



TARPON SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT CRIMEWATCH NEWSLETTER



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Beware of Tax Scammers

Scammers, have no reservations when it comes to going where the money is, they are already hard at work separating taxpayers from their money.

Uncovering Tax-Related Identity Theft: Identity theft can affect the processing of your tax return in several ways. Most involve someone misusing your Social Security number (SSN), which the IRS uses to make sure your filing is accurate and complete, and that you get any refund you are due. An unexpected notice from the IRS could alert you that someone else is using your SSN: If someone uses your SSN to file for a tax refund before you do, the IRS might think you already filed and got your refund. You'll get a letter from the IRS telling you that more than one return was filed for you. If someone used your SSN to get a job, the employer may report that person's income to the IRS using your SSN, and the IRS might think that you didn't report all your income on your tax return. If so, the agency will send you a notice that says you seem to have received wages you didn't report – from an employer you don't know.

Dealing with Tax-Related Identity Theft: If you think you have tax issues related to identity theft, let the IRS know as soon as possible, even if you don't have any evidence that it's affected your tax return. Visit the IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit website or call 1-800-908-4490, from 8 am to 8 pm (your local time).

Specialists will work with you to get your tax return filed, get you any refund you are due, and protect your IRS account from identity thieves in the future. You can document the identity theft by submitting a police report or the IRS ID Theft Affidavit (Form 14039). When you file the affidavit, you'll have to prove your identity with a copy of a valid government-issued identification, like your Social Security card, driver's license, or passport.



Sunset
Beach
sunset.



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CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Are people fighting more these days, or does it just seem that way? Whatever the case, learning to resolve conflicts can help young people break down barriers, become leaders, and even prevent deadly confrontations.

- Conflict can be negative - in its ultimate form it can lead to war - but it can also be positive, depending on how it's resolved. For example, it can help get feelings out in the open, help people learn from disagreements, resolve problems, gain someone more respect, or enable people to learn that others are willing to stand up for themselves and what they believe in. In fact, conflict is a natural human process that doesn't have to lead to violence; conflict resolution and anger management techniques can provide opportunities for people to grow and improve their relationships and the quality of life of those around them despite the inevitable disagreements that arise.
 - Note that anger is a normal feeling.
 - How we handle our anger and how we deal with other people who are angry can make the difference between managing conflict effectively and having conflict end in violence.
 - Be aware of triggers, which are any verbal or nonverbal behaviors that result in anger or other negative emotional reactions that can get in the way of resolving conflicts.
 - Triggers are like lightning bolts. When they strike, they can interfere with communication.
 - To avoid pulling others' triggers, pay particular attention to your own behavior, even your body language.
 - Note that people already use strategies to control their anger (for example, walking away from a dangerous situation), and that all they need to do is build on that foundation.
 - Point out that, even though we sometimes think of ourselves as being "out of control," we often choose to blow up at some times and stay calm at other times. For example, there's a difference between how we handle anger with our friends and anger with a parent or grandparent. To resolve conflict, you must stay calm to communicate.
 - The less "hot" the anger, the more you can control it.
 - Even though your anger may be legitimate, it usually doesn't help to show your anger to the other person. Sometimes the other person will take you more seriously if you remain calm and courteous.
- ⇒ Remember that your goal is to be able to get angry without becoming abusive or violent, and to communicate your wants and needs effectively without threatening others.



Families Facing Foreclosure Scams

The Federal Housing Administration warns of a number of schemes that homeowners facing difficulty should look out for.

- *Equity skimming.* In this scheme, a con artist approaches a homeowner in distress and offers to repay the mortgage or sell the property if the owner signs over the deed and moves out—usually leaving him with the debt and no house. Signing over the deed does not necessary relieve you of the responsibility to pay the debt.
- *Charging for phony counseling services.* These are often available free of charge to any homeowner.
- *Flim-flam.* Take your time and read everything in front of you. If you can, take the documents to a lawyer. Never sign anything you don't understand.
- *Phantom help.* The scam artist charges enormous fees for light paperwork and phone calls, none of which saves the property. The con artist takes the homeowner's money and gives the impression that he is going to save the home, but all he really does is delude the homeowners and keep them from getting qualified help when time is precious.
- *The bailout.* In this scam, the homeowner is deceived into signing over the title in the belief that he will be able to remain in the house as a renter and eventually buy it back. The terms of these scams are so onerous that the buy-back is impossible, the homeowner loses possession, and the "rescuer" gets most or all of the equity in the house.
- *The bait-and-switch.* In this scam, the homeowner thinks he is signing documents to bring the mortgage current, but instead he actually surrenders ownership. He usually doesn't even know he's been scammed until he's served with an eviction notice.



Things to do in Tarpon Springs !

38th Annual Fine Arts Festival "on the Bayou"

When: 03/31/2012 - 04/01/2012
Where: Craig Park - Tarpon Springs
About:

The Tarpon Springs Chamber of Commerce proudly presents the 38th Annual Fine Arts Festival "on the Bayou" March 31st and April 1st 2012. Call 727-937-6109 for more information.

Phone: 727-937-6109
Contact: scottie@tarponspringschamber.org
On the Web: tarponspringschamber.com

Autos for Autism Antique Car Show

When: March 3, 2012
Where: Tarpon Ave.
Phone: 727-937-6109
Contact: Tarpon Springs Chamber of Commerce

TARPON SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

BOUND BY LOYALTY, INTEGRITY AND HONOR, WE WILL STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE IN POLICING AND ACTIVELY AND AGGRESSIVELY PURSUE JUSTICE. WITH DISCIPLINE, DEDICATION AND DETERMINATION, WE WILL CONTINUALLY SEEK TO PERFORM OUR DUTIES IN A PROFESSIONAL MANNER, TREATING THOSE WE COME IN CONTACT EQUITABLY, USING OUR RESOURCES WISELY AND ADAPTING TO CIRCUMSTANCES AS THEY ARISE. WE WILL CONSISTENTLY TRAIN TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF OUR PERFORMANCE AS AN AGENCY, CONTINUALLY RAISING OUR EXPECTATIONS OF WHAT WE CAN ACCOMPLISH. WE WILL PARTNER WITH THE COMMUNITY IN ADDRESSING ISSUES OF CONCERN AND WILL FORMULATE INNOVATIVE PLANS TO REDUCE, PREVENT, DETECT, DETER AND COMBAT CRIME, TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE CITIZENS WE PROTECT AND SERVE.



TARPON SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT

444 South Huey Avenue
Tarpon Springs, Florida 34689

Emergency: 911
Non-Emergency: 727-938-2849
Crime Prevention: 727-937-8753

**We are on the web.
Visit us at:
www.tspd.us**