



CHARLES COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

# WATCH WORKS

SHERIFF TROY BERRY

MARCH 2019

## March 10

Daylight Savings Time Begins. Spring forward

## March 17th

St. Patrick's Day

## March 25th

Maryland Day

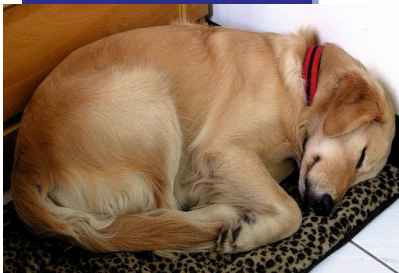


## See Something, Say Something

Yeah, yeah, I know you've heard it a thousand times before. But do you? Say something? Sometimes the smallest things, the things you think don't mean anything, can be just the thing the Sheriff's Office needs to solve a crime. Just that one piece of the missing puzzle. If something looks strange or out of place. If you know something is against the law and think who is it hurting, it just might come back to bite you. Call your local Sheriff's, Police or State Police to report what you have seen. There is also the Natural Resource Police (yes, they are police). When leaving your house to go to work, the store or just out for the evening, keep your eyes open. Watch

out for your neighbors and their property. If someone is moving furniture or appliances from a home at an odd time of day, or you didn't know your neighbors were moving, call the police and let them check it out. If you find it's unfounded, that's ok. The officers will not be mad at you. You never know, you may save your neighbor from being robbed. If you see lights in an abandoned house at night call the police. You don't know what they are doing in that house and they are now your neighbors. If you are walking your dog, or riding your bike, this is another time you can meet and greet your neighbors and keep your eyes open for things that may be going on in your

neighborhood. It's also a good time to look for graffiti, street lights that aren't lit, damage to park equipment, etc. It's your neighborhood and I'm sure you want to know what goes on there. If all your neighbors banded together and kept an eye on each other you would have one of the safest neighborhoods in the area. Police officers can't be everywhere at once and that's why we depend on you to be the eyes and ears of your neighborhood. Not sure what's going on? Looks suspicious? It only takes a minute to pick up the phone and call.



# Safety Around Dogs

The weather will soon be getting nice and more people will be out walking. Some will walk with their dog.

- Don't touch a dog without asking the owner.
- Don't tease a dog. You may think it's funny but the dog will not. Dogs will only tolerate so much before they try and protect themselves.
- Keep your face away from a dog. They may not understand what you

are doing.

- If a dog is sleeping, leave it alone. If they are in a deep sleep and you wake them you may startle them and they may react aggressively.
- Don't go into a dog's territory. Some dogs are trained to protect their territory.
- Avoid direct eye contact. If a dog is behaving in an aggressive manner and you stare straight at a dog,

they sometimes see it as a challenge or threat.

- Stay away from a dog with puppies. Mothers will protect their young.
- Don't run away from a dog. The dog may think you are playing and will run after you. Stand still like a tree, don't move, look at the ground.
- Leave a dog alone when it is eating. They may think you are going to take their food.

## This Month's Challenge

### Stop blaming other people.

You know the game where your mother, your wife, your dog, your mother-in-law, your neighbor, the media, the government, the receptionist at your doctor's office is somehow responsible for the problems

you're having.

I believe every mistake is a lesson learned. Once we learn it we move on. Admit that you might have helped create the problem. Then let go of it. Learn your lesson and let it go. Apologize if the problem warrants one. Forgive yourself and move on. Blaming

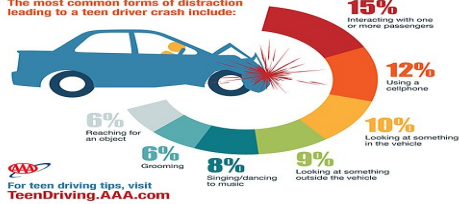
someone else takes so much time and energy followed by more time and energy because you are upset with yourself that you blamed someone else. Stop playing the blame game. It will make a happier you.

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# New Drivers/Teen Drivers

**6 OUT OF 10** teen crashes involve driver distraction.

The most common forms of distraction leading to a teen driver crash include:



One of the most important things a parent can pass along to a teen is to teach them good driving skills. Yet 20% of parents admitted to texting behind the wheel of a car. This number may even be higher given that 30% of teens surveyed stated that they had seen their parents text and drive. What other risky behavior have teens observed their parents do: eating behind the wheel? Speeding? Multi-tasking or taking selfies?

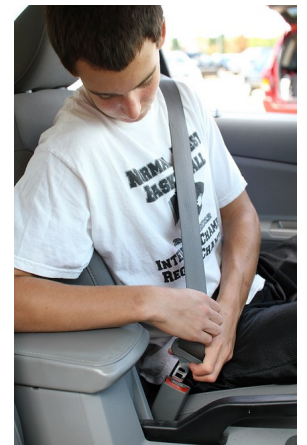
Most teens like to test boundaries and sometimes break the rules, but doing so while driving can be deadly. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 2016 every day 6 teens die and hundreds more are injured in traffic accidents. Teen drivers are nearly three times more likely to be involved in a fatal car crash than

drivers over the age of 20. Immaturity may be a primary cause of dangerous driving along with inexperience. However, a recent report shows that teens may be picking up their bad driving habits by watching their parents.

Parents set all kinds of rules for their newly licensed teens but 37% admit to not instituting any form of discipline when their teen breaks a rule, or even a law with regard to driving. Most parents stated that they don't discipline their teens because it is hard to monitor what the teens are doing when they're on the road.

Being a good role model for your children is the most important thing a parent can do. Set a good example behind the wheel. Just because a parent has spent more time on the road does not give you a free pass for unsafe driving habits especially with your children in the vehicle. When your teen starts driving set rules and en-

force consequences if they are not following the rules. Talking to your children when they are small about safe driving will also teach them safe practices for their future. Imagine how many teens in one year turn old enough to get their learner's permit. Then add in the number of new drivers that have just passed their driving test. Add in the number of drivers that have been driving only a year. Wow, there are a lot of inexperienced drivers out there. Your child needs to learn to keep his/her eyes on the road and watch out for the other drivers. The life they save could be their own.





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



**LOCK YOUR  
VEHICLE  
DOORS**

**#9PMROUTINE**