

# WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



*Friday, September 23, 2011*

## TAKE STEPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR VALUABLES WHILE AT THE GAS STATION

Like most parts of the country, Washington, DC is not immune to the problems caused by illegal drugs and activity in its neighborhoods. It has been said that the most lucrative market for illegal drugs and drug activity in the world is the United States. Nearly every aspect of American life and every community within the US has been affected in one way or another by the business of manufacturing, transporting, selling, purchasing, and abusing illegal drugs.

Cascading Illustration of DrugsThe problem can have especially damaging effects on young people. There are some staggering statistics associated with alcohol, vice and illegal drug use by teenagers in the United States. On any given day:

- » Nearly 1.2 million teens smoke cigarettes
- » 631,000 drink alcohol
- » 586,000 use marijuana
- » 50,000 sniff inhalants
- » 27,000 use hallucinogens
- » 13,000 use cocaine
- » 3,800 use heroin

Perhaps most alarming, nearly two-thirds of American high school students say their school has drug problems; nearly one-third of middle school students report the same. And 80 percent of teenagers say they have witnessed the sale or possession of illegal drugs on high school grounds or seen someone who was drunk or high on campus.



» Get more information about recognizing and understanding the risks associated with drugs:  
<http://www.mpd.cdc.gov/drugawareness>

## TAKE PART IN NATIONAL CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK SEPTEMBER 18-24

National Seat Check Saturday is part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) 2011 Child Passenger Safety Week (September 18-24). Car seats and booster seats save lives and offer the best protection for children in a crash. Car seats work best when used correctly. Roughly 3 out of 4 child safety seats are not installed properly. The DC Department of Motor Vehicles NHTSA-certified technician installs and inspects more than 500 car seats a year at DMV's Vehicle Inspection Station.



On September 24, 2011, find out which child safety seat is best suited to protect your child. Our Car Seat Event will be held at the Vehicle Inspection Station, 1001 Half Street, SW from 10 am to 2 pm. No appointment is necessary. Make child safety a top priority for your family!

- » Learn about new NHTSA Child Restraint Guidelines at:  
<http://www.nhtsa.gov/ChildSafety/step3>
- » Use NHTSA's Child Car Seat Inspection Station Locator to find the car seat inspection station nearest you:  
<http://www.nhtsa.gov/cps/cpsfitting/index.cfm>

## DC ONE FUND TO INCLUDE DC POLICE FOUNDATION

We are proud to announce that the DC Police Foundation was accepted into the DC One Fund Annual Giving Campaign! Our campaign code is 9873, please take note and share this with colleagues and friends in the DC government. This is a great resource for visibility and donations for the DC Police Foundation and our mission to help make the Nation's Capital a safer place to live, work, and visit.

The campaign kick-off is October 1st, when DC government employees can select from a list of local charities to donate to through payroll deductions. This year's campaign goal is to raise \$1 million for DC's charities and nonprofits.

- » If you are a DC Government employee, you can make your pledge today:  
<https://donor.unitedway.org/?campaign=DCONE09>

### NEWS & NOTES

#### Also Noteworthy

##### MPD Expands YouTube Channel.

The Metropolitan Police Department's new official YouTube channel has recently launched. The site is a central location for visitors to learn about crime prevention, safety tips, special messages and more. When an investigation may benefit from the public's assistance, detectives will share surveillance video seeking assistance in identifying the alleged perpetrators. Future profiles and interviews with key MPD members are planned to be offered on the site and much more. Currently, the site offers tips on burglary prevention, gas station safety,



boating safety and BUI, DC's curfew law, and more. Check it out at [www.youtube.com/OfficialDCPolice](http://www.youtube.com/OfficialDCPolice).

**FBI Launches Child ID App.** A new free tool from the Federal Bureau of Investigation is designed to help parents keep a convenient electronic copy of their child's vital information handy on their smart phone. The new app — "Child ID" — is currently available for iPhone with versions in the works for other mobile platforms soon. A child goes missing every 40 seconds in America. Help protect your child with this convenient, free tool.



**MPD Celebrates 150 Years.** The Metropolitan Police Department turned 150

on August 6. Look for a special decal on most marked vehicles to highlight and celebrate this landmark in the agency's history. In addition, many of our uniformed officers have chosen to honor the sesquicentennial by wearing a commemorative badge through September 30, 2011.



In honor of the milestone, additional information about the Department's history is being added to our website, including the biographies of every Chief of Police since 1861, a history of the badge, and more each week. To see the special section, visit [www.mpdcc.gov/150th](http://www.mpdcc.gov/150th).

## DATA BOX

<b>Homicides</b>	as of 9/23/11
2011: 80	
2010: 90	
% Change: -11.1%	
Closure Rate: 95.0% (76 closures)	
<b>Firearm Recoveries</b>	as of 9/19/11
September: 113	
2011 Total: 1,388	
<b>Traffic Fatalities</b>	as of 9/23/11
2011: 27	
2010: 19	
% Change: 42.1%	

### Information, ideas, or comments about this service?

Send an e-mail to **KEVIN PALMER** at [kevin.palmer@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.palmer@dc.gov)

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