

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

A weekly update for residents, visitors, and workers in the District of Columbia



Friday, March 4, 2011

HARBOR PATROL ANNOUNCES BOATING SAFETY COURSES FOR 2011

The DC Harbor Patrol is a critical, but largely unknown, part of the Metropolitan Police Department. The Harbor Patrol polices all of the rivers, inlets, and waterways that majestically surround our nation's capital. The 20-member unit encounters the same types of incidents that occur on DC streets including disorderly conduct, loud music, domestic violence, high-speed chases, and robbery suspects.

The Harbor Patrol has immense responsibilities: it oversees the marinas, regulates fishing and game, and makes sure boats are safe and meet safety regulations. The Patrol's main priority is to provide assistance if anyone gets into trouble on the water. The most common occurrences are capsized canoes or boats, caused by high winds, bad weather, or careless boaters. Most of the time, the well-trained team makes an easy rescue. There are a lot of roadways that run right along the side of the river—last year, numerous cars were pulled out of there. It's the most dangerous job that the Harbor Patrol faces—a rescue from a car in the water. The divers work against the clock and operate a four-man team—the primary diver; a time-keeper, who makes sure there is air in the tanks; a communications officer, gives directions and uses sonar; and a back-up diver, who rescues the primary diver if he becomes entangled.

The Harbor Patrol also prepares boaters in the District of Columbia by offering a Boating Safety Course. This course is designed to educate boaters of the legal requirements, navigational rules, safety equipment, risks of boating accidents, and other issues pertaining to safe boating. Anyone operating a vessel on District of Columbia waterways is required to have a Boating Safety Certificate. The Boating Safety Certificate is issued to individuals who successfully complete the Boating Safety course.

» Learn more about the MPD's Harbor Patrol online at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/harborpatrol>

» Boating Safety courses are offered by Harbor Patrol from March through September. To see the schedule and for information on registering for a course, go to:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/harborpatrolevents>



REPORT INTERNET CRIMES THROUGH THE FBI'S IC3

The Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) receives, develops, and refers cyber crime complaints to local, state, federal, and international law enforcement agencies. The IC3 gives cyber crime victims a convenient and easy-to-use reporting mechanism that alerts authorities of suspected criminal or civil violations.

Since its inception, the IC3 has referred hundreds of thousands of criminal complaints to law enforcement around the globe. The majority of referrals involved fraud in which the complainant incurred a financial loss. The total reported loss from these referrals is approximately \$1.7 billion, with a median reported loss of more than \$500 per complaint.

Many complaints involved identity theft, such as loss of personally identifying data, and the unauthorized use of credit cards or bank accounts. The IC3 uses information from the complaints to detect emerging trends and proactively fight consumer victimization through educational efforts with project partners, various publications and the consumer education website, www.lookstoogoodtobetrue.com.

» Learn more about the Internet Crimes Complaint Center (IC3) at:

<http://www.ic3.gov>

CALL OR TEXT THE MPD'S ANONYMOUS CRIME TIP LINES

Concerned community members are encouraged to call 888-919-CRIME or text 50411 to anonymously provide crime information to the MPD.

The toll free crime tip line — 1-888-919-CRIME — is staffed by detectives 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Anyone who has information concerning a homicide, gangs, guns, or other violent offenses can call the anonymous tip line, and a detective will report all information. The toll-free number will also be displayed on L.E.D. boards in patrol cars throughout the District. This toll-free tip line is part of an ongoing effort to devise innovative ways to further reduce violence in the District, which has declined in recent years.

Additionally, community members can now use their cell phones to anonymously text tips to the Metropolitan Police Department.

Give 5-0 the 4-1-1 with the new Text Tip Line: 50411. Text messages are monitored by members of the department 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Tips are then analyzed and passed on to the appropriate unit or division for follow up. Because the tip line is anonymous, the sender will not receive a response to the original message.

Neither of these anonymous tips lines is an emergency number. If you witness a crime in progress or have an emergency that requires the police, please call 9-1-1.



» Get more information on the MPD's anonymous crime tip lines at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/tipline>

» Other important numbers include:

- MPDC Gun Recovery Unit: Gun Recovery Unit Task Force, 698-5662
- 24-Hour Violent Crime Tip Line: Crime Tip-line (888) 919-crime
- 24-Hour Crime Tip Text Number: Text: 50411
- Emergency: 9-1-1
- Mayor's Call Center: 3-1-1

RESIDENTS URGED TO GUARD AGAINST THEFT OF PORTABLE GPS DEVICES

With the growing popularity of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) in recent years, the MPD has noticed an increase in car break-ins in which portable GPS navigation devices are stolen. While many GPS devices are mounted in the dashboard of the vehicle, the MPD encourages anyone who uses a portable GPS device to take it with you, along with any other items of value, when you park the car. Remember to lock all doors and close all windows, even when the car is parked in your garage or driveway. Most thefts from vehicles can be prevented if owners take everything of value out of the car when they park (securing items in the trunk, if possible), lock the doors, and leave nothing visible inside.

» Get additional auto theft prevention and other safety tips at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/safety>

DATA BOX

Homicides as of 3/4/11

2011: 15

2010: 14

% Change: 7.1%

Closure Rate: 67% (10 closures)

Adult Arrests week end. 2/26/11

Total Arrests: 791

Weapons: 14

Robbery: 8

Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 10

Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 29

Narcotics: 192

Juvenile Activity week end. 2/26/11

Total Arrests: 54

Weapons: 0

Robbery: 4

Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 8

Narcotics: 3

Firearm Recoveries as of 2/28/11

February: 116

2011 Total: 309

Traffic Fatalities as of 3/4/11

2011: 7

2010: 3

% Change: 133%

NEWS & NOTES

Also Noteworthy

Support the Washington DC Police Foundation. The Washington DC Police Foundation is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization that brings together the business, civic, and other professional communities to promote public safety by providing financial and in-kind resources to the MPD, expanding public safety awareness, and advancing public safety policy and initiatives. Learn more about the extraordinary support the Washington DC Police Foundation provides to

the MPD. Learn more about the Foundation at <http://www.dcpolicefoundation.org>.

Report Crimes Against Children through the CyberTipline. The CyberTipline is a Congressionally-mandated means for reporting crimes against children. Report crimes 24-hours a day, 7 days a week by calling 1-800-843-5678 or reporting crimes online at <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

Preventing terrorism is everybody's business. If you SEE something, SAY something. Call the Metropolitan Police Department at (202) 727-9099 to report suspicious activity or behavior that has already

occurred. Call 911 to report in-progress threats or emergencies. Learn more about steps you can take to help fight terrorism at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/operationTIPP>.

MPD Accepts Cell Phone Donations.

Did you recently get a new BlackBerry, iPhone, or Droid? Are you wondering what to do with your old phone? Please consider contributing your old cell phone to someone in need. Phones are collected by Victim Specialists and distributed to clients through our partner agencies. For more information on the cell phone collection program, including a list of donation sites, visit <http://mpdc.dc.gov/donatecellphone>.

Information, ideas, or comments about this service?

Send an e-mail to **KAYLIN CASTELLI**, Manager of Internet Communications, at kaylin.castelli@dc.gov

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