

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, April 22, 2011

MPD POLICE RESERVE CORPS SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The Metropolitan Police Reserve Corps is a volunteer program that offers qualified civic-minded individuals the opportunity to assist the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) in carrying out its policing responsibilities. Members of the Metropolitan Police Reserve Corps can make a volunteer public safety contribution to their community in many ways.

Reserve Officer assignments are varied and range from administrative support to the broad duties of career police officers. Reserve Officers are expected to volunteer a minimum of 16 hours per month, or 192 hours per year. Last year alone, Reserve Officers provided over 17,500 hours of supplemental services to the department. The application deadline for the next Metropolitan Police Reserve Corps class is May 16, 2011.

- » For more information or to apply to join the MPD's Reserve Corps, go to:
<http://dcpolice.jobs>

NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH GEARED TOWARD RAISING AWARENESS OF CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

Child abuse and neglect awareness activities are being promoted across the country during the month of April. Detectives in the Youth Investigations Division (YID) have received intensive training in recognizing and investigating child abuse. They work in conjunction with the United States Attorney Office, the Attorney General Office for the District of Columbia, the Children's National Medical Center, the Child & Family Services Agency, and the Child Advocacy Center to determine the best recourse for suspected cases of child abuse.

Not all injuries to a child are considered "child abuse," which occurs when a parent, guardian, or custodian intentionally injures a child. Physical discipline on a child – provided that discipline is reasonable in manner and moderate in degree – is permissible.

Child neglect occurs when a child has been abandoned or abused by his/her parent, guardian, or custodian. A child is entitled to a certain level of parental care or control, subsistence, education as required by law, or other care or control necessary for his/her physical, mental, or emotional health. A child regularly exposed to illegal drug-related activity in the home or who is born addicted or dependent on a controlled substance is also a victim of neglect.

All sworn members of the MPD are required to report child abuse and neglect. In addition to medical and school personnel, law enforcement officers are required to notify the YID or the Child CFSA if the member has reasonable cause to suspect that a child known to him/her in his/her professional or official capacity has been or is in immediate danger of being a mentally or physically abused or neglected child.

The best way to prevent child abuse and neglect is to get involved by promoting healthy families. Learn about protective factors that can reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect, find information on parenting resources and different ways to support families, and learn how service providers can partner with parents to improve outcomes for children, youth, and families.

- » If you have concerns about a youth who may be abused or neglected, contact the Youth Investigations Division on:
(202) 576-6768
- » The websites listed below have excellent information that can be downloaded and printed for dissemination to anyone in need of help.
 - o <http://www.preventchildabuse.org/>
 - o <http://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/preventionmonth/>

BURGLARY PREVENTION IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

Have you ever been locked out of your home? Were you able to get in anyway? Now think about it...if you could break into your own home, it's just as easy for someone else to break in, too. One out of ten homes will be burglarized this year, and many intruders will spend no more than 60 seconds trying to break into a home. The best prediction of a future burglary is a past burglary. Therefore, it is important to take preventative measures now. Strong locks—and good neighbors who look out for one another—can be effective deterrents to burglars. Here are a few tips that can help you keep you—and your property—safe and secure.

Check—and use—your door and window locks. Make sure every external door has a strong, well-installed dead bolt lock. Sliding glass doors offer easy access if they are not properly secured. You can secure them by putting a broomstick or dowel in the inside track to jam the door or by installing commercially available locks. To prevent the door being lifted off of the track, drill a hole through the sliding door frame and the fixed frame. Then insert a pin in the hole. Never hide keys around the outside of your home. Instead, give an extra key to a neighbor you trust. When you move into a new house or apartment, re-key the locks.

Another good idea is to take a look at your home from the outside. Keep in mind the following tips to help make your home as safe as it can be:

- **Burglars hate bright lights.** Install outside lights and keep them on at night. Motion-detector lights can be particularly effective.
- **Keep your yard clean.** Prune shrubbery so it doesn't hide windows or doors. Cut back tree limbs that a burglar could use to climb to an upper-level window.
- **If you travel, create the illusion that you are at home** by getting timers that will turn lights (and perhaps a television or radio) on and off in different parts of your home throughout the day and evening hours. Lights burning 24 hours a day signal an empty house.
- **Leave shades, blinds, and curtains in normal positions.** And make sure you don't let your mail and/or newspapers pile up. Call the post office and newspaper to stop delivery or have a neighbor pick them up.
- **Make a list of your valuables,** such as TVs, stereos, computers, and jewelry. Take pictures of the items, list their serial numbers and description. This will help police if your home is burglarized.

While most burglars prefer to strike when no one is home, intruders can commit other crimes such as rape, robbery, and assault if they are surprised by someone entering the home, or if they pick a home that is occupied. If something looks questionable – a slit screen, a broken window or an open door – don't go in. Call the police from a neighbor's house, a cell phone, or a public phone. At night, if you think you hear someone breaking in, leave safely if you can, then call the police. If you can't leave, lock yourself in a room with a phone and call the police. If an intruder is in your room, pretend you are asleep.

» Get additional information on burglary prevention online at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/burglary>

» The MPD offers a large selection of crime prevention and safety tips. Learn more at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/safety>

DATA BOX	
Homicides	as of 4/22/11
2011: 31	
2010: 29	
% Change: 6.9%	
Closure Rate: 77% (24 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 4/16/11
Total Arrests: 1,108	
Weapons: 20	
Robbery: 9	
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 6	
Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 53	
Narcotics: 218	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 4/16/11
Total Arrests: 78	
Weapons: 2	
Robbery: 8	
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 7	
Narcotics: 9	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 4/18/11
April: 91	
2011 Total: 560	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 4/22/11
2011: 12	
2010: 11	
% Change: 8.3%	

NEWS & NOTES

Also Noteworthy

Street Closures for Stop the Silence 5K. The Race to Stop the Silence 8K is scheduled to be held on Saturday, April 23, 2011. In order to facilitate this, there will be no vehicular traffic allowed along the routes

of the race between approximately 9 am and 12:00 noon. Motorists should expect delays during the race.

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>.

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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