



CHARLES COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

**July 4:**  
Independ-  
ence Day

**July 27:**  
Full Moon



# WATCH WORKS

SHERIFF TROY BERRY

JULY 2018

## Watch Your Purse

I cannot tell you how many times I've gone shopping and a grocery cart is sitting in the aisle with a purse while the owner walks back to retrieve something from the top shelf half way down the aisle. The set up is one person distracts you by asking your permission about a product or have you tried something and do you like it? In the meantime, his or her accomplice takes your credit card or wallet out of your purse.

You think to yourself that was a nice person until you get to the register to pay for your items and you notice your wallet or credit card is gone. You call the police and by the time you have everything recorded they have been to a gas station and two stores with your money.

If they took your wallet they have all your information from your license.

If you must carry a purse

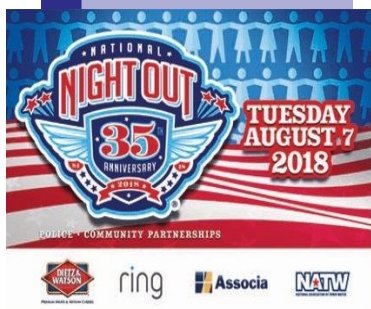
wear it. Never put it down. Know where it is at all times. If possible put cash or a credit card in either a wallet or compact case and carry it concealed in a pocket. Some women have had small hidden pockets sewn on the inside of their coats for this purpose. When shopping don't let strangers distract you or take you away from your cart and your purse. Never walk away from your cart with your purse laying in the seat.

## National Night Out August 7th

If you haven't sent in your National Night Out registration, please do so. If you don't have a registration form please contact Connie Gray 301-932-3080 or [grayc@ccso.us](mailto:grayc@ccso.us) and re-

quest one. Your community celebration doesn't have to be a big expensive party. Just get outside and meet your neighbors. Offer a bottle of water, and if you want, a snack and

some friendly conversation. Getting to know your neighbors is the first step to a safer neighborhood. Hope to see you all outside enjoying this night set aside for community building.





**CCSO**  
**COMMUNITY**  
**ORGANIZER**  
**CONNIE GRAY**  
 301-932-3080  
[grayc@ccso.us](mailto:grayc@ccso.us)

## Children, Our Most Valuable Resource

I know we can't be with them 24 hours a day and we must trust others to care for our children, but we can give them some advice on safety. Through the summer there will be new daycares, camps and vacations where your children will meet new people.

- Never leave your children alone; not at home, in a vehicle, at play or anywhere.
- Define STRANGER to your children. Just because they see someone everyday (e.g., mailman, paperboy, neighbor) it does not mean these people are not strangers. Also let them know there are safe strangers if they are in trouble like a policeman, a mother with other children, a person behind the counter

at a store.

- Teach your children their full name, your name, full address, and phone number, including area codes. Teach them how to use a phone.
- Teach your children the "What If...?" game, making up different dangerous situations that they might encounter and helping them play out what they would do in that situation.
- Take the time to talk to your children and be alert to any noticeable changes in their behavior or attitude toward an adult or teenager; it may be a sign of sexual abuse.
- Set up procedures with your child's school or day care center as to whom the child will be

released to other than yourself, and what notification procedure they are to follow if the child does not show up on time.

- Teach your children that their body is private and no one has the right to touch them in a way that makes them feel uncomfortable. If anyone touches them in a wrong way they should: **SAY NO, GET AWAY, and TELL SOMEONE** they trust.
- **Talk with your children every day and listen to what they have to say.**

# Vacation Safety



If you are driving to your summer destination **don't trust your GPS/phone** maps. Your GPS can send you way out of your way and in an area where there are no gas stations or places to stop. Always carry a back-up map and some emergency water, food and other supplies.

**Know your vehicle load limits:** If you can't fit the kids, the suitcases and your beach supplies in your vehicle you have a problem. Don't stuff everything in. Not only is it dangerous it's also uncomfortable for all that are traveling with you. A rooftop carrier or renting a larger vehicle would make your trip more enjoyable.

**Plan ahead to keep pets safe:** Check to make sure pets are allowed where you are staying. If you aren't taking your pets find a reputable kennel or relatives to leave them with.

**Never leave your child or pet in a hot car.** Even when the temperature is 60 degrees, the sun can raise it to 110.

**Pack bug spray:** Beach or camping ticks are dangerous. Mosquitos can ruin a good trip also, scratching all night.

**Stay away from wildlife:** Animals are drawn to campgrounds because they smell trash. Most animal attacks are provoked. Never feed or harass wildlife.

**Stay focused on your children.** Especially those from age 1-5. It only takes a moment of inattention to place a child at risk of drowning.

**Drowning is quiet:** A former Coast Guard rescue swimmer Mario Vitore explains: People in serious distress lose their ability to call out for help or wave. Instead, their instinctive drowning response causes them to hover upright at the surface of the water with their head tilted back and mouth open, gasping or hyperventilating.

## Sharks??

Although unlikely, shark attacks do happen. Don't swim at dawn or dusk, or after heavy rains.

Don't swim near fishing piers, where sharks may be attracted by bait.

If you see small fish schooling and jumping out of the water, a shark may be nearby.

Sharks are attracted to mouths of rivers, channels, deep drops and areas between sandbars.

## Make sure you pack plenty of sunscreen.

Throw away all your sunscreen if it is 2 years old or older. Buy new and check the SPF. Children and those with sensitive skin should wear at least a 30 SPF if not higher. Re-apply after being in the water or sweating. This should be done often if you spend a long time at the beach.

With just a little early preparation your vacation can run smoothly and you should come home refreshed.





## 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.