For Immediate Release
August 27, 2012

Human Remains Found near Big Bayou Tentatively Identified

The skeletonized human remains found near Big Bayou on Friday (08/24/12) have been tentatively identified as those of Thomas S. Schafer, W/M, DOB 07/01/58.

After the remains were removed, a wallet containing cash and identification belonging to Schafer were discovered in the pocket of a pair of shorts found on the body.

Positive identification of the remains and a determination regarding a possible cause of death will be made by the Medical Examiner’s Office after further examination. At this time there is no evidence of homicidal violence.

Mr. Schafer was reported missing from the Edna Stephens Home at 620 32 Avenue South on 01/24/12. He was staying at the facility and last seen by staff there at about 5:00 p.m. on 01/23/12.

Information released by Mike Puetz, 727-893-7550, michael.puetz@stpete.org

Previous Release of 08/24/12

Human Remains Found near Big Bayou

We are currently investigating the discovery of what appears to be skeletonized human remains hidden amongst some mangrove bushes near 36th Avenue South and 6th Street, near Big Bayou.

The body was located by a fisherman who was in the area casting for baitfish at approximately 3:00 p.m. today.

Homicide detectives and forensic personnel are on the scene and the Medical Examiner’s Office investigators are responding.

Due to the condition of the body we do not anticipate being able to determine identity, age, sex or possible cause of death until an autopsy has been concluded and forensic evidence analyzed.

Information released by Mike Puetz, 727-893-7550, michael.puetz@stpete.org

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