

# WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



*Friday, July 8, 2011*

## PREPARE FOR YOUR SUMMER BICYCLE RIDES BY GETTING THE APPROPRIATE SAFETY GEAR AND REGISTERING YOUR BIKE

According to the National Safe Kids Campaign, motor vehicle collisions account for nearly 90 percent of all bicycle-related deaths. A collision with a motor vehicle increases the risk of death, severity of injury, and probability of head injury. Help protect your child against such accidents by making sure that he/she wears a helmet at all times while cycling. The District of Columbia has bicycle helmet laws to protect cyclists under the age of 16, who enjoy the many streets and trails in and around the Nation's Capital. Helmet laws are enforced for minors and encouraged for all adult cyclists, so please make sure you and your child wear a helmet at all times when riding a bike. In addition to mandating that riders under age 16 wear a helmet while riding a bicycle, the law also requires that children under the age of 16 wear a helmet when riding a scooter, skateboard, sled, coaster, toy vehicle, or any similar device.

While bike registration has been the responsibility of the MPD in the past, bicycle registration laws changed in the District of Columbia on June 1, 2008. Bicycle registration is no longer required in the District of Columbia. However, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) strongly encourage residents to register their bicycles with the National Bicycle Registry (NBR). NBR is a service that allows you to register your bicycle by serial number in a national database. If your bike is ever stolen, it can be identified and you can prove ownership. Law enforcement anywhere can access this database. NBR also guarantees your registration. If your bike is stolen and not recovered by police within 6 months, NBR will register your next bike for free and the stolen bike information will remain in the database until the bike is recovered no matter how long it takes.

- » Read the MPD's frequently asked questions on registering your bike in the District of Columbia at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/bikereg>
- » Get details on the bike helmet law in DC at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/bikesafety>

## TRAVELING THIS SUMMER? HELP KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE AND SECURE WHILE YOU'RE AWAY

Burglars can strike at almost any time and on almost any target. But burglars particularly like targets that look vulnerable. So if you're traveling this summer, make sure you take a few minutes to plan how to help keep your home and your possessions secure while you're away. The primary goal is to make your home look "lived in" (almost all burglars prefer homes where residents clearly aren't home). That means arranging to have your newspaper deliveries stopped and your mail collected by a trusted neighbor. If you're going to be away for a couple of weeks, it may be a good idea to have someone mow your lawn. It's probably best not to put your garbage cans out for pickup—or, alternatively, arrange to have a neighbor take in your can after the collection date. Empty trash cans left at the curb or in an alley for several days can be a sure-fire sign that no one is home. Inside, set timers to turn on lights—as well as radio or television sets—in various rooms at various times of the day. And don't change your voice mail message or your email reply to indicate that you are "out of town."

- » Learn more burglary prevention tips that you can use throughout the year at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/burglary>

## EMAIL LIST GROUPS HELP STRENGTHEN ONLINE COMMUNITY

The MPD police-community Yahoo discussion groups were created for members of the community so they could share public safety information in an effort to help reduce crime and the fear of crime. Information shared on the online email lists include community announcements, meeting dates, crime statistics, safety concerns and ideas, crime reports, and safety tips. The online email list also acts as a virtual community, which helps strengthen partnerships between the local police and the communities they serve. It also offers another means of visibility and accessibility for the community.

The online email list discussion groups are designed to attract area residents, employees, students, business owners, elected officials, and government agency representatives interested in coming together to solve problems and share public safety-related information that will improve the quality of life in each police district. This is an opportunity for all stakeholders and DC service providers (i.e., DPW, DCRA, etc.) to engage in ongoing online interaction with police, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, holidays and weekends.

Information posted to the groups is intended to benefit members of a specific police district. If you don't know your police district, you can find out by visiting the DC Guide to easily locate a police district or PSA and other resources within a geographic area.

Successes of the police online email list groups include:

- Faster dissemination of information, especially community meetings and events.
- Assistance with identifying and taking action against nuisance properties.
- Successful collaborations among community groups, elected officials and police.
- Greater assistance with lookouts -- from missing persons and pets to found property.
- Recognizing good work and identifying areas of service that need improvement.
- Gauging the community's concerns.
- Developing relationships, especially when a police district gets a new commander or new patrol officers.
- Identifying community leaders and activists, who are eager to join the group and let their voices be heard.
- Sharing information between districts.
- Group-to-group communications (MPD postings are regularly shared with other large community online groups, with the potential of reaching 20,000 online users in one day).

» For more information or to get the Yahoo group name of your district email list group, go to <http://mpdc.dc.gov/listserv>

### DATA BOX

#### Homicides as of 7/8/11

2011: 58

2010: 62

% Change: -6.5%

Closure Rate: 75.9% (44 closures)

#### Adult Arrests week end. 7/2/11

Total Arrests: 1,061

Weapons: 13

Robbery: 12

Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 14

Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 61

Narcotics: 208

#### Juvenile Activity week end. 7/2/11

Total Arrests: 66

Weapons: 3

Robbery: 8

Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 3

Narcotics: 5

#### Firearm Recoveries as of 7/4/11

July: 11

2011 Total: 927

#### Traffic Fatalities as of 7/8/11

2011: 22

2010: 15

% Change: 46.7%

### NEWS & NOTES

#### Also Noteworthy

**Drug Free Zones in Effect in 3D, 4D and 6D.** Metropolitan Police are enforcing DC's anti-loitering law in designated areas of PSAs 302, 303, 404 and 602. Get details online at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/dfz>.

**Preventing terrorism is everybody's business.** If you SEE something, SAY something. Call the MPD 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>.

**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>.

#### Support the Washington DC Police Foundation.

The Washington DC Police Foundation is a 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 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](mailto:kaylin.castelli@dc.gov)

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