beach
Old School Square Park
December 22, 2019
5:30pm

Boynton Beach
Canyon Town Center
Amphitheater
December 29, 2019
3:00pm-5:00pm

Menorah Candle Lighting & Celebrations



The Reader Reader

Holiday Edition



Kevin Ronder





Internet Security

This time of year many use the internet as a resource for gift shopping or donating to charities. Although the internet is an incredible asset, there still needs to be some caution before entering any sensitive information online. The Federal Trade Commission and the Florida Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division warn that internet users be wary of scams that are sent by email. Below are some tips on how you can avoid online schemes.

- Ensure that your computer has its anti-virus software up to date.
- Don't open attachments or click links in an email from an unknown source.
- If you receive any suspicious emails, mark them as spam. Never include personal financial information in an email.
- It is recommended that you use a credit card instead of a debit card when online shopping. While the disputing charges process may be the same for both cards, it may take longer for funds to be returned to a debt card.
- Do not be a hackers dream by having the same password for all your accounts. Create separate passwords for different sites, which include symbols, numbers, upper and lower case letters.
- Review your financial accounts regularly to ensure there are no duplicate or fraudulent charges. When online shopping, only use brands and businesses that you are familiar with or have a strong reputation.

For more information please visit the Florida Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division website at www.MyFloridaLegal.com or report a scam by calling the Fraud Hotline 1-866-966-7226.

2020

Ring in the New Year Safely

New Year celebrations tends to revolve around fireworks and sparklers. Although they make for fantastic displays and fun, it is vital that we be very cautious. The National Fire Protection Association reports that fireworks cause an annual average of three deaths and cause \$43 million in property damage. Here are some tips on how to stay safe.

- It is best to avoid purchasing fireworks packaged in brown paper as it is often a sign that they are for professional use.
- Before lighting any sparklers or fireworks, have a water hose and fire extinguisher handy as a precaution.
- Young children should not be given sparklers as they risk being injured. Although they seem harmless, Sparklers burn at temperatures hot enough to melt some metals.
- Douse the used fireworks or sparklers prior to discarding them to prevent a trash fire.
- It is dangerous to try and re-light or pick up fireworks that did not fully ignite.

Wishing you the most fantastic start to the New Year!

Holiday Fun Center



CANDLES
CAROL
CHRISTMAS
DECORATIONS
DREIDEL
GENEROSITY
GINGERBREAD
HANUKKAH
HOLIDAY
ICICLES
JOLLY
MENORAH
NEW-YEAR
NUTCRACKER
SEASON
TINSEL
WINTER
WREATH



Check-A-Charity

During the holiday season, many show kindness by donating to very worthy causes. Unfortunately, there are organizations that take advantage of others generosity, making it very important to learn more about any given charity prior to making a donation. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services provides a Check-A-Charity online tool with ample information for prospective donors about charities. By simply entering the charity's name, you can find how much they spend on fundraising and administrative costs, as opposed to how much money gets allocated for actual programming. Additionally, the Department recommends the following to avoid charity fraud:

- It is best to contribute by check and make it out to the organization.
- The charity name can be deceiving since various organizations have similar names as well-known charities.
- Appeals made by telephone are usually not made by volunteers, but by paid solicitors instead. This could be a red flag as telemarketing is expensive and may entail substantial fundraising costs on behalf of the charity.
- Prior to donating, inquire as to how the funds raised will be spent. Ask questions and hold off on donating until you get satisfactory answers.
- Be wary of solicitors that use pressure tactics or that offer to send a "runner" to pick up your contribution. Reputable charities will not rush you to make a donation.

For more information, or to report a charity scam, call 1-800-HELP-FLA (1 800 435 7352) or visit www.fdacs.gov.



Toy Shopping Info

Many toys are purchased during this time of year, and in this section I will be sharing safety information. Prior to purchasing toys it is important to ensure that the quality, design, and construction be safe. Below are the recommendations of the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission:

- Toy's instructions and directions should be clear to follow by both the adults and children.
- Read the toy's labels and look for the age recommendations and safety information. Found within the safety label will be whether the toy is flame retardant and made of washable or hypoallergenic materials.
- It is better to not purchase toys with sharp edges for children eight years or younger.
- When selecting toys for children three years old or younger, please be sure that it does not have small parts that can be pulled off.
- Children's ears are much more sensitive, so it is recommended to stay away from toys that make loud noises.
- Toys with long strings or cords can be life-threatening dangerous for very young children as they can accidentally become entangled.

