



**TARPON SPRINGS**  
POLICE DEPARTMENT

"Building a Better Future Through Excellence in Policing"

# CRIMEWATCH NEWSLETTER

**SEPTEMBER 2021**

## SEPTEMBER NEWS

**FRONT PAGE**  
K9 NEWS

**COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT**  
Officer Trinidad  
Patrol Division

**CRIME PREVENTION**  
Preventing Property  
Crimes

**CITY EVENTS**  
Trunk or Treat

**FIRE SAFETY**  
Hurricane Preparedness

## **K9 NEWS**

**OFC. T. NGUYEN  
& K9 "CK"**



On September 1, 2021, at approximately 8:30 pm, officers received a call of a missing, elderly female with Dementia. Family members had summoned EMS due to the other medical issues. While family members were standing out on front of their residence to flag down EMS, the elderly female had walked out of the residence through the back door. Upon arrival of the medics, the family members discovered her missing. Tarpon Springs Police was then contacted.

Officers began searching the area as other resources were called in, including PCSO Helicopter and the Tarpon Springs K-9 unit. The estimated time lapse was approximately 1.5 hours, according to call notes. Ofc. Nguyen and his K-9 partner, "CK," began searching the backyard and nearby area. At approximately 8:56 pm, the female was located behind a chain link fence and was lying in heavy brush. Officers utilized bolt cutters to cut away parts of the fence in efforts to assist the female out of the bushes. The female sustained minor injuries from the foliage she was lying in and was transported by ambulance to a local hospital.

Performing a K-9 track in such an incident is not ideal, due to the time lapse and the fact that officers and family members had been walking in the area before his arrival in an attempt to locate the female. However, Ofc. Nguyen described "CK's" track as direct and repeatedly kept leading him back to the same point near a fence. It was dark outside and the foliage was very thick; thus, the female was not visible to the officers, nor the K-9 handler, as they searched. However, Ofc. Nguyen trusted the tracking behavioral clues from "CK," and, while they continued to check the area more intensely, the female actually yelled out to the officers. As described above officers cut the fence to gain access to the females location and were able to get her to medical personnel.

Ofc. Nguyen and his partner should be commended for their determination and excellent team work. Police K-9s develop the trust of their handlers, and this bond paid off!!! We would like to recognize the excellent work of Ofc. Nguyen and "CK."

Good job, guys!!!!



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

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## Officer Michael Trinidad

PATROL DIVISION



We would like to recognize Ofc. Trinidad for going above and beyond!!! He didn't do this for recognition or glory...in fact, he didn't tell TSPD members what he had done. TSPD did not find out until the person Ofc Trinidad assisted called in to praise his actions.

On 08/26/21, Ofc. Trinidad was dispatched to an address for a check the welfare. The call had come from another governmental agency, after a female had contacted them to discuss the plight at her apartment and her difficulty breathing. As you all know, it's quite hot in Florida at this time of year, and she had advised her air conditioning was not working and she was having problems breathing. When Ofc. Trinidad responded, he met with the female, who suffers from anxiety and other issues and was quite frustrated with the issues at the apartment and the lack of response. She had recently relocated to Tarpon Springs from out of state.

She advised her anxiety and the heat in her apartment, due to the faulty air conditioning system, has been causing her problems breathing, which in turn causes more anxiety. Furthermore, she advised things are difficult financially, so she does not have a great deal of options to assist her in seeking a remedy.

On the message she left, she kept repeating that Ofc. Trinidad was "wonderful," and explained that he was able to calm her, demonstrated concern for her health, and offered her assistance and solutions. He was able to bring her emotional relief in a stressful time. She advised Ofc. Trinidad was not only polite and professional but stated, after leaving the call, he returned, shortly thereafter, with a brand new window air conditioning unit for her. With the help of a neighbor, he even installed the air conditioning unit for her, bringing not only the emotional relief but physical relief from the heat. She described him as "sweating like crazy" as he did but said he did it with a smile. She was extremely grateful and impressed with Ofc. Trinidad, who she said represented our agency and profession in an excellent manner.

# 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.

**NON-EMERGENCY  
(727) 938-2849**

**EMERGENCY  
9-1-1**



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# **CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS EVENT**

**TRUNK OR TREAT**



**SATURDAY  
October 23<sup>RD</sup>  
5-8PM**

Join us for a fun drive-thru event!  
Dress up in costume & go to the  
Community Center to collect treats  
from the various trunks on display.

 **TARPON SPRINGS  
RECREATION**  
TSRDONLINE.COM 727-942-5628

**Community Center 400 S Walton Ave.**



# GET READY!

## HURRICANES

The intensity of hurricanes that will hit land is measured in terms of categories that relate wind speeds and potential damage. Even less intense storms can cause damage in areas that have not prepared in advance.

### Before

- Prepare your evacuation plan, including pets, transportation routes and destinations.
- Keep all trees and shrubs well trimmed and clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- Determine how and where to secure your boat.
- Consider building a safe room.
- Stay informed! Listen to a NOAA weather radio or check local forecasts and news reports regularly.
- Cover your home's windows with pre-cut plywood or hurricane shutters. Tape does not prevent windows from breaking.
- Bring in all outside furniture, decorations, garbage cans, etc.
- Turn off utilities if instructed to do so.
- Turn off propane tanks.
- Avoid using the phone, except for serious emergencies.
- Fill the bathtub or buckets with water to use for cleaning and flushing toilets.
- Keep your gas tank at least 3/4 full at all times.
- Keep your emergency supplies kit, including water, and copies of important documents, in a waterproof, portable container, in an easily accessible location

Evacuate under the following conditions:

- If local authorities tell you to evacuate, follow their directions.
- If you live in a mobile home or temporary structure, which are particularly hazardous no matter how well fastened to the ground.
- If you live in a high-rise building.
- If you live on the coast, on a floodplain, near a river, or on an inland waterway.
- If you feel you are in danger.
- If you live in an area below sea level.

### During

- If you choose not to evacuate, stay indoors and away from windows and glass doors. Notify out-of-area contacts of your decision. Close all interior doors and secure and brace exterior doors. Keep curtains and blinds closed. Take refuge in a small interior room, closet, or hallway on the lowest level. Lie on the floor under a table or another sturdy object.
- Don't be fooled by a lull in the storm—it could be the eye of the storm and winds could resume.

### After

- Be aware of flooding and tornadoes.
- Stay out of flood waters, if possible.
- Stay away from downed power lines.
- If you evacuated, do not return to your home until local authorities say it is safe.



**Tarpon Springs  
Fire Rescue**

