



From the desk of Commissioner Robert S. Weinroth

Safety Tips for the Online Holiday Shopping

Holiday shopping online is more popular than ever! Reportedly, over 80 percent of U.S. consumers plan to shop online for holiday gifts. In 2017, the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center received nearly 300,000 online-theft complaints. Victims reported losses totaling \$1.4 billion.

Consequently, the following are some precautionary measures when shopping online.

- **Shop at websites you trust:** Some websites are fabricated by people who just want your credit card information and other personal details. To play it safe, consider doing online business with retailers you trust and have used before.
- **Beware of rock-bottom prices:** If a website offers something that looks too good to be true, then it probably is and may only be a scam to get your personal information
- **Avoid public Wi-Fi:** Wi-Fi networks use public airwaves which can allow someone the ability to intercept the data you send and receive. Since shopping online usually requires personal information such as credit card numbers and addresses, it's highly recommended that you don't shop online or log in to websites while connected to public Wi-Fi.
- **Passwords:** create strong passwords using a complex set of characters (upper and lower case letters, numbers and symbols). Avoid using the same password on multiple accounts and personal information such as birthdates and children's names.
- **Watch out for email scams:** Clicking on emails from unknown or unrecognizable senders could infect your computer with viruses and

malware. It is highly recommendable that you don't open these emails or any links or attachments associated with them.

- **Report the company:** If you suspect the business is bogus, notify your credit card company about the charge and close your account. File a complaint with the [Federal Trade Commission](#) (FTC). The FTC offers an identity theft recovery plan, should you need it.

Discount Prescription Drug Card

Palm Beach County residents have access to a **free** prescription discount program through a mutual agreement between the county, the National Association of Counties (NACo) and Caremark. Even though this has been available for a number of years, I wanted to take this opportunity to remind everyone about the program.

Any county resident can use the program. It can also be used if you have a prescription insurance, since it may save you money on drugs your existing plan does not cover. There are over 59,000 participating pharmacies nationwide with 296 in Palm Beach County.

The card offers an average of a 20 percent discount at participating pharmacies of commonly prescribed medications and an average savings of 50 percent on 3-month supplies of select generics through mail service.

Savings are also available on high-tech and injectable drugs through a specialty pharmacy.

Again, the program is free and does not require any type of claim form.

To obtain additional information on the discount prescription drug program and/or print a card visit <http://rxsavingsplus.com/> or call 1-877-321-2652.

Nonprofit Spotlight: Education Foundation of Palm Beach County

The Education Foundation of Palm Beach County has connected the business and philanthropic sector to the world of public education. Currently, innovative programs funded by the Education Foundation are impacting the lives of over 122,000 students in the School District of Palm Beach County.

From robotics to literacy programs that use multi-sensory strategies to teach reading skills to our most vulnerable students, the Foundation's programs are making an impact. Additionally, other programs such as literacy, college and career readiness are also making a difference.

In 2015-2016, the Education Foundation launched Red Apple Supplies to ensure that teachers would no longer have to spend their own resources to provide school supplies for their students. Beginning with our highest-need schools, Red Apple Supplies is steadily expanding so that one day soon no teacher in Palm Beach County will ever again have to use their own resources to buy supplies for their students.

In 2018-2019 school year, the Foundation served 106 schools, providing over \$1.4 million in funding through various grant programs. They also provided over \$600,000 in school supplies. Consequently, over 122,000 students and 1,500 teachers and administrators were impacted.

For more information, visit <https://educationfoundationpbc.org/>.

BCC Briefs for November 19, 2019

At the November 19, 2019, Board of County Commissioners meeting, the board took the following action:

Reorganization – recognized and thanked Mayor Mack Bernard for his year of service as mayor. The board then elected Commissioner Dave Kerner to serve as mayor and Commissioner Robert S. Weinroth vice mayor. Each will serve one-year terms.

Solid Waste Authority – sitting as the Solid Waste Authority Governing Board, named Commissioner Robert Weinroth chair, Commissioner Gregg Weiss vice chair, and Commissioner Mack Bernard secretary.

Bond proposal – agreed to hold a workshop on a proposed \$150 million bond issue for environmental programs.

Bond ratings – announced that Palm Beach County has maintained AAA bond ratings from Moody's, Fitch and Standard & Poor's for its general obligation bonds and its revenue bonds earned a AAA rating from S&P. Revenue bonds issued by the Water Utilities Department also earned AAA ratings.

Goodwill – approved a contract for provision of services with Gulfstream Goodwill Industries, Inc. for the period December 1, 2019, through September 30, 2022, in an amount not to exceed \$559,501. Of this amount, \$164,559 is budgeted for FY 2020 with an anticipated annual allocation of \$197,471 in each subsequent fiscal year. This is contingent upon a budget appropriation by the board for housing services for homeless individuals with behavioral health needs in nine county-funded housing units.

Mallards Landing – approved the issuance of Housing Finance Authority multifamily housing revenue bonds to finance the costs of acquiring, constructing, renovating and equipping Mallards Landing, a 163-unit multifamily rental housing facility located at 1598 Quail Drive in unincorporated West Palm Beach. Units will be rented to qualified persons and families whose household incomes do not exceed 60 percent of area median income. No county funds, its taxing power, faith or credit are involved.

Roads – approved on first reading and to advertise for public hearing on December 17 the required annual update of the county’s Five Year Road Program.

Vehicles for hire – approved on first reading and to advertise for public hearing on December 17 an amendment to the Palm Beach County Vehicles for Hire Ordinance expanding the regulatory framework by creating a special event reciprocity provision. The amendment is necessary to ensure adequate processes are in place to accommodate anticipated regulatory demands in the tri-county region during special events such as Super Bowl LIV in Miami.

Brownfield – adopted a resolution designating the property located at 22866-22508 SW 65th Avenue in unincorporated Boca Raton as a Brownfield area to be known as the Residences at Boca Dunes Green Reuse Area for the purpose of rehabilitation, job creation and promoting economic development. No county funds are required for implementation.

Transportation – approved FTA FY2019 Section 5307 and Section 5339 grant allocations for the continued operations of the Palm Tran system the following amounts: \$5,912,630 to replace buses and relief vehicles that have reached their useful life; \$174,299 for the one-percent project security requirement; \$2,419,965 for facility improvements; \$1.511 million for shop maintenance equipment; \$500,000 for general planning consulting; \$500,000 for South County Expansion

furniture and \$8.5 million for preventive maintenance; \$50,000 for bus shelters. No county funds are required.

Opiate litigation – opted out as a class member of the negotiation class in the case of “In re: National Prescription Opiate Litigation,” case number MDL No. 2804 (N.D. Ohio) and “Palm Beach County v. Purdue Pharma, et al.,” case number: 1:18-op-46121-DAP (N.D. Ohio).

Facilities – approved priority ranking of special projects assigned to the Facilities Development and Operations Department.