



CHARLES COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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October
31st: Hal-
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WATCH WORKS

SHERIFF TROY BERRY

OCTOBER 2019

Halloween Safety

Halloween may be a fun holiday for kids, but for parents, trick-or-treat time can be a little troublesome.

- Welcome trick-or-treaters at home by turning on your exterior lights.
- Remove objects from your yard that might present a hazard to visitors.
- Ask your neighbors to go outside and help trick-or-treaters cross the streets and watch out for ghoulish behavior.
- Drive slowly all evening; you never know what creature may suddenly cross your path.
- Report any suspicious or criminal activity to your local

police or sheriff's office.

- Make sure older children go out with friends. Younger children should be accompanied by an adult.
- Set a time limit for children to trick-or-treat. Together, map out a safe route so you know where they'll be. Remind them not to take shortcuts.
- Remind children not to enter a strange house or car.
- Try to get children to trick-or-treat while it is still light out. If it is dark, make sure a couple of people carry flashlights.
- Make sure someone

in the group is carrying a cell phone.

- Let your children know not to eat their treats until they get home. One way to keep trick-or-treaters from digging in while they're still out is to feed them a meal or substantial snack beforehand.
- Check out all treats once you get home in a well-lighted area.
- Only eat unopened candies and other treats that are in original wrappers.
- Use battery operated candles in your pumpkins.
- Check with your community HOA or local church for Trunk-or-Treat activities.



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Time to Prepare

It will be getting cold soon. It's supposed to! Some don't like to see the summer go but I do like the crisp fresh air, and I love to wear sweatshirts.

Now is the time to have your furnace and your fireplace checked out. Make sure it is in good working order before you need it.

Make sure your vehicle is ready for colder weather. Check your wiper blades and window washer. Do you have enough anti-freeze? Check your tires for wear and the tire pressure. Restock your vehicle's emergency bag. Check for your windshield scraper. Make sure any

young drivers know that rain soaked leaves can be as slippery as ice.

Cut your grass one more time and then put your mower away. Put away your rakes, drain your hoses and put them away. However you store your outside furniture, it's also time to do that.

Check all your windows for cracks and drafts. A little caulking could help with lowering utility bills.

Clean out your gutters but be very careful with ladders. Never climb a ladder when you are home alone.

Prepare for the really bad weather by having non-perishable food

items available and don't forget the manual can opener. This is a good time to check the gas tanks on your grill in case you have to use it to cook your food. Have ample water (one gallon per person per day) ready in case you have to stay in for a few days. Have a portable, battery-powered radio or television and extra batteries.

Check to see if your flashlights are working and if you have batteries.

Restock your first aid kit.

Local Phone Numbers

EMERGENCY DIAL
 911
CCSO non-emergency:
 301-932-2222
 301-743-2222
 301-932-7777

La Plata Police 301-934-1500
MD State Police 301-392-1200
Charles County
24hr. Info: 301-645-0600

CC Public Schools
 301-934-7410
Maryland State Highway Admin.
 301-934-8031

Buying or Selling Online



Looking for something you need or think you can't live without has never been easier. Craigslist is well known and all you have to do is go to Facebook where you will find, Marketplace and Southern MD online yard sale to name a few. Furniture, vehicles, knickknacks and all kinds of treasures are listed for you to go through. Maybe you have listed and sold something using one of these sites. Seems simple enough.

Each month, over 80 million **ads** and one million new jobs are posted to **Craigslist**. Jun 8, 2017

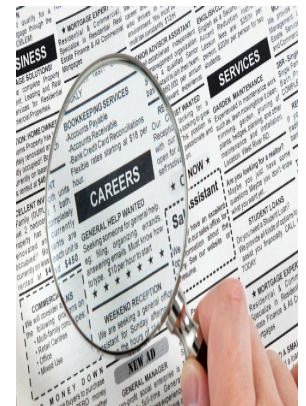
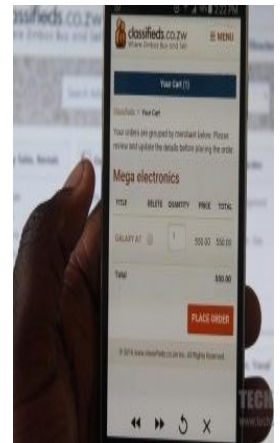
On January 26, 2015 a couple from Georgia was traveling to a Craigslist transaction when they left their suburban Atlanta home in hopes of buying a 1966 Ford Mustang. They did everything right, they went together, and they told family where they were going. Yet their bodies were found that same day. This doesn't happen

often but once is too much.

When buying or selling online follow a few rules:

- Always meet in a public place. Well lit with lots of people.
- Tell someone where you are going, when you are leaving and what time you expect to be back.
- Have a cell phone in your hand during the entire transaction and be ready to call 911 at the first sign of trouble.
- Never meet at home. This will give someone a chance to case your home for a future burglary or they will be able to come back and harass you if the deal doesn't work out.
- Don't meet at their house. You could be put in a dangerous situation.
- Never meet at night. There is no deal sweet enough to venture out after dark.
- If it's a high priced transaction, meet at a bank. Bank personnel can confirm the funds have been delivered successfully.
- Remember this is a business transaction, so never reveal Social Security numbers, home or business addresses or banking information.
- You know the old saying "If it's too good to be true, it probably is." The brand new iPhone that was only released last week probably wouldn't realistically be only \$100, even if the seller is adamant they are serious about the price. Do your research on both the item and the seller.

With the Holidays approaching we want to find the perfect gift to please our loved ones. Think before you run off by yourself. When it comes down to it, the best way to keep yourself safe in most situations is to listen to your gut. If something doesn't feel right, it probably is not. Walk away!





Charles County Sheriff's Office

6915 Crain highway
P.O. Box 189
La Plata, MD 20646

(301)932-2222



REMINDER
FROM THE
CHARLES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



**LOCK YOUR
VEHICLE
DOORS**

#9PMROUTINE