

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, September 30, 2011

DON'T BE A VICTIM: CON ARTISTS OFTEN TARGET ELDERLY

Most of us think we would be the last people in the world to be tricked into handing over our hard-earned money for deals that, in retrospect, are obviously phony. But con artists are experts in human psychology and behavior. They know how to win over your confidence with their smooth talk and self-assured manner. Unless you are careful, you may find yourself turning over cash or buying worthless merchandise. You won't be able to recognize a con artist by the way he or she looks, but you can be on the lookout for some of their "pitches."

Some of the most common cons and swindles in the springtime are bogus home repair offers, fraudulent door-to-door charities, and individuals posing as police officers or bank investigators who claim to be investigating fraudulent tellers or counterfeit schemes. These con artists often target the elderly. Regardless of your age, DC residents are urged to be wary of any "something-for-nothing" offers. Always ask for offers in writing, read over all contracts before you sign, and never agree to "cash-only" deals. Do not hesitate to check the credentials of anyone who comes to your door. Ask to see official identification and inspect it carefully. Legitimate organizations – especially real police officers – will not hesitate to comply. And if you have been victimized by a con artist, please call the police and report it. This is the only way that law enforcement can detect patterns and identify and apprehend offenders.

A good rule of thumb in these situations is to remember that if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is! Don't let your excitement get the best of you. If you are approached by someone (in person, on the phone, or by email) DO NOT send money. If you ever really do win the lottery, the lottery association will arrange to take a portion of the winnings to pay taxes directly out of your winnings.

» • Learn how you can avoid scams – and get descriptions of some of the more common scams in the DC area – at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/scams>

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.

ONLINE SERVICE REQUEST CENTER MAKES REQUESTING CITY SERVICES A SIMPLE CLICK AWAY

From trash pick-up to traffic signals, the DC Government's Service Request Center makes it easy to submit requests online. In three simple steps, you can request a city service with a simple way to monitor its progress. Just select a service type, enter the service location. Through the Service Request Center, you'll also receive a tracking number, allowing you to check the status of your request.

Public safety and city services go hand in hand. Ensuring that an abandoned auto is quickly towed or having graffiti removed promptly has a doubly-positive effect. It fosters pride in the community, while at the same time, it sends a clear message to potential vandals letting them know their actions will not be tolerated.

Visitors to the Service Request Center can report abandoned vehicles, request alley cleaning or repair, ask for leaf or bulk garbage collection, register for DMV services, request graffiti clean-up or removal, file complaints or commendations of DC Government employee driving, report illegal dumping or posters, report certain parking violations, request the replacement of street signs, get a street light repaired, and so much more. So the next time you see a problem that requires a city service, take action and report it to the Service Request Center.

» Need to request a city service? Call 3-1-1 or visit: <http://311.dc.gov/>

NEWS & NOTES

Also Noteworthy

Join the MPD Reserve Corps. The MPD Reserve Corps, a volunteer policing program is seeking new members. Applications are now being accepted at <http://dcpolice.jobs>.

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 MPD at (202) 727-9099 to report suspicious activity that has already occurred. Call 911 to report in-progress threats or emergencies. Learn how you can help fight terrorism at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/operationTIPP>.

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. Special banners highlighting the anniversary are also being displayed at MPD Headquarters and other facilities.

To see the special section, visit www.mpdcc.dc.gov/150th.



DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 9/30/11
2011: 81	
2010: 96	
% Change: -15.6%	
Closure Rate: 93.8% (76 closures)	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 9/26/11
September: 138	
2011 Total: 1,413	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 9/30/11
2011: 28	
2010: 19	
% Change: 47.3%	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service?

Send an e-mail to **KEVIN PALMER** at kevin.palmer@dc.gov

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