

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, April 8, 2011

NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY SET FOR APRIL 30

The National Prescription Drug Take-Back initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. More than seven million Americans currently abuse prescription drugs, according to the 2009 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Each day, approximately, 2,500 teens use prescription drugs to get high for the first time according to the Partnership for a Drug Free America. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including the home medicine cabinet.

In an effort to prevent increased pill abuse and theft, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is encouraging the public to turn in potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs for destruction, no questions asked. On Saturday, April 30, 2011, DEA will coordinate a collaborative effort with state and local law enforcement agencies to remove potentially dangerous controlled substances from our nation's medicine cabinets. Collection activities will take place from 10 am through 2 pm at sites established throughout the country. The National Drug Take-Back Day provides an opportunity for the public to surrender expired, unwanted, or unused pharmaceutical controlled substances and other medications for destruction. This effort provides a safe way for community members to remove potentially dangerous prescription drugs, particularly controlled substances, from our nation's medicine cabinets.

» Learn more about National Take Back Day and view the PSA at:
<http://www.nationaltakebackday.com/>

» Want to dispose of unused or expired medication? Find a collection site by clicking on the "Got Drugs?" logo online at:
<http://www.justice.gov/dea/>

APRIL IS NATIONAL 911 EDUCATION MONTH

Emergencies don't happen very often. But when they do, you want to get help fast. No one wants to spend time looking up the phone number. That's why 911 was created — to make it easy. In the United States and Canada, dialing 911 on your telephone is the fastest way you can get help for yourself or someone else. In 2008, April was identified National 9-1-1 Education Month.

In Washington, DC, the Office of Unified Communications oversees the designated call center for all District emergency 911 calls and for all District non-emergency and citywide 311 calls. Dial 911 to request police, fire, and emergency medical services for life-threatening situations. 911 is designed for contacting the MPD and the DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department (FEMS) in all situations requiring an onsite response by MPD or FEMS. 911 is a toll-free call accessible through residential, wireless, and pay telephones throughout the District.

Most people know that 911 is for people emergencies only, but you may need to remind young people how and when to use 911 responsibly. Never call 911 as a joke or just to see what might happen. When the emergency dispatcher has to take the time to talk to people who don't have a real emergency, other people who call and do need help right away might have to wait.

If you do have to call 911 in an emergency, be sure to stay on the phone. Do not hang up until the 911 operator tells you it's OK to do so. That way, you can be sure that the operator has all the information to get help to you fast!

» For information on calling 911 in the District of Columbia, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/911>

» Learn more about the Office of Unified Communications (OUC), which manages 9-1-1 communications for the District of Columbia at:
<http://ouc.dc.gov>

RESIDENTS URGED TO GUARD AGAINST THEFT FROM AUTO

One of the most common types of theft is theft of valuables from your automobile. Theft from auto is strictly a crime of opportunity that can be prevented if you take away the opportunity. Thieves generally won't waste their time breaking into autos that don't have valuables in plain sight.

The Metropolitan Police Department wants to remind drivers that thefts from autos often occur in areas across DC known for their fashionable stores, popular restaurants and trendy bars. Cars parked near sporting venues when games or concerts are scheduled may also be targeted. If you plan on parking your car in a neighborhood that is known for its numerous visitors, remember thieves know these areas are popular, too. Be sure to either take valuable property with you or secure it properly. Please take the precautions listed below to help ensure your auto is not targeted by thieves:

- **Keep Your Valuables Out of Sight**

The best way to prevent theft from your auto is to always keep valuables out of sight. Never leave cell phones, briefcases, suitcases, or electronic devices (cell phones, iPods, laptop computers, etc.) in your car in plain view. Take these items with you, or secure them—all the time, every time.

- **Secure Your GPS Device**

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.

- **Use Your Trunk**

If your car has a trunk, use it. Put valuables in there or in a locked glove compartment. Hiding items under seats is better than leaving them in plain view, but securing them inside the glove compartment or trunk is a far better deterrent.

- **Don't Tempt Thieves with New Purchases**

During the holiday season especially, or any time you're shopping, place packages in the trunk, not on the passenger seats or floors.

- **Remove Your Radio Faceplate**

If you can unfasten your sound system and take it with you, or lock it in your trunk, do so. And don't forget to do the same with your CDs and tapes.

- **Lock It Up**

Also, keep your car doors and windows locked—all the time!

Remember: "Outta sight, outta mind"—if thieves can't see your valuables, they're less likely to waste their time targeting your auto. Take the time to secure your valuables; it makes a difference.

» Get additional auto theft prevention and other safety tips at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/safety>

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 4/8/11
2011: 27	
2010: 26	
% Change: +3.8%	
Closure Rate: 78% (21 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 4/2/11
Total Arrests: 879	
Weapons: 17	
Robbery: 7	
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 4	
Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 33	
Narcotics: 184	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 4/2/11
Total Arrests: 74	
Weapons: 3	
Robbery: 16	
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 0	
Narcotics: 5	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 4/4/11
April: 4	
2011 Total: 453	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 4/8/11
2011: 12	
2010: 8	
% Change: 50%	

NEWS & NOTES

Also Noteworthy

Street Closures for Cherry Blossom Parade and Festival, Other Events. Street closures and parking restrictions are anticipated throughout the weekend for several events, including

the National Cherry Blossom Parade and Festival on Saturday, April 9 as well as the Walk for Hope and a movie premier on April 10. Get details on the street closures through the MPD's online newsroom at <http://mpdc.dc.gov>.

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>.

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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