



CHARLES COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

WATCH WORKS

SHERIFF TROY BERRY

DECEMBER 2017

December

3: Full Moon

December

7: Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

December

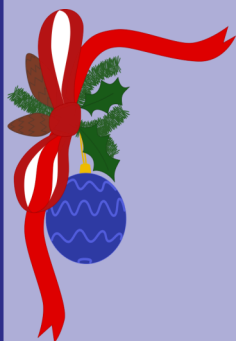
21: Winter Begins

December

25: Christmas

December

31: New Year's Eve



A Message From the Sheriff

Season's greetings!

They say "it's the most wonderful time of the year," and I couldn't agree more. December is full of shopping, family gatherings, holiday parties, and, for some, travel. While all of these festivities are special and enjoyable, we hope you all keep safety in mind throughout the month. Be sure to read through the safety tips in this newsletter, and share them with your friends and family. While travelling to gatherings and parties, please be safe on the roadways. If you choose to consume any alcoholic beverages, designate a sober driver to make sure everyone gets home safely. One bad decision could change everything in an instant.

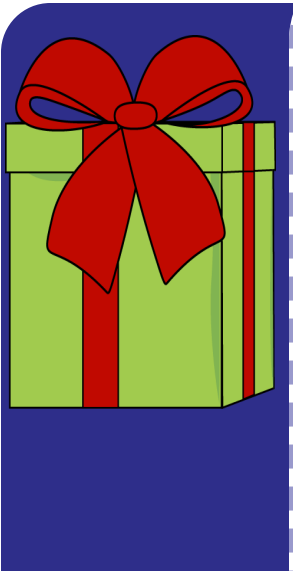
This is also the season of giving. We are so grateful to serve the citizens of Charles County, and thankful for your willingness to give to the numerous organizations collecting donations this time of year to help out those who are less fortunate. Thank you for fostering the spirit of community and lending a hand to those who need it most.

As always, we are out here with you and for you. Please have a safe, happy, and blessed holiday season!

Sincerely,

Sheriff Troy D. Berry





Merry Christmas



All I Want For Christmas

It's not only the Grinch who likes to steal Christmas gifts but burglars have been known to break into homes at Christmas and steal gifts right from under the tree. So even though it may look festive from the street, it's a good idea to keep your Christmas tree away from the front window. If your tree is visible from the street, perhaps don't put the presents out until later. Be careful how much information you give away on social media. Poolside holiday pics from afar and checking in on Facebook at overseas locations can

be an advertisement to thieves that your home is a sitting duck to be burgled. The same goes for pictures of any expensive Christmas presents.

If your idea of Christmas is to go all out with enough decorative lights to cover your home that you're visible from any flight path, make sure you don't leave any extension cords hanging out of open windows, it provides an easy way for burglars to get it.

Remember, Christmas may be the season of goodwill, but it is also the time of year where thieves want to get their hands on pre-

sents for their own friends and families so make sure they don't get them from your car while you are shopping.

Getting a new super sized flat screen TV is exciting, but it's best to keep this information to yourself. Make sure you don't publicize what you got for Christmas by placing packaging and boxes out on the street. Break down the packaging as much as you can and put it in dark trash bags. That way you won't be advertising what everyone in your house received for Christmas.

Just My Thoughts

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Please be careful while out shopping for Christmas gifts. Try not to go out alone especially at night. Don't leave your purchases in full view in your vehicle. Cover up

or place them in your trunk. Enjoy yourself at office, neighborhood and family parties. Don't drink and drive. If you see a vehicle that is driving erratically or swerving call 911 and report them. Be very careful when fol-

lowing them but get the tag number if it is safe to do so, and give as much information as possible when describing the vehicle and where you are. Have someone else in the vehicle call or use your hands free option.

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Holiday Driving Tips



First a few no brainers:

- * Do not speed.
 - * Do not text.
 - * Do not drink and drive.
- ⇒ Make sure your vehicle is operating properly. The lights, oil, tires, belts and hoses. The brake fluid, antifreeze and the condition of the battery should all be checked by a professional.
- ⇒ Plan your route in advance and check traffic reports and weather conditions before you leave. As a backup bring a paper map.
- ⇒ Follow speed limits and remember excess traffic and congestion on the roads may mean you'll have to travel below posted limits and may arrive later than expected.
- ⇒ Drive defensively and don't respond to aggressive drivers.
- ⇒ A good night's sleep could make the trip more enjoyable. Make sure to take regular

breaks during long road trips.

- ⇒ Be prepared for emergencies. Keep a blanket, boots and an extra pair of gloves and a flashlight in your vehicle. Keep the gas tank at least half-filled.
- ⇒ Relax, driving during the holiday season can be stressful. Frustration can lead to poor decisions and risky behavior behind the wheel.

If you are hosting or attending a holiday party. Most parties involve alcohol. While you want to enjoy yourself or want your guest to have a good time, keep your eye out for anyone who may be drinking too much, and either provide a place to stay or a means to get home with a designated driver. Here are a few steps you can take to prevent holiday drinking and driving.

- Have a designated driver. It's one of the simplest rules to follow, but also one of the most effective in keeping people safe on the roads.
- Have cab or Uber numbers on hand. If someone should not be driving and they insist on going home,

call a cab for them instead of allowing them to take the risk of driving home.

- Offer plenty of non-alcoholic drinks. While many guests may want to enjoy the holidays with an alcoholic drink, offer non-alcoholic drinks as an option.
- Offer food if you're offering alcohol. Drinking on an empty stomach can cause a person to become intoxicated faster. Offering food along with drinks may help prevent guests from over-indulging on alcohol alone.



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If possible, drivers should try to stay off the road between the hours of midnight and 3 a.m., when drunk driving accidents are most likely, according to research from the U.S. Department of Transportation. And if the weather is bad, which can easily happen in the northern and central states, consider revising your plans so you won't have to travel on icy or snowy roads. With a little foresight and by taking precautions, you can enjoy your holiday season and stay safe as well.





Charles County Sheriff's Office

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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.