



Watch Works

Charles County
Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Rex W. Coffey
Sept. / Oct. 2014

Autumn Safety

When the weather turns cold most people spend more time inside their homes using fireplaces, furnaces and heaters to keep warm. Make sure your home heating system is in good working order before the cold weather sets in. Have chimneys cleaned and furnaces inspected. Use a fireplace screen to keep sparks from flying out of the fireplace. Allow at least three feet of empty area around space heaters. Never leave a burning fire unattended. Make sure a fire in a fireplace is completely out before going to bed. Never leave candles burning if you go out or go

to sleep. Never use your stove or oven to heat your home.

The days get shorter in the fall, making it more difficult to see children playing or people walking and riding bicycles. It is also harder to see motorcycles and other cars. Children love to play in piles of leaves. Use extra caution where leaves are piled at curbsides. Always drive carefully, especially when the roads are wet. Falling leaves make the roadway slippery. Keep your driveway and sidewalks free of leaves.

- Use a rake that is com-

fortable for your height and strength.

- Don't overfill leaf bags.
- Never throw leaves over your shoulder or to the side. The twisting motion required to do so places undue stress on your back.

Change the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors when you turn back your clocks for Daylight Savings Time. Make sure to check the alarms with the new batteries installed.

Describe the Suspect

If you were in a store and it was robbed, could you describe the suspect? Are you aware of who is standing in front of you, or are you hoping you got everything on your list so you are going over it in your head?

A variety of general description information:

Sex

Race or national origin

Age (estimated)

Height: use comparisons with your own height, a door, or some other standard measure.

Weight: (estimated) or

build: fat, husky, slim, muscular etc.

Facial information:

Hair: color, texture, hairline, style.

Forehead: note height, and whether the skin is smooth, creased or wrinkled.

Nose: overall shape.

Complexion:

Facial hair: clean shaven?

Unshaven? Beard, mustache.

Clothing:

Coat

Shirt

Slacks, pants

Shoes

General appearance: neat or sloppy?

Voice: pitch, tone, rasp, lisp

Speech: articulate, uneducated, accent, use of slang.

Walk: slow, fast, limp.

You will never be able to remember all of these details about any one suspect you may see. But remembering as many as possible can be particularly helpful to the police and to your community

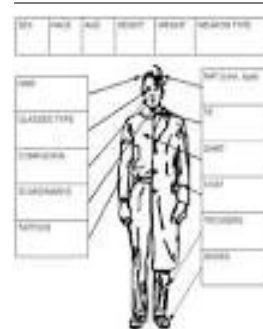
Dates to Remember

September 1: Labor Day

September 11-14: Charles County Fair

October 13: Columbus Day

October 31: Halloween



Just in case



The Farmers Almanac is calling for a cold, white winter in our area. Who really knows what kind of weather we will have? It doesn't hurt to be prepared. Just in case you lose power for a day or two you should have the following on hand:

Water—at least a 3-day supply: one gallon per person per day.

Food—at least a 3 day supply of non-perishable, easy to prepare food, and a hand held can opener.

Flashlight

Battery-powered or hand crank radio.

Extra batteries.

First aid kit.

Medications (7-day supply) and medical items (hearing aids with extra batteries, glasses, contact lenses, aspirin, cold medicine).

Multi-purpose tool.

Sanitary and personal hygiene items.

Copies of personal documents (medication list and medical information, proof of address, deed/lease, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies).

Cell phone with chargers.

Family and emergency con-

tact information.

Extra cash.

Baby supplies (bottles, formula, baby food, diapers).

Pet supplies (collar, leash, ID, food, carrier, bowl).

Tools/supplies for securing your home.

Sand, rock salt or non-clumping kitty litter to make walkways and steps less slippery.

Warm coats, gloves or mittens, hats, boots and extra blankets and warm clothing for all household members.

National Night Out !

Phenomenal

Phe-nom-e-nal

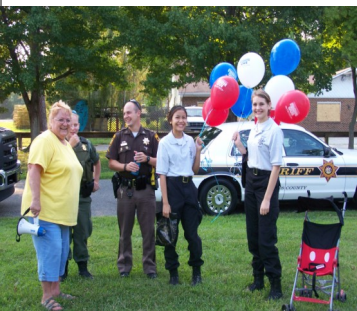
1) Remarkable and impressively good or great.

This is a perfect word to describe the National Night Out celebrations held in Charles County. I cannot say enough about our citizens and the time and thought they put into the celebrations in their neighborhoods. I only wish I could have visited them all. I did visit a few and was greeted with lots of smiles and great hospitality. Everyone was in a celebrating

mood. The food, entertainment and conversations were great. Officers spoke of good food and great people at all of the sites they visited. I did get to see a few photos that only confirmed that all the celebrations were done with the idea of meeting your neighbors and welcoming law enforcement. Thank you to all of you who take the time to get your neighborhood involved.

Thank you to all law enforcement, fire departments, EMT's and elected officials for taking the time

to meet some of our citizens and enjoying a bite to eat along with some good conversation. I know the citizens of Charles County look forward to your visits each year.



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

I cannot believe school has started up again. I was just working on National Night Out! Where did the time go? We are now working on our Fair display. Please stop by and say "hi" and check it out. This year's fair is September 11-14.

No matter what time of year it is, there is always

something to keep us busy. As the weather gets colder, please remember your neighbors. Check on your elderly neighbors and see if they have heat. Remember those that are less fortunate when you go shopping and purchase something extra for your local food bank. Lifestyles of La Plata

collects blankets, gloves, hats, and socks for the homeless to be used and given out at their annual "Safe-nights" finding shelter for the area's homeless during cold weather. Sometimes we get settled into our own lives and forget others may need help. Bundle up and stay warm!



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.





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Sheriff's Office**

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