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Five restaurants, property manger show appreciation

Sheriff's Office treated to free food

*BY WADE ARNOLD
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MERRITT ISLAND — Five Merritt Island restaurants showed their appreciation to the Brevard County Sheriff's Office recently by offering employees something for free.

Vinnie's Italian Restaurant, Chi Lin Japanese & Chinese Cuisine, Delino's Pizzeria, Tijuana Flats Mexican and the Cozy Corner Café all offered free lunch lunches Dec. 13 to anyone who works with the department.

The idea came from Ralph Perrone, who owns Perrone Properties. His business leases the properties to all the restaurants except the Cozy Corner Café.

"I kind of came up with the idea a month ago," Perrone said.

After driving to one of his properties that had been having some minor crime issues, he said, he noticed a sheriff's patrol car.

"I thought there might be a problem, but the deputy said she was just checking to make sure everything was OK. I had never met her before," he said.

"I just thought that someone should do something nice for them. Anytime we have ever needed the sheriff's department, they have always been there."

Perrone has been operating his property business in Brevard for the last 12 years, after starting it in Miami.

"We just really wanted to be around nicer people," he said.

Its important that local businesses, he said, give back to the community.

"I'm excited to do this."

The sheriff's office employees simply had to show their ID at any of the participating restaurants to receive their holiday-gift lunch.

