

St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office

DETECTIVES ARREST SUSPECTS IN CONNECTION TO 61 BOAT PROPELLER THEFTS

St. Lucie County Sheriff Ken Mascara announced today that detectives identified, located and arrested three boat propeller theft suspects Thursday afternoon near the 3200 block of Avenue D in Fort Pierce. These suspects were wanted in connection to 61 missing boat propellers valued at nearly \$73,000.

“At the time of their arrest, the suspects were attempting to sell parts from a stolen Volvo Penta Outdrive to a local scrap yard,” said Sheriff Mascara. “The victim in this case reported the property stolen Tuesday afternoon.”

“Sadly, what we see with most thieves is a nexus to drug use, and the value of the property stolen is sold for pennies on the dollar to fuel their drug use. In this case, the approximate value of each propeller is \$1,200, and these thieves sold them for \$126 on average.”

According to Sheriff Mascara, detectives have located 8 of the 61 missing propellers, which the suspects stole between Sept. 22 and Dec. 14 of this year.

Thirty-nine-year-old Richard Dale Gillispie, of Fort Pierce, has been arrested on 20 counts of dealing in stolen property and 20 counts of providing false information to a secondhand dealer. He was booked into the St. Lucie County Jail on a \$250,000 bond.

Forty-five-year-old Christopher Ward Summerlin, of Fort Pierce, has been arrested on 5 counts of dealing in stolen property and 5 counts of providing false information to a secondhand dealer. He was booked into the St. Lucie County Jail on a \$62,500 bond.

Thirty-three-year-old Michelle Stephanie Gillispie, of Fort Pierce, has been arrested for burglary and grand theft. She was booked into the St. Lucie County Jail on a \$12,500 bond. Anyone with information regarding this case should call the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office or Treasure Coast Crime Stoppers at 1-800-273-TIPS (8477).