



Watch Works

Charles County
Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Troy Berry
September 2015

Children are back in school

The summer quickly passed and children are back in school. It's nice getting back into a routine. Getting up early in the morning to catch the bus. Packing lunch and making sure homework is done. Remember it's a new thing for lots of children beginning kindergarten or starting first grade. Watch out for children getting on and off the bus. Help the little ones so they know what they need to do and what to expect.

Getting on the school bus:

- When waiting for the bus, stay away from traffic and avoid roughhousing or other behavior that can lead to carelessness. Do not

stray onto streets, alleys or private property.

Behavior on the bus:

- When on the bus, find a seat and sit down. Loud talking or other noise can distract the bus driver and is not allowed.
- Never put head, arms or hands out of the window.
- Keep aisles clear; books or bags are tripping hazards and can block the way in an emergency.
- Before getting to your stop get ready to leave by getting your books and belongings together.

- At your stop, wait for the bus to stop completely before getting up from your seat, then walk to the front door and exit, using the handrail.

Getting off the bus:

- If you have to cross the street in front of the bus, walk at least ten feet ahead of the bus along the side of the road until you can turn around and see the driver.
- Make sure that the driver can see you.
- Stay away from the bus's rear wheels at all times.

Dates to Remember

September 7: Labor Day

September 17,18,19,20th
Charles County Fair

September 23: Autumn
Begins at sundown



See you at the fair!

Are you going to the Charles County Fair? Either to take your kids or grandkids or just to enjoy the food and the displays. The Charles County Sheriff's Office has a display behind the stage area. We are in a large trailer, filled with all kinds of information. Our K-9 Unit will be there to do a demonstration so if you come

check the information brochure for time and location. McGruff the Crime Dog will be walking around greeting children and officers will be on hand to answer questions or help you out if some situation should develop. You just might be greeted by our Sheriff, Troy Berry as you walk around the grounds. Check out the display buildings and the

animal buildings. Have a good meal of pizza, roast beef sandwich or stuffed ham sandwich. The food vendors have it all. Don't forget dessert, baked apple, ice cream or candy apple. They have almost anything you can think of. If you decide to go don't forget to look in on our display and say Hi.



Fall Safety Tips

There's a slight chill in the air. Leaves are turning colors and dropping from the trees. Yes it's that time of year. Fall is here. Fall is the time for yard clean-ups and readying your house for the cold winter ahead. Use extra caution when climbing ladders for fall jobs such as cleaning gutters. When putting away lawnmowers and other yard equipment, make a spot for them and hang or place them out of the way. Keep your driveway clear of falling leaves. They get very slippery when they are wet.

Drain, roll up and store your garden hose and tools.

When it turns colder most people spend more time inside their homes using the fireplace, furnaces and heat-

ers 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 a space heaters. Never leave home with a fire burning or a space heater on. Never leave candles burning if you go to bed or leave home. Never use your stove or oven to heat your home. Now is the time to buy flashlights and flameless candles, so that you have them on hand when they are needed.

Days are becoming shorter making it more difficult to see children playing or people walking and riding bicycles. Put reflective tape on bicycles, helmets and children's clothing.

Children love to play in piles of leaves. Use extra caution where leaves are piled at curbside. Drive carefully making sure to be aware of poor visibility during certain weather conditions and times of the day. Wet roads make it more difficult to stop. Keep a safe distance from the car in front of you.

Another successful NNO



What an AWESOME county we live in. The neighborhoods that came together and worked hard to have a celebration for National Night Out was once again amazing. We visited 65 neighborhoods and had almost 100 others that turned on their lights or

visited sites near their homes to show would be criminals that we stand together to keep our neighborhoods safe. Every story I hear is about how friendly and welcoming all of our citizens are. If you had a chance to get together with your neighbors and enjoy a

celebration I am so glad. If your neighborhood doesn't celebrate NNO please contact me and we can work on something for next year. Thank you for all you hard work.

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

Children are back in school. Soon all the pools will be covered. The lawnmowers will be put away and everyone will be raking their yards. This is the time of year that everyone loves to be outside. The weather is getting cooler and all you need is a light jacket or a sweatshirt. While you are outside say hello to your neighbors. This is a good

time to walk or ride your bikes around your neighborhood. Welcome newcomers to your neighborhood and fill them in on things your community does. If your neighborhood does not have a Neighborhood Watch and you would like more information please give me a call. We can set up a meeting with your neighborhood and get

you started before it gets real cold. If you know of any elderly couples in your neighborhood now would be a good time to ask if they need any help with their lawn or other things they would like to get done before the cold weather comes in. The best way to make a safer community is to know who your neighbors are.



Is your Child Being Bullied?

The pain and embarrassment of being bullied often causes victims to hide what is going on. But, there are a variety of ways to tell if your child is being bullied.

Symptoms include:

- Depression
- Anxiety
- Safety concerns
- Sadness
- Aggression
- Low self-esteem

Other possible warning signs may include:

- Numerous lost belongings.
- Frequent injuries or damage to clothes or property.
- Spends time primarily with younger students (may indicate a prob-

lem with peers).

- Avoids recess.
- Arrives to school late or just at the starting bell.
- Appears to be alone most of the time at school.
- Somatic complaints (i.e., headaches, stomachaches, etc.).

What to do if you think your child is being bullied:

- First, focus on your child. Be supportive and gather information about the bullying.
- Help your child become more resilient to bullying.
- Encourage your child to stick with a friend at recess, lunch, in the

hallways and on the bus. They are more likely to be targeted when alone.

- Arrange opportunities for your child to socialize with his or her friends outside of school to help maintain a strong social support system.
- Pay attention to how your child is sleeping, eating, feeling and doing in school.
- Teach your child to say "STOP". Most bullies stop bullying within 10 seconds when someone tells him or her to stop.
- Contact your child's teacher or principal and provide specifics on how your child is being bullied.





**Charles County
Sheriff's Office**

**6915 Crain Hwy.
P.O. Box 189
La Plata, Md. 20646**

**301-932-2222
301-932-3080**

CCSO.US

**Watch Works is a publication of the Charles
County Crime Watch Program. If you wish to have
your name removed from our mailing list, please
call 301-932-3080**