



CHARLES COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

WATCH WORKS

SHERIFF TROY BERRY

MARCH 2020

March 8

Daylight Savings Time Begins. Spring forward

March 17th

St. Patrick's Day

March 19th:

Spring begins

March 25th

Maryland Day



Spring into Action

Ahhhh Springtime. Time for us all to air out our homes, clean everything and get ready to get outside. We will spring forward on our clocks and enjoy the extra hour of daylight. Before getting things done outside, there are a few things that need to be taken care of on the inside.

1. Replace the batteries in the smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. If you have a home security system make sure it has fresh batteries also.
2. Change the filters in your HVAC system. It will keep the air cleaner and make your air conditioning and heating systems more efficient.
3. Clean out the dryer vent. The vent behind your dryer can

become a fire hazard if it isn't cleaned out often.

4. Check your medicine cabinet and first aid kits. After flu season and before allergy season, make sure your medicine cabinet and first aid kits are restocked. Properly dispose of any expired medicine. Replace medication that has been used up, especially basics like cold medicine, fever reducers, and painkillers. Stock up on bandages and antibacterial ointments for the summer.
5. Mold can build up in cold, dark, damp places around your home. Spring is a smart time to inspect your house.

Check places you don't normally check during routine cleaning:

- Bathrooms
- Underneath your kitchen sink
- The attic
- The basement
- Around your water heater and furnace
- Near vents

Check the dates on all your pesticides, insecticides and lawn chemicals. Throw out old containers and opt for new. Read warning labels on all chemicals.

The same goes for household chemicals. Dispose of half used bottles if you haven't used them in years. Rid your garage of any paint or chemical that has just been stored there.

Bicycle Safety



It's time to get those bicycles out of the garage and get some exercise.

Before you go out on the road make sure your bicycle is safe to ride.

Lift the bicycle by its seat and spin the back wheel. It should spin freely without wobbling, slowing quickly or touching the brake pads.

Apply the rear brake smoothly to stop the wheel. The brake pads should touch the wheel rim evenly. When released, the

brake should spring back into place.

Lift your bicycle by the handlebars and spin the front wheel. It should spin freely without wobbling or touching the brake pads.

Check the spokes on both wheels. Replace broken spokes before riding.

Check the tire tread. There should be no worn patches.

Check your handlebars. Stand in front of your bicycle holding the wheel tightly between your knees and try

to move the handlebars back and forth or up and down. They should not move.

Make sure the seat is secure and does not move from side to side.

If a child cannot rest his feet on the ground while on a bicycle seat, it's too big for him (her) and they may lose control while riding.

Always wear a helmet that fits properly. If adults don't wear helmets it is more likely a child won't.

Lets Go Fly A Kite

Not too expensive, fun and you exercise without even knowing it. There are usually kites sold at any Walmart, Target or specialty stores. They can be as little as a few dollars or as elaborate and costly as you choose. All you need is a kite, string and a breeze. Here's a few tips for

kite safety.

- Fly kites only in open areas where there are no overhead power lines or electric facilities.
- Never attempt to remove a kite or anything caught in power lines.
- Avoid flying kites made with metallic

wires or parts.

- Never fly a kite close to a road. You may back or walk into the road while looking up at the kite.

The beach seems to be the most popular place to fly a kite these days, but there are lots of fields out there.

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Tax Time-Avoid Scams



called notices, from the IRS in the mail.

Note that the IRS does not:

I just received a call from the IRS warning me that my Social Security was being used and I should call them back at a number they supplied. When I checked out the number it was a SCAM.

The IRS initiates most contacts with taxpayers through regular mail delivered by the U.S. Postal Service. However, there are special circumstances in which the IRS will call or come to a home or business, such as:

- When a taxpayer has an overdue tax bill
 - To secure a delinquent tax return or a delinquent employment tax payment
 - To tour a business, for example, as part of an audit or during criminal investigations
- Even then, taxpayers will generally first receive a letter or sometimes more than one letter, often
- Demand that people use a specific payment method, such as a prepaid debit card, gift card or wire transfer. The IRS will not ask for debit or credit card numbers over the phone. For people who owe taxes, make payments to the U.S. Treasury or review [IRS.gov/payments](https://www.irs.gov/payments) for IRS online options.
 - Demand immediate tax payment. Normal correspondence begins with a letter in the mail and taxpayers can appeal or question what they owe. All taxpayers are advised to know their rights as a taxpayer.
 - Threaten to bring in local police, immigration officers or other law enforcement agencies to arrest people for not paying. The IRS also cannot revoke a

license or immigration status. Threats like these are common tactics scam artists use a trick victims into believing their schemes.

The IRS assigns certain overdue tax debts to private debt collection agencies.

- The IRS will send a letter to the taxpayer letting them know the IRS has turned their case over to one of the four PCAs. The PCA will also send the taxpayer a letter confirming assignment of the taxpayer's account to the agency.
- The IRS will assign a taxpayer's account to only one of these agencies, never to all four. The IRS authorizes no other private groups to represent the IRS.

The PCA representative will identify themselves and will ask for payment to "U.S. Treasury" and will not ask for payment on a prepaid debit or gift card and will not take enforcement action.





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REMINDER
FROM THE
CHARLES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



**LOCK YOUR
VEHICLE
DOORS**

#9PMROUTINE