



Watch Works

Charles County
Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Rex W. Coffey
November 2014

What is Veterans Day?

Veterans Day is an official United States holiday that honors people who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, also known as veterans. It is a federal holiday that is observed on November 11. It coincides with other holidays such as Armistice Day and Remembrance Day, which are celebrated in other parts of the world and also mark the anniversary of the end of World War I. (Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, when Armistice with Germany went into effect.) Veterans Day is not to be confused with Memorial Day; Veterans Day celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans, while Memorial Day is a day of re-

membering the men and women who died while serving. U.S. President Woodrow Wilson first proclaimed Armistice Day for November 11, 1919. The United States Congress passed a concurrent resolution seven years later on June 4, 1926, requesting that President Calvin Coolidge issue another proclamation to observe November 11 with appropriate ceremonies which was approved on May 13, 1938. This made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday: "a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as Armistice Day." In 1945 World War II veteran Raymond Weeks from Birmingham, Alabama, had the idea to expand Armistice Day to

celebrate all veterans, not just those who died in WWI. Weeks led a delegation to Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, who supported the idea of National Veterans Day. Congress amended this act on June 1, 1954, replacing "Armistice" with "Veterans". Although originally scheduled for celebration on November 11 of every year, starting in 1971 in accordance with the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, Veterans Day was moved to the fourth Monday of October. In 1978, it was moved back to its original celebration on November 11.

~ Wikipedia.

Dates to Remember

November 2: Daylight Savings time ends.

November 4: Election Day

November 11: Veterans Day

November 27: Thanksgiving Day



Holiday Safety

Well it's that time of year again. We sit down and eat a huge Thanksgiving meal so we have the energy to go to the stores for "Black Friday". There are criminals that love this time of year also. Everyone is in the holiday spirit and wish Peace and Joy to their fellow man so they let their guard down just a little. Here are a few things you can do to make your shopping experience a little safer.

- Stay alert and be aware of what's going on around you.
- Park in a well-lighted space, and be sure to lock the car, close the windows, and hide shopping bags and gifts in the trunk.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Pay with a check or credit card whenever possible.
- Deter pickpockets and purse snatchers. Don't overburden yourself with packages. Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Carry a purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Wear it under your coat if possible. Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket.





Take a Holiday Inventory

The holidays are a good time to update or create your home inventory. Take photos or make videos of items, and list descriptions and serial numbers. If your home is burglarized, having a detailed inventory can help identify stolen items and make insurance claims easier to file. Make sure things like TVs, VCRs, stereo equipment, cameras, camcorders, sports equipment, jewelry, silver, computers, home office equipment, and power tools are on the list.

Mark your valuables. If they can easily be identified, it is

hard for a burglar to dispose of it. It can be traced back to you. And, if the burglar is caught with it in his possession, it is solid evidence of possession of stolen goods.

Use an electric engraver to mark your valuables. Electric engravers are relatively inexpensive, and available at hardware, department and variety stores. Mark your valuables by inscribing your driver's license number followed by the letters MD, or any identifying number you can describe as yours. You should

complete a property list and make a copy to go to your safe deposit box or office. It's also a good idea to take a photo of valuables that cannot be marked, and file the pictures with copies of your list. Include item name, make, model, size, and color, serial number, purchase date and price. If you have the receipt, keep it with your file also. This information is good to have in case of fire or flooding. You will have the information your insurance company will need.

How to Prevent Charity Fraud

This is the giving time of year. When you decide to give to a charity:

- Ask how your money will be used. What percentage will go to the actual programs versus the administrative and fundraising costs?
- Request written information that gives the full name, address and phone numbers of the organization as well as a description of the programs it supports.
- Check out any charity you don't know with the local charity registration office, Better Business Bureau, or a charity watch dog

group such as www.charitywatch.org, www.give.org and www.guidestar.org.

- Don't give in to high pressure or emotional appeals that urge you to donate on the spot. If you are unsure, don't be afraid to ask for more information.
- Don't be fooled by a name that closely resembles the name of a respected and well-known charity. Make sure you know who you are dealing with.
- Give directly to the charity if possible, rather than to an organization claiming it

will forward your donation to the charity.

- Keep careful records of all your donations so you can identify fraudulent scams that claim you made a pledge you don't remember making.
- Ask for the charity's tax-exempt letter indicating its IRS status. You can't claim a tax-deductible donation if the charity does not have one.
- Never give cash. Make your contribution in the form of a check payable to the full name of the charity.



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

Time seems to be going by so fast. This is one of my favorite times of the year. A sweatshirt or light jacket and hot chocolate. As the holidays get closer, people seem to be more cheerful. The stores sparkle with decorations and Christmas music. Enjoy this time with your family and reach out to your neighbors and

friends. If you know of someone that might be spending the holidays alone, put aside a little Joy for them. A Christmas Card, a phone call or just a wave from a neighbor could brighten someone's holiday. Be careful when out shopping. The traffic and the crowds are worse than

usual this time of the year. Have a little patience, shop early, or shop on-line, whatever it takes to make your holiday shopping enjoyable. Listen to the music, enjoy the decorations, they will be gone before you know it.



Identity Theft

Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in America, affecting half a million new victims each year. Identity theft or identify fraud is the taking of a victim's identity to obtain credit, credit cards from banks and retailers, steal money from a victim's existing accounts, apply for loans, establish accounts with utility companies, rent an apartment, file bankruptcy, or obtain a job using the victim's name. Thousand of dollars can be stolen without the victim knowing about it for months or even years.

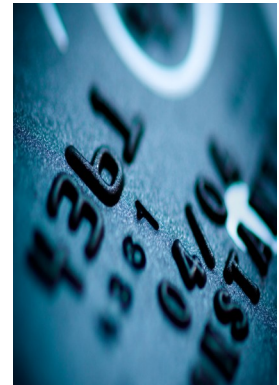
To prevent this from happening to you:

- Do not give out personal information over the phone, through the mail, or over the internet unless you have initiated the contact or know whom you're dealing with.

- Shred all documents, including pre-approved credit applications received in your name, insurance forms, bank checks and statements you are discarding, and other financial information.
- Do not use your mother's maiden name, your birth date, the last four digits of your social security number, or a similar series of numbers as a password for anything.
- Minimize the identification information and the number of cards you carry. Take what you'll actually need.
- Do not put your telephone number on checks.
- Be careful using ATMs and phone cards.

Someone may look over your shoulder and get your PIN numbers, thereby gaining access to your accounts.

- Make a list of all your credit card account numbers and bank account numbers with customer service phone numbers and keep it in a safe place.
- Do not put your credit card number on the Internet unless it is encrypted on a secured site.
- Pay attention to your billing cycles. Follow up with creditors if bills don't arrive on time.
- Order your credit report every year. Equifax, Experian or TransUnion at 888-397-3742





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