



CHARLES COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

NOVEMBER 1:
ALL SAINTS
DAY

NOVEMBER 2:
ALL SOULS DAY

NOVEMBER 5:
DAYLIGHT SAV-
ING TIME ENDS

NOVEMBER 7:
ELECTION DAY

**NOVEMBER
11:** VETERANS
DAY

**NOVEMBER
23:** THANKS-
GIVING



*Happy Thanksgiving!
To You And Your Family*



WATCH WORKS

SHERIFF TROY BERRY

NOVEMBER 2017

YOUR COMMUNITY

I bought a poster for my office called "How to build a community". I would like to share some of the suggestions:

TURN OFF YOUR TV.

Leave your house.

Know your neighbors.

Look up when you are walking.

GREET PEOPLE.

Sit on your Stoop.

Fix it even if you didn't break it.

Pick up litter.

Ask a question.

Honor Elders.

Talk to the mail carrier.

Bake extra and share.

Listen before you react to anger.

These are not long sentences and it is not the full list that is on the poster, but what a strong message. If we all would take this list and use it on a weekend, what a difference it could make in your neighborhood. Just think about it.

It doesn't take a lot of time or money to turn a negative into a positive.

Smile and say hello to your neighbors. Ask your elderly neighbors if they need help with something. Sometimes they are too embarrassed to ask for help. These suggestions are not difficult but you can see where they would make a big impact. Remember, you live there.

SAFE NIGHTS

Did you know that in Charles County, our local churches open their halls and provide a place for homeless citizens to sleep out of the cold and nasty weather? Most churches take a least a week and provide showers, a bed,

breakfast, a bagged lunch, and a hot meal in the evening. Those that are staying leave early in the morning after breakfast and return at dinner time.. Some of the county's homeless have jobs but just don't make enough to afford

housing. There are young mothers with small children and elderly staying. Check with your local church to see if they are part of Safe Nights and see if you can help with meals, donations, or in any other way.



Getting Ready For the Cold Weather

We have had a long summer and now fall has decided to show up. Cold weather will be here before you know it. Don't wait until the last minute to get yourself ready.

Do you use your fireplace? If so, get it checked out and make sure it is ready to use. Have your furnace cleaned and checked for any problems. Cover your outside furniture and bring in the hose and tools.

Have your vehicle checked out for winter driving. Check the tires, windshield wipers and window washer fluid. If you need to clean out the gutters

on your house, make sure you use a sturdy ladder. Don't do it alone in case of falls. You can also get the job done faster with a little help. If the children are playing in the piles of leaves, check to see that they aren't too close to the road or driveway. They can be well hidden to a driver that might just pull through the pile. While you are on a ladder and near the roof you just might want to put up your holiday decorations. It will be here before you know it.

Change the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide de-

tectors. Make sure to check the alarms with the new batteries installed.

Never use your oven or stove to heat your house. Never leave a burning fire unattended. Make sure a fire in a fireplace is completely out before going to bed. Always use a fireplace screen to keep sparks from flying out of the fireplace. Allow at least three feet of empty space around electric heaters. The days get shorter in the fall making it more difficult to see children walking and riding bicycles. Please drive with caution.

JUST MY THOUGHTS

Soon everyone will be enjoying Thanksgiving gatherings, Christmas parties and lots of holiday cheer. Remember this is a difficult time for some people. They may have terrible memories from this time of year. Maybe

they lost a loved one or something else happened during this time of year and they have difficulty coping. Don't think of them as the Grinch or grumpy old people. Smile, wish them well, and go along with your cele-

brations. If they are a neighbor or someone you work with, maybe you can make it a little easier for them by just listening. Whatever you do to celebrate, I hope this is a wonderful time for you!

CCSO
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PREVENTING CHARITY FRAUD



Food Pantry Donations Needed

It's that time again. Charities are out to collect as much as they can before the end of the year. People are giving so they may claim it on their taxes. Everyone is in the holiday mood and ready to give to those in need. How do you know your money is going where you intended it to go?

- 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 program it supports.
- Check out any charity you don't know with the local charity registration office, the Better Business Bureau or a charity watchdog group such as www.charitywatch.org, www.give.org, and www.guidetar.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.
- Give out your credit card number only if you are certain that you are dealing with a

legitimate charity, then make sure that the numbers will be encrypted.

- Don't give out your Social Security number. A charity does not need it in order for you to claim a tax deduction.

Some charities have been around for years:

St. Jude's Hospital or Shriners's Hospital, for example. If you donate to these well known charities make sure they are not look-alike websites or mailings. People are getting so creative. Some mailings look so legitimate.

Charitable giving has never been easier. With a few clicks of a computer mouse, you can connect with causes you care about, learn how your support will make a difference, and put your money where your heart is by making an instant online donation or pledge on a charity's website. Be careful; fraudulent fundraisers know that giving is an emotional act, and they're good at pulling heartstrings.....and pocket strings too.



**DONATE
ONLINE**



Charles County Sheriff's Office

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P.O. Box 189
La Plata, MD 20646

(301)932-2222

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.