



# Tarpon Springs Police Department

*Building a Better Future Through Excellence in Policing*



SEPT 2018

## Crime Watch Newsletter

### FREEZE YOUR CREDIT

As of Friday, 9/21/18, you are able to freeze your credit files and receive year-long fraud alerts FREE of charge. To place a credit freeze on your accounts, you'll need to contact the three consumer reporting agencies separately. Each bureau will provide you with a unique personal identification number (PIN) that you can use to prove your identity when you are ready to lift the freeze. Store the PIN in a safe place so that you don't have to go through the process of recovering a lost PIN.

You can contact the credit bureaus to establish a credit freeze by phone or web at the sites and numbers below.

Equifax: Online or by phone at 1-800-685-1111

Experian: Online or by phone at 1-888-397-3742

TransUnion: Online or by phone at 1-888-909-8872

To lift a freeze, you can request a permanent or temporary lift. If you opt for a temporary lift when applying for new credit or a job, and you can find out which credit bureau the company will contact for your file, save some time by lifting the freeze only at the relevant credit bureau(s). Otherwise, you will need to make the request with the three credit reporting bureaus individually. To unlock your account, known as thawing your account, you'll need to provide the PIN for that specific account. After your new credit applications have been processed, you must re-freeze your accounts to re-establish protection, unless you requested a temporary lift.

Freezing your credit file prevents fraudsters from opening new accounts in your name, but it doesn't prevent fraudulent charges on your existing accounts. For example, if you have a credit freeze in place and your credit card number is stolen, it won't help prevent fraudulent charges on that card. Thankfully, the major banks and credit card companies have policies in place to help you deal with fraudulent transactions. The danger of someone using your identity to open new accounts is that it might go unnoticed for a while, causing damage to your credit. The process of disputing a report and dealing with a fraudulent account is much more cumbersome than the process of initiating a credit freeze, which is another reason to proactively initiate a credit freeze. Without a credit freeze or fraud alerts, you'll need to monitor your credit report regularly to check for fraudulent activity.



It may not feel like fall here in Florida

but check out the things to do on page 4.

Also, check online for the many activities happening in Tarpon Springs through the next months. The Calendar at the Chamber of Commerce and the city recreation department are offering things to do to put you in the fall mood.

Halloween safety tips coming next month.

PAGE 2 : Scams

PAGE 3 : Fall Clean Up!

PAGE 4: Things to do



## **Know Your Rights**

Personal information you give to your doctor is shared with insurance companies, pharmacies, researchers, and employers. Your health records are protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), which:

Defines your health information rights

Sets rules and limits on who is allowed to receive and or see your health records

## **Protect Your Medical Privacy**

Take steps to protect your health privacy:

Talk with your doctor about confidentiality concerns.

Read the fine print on medical authorization forms. Check for clauses that allow your medical information to be released.

Request a copy of your medical records so you know what's in them.

Report questions about medical privacy to the doctor, state office, or the Department of Health and Human Services.

Read the privacy policy on health websites, surveys, and health screenings.

## **Report Medical Privacy Violations**

If your HIPAA Rights have been violated:

File a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights (OCR).

Call the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) for recorded information about filing complaints at 1-866-627-7748 (TDD: 1-800-537-7697).

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2018

The City of Tarpon Springs offers this service to  
City Residents that pay for residential  
curbside garbage service on their  
City of Tarpon Springs utility bill.

PLACE ITEMS SUCH AS THE FOLLOWING AT THE CURB **BY 7:00A.M:**

Furniture  
Mattresses  
Small Bulky Household Items  
Carpet & Padding (cut & bundle in 4' sections)  
Oven, Washer, Dryer, Microwave

**THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WILL NOT BE PICKED UP:**

Tires  
Yard Waste  
Propane Tanks  
Air Conditioning Units  
Construction Material over 4'  
Refrigerators, Freezers, NO Electronics or Chemicals

**USED TIRES, NO RIMS!**

As part of this special clean-up service, the City of Tarpon Springs  
Will accept used tires at the  
Yard Waste Facility  
898 S Levis Ave  
727-943-0067  
On Friday, October 19th from 7:00a.m. until 4:30p.m.  
And on Saturday, October 20th from 7:00a.m. until Noon!  
You must bring your City of Tarpon Springs Utility bill along with your driver license.  
You may bring no more than 4 tires off the rim per household. Over 32" must be cut in half.

## Fire Prevention Tips:

**Avoid using lighted candles.**

**Never use the range or oven to heat your home.**

**Replace mattresses made before the 2007 Federal Mattress Flammability Standard. Mattresses made since then are required by law to be safer.**

**Keep combustible and flammable liquids away from heat sources.**

**Portable generators should NEVER be used indoors and should only be refueled outdoors or in well ventilated areas.**



# THINGS TO DO IN TARPON SPRINGS

## ZOMBIE RUN

Beware of the zombies! Join us for a 5K run through the North Anclote River Nature Park. We will need volunteers to be

zombies. Please contact us if you are interested.

Location: North Anclote Nature Park

Day & Time: Saturday, October 6th at 9am

Fee: \$20 per participant in advance, \$25 day of registration

## TRUNK OR TREAT HALLOWEEN BASH

Join us for a safe alternative to trick or treating. The Recreation Center will have games, activities, bounce houses, food and more. The parking lot will be set up for trunk or treat. Children may go from trunk to trunk to get Halloween treats. There will be a costume contest so please be sure to dress up! Concessions will be available.

\*\*To register your vehicle for Trunk or Treat, please contact Ashley Harter at 727-942-5628 or [aharter@ctsfl.us](mailto:aharter@ctsfl.us) \* Businesses welcome!\*

Location: Tarpon Springs Community Center

Day & Time: Saturday, October 20th from 5-8PM

Fee: FREE

## HOLIDAY SAFETY FESTIVAL

Join The city of Tarpon Springs and Lowes Home Improvement for a fun safety festival at Lowes of Tarpon Springs. There will be various safety tips around the parking lot and inside the store. The Recreation Center will have games, activities, bounce houses, food and more. The parking lot will be set up for touch a truck. There will be a costume parade so please be sure to dress up! Concessions will be available.

Location: Lowes Home Improvement of Tarpon Springs

Day & Time: Saturday, October 27th from 11am-3PM

Fee: FREE



TARPON SPRINGS POLICE DEPT.

444 SOUTH HUEY AVENUE

TARPON SPRINGS, 34689

EMERGENCY # 911

NON EMERGENCY:

(727) 938-2849

CRIME PREVENTION :

(727) 937-8753

WE ARE ON THE WEB AT

[WWW.TSPD.US](http://WWW.TSPD.US)

“LIKE” US ON FACEBOOK

