

Sheriff's Office Seeks Information Related to the Death of Kathie Whatley

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Ken J. Mascara
Sheriff of St. Lucie County, FL
4700 West Midway Road
Fort Pierce, FL 34982-4825

Contact: Bryan Beaty, St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office Public Information Officer
772-882-8069
beatyb@stluciesheriff.com

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Sheriff Ken Mascara announced that on Friday morning, September 8th at approximately 4:30 a.m. deputies were called to the River Park Marina located at 500 East Prima Vista Blvd.

According to the Sheriff, the caller advised 9-1-1 that a car was partially submerged in the St. Lucie River and that an individual was laying on the ground nearby and was unconscious. That individual was transported by Fire Rescue to a local hospital and treated for severe injuries. The individual died as a result of those injuries on Saturday, September 9th.

"Over the last several days, our investigation led us to identify this individual as Kathie Whatley, 67, a resident of Port St. Lucie," said Sheriff Ken J. Mascara. "Detectives also confirmed that the vehicle found in the River was owned by Whatley and crime scene technicians collected evidence from it as well as the surrounding scene."

According to the Sheriff, detectives are currently trying to locate Kathie Whatley's son, Lance, who was last seen with her the night before she was found.

"Lance is currently missing and endangered and has a history of medical issues," Mascara said. "He was last seen wearing black shorts and black shirt and may not have been wearing shoes."

According to the Sheriff, Lance Whatley frequents the Prima Vista/Floresta and U.S. 1 corridor and is also a frequent user of the Treasure Coast Connector bus service.

"We continue to urge anyone who may know Lance or have seen him to call our detectives," Mascara said. "At the same time, if you were in the area of River Park in the overnight hours of Thursday September 7th and Friday September 8th, please contact our detectives at 772-462-3279 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-273-8477. You may be eligible for a cash reward."

ABOUT THE SHERIFF:

The Florida Constitution establishes the Office of the elected County Sheriff who is responsible for preserving the peace, carrying out the orders of Florida courts and the Board of County Commissioners, and providing deputies at court sessions and meetings of the Board of County Commissioners. The Sheriff is the chief correctional officer of the county. Sheriff Ken J. Mascara is elected by the people of St. Lucie County and is accountable to them.