



City of Galveston

PRESS RELEASE

Media Contact: Kurt Koopman, Police Media Specialist
kkoopman@galvestontx.gov | 409.739.6914 Cell

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Guest Column: Support the Galveston Police Department's Blue Santa Toy Drive

Lately, as you drive around the island it is obvious that soon, Santa Claus will be coming to town. However, this year in Galveston, as has been the case since 1994, Santa will not be decked out in his traditional red outfit, instead he will be in blue.

It is that time of the year when the Galveston Police Department conducts their Blue Santa Toy Drive. This annual effort benefits hundreds of island children during the holiday season and would not be possible without the partnership between police officers and the community.

Since the beginning of the Blue Santa program on the island the generosity of the individuals, businesses and other organizations has been incredible. It has allowed so much to be done for so many that otherwise may struggle to provide their children with gifts during the holiday season.

Galveston police officers serve their community day in and day out in many ways, and often dealing with very difficult situations. The Blue Santa program is one of the happiest ways they can interact with residents.

Please consider supporting our Blue Santa toy drive by donating a new, unwrapped toy at collection boxes that are located at multiple locations around the city. If you are unable to donate a toy, monetary donations are also accepted. All support stays on the island.

If you own a business, we ask that you consider becoming a drop off location. Just find a big box and decorate it however you would like. Get creative and design a box that will draw attention. Print out the flyer that can be found at <https://www.galvestontx.gov/1244/Blue-Santa> and attach it to your box. Once donations have been collected you can drop off the box at the Joe Max Taylor Law Enforcement Center, 601 54th St. in Galveston by December 18.

You can also collect cash donations at your business or organization for the Blue Santa Toy Drive that will be used to purchase toys. Donors can call the number below to schedule a pickup.



For more information on locations, donations or pickups call 409-526-9750.

Each year when we work on the toy drive, we realize this is the true essence of the holiday season. What could be better than the spirit of giving that helps a child and their family experience a meaningful holiday season. That is what the Galveston Police Department's Blue Santa Toy Drive is helping provide.

**Jovan Harris, Sergeant
Galveston Police Department**