

THE RADER

READER

2018

*Holiday Edition*



*Florida State Senator Kevin Rader, District 29*

*Dear Friends:*

I wanted to wish the happiest of holidays to you, and your family. It is my honor to continue serving as your voice. In this newsletter, I have included information on a variety of topics including volunteer opportunities, toy safety, internet safety, and holiday events. A fun activity is also available on the last page.

If you have any concerns or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

*Kevin Rodes*

## *Internet Safety*

The internet is an innovative tool for all ages. People check their email and social media, browse, and shop online on a daily basis. During online activities, it is essential to proceed with caution to avoid internet scams. We all need to be careful especially this holiday season. I have included some tips on how users can prevent online swindling.

1. When buying items online stick to brands and businesses that are familiar or have a strong reputation.
2. Never click on pop-up alerts of any kind. Often times these messages will say that you won something or that your computer has a virus. In other cases pop-ups sell a "product" of interest.
3. Ask a friend or loved one to help you find a real anti-virus software, anti-spyware, and firewall technology to prevent schemes.
4. Never open emails or attachments from senders you don't recognize.
5. Never open links sent in a spam email.
6. Use strong passwords that include numbers, symbols, upper and lowercase letters to avoid being hacked.



# Toy Safety

Safe Toys and Gifts Awareness Month focuses on child safety and brings this important issue to our attention every December. Prevent Blindness America advocate for this cause to prevent tragedies and to provide tools to adults on how to make informed gift decisions for their young ones. Below I have (listed) some helpful tips for choosing safe toys this holiday season and beyond.

1. Inspect all toys before purchasing.
2. Make sure the toy is age appropriate. Look for labels that assure you the toys have passed a safety inspection.
3. "ATSM" means the toy has met the American Society for Testing and Materials standards.
4. Do NOT give small children toys with small parts, magnets, ropes, chords, or heating components.



The holidays tend to bring out the best in others. This time of year is when people tend to give a helping hand to those who need it the most. If you, a family member or friend is interested in volunteering this holiday season here are some wonderful organizations that are hosting service projects.

- Boca Helping Hands  
Phone: 561.417.0913  
Email: [info@bocahelpinghands.org](mailto:info@bocahelpinghands.org)
- Feeding South Florida  
Phone: 561.331.5441  
[contact@feedingsouthflorida.org](mailto:contact@feedingsouthflorida.org)
- Toys for Tots Palm Beach  
561-889-9716  
[westpalmbeacht4t@usmc.mil](mailto:westpalmbeacht4t@usmc.mil)

December as you know is the month of generosity. In the spirit of giving many people will donate to charities. Unfortunately, in the age of the internet, fake institutions often take advantage of these good-willed men and women who thoughtfully want to support a cause. Because of this, it's extremely important to research charities before making donations.

Below are some resources for your reference in case you or a loved one are looking to find a genuine organization that optimizes your donations during the holidays.

- Check-A-Charity  
Phone: 1-800-435-7352
- Charity Navigator  
[www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org)
- Florida Division of Consumer Services:  
Report an Internet Scam  
(1-877-693-5236)



# *Holiday Parades*

## **Boca Raton**

Holiday Boat Parade  
Intracoastal Waterway

December 22  
6:30-8:00 P.M.



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



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**District 29 Cities**

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

**Including portions of:**

Coral Springs  
Lake Worth  
Boynton Beach  
Delray Beach

**Our mailing address is:**

*District:*

5301 N. Federal Highway, Suite 135  
Boca Raton, FL 33487  
561-443-8170

*Tallahassee:*

222 Senate Office Building  
404 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
850-487-5029

**Email:**

**[Rader.Kevin.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:Rader.Kevin.web@flsenate.gov)**



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