



CHARLES COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

# WATCH WORKS

SHERIFF TROY BERRY

NOVEMBER 2020

## November

1:

Daylight Savings time ends

## November

2: All soul's Day

## November

3: Election Day

## November

11: Veterans Day

## November

26: Thanksgiving

## November

30: Full Moon



## Shopping Safety



If you are going out shopping for the holidays or shopping online, here are a few safety tips.

If going to the store, wear your mask and practice social distancing. Shop early and avoid stores at night. If you have to go in the evening take someone with you and park as close as you can or under a light. Look around and know your surroundings. Lock purchases in your trunk or cover them in the back of your vehicle.

Avoid carrying too many packages. Leave your arms open to get your key and open your vehicle. Some people like to see what they are buying and not be surprised when their order arrives. Shop where you trust. Knowing the return policy before you buy saves lots of trouble later.

Beware of rock-bottom prices. If a business is offering a product at an unbelievable price and it seems too good to be true, it probably is.

If you decide to shop online avoid public Wi-Fi. It's never a good idea to shop online or log in to any website while you're connected to public WI-FI.

Use a strong password. Don't use any word that can be found in the dictionary. Make up something with lowercase and uppercase letters and numbers. Throw in some symbols.

Check out the website security. Look for https and the locked lock at the top.

Don't give out too much information. A shopping website does not need your Social Security number. If they ask,

don't shop with them.

Use a credit card to pay for your purchase. You'll usually get the best liability protection online and off line.

Check your statements regularly. Check with fraudulent charges at least once a week, or set up account alerts.

When making a purchase online keep the receipt, order confirmation number and postal tracking number in a safe place. This will help the merchant resolve any problems.

If you have a problem and the merchant is not helpful, call your credit card provider and they will help you sort out the problem. Often they can remove the charge from your statement.

Above all, enjoy your Christmas shopping.

# RETIRING, Bittersweet!

I will be retiring the last of November 2020. It's been 16 years and I have enjoyed it all. What will I miss the most? The people, no the neighborhood leaders, no my job itself.....who am I kidding, I'm going to miss it all.

When I first took this position I was told I had big shoes to fill. I hope I have done that.

I tried to work with each individual neighborhood like it was just that "individual." I have met some good friends throughout the neighborhoods that have helped me with understanding what they expect from us and how they can help us to achieve it.

Charles County is a wonderful place to live because of those who fight to keep their neighborhoods safe and clean. They want their children and parents to live in a drug free zone. I am sure whoever takes my position will find many of our citizens who are happy to help with organizing Neighborhood Watch, NNO, Citizens Advisory Council Meetings and other neighborhood gatherings and community meetings. I am ready for my next chapter and will think back on you all fondly! Until we meet again.....

*Connie*



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## Skip a Rope, Ride a Bike

When was the last time you went outside and rode a bike, took a walk, jumped a rope? Don't do something that's going to hurt you but just to get

outside and enjoy the fresh air and the leaves changing. Take a walk and clear your mind. It'll help you sleep. Call on a neighbor and see if they would like

to take a walk with you. Maybe they need a walking partner. Before it gets too cold and everyone is forced to stay in, enjoy the weather.

# YES, IT'S A SCAM!



I was grocery shopping when my phone rang. The voice on the line said this is a robot call and my electricity was about to be cut off because of non-payment and would I like to make a payment now to keep it from being disrupted. I hung up. Then the doubts set in. Did I mail the check? Did it get lost? Would they cut it off if just one payment wasn't made? I finished my shopping and went home to call the electric company to make sure we were up to date with our payment. Of course we were. Then I realized they never gave the name of the electric company. These people are getting very creative. If I had decided to make a payment right then they would have gotten my credit card number. It seems like daily we get calls about someone paying bills with gift cards. They have

asked for anything from Apple, Google, Target and any other gift card they can purchase and give

them the numbers off the back. Anytime someone wants you to pay a bill with a gift card a red light should come on. This is not the way to pay a bill.

If you get a phone call that there is a warrant for your arrest and you must pay a fine or they will send an officer over to pick you up, why would they want gift cards?

If you get a call that you missed jury duty and they want to make sure they have the right person so they need to check your social security number, your birth date or any other personal information **DON'T GIVE THIS INFORMATION OVER THE PHONE!!**

Unless you initiate the call and have a legitimate reason to give out this information do not give it to anyone that called you.

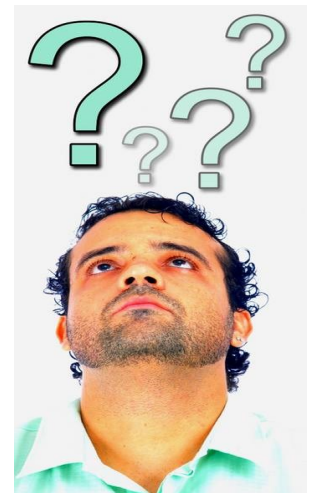
Hang up and make a call yourself to a number you

can look up, like your electric company or your bank. Don't trust that the person on the other end of the line is who they say they are and don't trust a return number they give you.

During this COVID epidemic:

Beware of offers for "home" test kits and unknown "miracle" cures or vaccines. They do not exist. [Scammers are also targeting Medicare recipients](#) by offering COVID-19 testing in an attempt to steal personal information.

Now that the holidays are approaching watch out for charity scams. People are generous and want to help those that are out of work because of the COVID virus. Families will be hurting during the holidays. Make sure the charity you give to is legitimate. Do your research. Go through a local church, food bank or school if you want to help a local family. Be aware of unsolicited calls for money or gift cards. Don't be afraid to give just be smart about it.





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



**LOCK YOUR  
VEHICLE  
DOORS**

**#9PMROUTINE**