



Tarpon Springs Police Department

Building a Better Future Through Excellence in Policing



January 2018

Crime Watch Newsletter

Tarpon Springs Police Department Safe Zone.

Craigslist, eBay, Facebook, OfferUp, Letgo, and many other websites are great tools for finding good deals, but can also be dangerous if not handled wisely. Besides the possibility of scams and fraudulent transactions, there are also isolated incidents of buyers and sellers of internet transactions that end up being victims of crimes like robbery, theft, battery and assault when they meet in person to complete the transaction.

To help citizens complete these transactions safely, the Tarpon Springs Police Department (444 S. Huey Ave.) highly recommends meeting in a highly visible, public place and is **offering up its lobby as a "safe zone"** for buyers and sellers of internet transactions to meet to complete their deals. People do not need to ask permission or make an appointment to use the lobby for this purpose. Weapons are NOT allowed in the police department.



HAPPY
VALENTINES
DAY
FROM
TSPD!!

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If weight loss or healthy living is a New Year's resolution, joining a gym may seem like a good place to start. Most fitness clubs offer deals and promotions to those who want to make good on their resolutions. Just like any other investment decision, selecting the right place to get in shape requires a little bit of leg work.

When considering a gym membership, keep these tips in mind:

Make sure the health gym is currently registered with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Call 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) to check registration status or to see if any complaints have been filed against the gym, or health studio, as referred to in Florida Statutes. If complaints are on file, ask how they have been resolved.

Carefully read contracts and all the provisions prior to signing any agreement. Ask for clarification if there is something that you don't understand. Two common areas of concern are contract disputes and billing issues. Problems arise when consumers sign up for one year or more of personal training sessions, assuming that if a contract is canceled halfway through the year, payment for any unused sessions will be refunded. Depending on the terms of the contract, consumers may be billed for 50 percent of the remaining balance of the contract.

A provision for a penalty-free cancellation, in writing, of the contract within three days (3) of signing, excluding holidays and weekends, must be included in all contracts.

Avoid long term commitments until there's an opportunity to use the gym and ensure it will meet your needs. While some gyms don't offer monthly memberships, some will. Others may require a commitment for one year, but with no large up-front payment. Shop around and ask questions.



Insure that your home is properly secure. Make sure that the doors are locked and lights are on when leaving. If someone knocks at your door, find out who it is through a peephole or window BEFORE you open the door.

Always check identification before opening your door.

DO NOT open your door to strangers or allow anyone such as servicemen or sales representatives into your home without proper identification and verification. Call their home office if necessary.

If a stranger asks to use your telephone in an emergency, offer to make the call yourself.

Get to know your neighbors -- someone you can turn to if you're worried.

If you live in an apartment, avoid being in the laundry room or garage by yourself, especially at night.

If you come home and believe a break in has occurred, do not go inside. Go to the nearest telephone and call the police.

If someone pushes their way into your home, go to an area where you can get out, get help, or defend yourself.

Home Security

Make sure doors and windows are locked.

Deadbolt locks should be used on all exterior doors.

Check door moldings for tight fit.

Doors should be hinged so no pins can be removed from outside.

Keep garage and tool shed locked.

Remove all obstructions in your yard that could conceal a burglar breaking into your house.

Consider changing your locks when moving into a new house or apartment.

Install a peephole-viewer in your door.

Use exterior lighting around your home.

If you live alone don't advertise it. Use only your initials and last name on your mailbox and telephone listing.

Never hide keys outside, such as under a bush or in a flowerpot. Burglars know where to find "secret" hiding places. It's much better to leave a key with a trusted neighbor.



Portable Space Heaters

Keep combustible objects at least three feet away from portable heating devices.

Buy only heaters evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).

Check to make the portable heater has a thermostat control mechanism, and will switch off automatically if the heater falls over.

Check with your local fire department on the legality of kerosene heater use in your community.

Only use crystal clear K-1 kerosene in kerosene heaters. Never overfill it. Use the heater in a well-ventilated room. fireplaces and Woodstoves

Inspect and clean woodstove pipes and chimneys annually and check monthly for damage or obstructions.

Never burn trash, paper, or green wood.

Use a fireplace screen heavy enough to stop rolling logs and big enough to cover the entire opening of the fireplace to catch flying sparks.

Make sure the fire is completely out before leaving the house or going to bed.

Store cooled ashes in a tightly sealed metal container outside the home.

THINGS TO DO IN TARPON SPRINGS

Movies at Craig Park

When: Fri, January 26, 6pm – 8pm

Where: Craig Park, Tarpon Springs, FL 34689, USA Description: The Tarpon Springs Recreation Department will be hosting monthly Movies in Craig Park. Grab your lawn chairs and come enjoy the show. Popcorn and other concessions will be available. Call for movie listings 727-942-5628.

Thu, February 1, 7pm – 9pm

Beach Concerts:

Where: Sunset Beach, Tarpon Springs

Description: Concerts are on the first Thursday of the month (February through November) and start at 7pm. Bonfires, weather permitting, at the February, March, October and November concerts. Concessions are available for purchase. Alcohol and pets are prohibited. Parking is limited onsite, so a courtesy shuttle will deliver concert goers to and from the beach and Tarpon Springs High School. FREE!!

First Friday

When: Fri, February 2, 5pm – 9pm

Where: West Tarpon Avenue, W Tarpon Ave, Tarpon Springs, FL 34689 Description: Tarpon Springs Merchant's Association tarponsspringsflorida@gmail.com or www.tarponsspringsfloridausa.com

TOUCH-A -TRUCK & OPEN HOUSE

Climb on up and check out all the city vehicles. Come see what Tarpon Springs has to offer.

Location: Tarpon Springs Library

Day & Time: Saturday, February 24th, from 10am-2pm

Fee: FREE



TARPON SPRINGS POLICE DEPT.
444 SOUTH HUEY AVENUE
TARPON SPRINGS, 34689
EMERGENCY # 911
NON EMERGENCY:
(727) 938-2849
CRIIME PREVENTION :
(727) 937-8753

WE ARE ON THE WEB AT
WWW.TSPD.US

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