



TARPON SPRINGS
POLICE DEPARTMENT

"Building a Better Future Through Excellence in Policing"



CRIME WATCH NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2021

FRONT PAGE NEWS

CHIEF KOCHEN RETIRES

MARCH NEWS

FRONT PAGE
Chief Kochen Retires

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Congratulations

TARPON SPRINGS  POLICE DEPARTMENT

On Your Retirement

ROBERT P. KOCHEN
CHIEF OF POLICE

1989



2021

32 YEARS OF SERVICE



444 S. HUEY AVENUE
TARPON SPRINGS, FL 34689
(727) 938-2849 - MAIN
(727) 937-6151 - DISPATCH
EMERGENCY - DIAL 911

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The Retirement of Chief Robert Kochen after an incredible 32-year career serving the citizens of Tarpon Springs. Over his career with the Tarpon Springs Police Department, Chief Kochen served as; a Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer, Detective, Sergeant and Captain prior to being promoted to Chief of Police becoming the 30th individual to serve in this role over the past 100 years. Chief thank you for your leadership and professionalism, enjoy your Retirement!

Love, your TSPD Family!



NEW BEGINNINGS AT TSPD

SWEARING IN CHIEF JEFFREY YOUNG



Major Jeffrey Young was sworn in as Police Chief by Tarpon Springs Mayor Chris Alahouzos in the same building where he once attended school. Young said he was just 11 years old in 1978 when his father retired from the New York City Fire Department and moved his family from Staten Island, New York, to Tarpon Springs. He graduated from Tarpon High School in 1984 and spent four years in the Air Force as a security police officer. He married his wife, Patti while in the Air Force, and they raised three children in Tarpon Springs.

Jeffery Young was sworn in as police chief by Tarpon Springs Mayor Chris Alahouzos in the same building where he once attended school.

NEW PROMOTIONS AT TSPD



Pictured from left to right: Major Trill, Sergeant Lemmon, Major Ruggiero & Chief Young

Major Ruggiero, who has spent about 32 years in law enforcement and around 20 of those with our police department, will be assigned as the new Major of Administration. This is right up his alley, having served as the Accreditation Manager since its inception at the TSPD and having demonstrated his meticulous administrative work for numerous years in various areas of the agency. Major Ruggiero brings a great deal of knowledge and vision to this position, which will serve him (our department...and our city) well.

Sgt. Chris Lemmon was promoted to Sergeant and will move from his current assignment in the Detective Division to supervise patrol. Sgt. Lemmon, in his 8 years at the agency, has demonstrated his dedication, knowledge, hard work ethic, and notable investigative skills, which will help him lead his officers well.

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS



THINGS A CAR THIEF KNOWS....

All too often we hear of cars being burglarized (having things stolen out of them), or being stolen altogether. How can we reduce our chances of being a victim? By knowing what the thief is looking for, and doing the opposite.

Here are some tips:

1. Car thieves like low risk targets. They like cars that are parked in dark, quiet areas, away from prying eyes. Park your car in your garage (best bet), or if you can't do that, then in your driveway or right in front of your house. Street lights, house lights, and motion detector lights can be beneficial in making the thief look elsewhere. Similarly, thieves don't want to be seen on camera, so prominent cameras towards your driveway or street can help deter the thief.
2. Thieves like easy targets. If a window is down or a door is unlocked, it is easier for them, and doesn't draw any attention. Keep your doors locked and windows up. Even a window left down an inch or two can be easily forced down or off the track. If your car has an alarm, use it.
3. Thieves like instant payoff. They are much more likely to break into your car if they see something that appears lucrative – a wallet, purse, laptop, cell phone, even a gym bag. Don't leave anything in your car, and that includes the garage door opener. If there is nothing to take, they will look for a more lucrative target.
4. We hate that we even have to say this, but do not leave your car running if you are not in it. Not even for a few seconds to run inside and grab whatever you forgot. Thieves may just be watching, and they move fast. We have noticed that it is not uncommon to see cars warming up in driveways in the early morning. That is just an invitation to the thief.



In summary: If it rolls up, roll it up. If it locks, lock it. If it has an alarm, activate it. Park it in a well-lit, highly visible area. Don't leave anything in it. And don't leave it running.



Safeguard your home while you are away with
Vacation House Checks

Offered by the Tarpon Springs Police Department.
If you have any questions about the
Vacation House Check program,
contact ACTION Unit at
727-937-8753 or e-mail to tspdcrimprev@tspd.us

IF YOU SEE
SOMETHING,
SAY
SOMETHING

**REPORT
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY
TO THE POLICE
TSPD (727) 937-6151**



CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

SPRING IS IN THE AIR! TIME FOR YARDWORK AND TRIMMING!

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) - What is it and why is it important to implement? CPTED is an approach to deterring criminal behavior by designing your residence or business to influence criminal acts prior to them occurring. CPTED is an important strategy to employ to your residence as it will, generally, make potential burglars feel less comfortable in your area and around your home. Here are some things you might want to consider while cleaning up your yards.

Residential Entry Points:

Daylight View – Stand outside of your home's primary front entry/exit areas.

- From this line of sight, what can you see?
- Ask yourself, can you be seen by neighbors or vehicle passing by? If you cannot see them, they cannot see you either. Criminals like privacy too!
- Repeat this process on each side of your home. Night View – Now, stand outside of your home's primary front entry/exit areas at night.
- Repeat the review process as above. What can you see from your doorways?
- Is lighting present to highlight these same entry/exit points?
- Are there dark spaces that could be lighted?
- Repeat this process on each side of your home.

Street View of Property:

Walk or drive by the front of your residence from the street.

- Can you see clearly down both sides of the residence?
- Can the windows and doors be seen from the street-view?
- Does your property follow the 2'-6" rule (hedges and bushes no more than 2' high, and tree limbs trimmed to at least 6' above ground)? This reduces hiding spots for criminals.
- At dark, have tree canopies grown so large that they block any street or residential lighting sources?
- Are there places for a person to conceal themselves near your doorways?
- How well maintained is your yard? A well-manicured property displays strong ownership and presence.
- Is there any signage present to display ownership (No trespassing, alarm signage, etc.)?

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.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Expired & Unused MEDICATION Drop-Off Event



The GFWC Woman's Club of Tarpon Springs held an Expired & Unused Medication Drop Off on March 20, 2021 held at the Public Safety Building with the help of the Tarpon Springs Police Department.

Over 60 lbs of medication and pills were collected. The GFWC Woman's Club of Tarpon Springs would like to say a big thank you to Sgt. Ed Miller and Officer Anthony Boone.



ACTION TEAM NEWS



The mission of the Tarpon Springs Police Department is to reduce crime and enhance the quality of life through a cooperative partnership with the community.

Working together with the Shepherd Center, the Downtown Merchant's Association, and Bradford's Towing, our ACTION Team assisted in the relocation of the gazebo at the Tarpon Springs Shepherd Center on Pinellas Ave..

The gazebo was relocated to a fenced area on the property (courtesy of Bradford's Towing), where 8 picnic tables are now available for those receiving services to gather and eat. The tables were donated by the Tarpon Springs' Downtown Merchant's Association.

The Shepherd Center has also been working with clients and staff to ensure the area around the center is kept clean and have been doing a notable job. We would like to thank all those involved in this project and look forward to continuing to work with the community to improve our beautiful city.

We want to thank the officers of our ACTION Team, who not only helped fulfill our mission but lived up to their name:

A Community Together Improving Our Neighborhoods

This team focuses on preventing, alleviating, thwarting, addressing, and combatting issues that may arise in Tarpon Springs. Members deal with a wide range of issues (criminal violations, parking issues, traffic issues, homeless issues, quality of life issues, and various other concerns) and seek to find solutions, using both traditional and innovative methods.



FIRE SAFETY



Clothes Dryer SAFETY

Doing laundry is most likely part of your every day routine. But did you know how important taking care of your clothes dryer is to the safety of your home? With a few tips you can help prevent a clothes dryer fire.

- Have your dryer installed and serviced by a professional. Do not use the dryer without a lint filter.
- Make sure you clean the lint filter before each load of laundry. Remove lint that has collected around the drum.
- Rigid or flexible metal venting material should be used to sustain proper airflow and drying time.
- Make sure the air exhaust vent pipe is not restricted and the outdoor vent-flap will open when the dryer is operating. Once a year, or more often if you notice that it is taking longer than normal for your clothes to dry, clean lint out of the vent pipe or have a dryer lint removal service do it for you.
- Keep dryers in good working order as dryers should be inspected by a qualified professional to make sure that the gas line and connection are intact and free of leaks.
- Make sure the right plug and outlet are that the machine is connected properly.
- Follow the manufacturer's operating instructions and don't overload your dryer.
- Turn the dryer off if you leave home or when you go to bed.

AND DON'T FORGET.....

Dryers should be properly grounded.

Check the outdoor vent flap to make sure it is not covered by snow.

Keep the area around your dryer clear of things that can burn, like boxes, cleaning supplies and clothing, etc.

Clothes that have come in contact with flammable substances, like gasoline, paint thinner, or similar solvents should be laid outside to dry, then can be washed and dried as usual.

FACT

! The leading cause of home clothes dryer fires is failure to clean them



**NATIONAL FIRE
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**

The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

**TARPON SPRINGS
FIRE RESCUE**

