



CHARLES COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

**August 15th**

– Full Moon

**September**

**2nd**– Labor  
Day

**September**

**3**– 1st day of  
school



# Watch Works

SHERIFF TROY BERRY

J A U G U S T 2 0 1 9

## School Bus Safety

Children will be returning to that same ole routine. The big yellow buses will be back on the road and schools will be opened. Some young students will be attending school for the very first time. Please talk to all your children about school bus safety.

- When on the bus, find a seat and sit down.
- Never put head, arms or hands out of the window.
- Keep aisles clear. Books and bags are tripping hazards and can block the way in an emergency.
- Before you reach your stop, get ready to leave by getting your books and belongings together.
- At your stop, wait for the bus to stop completely before getting up from your seat, then walk to the front door and exit, using the handrail.
- If you have to cross the street in front of the bus, walk at least ten feet ahead of the bus along the side of the road until you can turn around and see the driver.
- Make sure the driver can see you.
- Wait for a signal from the driver before beginning to cross.
- When the driver signals, walk across the road keeping an eye out for sudden traffic changes.
- Do not cross the center line of the road until the driver has signaled that it is safe for you to begin walking.
- Stay away from the bus's rear wheels at all times.



## Last Days of Summer

School will start shortly and summer will be over. I hope you have had time to enjoy the great outdoors. With our temperatures reaching in the 90s, it's hard to get outside unless you have a pool or are near a lake or ocean. Try to enjoy the last days of summer and enjoy time with your children. How about watching a movie outside. Pitch a tent and use a TV with a DVD built in or a TV and a small DVD player. Get a projector and show a movie on the side of your house or garage. Invite your

neighbors. Show a movie in your car at night, just like a drive in movie.

Eat dinner outside, have a picnic on a blanket or set up a table or picnic table.

Roast Hot Dogs, marshmallows or make s'mores. You don't have to be camping. Just use your imagination.

Lay out on a blanket and look at the stars. Use an app to tell your kids about the stars.

If you've let bedtime slip over the summer it's time to get the kids back on a schedule.

Make sure if your child needs a physical or shots you call and schedule that appointment.

Go to the store early on and get the list of supplies they will need for their school and grade. Don't wait until the last minute.

Make sure your little ones just starting school know their phone number and address. When you get their bus information make sure they also know the number and the bus driver's name.

Prepare now so that the transition will go smoothly for you all.

## National Night Out

National Night Out was a hit. Officers from Charles County Sheriff's Office, La Plata Police, Maryland State Police and Department of Transportation police were out in full force visiting neighborhoods. Na-

tional Night Out is always the first Tuesday of August and this year we had good weather. A little hot but no storms like we had last year. If your neighborhood didn't have a celebration and you would

like to next year, contact me for information on how to register so that we can set up a visit from our local law enforcement and Fire/EMT. Thanks to all communities that hosted an event. We all had a great time.

**CCSO**  
**COMMUNITY**  
**ORGANIZER**  
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**WATCH WORKS**

# Crime Prevention



home.

If you have a shed where you keep your lawn tools, lawn

mowers, weed eater, etc., buy a lock and lock it up.

When you exit your vehicle, lock it up. Take any valuables from your vehicle into the house or put them out of sight.

The most frequent crimes are property crimes, and they are most likely to happen when you are away.

It is extremely important to make your home look “lived in” when you’re away.

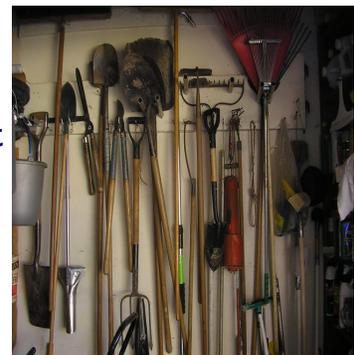
Keep the garage door closed and locked so no one can see when your car is not there. Use automatic timers to turn your lights on at night and off in the morning. Ask someone to pick up your

newspaper and mail. Ask the neighbor to park his or her car in front of your house from time to time to give the appearance that someone is coming and going regularly.

Most studies and polls show that the fear of crime ranks as one of the chief concerns of citizens.

The crimes we all fear the most are crimes of violence, but those are the ones that happen the least.

Walk around your house and look for easy targets for a burglar. Things like a ladder propped against the house, bicycles left in the yard or shed left unlocked. Think like a burglar for a minute and then correct the things you see. Only takes a few minutes to save you from a big problem.



Crime prevention is the practice of spotting criminal opportunities and then doing something to reduce or eliminate those opportunities in a common-sense way.

Lock it up:

A lock is only good if it is locked. Amazingly, some home and vehicle burglaries happen because someone didn't lock a door or window. Often windows are even left open.

Failure to close and lock garage doors presents a serious security problem. If an intruder gains entrance to the garage, he or she will be concealed and may find the tools necessary to continue the burglary into the



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**REMINDER**  
FROM THE  
CHARLES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



**LOCK YOUR  
VEHICLE  
DOORS**

**#9PMROUTINE**