



Watch Works

Charles County
Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Rex W. Coffey
Sept. / Oct. 2013

Seasons Will Change

We will soon change the clocks back. We will change the batteries in our smoke detectors. Have you ever thought to change the information in your family's emergency plan? If you don't have an emergency plan now is the time to put one together. An emergency can strike quickly and without warning, causing you to evacuate your home or forcing you to take shelter in your home. If an emergency strikes, basic services may be interrupted and you may need to be self-sufficient for 48-72 hours or longer. By developing a Family Emergency Plan, getting through the emergency

can be much easier. Learn about warning signals, like the Emergency Alert System. Find out about evacuations plans at your workplace, your child's school or day care center. Pick two places to meet in the event of an emergency, one right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency like a fire, and a second outside your neighborhood in case you can't go home. Ask out-of-state friends or relative to be a contact. After an emergency, all family members should call the contact person and tell that person where they are. The sev-

en basic items that should be stored in your home are water, food, first-aid supplies, clothing and bedding, tools, emergency supplies, and specialty items. Remember to change the stored water every three months and rotate the food supplies every six months (place dates on containers). Check the supplies and re-think your needs every year.

Make sure your children know how to dial 911 and they know their home phone # or your cell phone # and their home address.

Dates to Remember

September 2: Labor Day

September 12-15: Charles County Fair

October 14: Columbus Day

October 31: Halloween



Happy Halloween

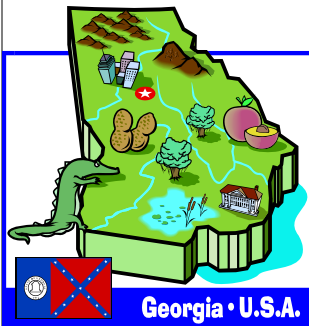


SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

- Always walk to the bus stop. Never run.
- Walk on the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk, walk on the left facing traffic.
- Always go to the bus stop about five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- While at the bus stop, wait in a safe place away from the road. Do not run and play while waiting.
- Never speak to strangers at the bus stop and never get into the car with a stranger. Always go straight home and tell your parents if a stranger tries to talk to you or pick you up.
- Wait for the bus to arrive, watch for red flashing lights and the stop sign to be extended, and cross only when all traffic has stopped. Look left, right, and left again before crossing.
- Remain seated and facing forward for the entire ride.
- Talk quietly (so the driver will not be distracted).
- If you need to talk to the bus driver, wait for the bus to stop, raise your hand, and call the driver's name.
- Never throw things on the bus or out the windows. Never play with the emergency exits.
- Keep the aisles clear at all times.

On the bus:

- Go directly to a seat.



Did you know?

States and what they are famous for.

Alabama: Was the first state to have 9-1-1, started 1968.

Alaska: One out of every 64 people has a pilot's license.

Connecticut: The Frisbee was invented here at Yale University.

Delaware: Has more scientists and engineers than any other state.

Georgia: It was here, in 1886, that pharmacist John Pemberton made the first vat of Coca-Cola.

Hawaii: Hawaiians live, on average, five years longer than resident of any other state.

Idaho: TV was invented in Rigby, Idaho, in 1922.

Indiana: Home to Santa Claus, Indiana, which gets a half million letters for Santa every year.

Iowa: Winnebago RVs get their name from Winnebago County. Also, it is the only state name that begins with 2 vowels.

Kansas: Liberal, Kansas has an exact replica of the house in "The Wizard of Oz".

Louisiana: Has parishes instead of counties because they were originally Spanish church units.

Maryland: The Ouija board was created in Baltimore in 1892.

Missouri: Is the birthplace of the ice cream cone.

Montana: A sapphire from Montana is in the

Crown Jewels of England.

Nebraska: More triplets are born here than in any other state.

New Mexico: Smokey the Bear was rescued from a 1950 forest fire here.

New York: Is home to the nation's oldest cattle ranch, started in 1747 in Montauk.

North Carolina: Home of the first Krispy Kreme doughnut.

Ohio: The hot dog was invented here in 1900.

Pennsylvania: The smiley :) was first used in 1980 by computer scientists at Carnegie Mellon University.

Texas: Dr. Pepper was invented in Waco in 1885 and the hamburger was invented in Arlington in 1906.

SURPRISED?

National Night Out was Incredible!

Every year I say National Night Out could not get any better and every year you prove me wrong. The excitement, the food, the entertainment, the people, the food, the weather and did I mention the food? I don't care which neighborhood we visited, the celebrations were electrifying. We were welcomed with a smile and a question "Have

you eaten yet?" The children were so excited. We saw at least two trains and so many moon bounces I lost count. Hamburgers, hot dogs, barbecue, fried chicken and so on. Cotton candy, cake, cookies and much more. I talked to many friends and met new ones. I heard one person say "What a wonderful way to find out who lives in

your neighborhood." This comes around once a year and you take it and run with it. I know it's a lot of work, but you put that aside and make sure your neighborhood is involved. Thank you to all of you that make this a night everyone looks forward to. I hope you know how much you are really appreciated.

A word from your Community Organizer: Connie Gray.....301-932-3080

National Night Out is done and now we start working on the fair. I hope you will stop by and take a look at our display trailer. A lot of hard work goes into this, and you might just see your self in a picture or two. Now that the children are back in school please watch out for them getting on and

off the school buses. If you see something that just doesn't look right at the bus stop check it out and make sure the children are safe. Dial 911 or the non-emergency number (301-932-2222) Don't try and take care of things yourself. The holidays will soon be here. Please don't leave

gifts, electronics or anything of value in your vehicle. Make sure your doors are locked and take your purse or wallet inside with you. Hide your GPS or take it inside also. Make sure your children don't leave their electronics in the back seat. Be safe!



Halloween Safety

Halloween may be a fun holiday for kids, but for parents, trick-or-treat time can be a little troublesome.

- Welcome trick-or-treaters at home by turning on your exterior lights.
- Remove objects from your yard that might present a hazard to visitors.
- Ask your Neighborhood Watch or Citizens on Patrol group to patrol the community. Have them help trick-or-treaters cross the streets and watch out for ghoulish behavior.
- Drive slowly all evening; you never know what creature may suddenly cross your path.
- Report any suspicious or criminal activity to

your local police or sheriff's department.

- Make sure older kids go out with friends. Younger children should be accompanied by an adult.
- Set a time limit for children to trick-or-treat. Together, map out a safe route so you know where they'll be. Remind them not to take short cuts through backyards, alleys, or playing fields.
- Remind kids not to enter a strange house or car.
- Try to get kids to trick-or-treat while it is still light out. If it is dark, make sure a couple of people are carrying flashlights that work.
- Kids need to know not to eat their treats until

they get home. One way to keep trick-or-treaters from digging in while they're still out is to feed them a meal or substantial snack beforehand.

- Check out all treats at home in a well-lighted place.
- Only eat unopened candies and other treats that are in original wrappers. Don't forget to inspect fruit and homemade goodies for anything suspicious. By all means, remind kids not to eat everything at once or they'll be feeling pretty ghoulish for a while.
- Use battery operated candles in your pumpkins.





**Charles County
Sheriff's Office**

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**301-932-2222
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