



CHARLES COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

WATCH WORKS

SHERIFF TROY BERRY

MAY 2019

May 2nd

National Day
of prayer

May 12th

Mothers Day

May 27th

Memorial
Day



Dangers on the Road

I'm not talking about pot holes or big vehicles—this is worse. **“Road Rage”**

Aggressive drivers are some of the most dangerous situations on the road. They are unpredictable.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) defines aggressive driving as occurring when “an individual commits a combination of moving traffic offenses so as to endanger other persons or property.” Aggressive driving is often the result of road rage. The unstable behavior of an enraged driver can lead to aggressive and dangerous driving decisions which can be dangerous to everyone on the road.

Aggressive behavior can be:

Tailgating— a driver driving too close to the back of your vehicle.

Cutting you off: someone who suddenly pulls in front of you and applies brakes or slows down.

Recklessly changing lanes: weaving in and out of traffic to get past other vehicles they feel are too slow.

Following you: in order to intimidate you.

Running drivers off the road: driving too close to vehicles so that they have to get on the shoulder or other lane.

Verbal Threats: Pointing, yelling or cursing while they drive.

Getting out of their vehicle: they may approach you with the intent to engage in physical violence.

If you are confronted with any of these situations it is important to try and stay calm.

Try and get away. Change lanes or even get off the highway to avoid confrontation.

Don't respond: As hard as it is, you don't know what this person is capable of. Avoid eye contact.

Don't stop: This could lead to a physical confrontation or worse, they may have a weapon.

Watch your back: If you think the person is following you drive to the nearest police station and keep your doors locked.

If you can, dial 911 and speak to the police using your Bluetooth. Let them know where you are and what is happening.



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Scammers

Natural disasters are all around us. Earthquakes, tornadoes, mudslides, flooding. We naturally want to help those caught up in the devastation. This is when the scammers raise their deceiving heads. They target both the givers and those affected by the disaster. Usually the scammers start with unsolicited contact by telephone, social media, email, or in person. They set up fake websites with names that mimic legitimate charities to trick people into sending mon-

ey. They pretend to be from the IRS and want to help victims file loss claims and get tax refunds all while collecting personal information. They impersonate charities using similar logo to trick people who want to give.

If you want to support victims of natural disasters, use the IRS's tax exempt organization search or look for an organization's charity rating on places such as Guidestar and Charity Navigator.

If you are a disaster victim check with your

local Red Cross or use NCOA's BenefitsCheckUp disaster assistance tool to find legitimate help with relief and financial assistance.

There are lots of other scams out there especially for our senior population. If you see or hear about other scams, pass the information along to your friends, neighbors, and groups you may belong to. Knowing the scammers can help you get prepared so that you aren't their latest victim.

Challenge of the Month

Be kind to unkind people.

Have you heard the old saying "walk a mile in their shoes?" We don't know what someone is going through. Sometimes

they are unkind and don't realize it. They may have a lot on their minds. They may have a sick child or parent. Someone may be fighting cancer. Sometimes a kind word or a smile can make all the

difference in someone's life. See how many smiles you can giveaway. I bet you get each one back.

Safer Seniors

As we grow older and wiser we think we have seen everything. We are worried about physical attacks and burglary but are not as alert to frauds and con-games. The greatest crime threat to seniors is financial crimes. Seniors are targeted with alarming frequency, and are all too often successful. Conquer fear and prevent crime. Take these common-sense precautions.

Be Alert When Out And About:

- ◆ Go with friends or family, not alone.
- ◆ Carry your purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket.
- ◆ Don't carry credit cards you don't need or large amounts of cash.
- ◆ Use direct deposit for Social Security and other regular checks.
- ◆ Whether you're a passenger or driver, keep car doors locked. Be particularly alert in parking lots and garages. Park near entrance.
- ◆ Sit close to the driver or near the exit while riding the bus, train, or subway.
- ◆ If someone or something makes you uneasy, trust your instincts and leave.

Make Your Home Safe And Secure

- Install good locks on doors and windows. Use them!! Don't hide keys in mailboxes and planters or under doormats. Instead, leave an extra set of keys with a neighbor or friend.
- Ask for photo identification from service or delivery people before letting them in. If you are the least bit worried, call the company to verify.
- Be sure your street address number is large, clear of obstruction, and well lighted so police and other emergency personnel

can find your home quickly.

- Consider a home alarm system that provides emergency monitoring for burglary, fire, and medical emergencies.



Think Before You Act

- ◆ Don't fall for anything that sounds too good to be true— a free vacation, sweepstakes prizes; cures for cancer and arthritis; a low risk, high-yield investment scheme.
- ◆ Never give your credit card, Social Security, or bank account number to anyone over the phone. It is illegal for telemarketers to ask for these numbers to verify a prize or gift.
- ◆ Don't let anyone rush you into signing anything.
- ◆ Report any crime or suspicious activities to law enforcement.





Charles County Sheriff's Office

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REMINDER
FROM THE
CHARLES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



**LOCK YOUR
VEHICLE
DOORS**

#9PMROUTINE