



# Watch Works

Charles County  
Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Troy Berry  
July 2015

## Celebrate on the 4th of July

One of my fondest memories is laying on a blanket and watching fireworks. The 4th of July was one of those magical nights. Some local fireworks displays this year will be held at:

**Celebrate Charles: A Fun Filled Fourth:** Saturday July 4 from 4:30-9:30 p.m. at Regency Furniture Stadium. There will be a ball game, live music, local businesses, eating establishments, artisans and crafters will be showcased in the Best of Charles County Marketplace, and kids of all ages will enjoy amusements in the Celebrate Charles Family fun Zone. Fireworks display will take place at 9:30. For more information check out their website [www.charlescountymd.gov/](http://www.charlescountymd.gov/)

[coadmin/tourism/celebrate-charles](http://coadmin/tourism/celebrate-charles)

**Town of Indian Head 4th of July Celebration & Fireworks:** Saturday, July 4th. A Patriotic Opening Ceremony at 3:30 starts the day with Amusements, live entertainment and food available for sale. No Pets or alcoholic beverages permitted. Visit the web site: [www.townofindianhead.org](http://www.townofindianhead.org) If you would like to venture outside of the county:

**Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department.** Saturday, July 4. The fireworks display is one of the largest in the area and they also provide a free concert before the fireworks. There is also a carnival set up including games and food with \$5 armbands to ride all

night. Fireworks display at dusk.

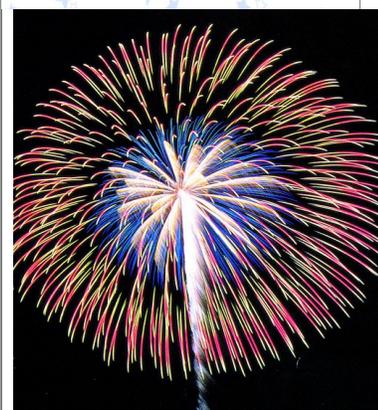
[www.hvfd7.com](http://www.hvfd7.com)

**Solomons Fireworks:** The Solomons Business Associations proudly sponsors the annual Solomons Independence Day fireworks display to be held on Friday, July 4th at approximately 9:15-9:30. Fireworks will be shot from a barge in the Patuxent River and can be viewed from the riverwalk. Check out Solomons Island Website

Go out and celebrate our country's independence and make some memories.

### Dates to Remember

#### July 4: Independence Day



## Fireworks, legal or not?

Most fireworks are illegal in Charles County. Recent law approves specific types of items, including sparklers, found on the Maryland State Fire Marshal's website.

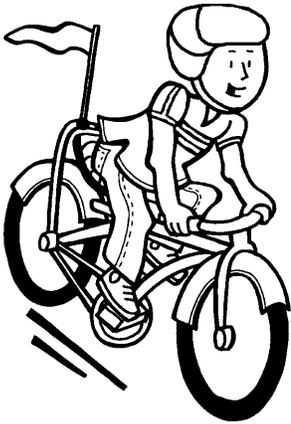
The new law allows the sale and use of these non-aerial, non-exploding devices in most other parts of Maryland, except Montgomery

County, Prince George's County and Baltimore City.

**Charles County**  
Allowed: Hand-held sparklers, ignitable snakes, party poppers, snap and pops.

So if you can shoot it into the air or it explodes, it is illegal in Charles County.

Keep your 4th of July safe and enjoy your fireworks at a public place where they are displayed by professionals. Watch children when using sparklers. Make sure their clothes are fire retardant. The metal stick in the sparklers is still hot when it finishes burning and can burn their fingers.



## #1 Safety Rule for Riding a Bike.

While driving to the store I noticed a family out riding bicycles together. What a happy group. Dad was teaching them how to stop at traffic signs. Great idea! I did notice one thing though, only a couple were wearing a helmet. The number one safety rule is to wear a bicycle helmet every time you ride. Your brain needs to be protected from being injured! A bicycle helmet can save your life.

Know the correct way to wear your helmet. It should not be too far forward or too far back. It should sit level on your head. Buckle the chin strap and tighten it until only two fingers fit between your chin and the strap. The two side straps should come together just below your ear. Start your child wearing a helmet at an early age. Introduce the helmet when your child

starts riding a tricycle. Make sure the helmet is appropriate for the size and/or age of your child, and fits well.

Bicycle injuries most often occur in children ages 5-14. Head injuries are the most serious of these injuries and are the leading cause of death in bicycle crashes. The single most effective safety device to reduce head injury is the use of a bicycle helmet.

## Emergency Kit Ready?

This is the season for severe storms, hurricanes and tornado's. Yes, we don't see them often but we do see them. Assembling an emergency kit might seem like a waste of time, until you need one and it's not there. Here are a few items you can gather together to help you make it through a few days if needed.

- Three-day supply of nonperishable food and manual can opener.
- Three-day supply of water (one gallon per person, per day).
- Portable, battery-powered radio or television and extra batteries.

- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- First aid kit and manual.
- Sanitation and hygiene items (hand sanitizer, moist towelettes, and toilet paper).
- Matches in waterproof container.
- Whistle
- Photocopies of identification and credit cards.
- Extra clothing and blankets.
- Cash and coins.
- Prescription medications, eye glasses, contact lens solution and hearing aid batteries.
- Items for infants, such as formula, diapers,

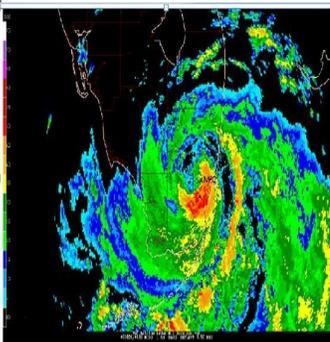
bottles.

- Tools (hammer, pliers, duct tape).
- Pet supplies
- Map of the local area.

If you are instructed to take shelter immediately, do so at once.

If you are instructed to evacuate:

- Listen to the radio or television for the location of emergency shelters and for other instructions.
- Wear protective clothing and sturdy shoes.
- Take your disaster supplies kit.



## A WORD FROM YOUR COMMUNITY ORGANIZER: Connie Gray 301-932-3080

Children are out of school so please watch out for them while driving in neighborhoods. Bicycles, skate boards and other things on wheels are moving in all directions. Sometimes children get so caught up in what they are doing and forget to look around to see if they are in a safe area or situation. Little one's run into the road not knowing the dangers. We need to be a little more vigilant.

On a good note, National Night Out is approaching fast. Registrations are already coming in and I'm excited about working with our neighborhoods. If you did not receive a registration form please contact me. If your neighborhood has not celebrated in the past and you would like to join us this year, please contact me. National Night Out is a great way to get outside and meet your neighbors. Celebrations

can be as large or as small as your community agrees on. Some have cook-outs while others have ice cream socials. I visited carnivals last year and glow light walks through the neighborhood. It's all about meeting your neighbor, getting to know them and joining together to make our communities safer. Please join in on August 4th and plan a neighborhood celebration.



## Protect Your Private Information

Email, the Internet, automated teller machines (ATMs), online banking, cell phones, long-distance carriers, and credit cards make our lives more efficient. However, as our lives become more integrated with technology, keeping our private information confidential becomes more difficult. Electronic transactions can leave you vulnerable to identity theft and other types of fraud. Following a few simple tips can help you keep your private information safe.

### Passwords:

- Select at least eight characters, including a combination of letters, numbers, and symbols that you can remember but that others won't easily guess.

- Do not use your mother's maiden name, spouse's name, last four digits of your Social Security number, pet's or children's names, or date of birth.
- Do not use a word that can be found in the dictionary in any language.
- Create a new password for every website or login that requests one. If that is impractical, create a few hard-to-guess passwords and use those at sites you want to keep most secure. Create easier-to-remember passwords to use at less important sites.
- Change your passwords regularly—at least once a month.
- Memorize your passwords, if you must write them down, don't carry them in your wallet or leave them in an unprotected place, including a computer file.
- If you have the option of letting your computer remember a password for you, don't do it.
- Do not share your passwords with family members, friends, or colleagues.
- If you are logging into a ATM or other computer, make sure no one is looking over your shoulder as you enter your password.





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Sheriff's Office**

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**CCSO.US**

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