



# 1

**ISO CLASS**



REDEFINING

EXCELLENCE

2 0 2 3

**ANNUAL REPORT**



# FIRE CHIEF

**KEITH BRYER, CFO**

In 2023, Palm Beach Gardens Fire Rescue successfully mitigated 14,452 emergency calls for service. Our success would not be possible without the unwavering commitment and dedication of our 135 shift personnel, our Community Risk Reduction Division, our Support Services Division, the City's Operations Center, and our command staff.

Once again, the department has reached a new milestone as we received national recognition when we became the first municipality in the State of Florida to become designated as a **HEARTSafe Community** by the Citizen CPR Foundation. This prestigious designation is granted to communities that focus on improving cardiac arrest outcomes through widespread CPR/Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training, community access to AEDs, cutting-edge resuscitation protocols, and heart health education.

Our personnel were awarded **Call of the Year** by the Palm Beach North Chamber of Commerce for their resuscitation of a newborn infant found in cardiac arrest. Thanks to the skill of the crew, the infant suffered no neurologic damage and has met all developmental milestones.

The department completed our **2024-2028 Community-Driven Strategic Plan**. This four-day process began with input from 32 members of the community who prioritized their expectations for emergency response over the next five years.

The department has begun training members in technical rescue. The Technical Rescue Team (TRT) is scheduled to begin service in December 2024. The TRT has specialized training for the mitigation of emergencies involving rope rescue, structural collapse, and vehicle and machinery rescue.

We have broken ground for Fire Station 6, which will be located in the Avenir Community. The station will be completed in early 2025. We look forward to serving our residents in the western part of our community.

The Insurance Services Office (ISO) evaluated the department in September 2023. ISO is an insurance advisory organization that provides statistical and actuarial information to insurance companies. This information includes a fire department's Public Protection Classification (PPC) that is assigned following an evaluation of emergency communications, fire department operations, water supply, and community risk reduction. PPCs range from a Class 1 to a Class 10. A Class 1 rating represents superior property fire protection, whereas a Class 10 does not meet ISO's minimum fire protection criteria. Effective May 1, 2024, the department will be designated as a **Class 1** fire department! Less than 500 departments nationwide hold a Class 1 rating. ***Additionally, we will be one of 13 departments nationwide to hold a Class 1 rating and accreditation by both the Commission on Fire Accreditation International and the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services!***

As we move into 2024, we will continue to embrace our culture of providing exceptional care and customer service to our community, and to remain leaders in the fire service.

# CITY & DEPARTMENT DEMOGRAPHICS

## MISSION

DEDICATED  
PROFESSIONALS  
DEVOTED TO THE  
DELIVERY OF  
EXCEPTIONAL  
SERVICES TO OUR  
COMMUNITY.

## VALUES

- P**ROFESSIONAL
- R**ESPONSIVE
- I**NNOVATIVE
- D**EDICATED
- E**XCELLENCE

SQUARE MILES

59.49

POPULATION

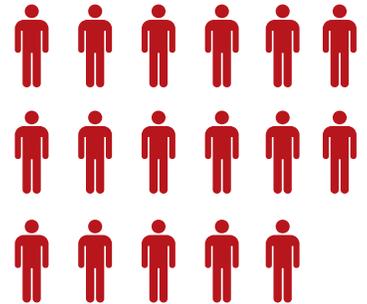
60,000

ANNUAL BUDGET

\$38,082,299

135

Number of  
Uniformed  
Personnel



17

Number  
of Civilian  
Personnel

5

Fire  
Stations

6

Engines

8

Rescue  
Units

2

Ladders\*

1

Truck\*\*

2

Brush  
Trucks

\*Fire engine with 75' or 100' hydraulic ladder

\*\*Fire engine with 100' hydraulic ladder and attached platform

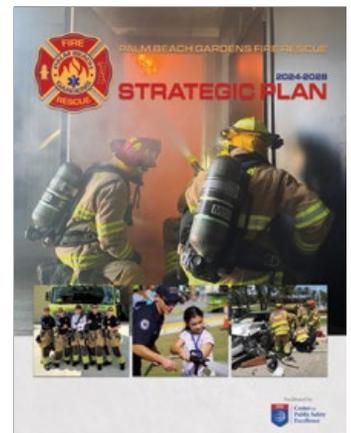
# ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Earned the American Heart Association's **Mission: Lifeline Gold** award again in 2023! This marks the ninth year in a row that the department has been recognized for its efforts in treating patients suffering a heart attack.



Named as the *first* **HEARTSafe Community** in the state of Florida by the Citizen CPR Foundation! HEARTSafe Communities improve survival from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest by promoting widespread CPR instruction, public access to defibrillators (AEDs), and cutting-edge resuscitation protocols. As part of these efforts, all City employees receive annual hands-only CPR training.



Completed all the goals and objectives in the **2018-2023 Community-Driven Strategic Plan** and developed the **2024-2028 Community-Driven Strategic Plan**. A total of 32 community members provided feedback and comments about the department's level of service, which were used by 27 department stakeholders to develop new goals and objectives to improve the level of service over the next five years.



Added 24/7/365 public access AEDs to all City parks and golf courses.



Received approval to modify the City's ordinance regarding fire sprinklers. The ordinance now requires that all newly constructed residential dwellings over 4,999 ft<sup>2</sup> have sprinkler systems to protect lives and property.

Hosted the **Clinician Awareness Program** in collaboration with the Florida Firefighters Safety and Health Collaborative. This program is designed for mental health clinicians wishing to gain insight into the firefighter culture to be more effective in treating firefighters. The class provided a comprehensive look into understanding the culture, lifestyle of firefighters, and details about their unique job stressors.



Donated 13 AEDs and AED storage boxes to local organizations and houses of worship thanks to a generous donation from the **BallenIsles Charities Foundation**. In addition, the department provided training on hands-only CPR and the use of the AEDs to these organizations.

# PERSONNEL ACHIEVEMENTS



## 2023 AWARDS

### WILLIAM F. O'BRIEN MEMORIAL (FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR):

- Rescue Lieutenant Michael Illarraza

### SHAWN THURMAN MEMORIAL (PARAMEDIC OF THE YEAR):

- Rescue Lieutenant Ernesto Mauri

### ANTHONY BONIELLO MEMORIAL AWARD FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT:

- Captain Kenneth Peluso

### COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION AWARD OF EXCELLENCE:

- Fire Inspector Michael Menor

### FIRE CHIEF COMMENDATION:

- Rescue Lieutenant Sloan Grimsley
- Captain Robert Kuczynski
- Chaplain Chad Lang
- Driver/Engineer Alex McCall
- John Morrow (ret.)

### SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD:

- District Captain Alex Lamb
- Battalion Chief David Markle

### CITIZEN MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD:

- Irwin Edenzon

## RETIREES

We would like to thank the following personnel for their years of dedicated service:

| NAME            | RANK                        | YEARS     |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Allen Schocken  | <i>Captain</i>              | <b>29</b> |
| Richard Jimenez | <i>EMS District Captain</i> | <b>28</b> |
| Jon Cragg       | <i>Fire Medic</i>           | <b>24</b> |
| Jerry Suiter    | <i>Firefighter</i>          | <b>19</b> |



## 2023 PROMOTIONS

- Bruce Donofrio, Rescue Lieutenant
- Ryan Winkelman, EMS District Captain
- Hunter Travis, Rescue Lieutenant
- Brian Marx, Captain



## 2023 ORANGE TO BLACK CEREMONY\*

- Vintavis Taylor, Fire Medic
- Kyle Drew, Fire Medic

*\*Recruits who have successfully completed their one-year probation.*



## 2023 NEW HIRES

### Recruit Class 01/23

- Adam Arbogast, Fire Medic
- Matthew Coon, Firefighter
- Christopher Denhart, Firefighter
- Allen Escuage, Firefighter
- Kaysa Flemk-Joli, Firefighter
- Adrian Gordillo, Firefighter
- Joseph Huber, Firefighter
- Gabriel Mauri, Fire Medic
- Joseph Montgomery, Firefighter
- Jared Olsen, Firefighter
- Dallas Orr, Fire Medic
- Thomas Sinatora, Fire Medic
- Hannah Veale, Firefighter



### Recruit Class 02/23

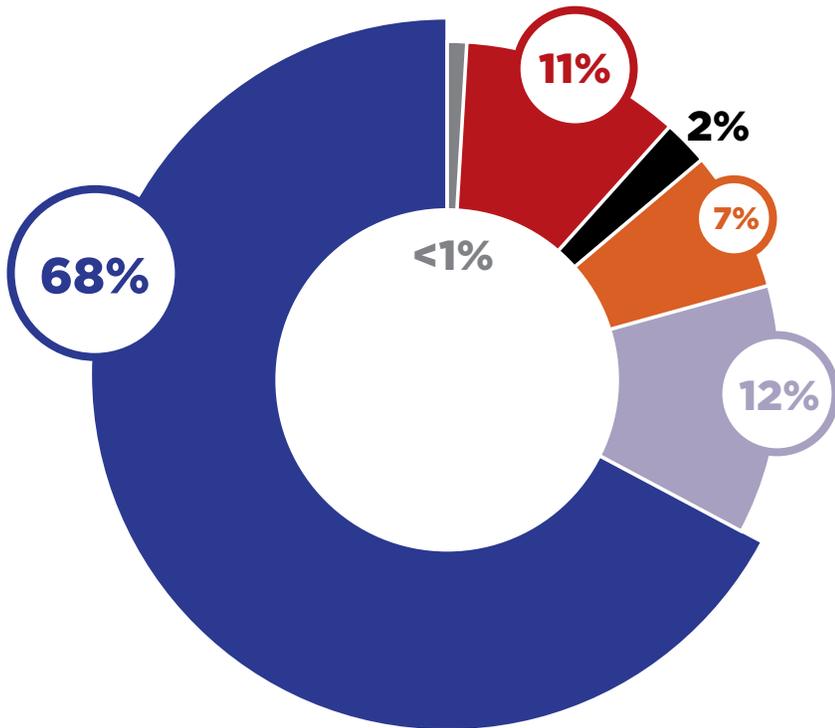
- Mariana Acevedo, Firefighter
- Jack Badalamenti, Firefighter
- Jared Chaloux, Firefighter
- Jesse Foertmeyer, Firefighter
- Sarah Harper, Firefighter
- Jagger McCoy, Firefighter
- Joseph Schults, Firefighter

### Training Division

- Christopher Bradley, Fire Training Instructor

# EMERGENCY RESPONSES

## TYPES OF CALLS IN PALM BEACH GARDENS



## AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME

5 MINUTES &  
52 SECONDS

## EMERGENCY CALLS WITHIN PBG

**8,374**  
EMS

**837**  
Technical Rescue  
*(includes car accidents, construction accidents, open water incidents, high-angle rescue, and industrial incidents)*

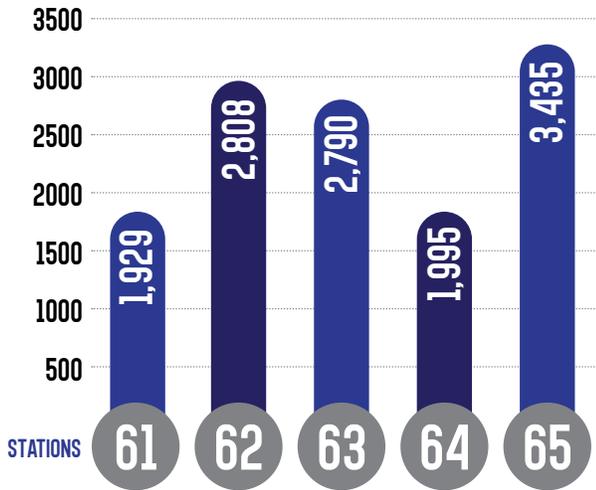
**267**  
Hazardous Materials  
*(includes gas leaks, carbon monoxide alarms, and chemical emergencies)*

**1,364**  
Fire  
*(includes structure fires, vehicle fires, and fire alarms)*

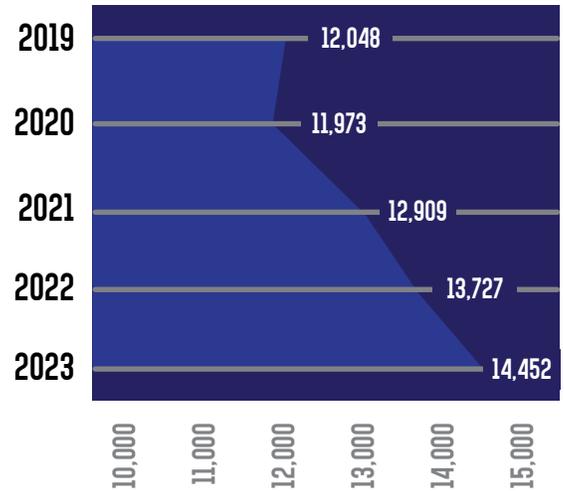
**25**  
Wildfire/  
Brush

# CALL VOLUMES

## EMERGENCY CALLS PER STATION ZONE

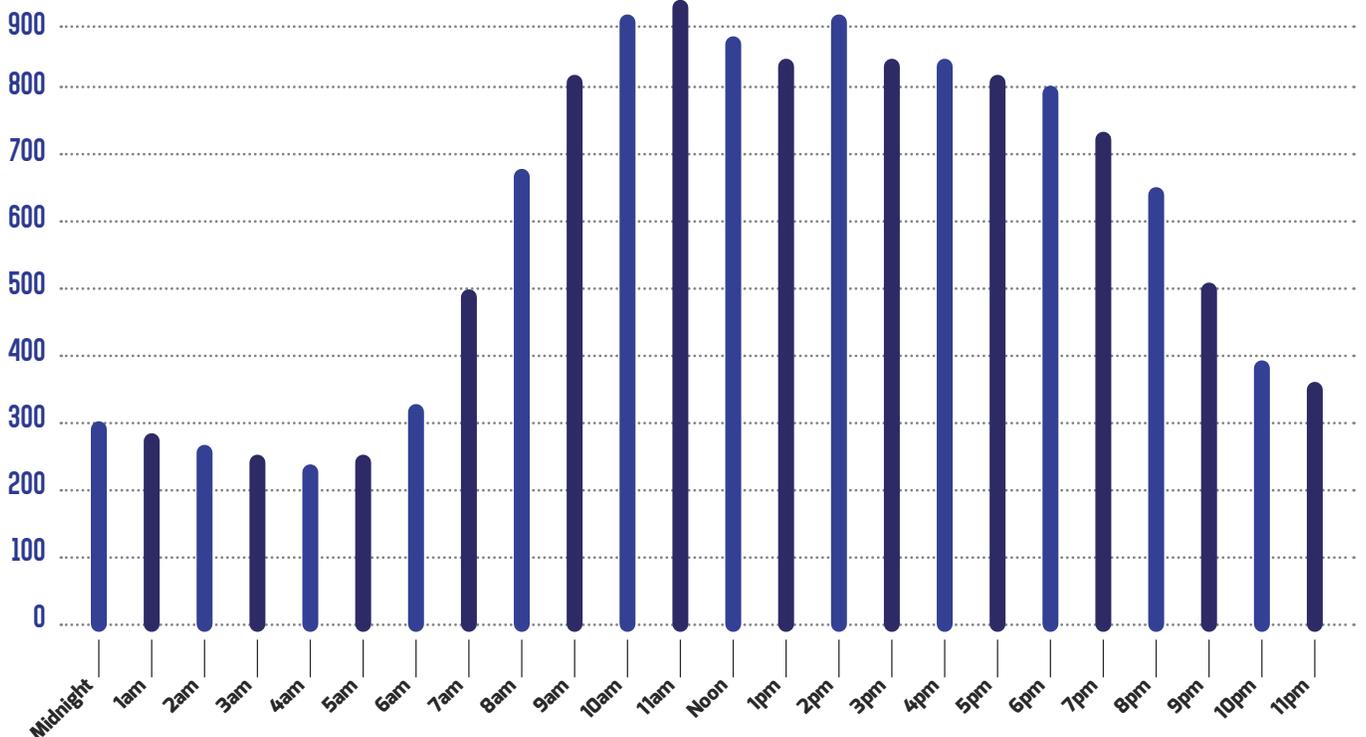


## TOTAL CALL VOLUME BY YEAR\*



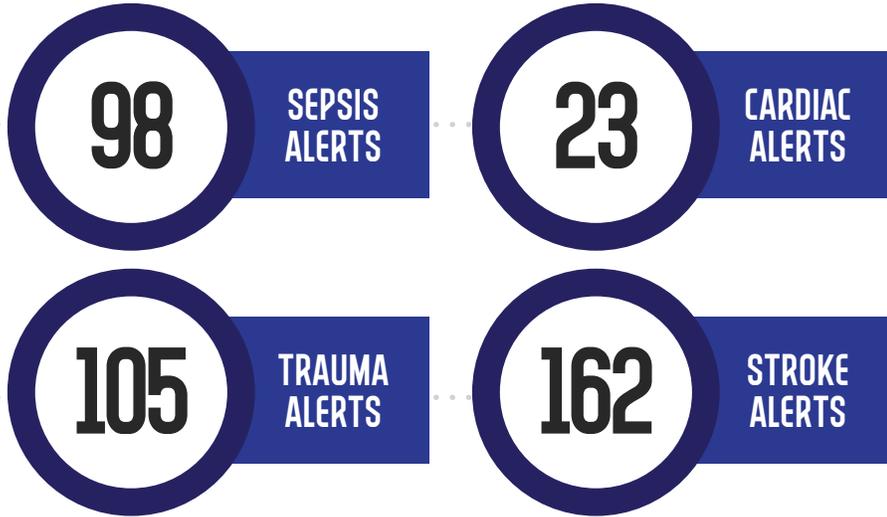
\*These call volumes include responses to surrounding communities based on automatic aid agreements with other departments.

## RESPONSES BY HOUR OF THE DAY



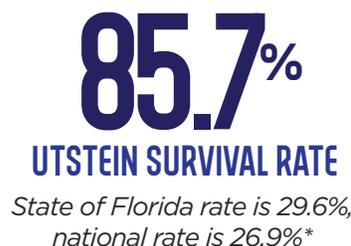
# [ EMS DIVISION ]

## NUMBER OF ALERTS



Patients that meet "alert" criteria are critically ill and require rapid transport to specialty hospitals so that they can receive the best possible care in order to decrease morbidity and mortality. The goal is to provide rapid stabilization and short on-scene times of 10 minutes or less. Hospitals are notified early, so that they can prepare to receive the patient upon Fire Rescue's arrival.

## TOP 3 EMS CALLS



\*Utstein Survival, CARES Summary Report dated 01/30/2024, 01/01/2023 through 12/31/2023. Utstein survival criteria focuses on out-of-hospital cardiac arrest events that were witnessed by a bystander and found in a shockable rhythm.

## AVERAGE ON-SCENE TIME\*

TRAUMA ALERTS  
7:23

CARDIAC ALERTS  
8:09

STROKE ALERTS  
7:54

SEPSIS ALERTS  
11:44

\*The total time from when paramedics make initial contact with the patient until they begin transporting to the hospital.



# TRAINING DIVISION

**FIRE TRAINING  
HOURS**

**24,043**

**EMS TRAINING  
HOURS**

**10,249**

**OTHER  
TRAINING  
HOURS**

**9,486**

*Other training hours include activities such as behavioral health, 'hot wash' discussions to review significant calls, probationary training, development academies for the promotional process, and daily physical training.*

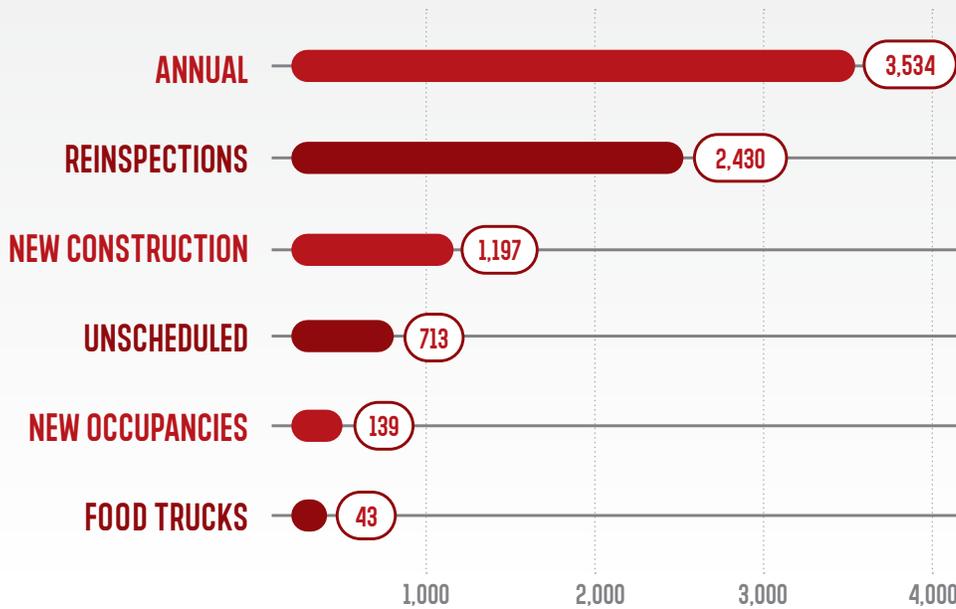
**Palm Beach Gardens Fire Rescue personnel hold the additional following certifications:**

- Pediatric Advanced Life Support
- Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support

# COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

## DIVISION

### INSPECTIONS



PLAN  
REVIEWS

1,342  
FIRE PLANS

92

FIRE MARSHAL  
CIVIL PLANS

25

EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT  
PLANS

### FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

\$486,780

TOTAL DOLLAR LOSS

\$14,658,057

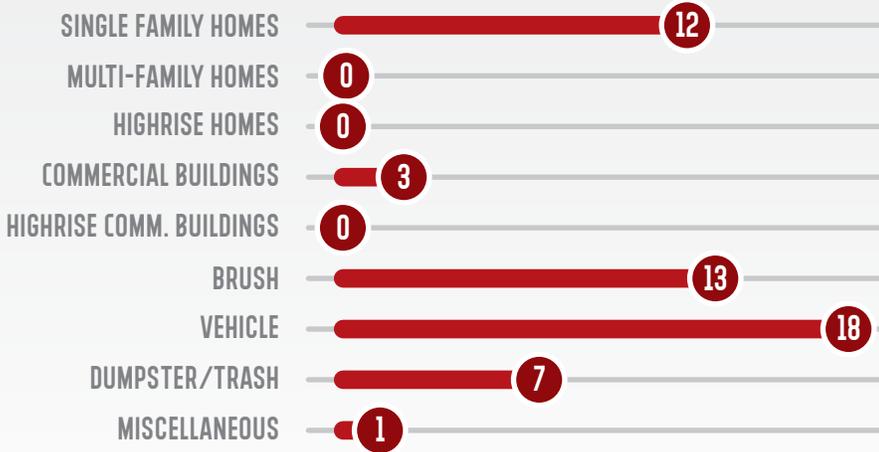
POTENTIAL DOLLAR LOSS\*

4 NUMBER OF FIRES THAT  
REQUIRED INVESTIGATION

*\*Potential Dollar Loss is the dollar value of the structure and indicates what the dollar loss would be if the structure were completely destroyed by fire. This amount includes the contents of the structure.*

# [FIRES]

## WITHIN CITY LIMITS



### STRUCTURE FIRE CONTAINMENT

09

Contained to  
the Object That  
Started the Fire

03

Contained to the  
Room Where the  
Fire Started

03

Fire Spread within  
the Occupancy

00

Fire Spread to an  
Adjacent Occupancy

### INJURIES/DEATHS DUE TO FIRE

3

CIVILIAN  
INJURIES

0

CIVILIAN  
DEATHS

0

FIREFIGHTER  
INJURIES

0

FIREFIGHTER  
DEATHS

# [ OUR COMMUNITY ]



*Palm Beach State College Job Fair*



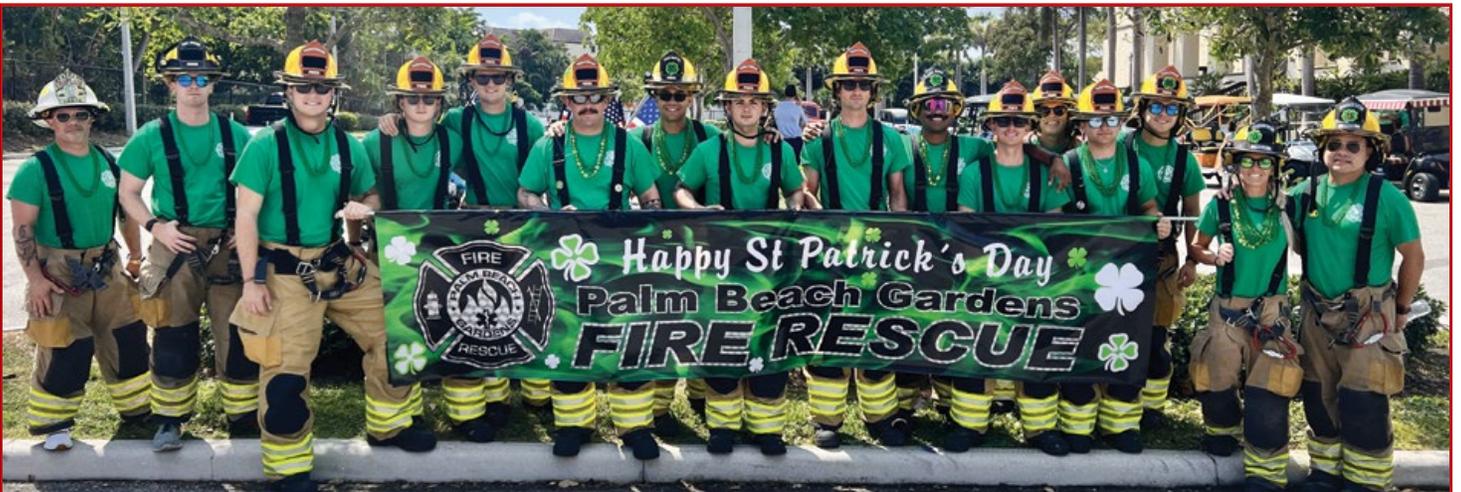
*Public Safety Day*



*2023 Fire Truck Pull Competition Team for Connections (a nonprofit education center that specializes in instruction to students with autism)*

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS:

- Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center
- Palm Beach Gardens High School Pre-Medicine Program
- Fire Explorer Post #705



*2023 Delray Beach St. Patrick's Day Parade*

# PUBLIC EDUCATION EVENTS



114

Community  
Events

25

School  
Programs

38

Station  
Tours



Click or Scan to  
Register for a  
**FREE Hands-Only  
CPR Class**

CPR  
PARTICIPANTS  
**1,653**

STROKE RISK  
ASSESSMENTS  
**201**

PARTICIPANTS  
**7,346**



# CITY of PALM BEACH GARDENS

## Future Home of Fire Station No. 6



**City Council:**

Chelsea Reed, Mayor  
Carl W. Woods, Vice Mayor  
Marcie Tinsley, Councilmember  
Robert G. Premuroso, Councilmember  
Dana P. Middleton, Councilmember

**City Manager:**

Ronald M. Ferris

**Fire Chief:**

Keith Bryer

**Architect:** WJ Architects + Boruff

**Contractor:** Di Pompeo Construction

## LOCATIONS

**Fire Station 61**

4425 Burns Rd.  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

**Fire Station 62**

11025 Campus Dr.  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

**Fire Station 63**

5161 Northlake Blvd.  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

**Fire Station 64**

11264 Jog Rd.  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

**Fire Station 65**

3913 Hood Rd.  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

**FUTURE Fire Station 66**

*Avenir Community*

**Logistics Center**

3704 Burns Rd.  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

**Administrative Division**

10500 N. Military Trail  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410  
Phone: 561-799-4300  
Fax: 561-799-4399

 @PBGardensFire