



CHARLES COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Safety for walking and jogging trails.
- New Watch Works layout.

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WATCH WORKS

SHERIFF TROY BERRY

MARCH 2016

Time to get outside!

If you've been inside most of the winter, I'm sure you are ready to get outside and do something. While the temperatures are still cool, bundle up and take a walk, bike ride or a run. There are quite a few trails, bike paths and parks for you to enjoy. Here are a few things to consider as you plan on your outing.

Companions: Walking with a friend or group reduces your chances of being singled out by a bad guy significantly.

Walking with a dog, even a little ankle-biter, will greatly reduce the chance of attack. Obey all licensing, leash, and do-do ordinances in the jurisdiction you are walking through.

Carry a walking/hiking stick: Why mess with somebody with a

stick when there are lots of people without one?

Open Areas: Paths lined with bushes and trees are pleasant for walking, but afford many hiding places for the bad guys and places they can take you to finish



Special Olympics Run/ Walk 2015

their crimes out of view.

Deterrents: Strangers aren't out to attack YOU. It is nothing personal, they are just looking for a target of opportunity. Your

goal, therefore, is to look like somebody who will be too much trouble to mess with. They also want to make you their victim without attracting attention from others.

Alarm: A brightly colored personal body alarm can be a deterrent when visibly worn. Bad guys don't want to attract attention. A whistle is also a good signal device.

Check our web-site CCSO.US to see if we have one of our many walks/runs on the calendar. Also look for Relay for Life, March of Dimes and other outdoor fund raisers for good causes. Join lots of runners and walkers to get your exercise and raise money for a good cause.

Does something look different?

It's 2016 and I thought I'd start the new year with a fresh look for our Watch Works newsletter. Not that there was anything wrong with the old look but it was 2006 when we changed to that format. This format has an extra page and blue colors which are supposed to be soothing, and

represent law enforcement.

Please let me know what you think. If there is information you would like to see in the Watch Works please let me know. My number is listed in the article "A Word from your Community Organizer". I try and do articles

based on the time of year, safe shopping during the holidays and outside safety as the warmer months arrive. School bus information during September and the beginning of school, etc. I would appreciate any suggestions or remarks.

Keeping Children Safe Online



Teach your children to tell a trusted adult if they see something that bothers them online.

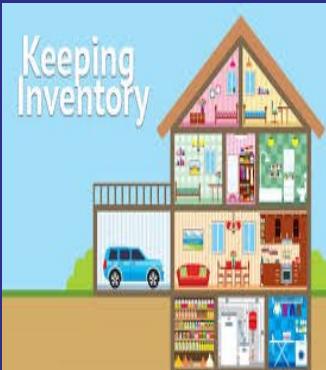
I'm sure with Christmas not far gone there were lots of laptops, tablets and computers unwrapped as gifts. So much information at our fingertips. Not like the encyclopedias we used for school work and projects.

Talk to your children about the potential dangers of the internet, like sexual predators and cyber bullying. Encourage your children to show you what they do and who they talk to on the internet. Keep your com-

puter in an open area like a family room, kitchen or den. Don't let them sit in their bedrooms alone with a tablet.

Set rules for use of cell phones, laptops and other portable devices. Set rules about what your children can access online and set time limits for the amount of time spent using the Internet. Post the rules next to your computer so that there is no confusion about what the rules are.

Talk to your children about what they do online. Ask to see their online profiles and screen names. Know your children's password and remind them to never give out their passwords. Teach your children to tell a trusted adult if they see something that bothers them online. Check to see if your child is being bullied or if he/she is bullying another child. Save any emails or text that show this is happening and call your school to report it.



What's in your house?

Do you know what the inventory in your home looks like? In case of burglary or fire could you describe every item and guess the price to replace it? Do an inventory of everything in your home. Take photos of valuables and write descriptions and serial numbers on the back of the photos. Make a list or vid-

eo of all of the items in your home. Make sure things like TVs, VCRs, stereo equipment, cameras, camcorders, sports equipment, jewelry, office equipment and all electronics are on the list. Don't forget the garage! Take pictures of the lawnmower and write down serial numbers. Record bikes, ATVs and mo-

torcycles you may have. Make two copies and put one in a safe deposit box or other secure location. Take the second copy to a safe place in your office or trusted relative's home. In case of a fire, tornado or other disasters, keeping a copy elsewhere will provide a detailed record of what you have in case your home is destroyed.

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A WORD FROM YOUR COMMUNITY ORGANIZER

One of my favorite things to do, as part of my job, is greeting citizens as they come into our meetings. Many of you I consider my friends. Charles County has some of

the best community leaders around. They care about their neighborhoods and keeping them safe. I wish each and every one of you a great 2016 and hope you continue to be involved with your neighborhood and relationship with the Charles County Sheriff's Of-

fice. We have a great presentation planned "Innocence Stolen: Protecting Our Children Online," to be presented at our Crime Watch Kickoff on March 23rd.

Hope to see you there!

Connie

Being Prepared in This Crazy World



Turn on the TV or radio and some days you just can't believe what you hear. Another school shooting. A shooter at a government building. What is going on? Did you ever think we would see these times, in our country? The weather has gotten different. We had an earthquake and tornado not so long ago. What's a person to do? Planning ahead is the first step.

Talk: Discuss with your family the disasters that can happen where you live. Establish responsibilities for each member of your household and plan to work together as a team. Designate alternates in case someone is absent.

Learn: Each adult in your household should learn how and when to turn off utilities such as electricity, water and gas. Ask someone at the fire department to show you how to use the fire extinguisher you store in your home.

Check Supplies: Review your disaster supplies and replace water and food every six months.

Tell: Let everyone in the household know where emer-

Prepare as a family so everyone knows where items are. Prepare as a family so everyone knows where items are. Agency contact information is kept. Make copies for everyone to carry with them. Be sure to include an out-of-town contact. It may be easier to call out of the area if local phone lines are overloaded or out of service. Keep the information updated. Put all your personal information on a CD or USB drive.

Practice: Practice evacuating your home twice a year. Drive your planned evacuation route and plot alternate routes on a map in case main roads are impassable or gridlocked. Practice tornado and fire drills at home, school and work.

Build a kit: What you have on hand when a disaster happens can make a big difference. Plan to store enough supplies for everyone in your household for at least three days.

- Have at least one gallon of water per person per day.
- Pack non-perishable, high-protein items, including energy bars, ready-to-eat soup, peanut butter, etc. Select foods that require no refrigeration, preparation or cooking and little or no water.
- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- First aid kit and reference guide.
- Prescriptions and non-prescription items like pain

reliever, cold medication, fever reducers, etc.

- Assemble a tool box: a wrench to turn off gas if necessary, a screwdriver, hammer, pliers and a knife. Duct tape, plastic sheeting and garbage bags and ties.
- Manual can opener, and utensils.
- Sanitary supplies such as toilet paper, feminine supplies, personal hygiene items, bleach and a bucket.
- Provide a change of clothes for everyone, including sturdy shoes and gloves.
- Remember eyeglasses or contact lenses and solution. Copies of important papers including identification cards, insurance policies, birth certificates etc.
- Books, toys, games and other comfort items for kids.
- Get a map. GPS may not work. Consider marking an evacuation route on the map from your local area.



"It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark".

~Howard Ruff



Don't let this be your exact kit. Think out of the box and have necessary items ready for your family and situation.



It doesn't take a lot of time to be prepared!



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**Charles County is the Winner of the
2015 Outstanding Participation in
National Night Out Award!**

MISSION STATEMENT

THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE CHARLES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ARE DEDICATED TO SERVICE THROUGH SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE. WE BELIEVE MUTUAL RESPECT, TRUST AND PRIDE IN OUR ORGANIZATION, COMBINED WITH TRADITIONAL VALUES AND INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES, WILL ENSURE THE COMMUNITY'S RIGHT TO A SAFE ENVIRONMENT.

Value Statements

LIFE We believe the protection of life is our highest priority.

RESPECT We believe in individual human dignity and the preservation of human rights under the rule and spirit of law, always treating others as we would like to be treated.

INTEGRITY We believe in maintaining the public trust by holding ourselves accountable to the highest moral and ethical standards.

FAIRNESS We believe in the delivery of service that provides fair and equal treatment to all citizens without regard to age, gender, race, creed, color, religion or national origin.

TRUST We believe in order to provide effective service we must develop and maintain the confidence of the community.

PARTNERSHIPS We believe in working in partnership with the community and each other to identify and resolve

problems and issues which affect the safety of our citizens.

LOYALTY We believe in an allegiance to the community, to the organization and to each other.

PROFESSIONALISM We believe in delivering a level of service which will reflect the pride we have in our community and organization.



**Charles County Sheriff's Office
Honor Guard.**