



Watch Works

Charles County
Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Rex W. Coffey
July 2014

Celebrate Independence Day

Fireworks are a big part of the Independence Day celebration all over the United States. Gather your family and a few blankets and enjoy the many displays in Charles County. The local newspaper will announce where as we get closer to the holiday. If you decide you want to celebrate at home, a recent law approves specific types of items, including sparklers, found on the Maryland State Fire Marshal's website. The new law allows the sale and use of these non-aerial, non-exploding devices in most other parts of Maryland except Montgomery County, Prince George's County and Baltimore City. Charles County allows: Hand-held sparklers, Ignitable snakes, Party poppers, and Snap and Pops. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) provides advice on fireworks safety and statistics about fireworks injuries. If you plan to use fireworks this Fourth of July, read this. From the CPSC: In 2011, CPSC staff conducted a study of fireworks injuries from June

17 to July 17. Here's what they learned.

- * 200 people on average go to the emergency room every day with fireworks-related injuries in the month around the July 4th holiday.
- * 65% of these fireworks injuries in 2011 occurred during the month surrounding July 4th.
- * Illegal and homemade fireworks were involved in all 4 fireworks-related deaths reported to CPSC in 2011.

Most Injured Body Parts:

46% Hands and fingers
17% Eyes
17% Heads, faces, and ears
5% Trunk
4% Arms
11% Legs
More than half were burns.

Injuries by fireworks type

17% Sparklers
14% Reloadable Shells
13% Firecrackers
7% Roman Candles
6% Bottle Rockets

6% Novelties
2% Multiple Tubes
1% Fountains
3% Public Display
29% Unspecified
40% of all injuries were in the 25-44 age group and 68% were male.

Fireworks Safety Tips:

- * Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- * Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- * Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap.
- * Make sure fireworks are legal in your area before buying or using them.
- * Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly.

Remember most of the injuries described were made with legal fireworks. They are **FIRE**-works and are dangerous when not used in a safe place with rules in place. Enjoy the holiday and leave the fireworks up to the pros.

Dates to Remember

July 4
Independence Day



Water Safety



The best thing you can do to help your family stay safe in the summer is to enroll in age-appropriate swim lessons.

Make Water Safety your Priority:

- * Swim in designated areas supervised by lifeguards.
- * Always swim with a buddy; do not allow anyone to swim alone. Even at a public pool or a lifeguarded beach, use the buddy system!
- * Ensure that everyone in the family learns to swim well.
- * Never leave a young child unattended near water and do not trust a child's life to another child; teach children to always ask permission to go near water.
- * Have young children or inexperienced swimmers wear U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets around water, but do not rely on life jackets alone.
- * Establish rules for your family and enforce them without fail. For example, set limits based on each person's ability, do not let anyone play

around drains and suction fittings, and do not allow swimmers to hyperventilate before swimming under water or have breath-holding contests.

- * Even if you do not plan on swimming, be cautious around natural bodies of water including ocean shoreline, rivers and lakes. Cold temperatures, currents and underwater hazards can make a fall into these bodies of water dangerous.
- * If you go boating, wear a life jacket! Most boating fatalities occur from drowning.
- * Avoid alcohol use. Alcohol impairs judgment, balance and coordination; affects swimming and diving skills; and reduces the body's ability to stay warm.

* Maintain Constant Supervision:

- * Actively supervise kids whenever around the water, even if lifeguards are present. Do not just drop your kids off at the public pool or leave them at

the beach. Designate a responsible adult to supervise.

- * Always stay within arm's reach of young children and avoid distractions when supervising children around water.
- * If a child is missing, check the water first. Seconds count in preventing death or disability. Know how and when to call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number.
- * If you own a home pool or hot tub, have appropriate equipment, such as reaching or throwing equipment, a cell phone, life jackets and a first aid kit.
- * Enroll in a first aid and CPR/AED courses to learn how to prevent and respond to emergencies.

Prevent Unsupervised Access to the Water:

Install and use barriers around your home pool or hot tub.

Ensure that barriers enclose the entire area, are at least 4 feet high with gates that are self-closing, self-latching and open outward, and away from the pool.



A word from your Community Organizer, Connie Gray

(301) 932-3080 grayc@ccso.us

Well the summer heat is here. Children are out of school and summer vacation has begun. Please watch for children playing near the streets in your neighborhoods. Watch for

bicycles, skate boards and balls or toys crossing the road. If you own a pool or hot tub, have appropriate equipment, such as reaching or throwing equipment (life saver, pole), a cell phone,

Life jackets and a first aid kit. Make sure your gates and locks are in working order. Enjoy your summer but be safe and prepared.



National Night Out

Top 10 reasons to host a National Night Out party:

1. Have fun!
2. Meet your neighbors.
3. Organize a Watch program on your street.
4. Increase the sense of belonging in your neighborhood.
5. Share crime prevention and safety information.
6. Create a neighborhood e-mail directory.
7. Start a tradition.
8. Learn about your neighborhood's history.
9. Discover your neighbor's hidden talents (line dancing, guitar playing, etc.)
10. Make community connections.

Gather a few neighbors and divide up the tasks. Decide on a possible theme, activities, etc. Decide what to do about food.

Start knocking on doors or making calls to find out if

there is enough interest. Think of an alternate plan in case of poor weather.

Go door to door:

Hand out invitations.

Recruit volunteers.

Register with Charles County Sheriff's Office. This is the only way we know to have officers stop by your celebration sites. We also send your information to local fire and EMS stations.

NNO Activity Ideas:

Simple refreshments:

Cookie exchange.

Hot Dogs.

Ice cream cones/make your own sundaes.

Root Beer floats.

Water melon.

Group conversations/mixers:

Neighbor of the year award.

Block e-mail list

Neighbor trivia game

Neighborhood history stories.

Activities:

Bicycle parade

Chalk art

Face painting

Talent show

Cake walk

Decorated lawn mower parade

Water balloons

Contribute to your community:

Plant flowers

Plan a fall clean-up

Plan a fall bulb planting

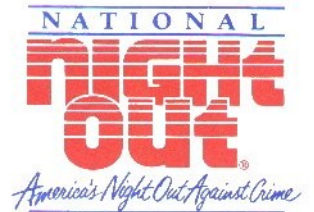
Welcome new neighbors

For more information or to receive a registration form, please contact:

Connie Gray

301-932-3080

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Sheriff's Office**

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