



# TARPON SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT

*"Building a Better Future through Excellence in Policing"*



November 2020

## Crime Watch Newsletter

The Tarpon Springs Police Department participated in the Trunk or Treat event put on by the Tarpon Springs Recreation Center. We had officers at three locations passing out candy as families and friends drove through each site showing off their costumes.



Trunk

Or

Treat



# Police

## Officer of the Quarter



Detective Chris Lemmon was involved in investigating a fraud ring, resulting in almost one million dollars in stolen items being recovered. Additionally, he utilized his skills while handling a recent drive-by shooting for which the suspect was identified and arrested.

Detective Chris Lemmon is very detailed and always eager to assist other officers, even when he is not at work.

**CONGRATULATIONS !!!!!**



# Stay Alert!!!!

## PROPERTY CRIME YOU CAN HELP PREVENT IT



### LOCK IT

Ensure your car doors and all doors to your residence are kept locked.



### REMOVE IT

Removing valuables from your car is better than hiding them. This includes garage door openers and spare keys.



### LIGHT IT

Leave exterior residence lights on at night or utilize motion detecting lights.



### CLOSE IT

Keep your garage door closed and double-check it is closed at night.



### HIDE IT

Keep valuables in your garage, car and home out of sight.



### REPORT IT

Report all criminal and suspicious activity immediately.

Police-727-937-6151

**TARPON SPRINGS  
POLICE DEPARTMENT**



NON-EMERGENCY  
(727) 938-2849  
WWW.TSPD.US



**To those in uniform serving today and to those who have served in the past, we honor you, November 11, 2020 and Every Day.**



# TRAFFIC SAFETY



The Thanksgiving Holiday is a peak travel period for families coming together to celebrate.

Law Enforcement is committed to protecting you on our roadways, assisting you in any way possible and providing you with the information you need to travel safely.

Follow these tips to help ensure we all *Arrive Alive* this Thanksgiving:

**Never Drive Impaired.** Celebrate responsibly and do not get behind the wheel if you have been drinking or took drugs that cause impairment. Plan ahead and find a safe way home every time, designate a driver or use a ride service.

**Check your tires.** Tires are a vehicle's first line of defense on the road. Check your tire pressure, tread depth and spare tire especially before long trips. Do not over load your vehicle, it can result in premature wear and tire blowouts.

**Buckle up.** A seat belt is your vehicle's most important safety feature. Florida law requires that all drivers, all front seat passengers and all passengers under the age of 18 wear seat belts or the appropriate child restraints. Seat belts save lives, so buckle up every trip, every time.

**Register or update your Emergency Contact Information (ECI).** ECI is a secure system allowing law enforcement, nationwide, to contact designated family or friends in response to an emergency situation.

**Observe and obey all speed limits.** Speed limits may change as you drive through different types of roadways, so make sure you adjust your speed accordingly.

**In Florida, the limit will never be over 70 mph.**

# SCAMS

## Florida college students warned of work-from-home job scams

Attorney General Ashley Moody today issued a Consumer Alert warning students at Florida colleges and universities of an emerging work-from-home employment scam. Scammers are targeting students via emails that appear to be sent from a college or university advertising fictitious work-from-home employment opportunities. The scammers obtain personal information from the student while posing as a university representative. Savvy scammers convince students to cash counterfeit checks and send them the money.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “During the COVID-19 crisis and resulting economic downturn, Floridians are looking for work, and it is unconscionable that scammers are exploiting these times of uncertainty to prey on our college students. Students who fall victim to this scam could face serious repercussions to their financial stability and credit record. I am urging all students currently enrolled at Florida colleges and universities to take extra precaution when receiving online job offers.”

The emerging scheme involves scammers sending online job advertisements offering college students an administrative position, tricking the student into believing the email is from a college or university representative by using an email address ending in ‘.edu’. As part of the scheme, the student receives counterfeit checks in the mail, or via email, and is instructed to deposit the checks into a personal checking account. The scammers then direct the student to withdraw the money and make a payment necessary for the job. Often, after the student sends the money, the checks are confirmed to be fraudulent by the bank.

According to Attorney General Moody’s Consumer Protection Division, students falling victim to the scam experience bank accounts being closed due to fraudulent activity and a report filed by the bank with a credit bureau or law enforcement agency. Additionally, the student would be responsible for reimbursing the bank for the total amount of the counterfeit checks, often times resulting in an adverse effect on the student’s credit record.

# SCAMS cont.

To avoid these types of employment scams:

- Research the company before accepting any job offer. Does the company have a professional website and legitimate contact information? Search for what others are saying about experiences with the company;
- If the solicitor is communicating via email, locate contact information for the sender through the school's website and confirm whether the job offer is real;
- Look for red flags, such as typos and grammatical errors. Offers of employment or pay without an interview are another sign of an employment scam; and
- Never send funds in the form of cash, checks, gift cards or wire transfers to secure a job or as part of an assigned duty by a new employer.

Since the pandemic hit Florida, Attorney General Ashley Moody has issued more than a dozen Consumer Alerts to help Floridians avoid COVID-19 related scams. To view previous Consumer Alerts about emerging COVID-19 related scams,

visit <http://myfloridalegal.com/ConsumerAlert>

Anyone who believes they are the victim of hacking or a COVID-19 related scam should contact the Florida Attorney General's Office at 1(866) 9NO-SCAM or [MyFloridaLegal.com](http://MyFloridaLegal.com)





## **Santa is coming to town and we need your help!**

The Tarpon Springs Police Department's Annual Cops/kids Christmas Program is underway. The Police Department provides gifts to low income and at-risk children and families actively involved in the Tarpon Springs Cops/Kids Program.

The police department is asking for your help in making the wishes of these children come true. We are accepting new unwrapped gifts for children from the age of 2 through 13. We are also accepting cash donations in order to provide those special "Wish List" items.

Checks should be made payable to:

*Tarpon Springs Police Department Cops/Kids Program*

We will begin accepting Gift Donations on November 17th and continue through December 21st.

Cash or check donations can be made anytime. Donations may be dropped off at:

**Tarpon Springs Police Department  
444 S. Huey Ave., Tarpon Springs, FL 34689  
(any day, any time)**

If you have any questions please call us at (727) 938-2849

**The Tarpon Springs Police Department Cops/Kids Program  
does not ask for donations by telephone solicitation and any  
calls like this may be fraudulent.**





# Fire Safety



The kitchen is the heart of the home, especially at Thanksgiving. Kids love to be involved in holiday preparations. Safety in the kitchen is important, especially on Thanksgiving Day when there is a lot of activity and people at home.

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop so you can keep an eye on the food.
- Stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently.
- Keep children away from the stove. The stove will be hot and kids should stay 3 feet away.
- Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns.
- Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags.
- Keep knives out of the reach of children.
- Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer or mixer are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.
- Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children — up high in a locked cabinet.
- Never leave children alone in room with a lit candle.
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test them by pushing the test button.

## Did you know?



**Have activities** that keep kids out of the kitchen during this busy time. Games, puzzles or books can keep them busy. Kids can get involved in Thanksgiving preparations with recipes that can be done outside the kitchen.



**NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**  
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

**Tarpon Springs  
Fire Rescue**



**IF YOU SEE  
SOMETHING,  
SAY  
SOMETHING.**

**REPORT  
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY  
TO THE POLICE**

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**Tarpon Springs Police Department**

**444 South Huey Avenue**

**Tarpon Springs, FL 34689**

**Emergency #911**

**Administration # 727-938-2849**

**Non-Emergency Dispatch # 727-937-6151**

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