



CHARLES COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

WATCH WORKS

SHERIFF TROY BERRY

NOVEMBER 2018

December 2nd :
Hanukkah
begins at
sundown

December 7th:
Pearl Harbor re-
membrance
day

December 21st
Winter be-
gins.

December 25th:
Christmas
Day

A Message From Your Sheriff



Greetings!

I really love this time of the year and all of the merriment it entails: shopping, gathering together with family, travelling, and attending parties. While all of these festivities are special and enjoyable, it is important to keep safety in mind. Be sure to read through the safety tips in this newsletter, and share them with your friends and family. As you are driving to and from your parties and gatherings, please be careful on the roadways and designate a sober driver if you've consumed any alcoholic beverages. Also, keep your eyes on the road and not on your cell phone or other device. One bad decision could change everything in an instant.

During this season of giving, I'm always very proud to serve and live amongst the citizens of Charles County. There is such a strong spirit of community as evidenced by all of the people so willing and happy to help out the numerous organizations collecting donations for families in need. This is truly a special place.

As always, we are here for you whenever you need us. Please have a safe, happy, and blessed holiday season!

Sincerely,
Sheriff Troy D. Berry





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Giving to Charity

The holidays are the time when we feel we should give to those that have less than we do. Food pantry, Red Cross out ringing bells in front of your favorite store. To who do you give? How much do you give? Are they legit? It pays to do your homework and make sure you are giving to the charity you think you are giving to. Senior Citizens tend to be generous. Many older people want to give back to society for the successes they've enjoyed in life. AARP research shows that Americans age 65 and older receive more telephone and mail solicitations for charitable donations than any other age group. One popular theory holds that seniors are targeted because they tend to be less suspicious. Give if you would like to but be careful. Consider these steps:

- Check out the charity. If you don't recognize the name of the charity, do a

little research before donating or pledging money. Ask for written information.

- Inquire about the caller's relationship to the charity. If the caller is from a professional fundraising group, ask how much of the donation actually goes to the charity.
- Be cautious when solicitors try to manipulate your emotions. For example, fraudulent telemarketers are especially active after a disaster and will try to "guilt" you into giving money.
- Take your time. There should be no hurry for you to send in our pledge money. Legitimate charities will still be around next week, next month, and next year, and they will still need donations. Be suspicious if the caller tells you that you must give now.
- Be wary of callers thanking you for a donation you don't remember making. If you don't remember promising to make a donation, chances are you didn't.
- Resist the impulse to tell a caller anything about yourself. If you say you are a veteran, the caller might claim to be one too and use this to try to pressure you into giving.
- Donate by check whenever possible.
- Keep your credit card number and personal information private unless you have initiated the call.
- Talk with family and friends about the donation you are about to send.
- Keep track of what you donated, when you sent it and method of payment.
- Ask questions until you are satisfied with the answer.

Fire safe holidays



- * Where did you buy that tree? Where were the needles laying all over the ground when you picked it out? If possible cut your own tree or buy a fresh one that's not shedding its needles.
- * Place the tree in a sturdy, non-tip stand well away from fireplaces, exits, and heat sources.
- * Be sure the tree always has water. Check the level every day.
- * Dispose of Christmas

trees within 4 weeks or sooner if the tree dries out. Take it away from the house.

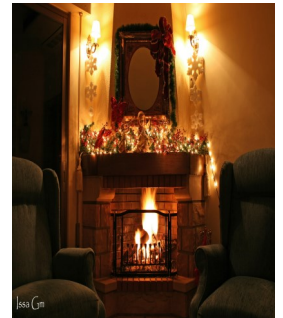
- * If you use an artificial tree, be sure it's flame-retardant. Inspect lights on pre-lit trees for damage.
- Decorating with lights:
- Use lights that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Make sure outdoor decorative lights, extension cords, and outlets are weather proof or identified for outdoor use.
- Inspect lights before plugging them in. Dis-

card set of lights that have cracked or damaged cords or sockets.

- Don't overload electrical outlets or run extension cords under carpets, across doorways, or near heaters.
- Unplug all decorative lights before leaving your home or going to bed.
- Take down outdoor decorations after 90 days to prevent damage from weather and animals.

Candles:

Consider using battery operated candles, which can look, smell, and feel like real candles.



Challenge of the Month

Admit it when you make a mistake. Everything you do is based on the choices you make. It's not your parents, your past relationships, your job, the economy, the weather an argument or your age that is to blame. You and only you are responsible for every deci-

sion and choice you make. Period. By saying yes I did it, it's liberating. You don't have to keep covering it up with another lie. It's done, it's over. Please forgive me. Think before you do or say anything. Think twice before you post it or put it in writing.

I enjoy catching up with friends and family on Facebook but I've seen things that I'm sure were written in anger. Life's too short to waste even a little bit of it.





**Charles County
Sheriff's Office**

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*Merry
Christmas*



From our families to yours!



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