

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, May 25, 2012

PLAY IT SAFE WHEN USING YOUR VEHICLE THIS HOLIDAY WEEKEND

During this holiday weekend, and throughout the summer, many drivers will be hitting the road to reach the destinations of their choice – be it a vacation getaway or a day at a friend's barbecue. Regardless of where you go, if you drive, remember to do so responsibly. Police will be out in force over the holiday trying to keep the streets and highways safe. They'll be enforcing all the rules of the road, so it's important that all drivers out there remember to obey the law. This means absolutely no drinking and driving and no aggressive driving. Everyone in the vehicle should also be properly buckled up whenever the vehicle is moving. Alcohol-related crashes result in thousands of fatalities every year. The legal limit for Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) in DC is .08 percent. It's illegal for anyone to have a BAC over that limit; however, if a person under the age of 21 is found to be operating a motor vehicle with ANY measurable amount of alcohol, he or she will be placed under arrest and charged with Driving While Intoxicated (DWI).

Aggressive driving is described as a combination of unsafe and unlawful actions that demonstrate a conscious and willful disregard for safety, including offenses such as running red lights and stop signs; following too closely, or tailgating; changing lanes unsafely; failing to yield the right of way; improper passing; and speeding. Don't let your anger get the best of you if you're driving. Always allow extra travel time, because traffic congestion — and the related delays — is among the primary factors that lead motorists to drive aggressively. By leaving extra travel time, you will be less inclined to drive aggressively in order to make up for time lost in congestion.

Remember to signal your intentions, concentrate on your driving (not your cell phone, stereo, passengers, or other distractions), and extend common courtesy to other drivers at all times. Finally, keep everyone in your car safe by reminding them to wear their seatbelts. Drivers will be pulled over, ticketed, and fined for not obeying the seat belt laws. Penalties include the assessment points on your driver's license and fines ranging from \$50 to \$150 for offenses.

» Penalties for drinking and driving include fines, suspended licenses, and jail time. Get details on the offenses and penalties at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/dui>

» Each year, the MPD participates in the Smooth Operator program, targeted at reducing the number of aggressive drivers on the road. Get details on the program as well as ten basic rules of courtesy and safety while driving at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/smoothoperator>

» Every child under the age of eight years of age must be properly seated in an installed infant, convertible (toddler), or booster child seat. For details on Child Safety Seat violations and penalties go to:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/childrestraintlaw>

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>

DISTRICT OPENS POOLS, OFFERS MORE WAYS TO BEAT SUMMER BOREDOM

Memorial Day is upon us and the temperatures are getting warmer. These two harbingers of summer will compel many of us to seek ways to stay cool and have some fun. DC is pleased to announce that the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) will open all 18 outdoor swimming pools, all five spray parks and all eight children's pools for weekend use beginning Saturday, May 26; daily operation begins June 17, 2012. Weekend and holiday hours of operation for outdoor pools are 12 pm until 6 pm. With large outdoor pools, six indoor pools, and even six walk-to-learn pools for young children, the summer heat is no excuse for not joining in the fun. But remember to exercise caution when cooling off. Parents should ensure that young children are equipped with the proper flotation devices and basic understanding of water safety. All children should be supervised when swimming. Adults should avoid drinking alcohol before a visit to the pool. Most pools will be open to the public seven days a week.

- » For the locations of all of the District's indoor and outdoor swimming facilities, see: <http://app.dpr.dc.gov/dprmap/index.asp>
- » Get more information about the DC Summer Fun programs of the Department of Parks and Recreation. Details at: <http://dpr.dc.gov/DC/DPR/Programs+and+Services/Register+for+Programs/2012+Spring-Summer+Fun+Guide>

STREET CLOSURES AND TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS FOR MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND EVENTS

The MPD would like to inform the public that multiple events are scheduled to be held this Memorial Day weekend. On Saturday, May 26, 2012, the United House of Prayer for All People will hold its annual Memorial Day parade. This event will begin at 10 am and will conclude at approximately 3 pm. The parade will begin at 6th & M Streets, NW, go north on 6th to S Street, west to 13th Street, south to Logan Circle, east on P Street, south on 7th, and east on M, back to 6th.

On Saturday, May 26 and Sunday, May 27, from 11 am - 5 pm, the Thunder Alley event will take place. It is the official vending location for Rolling Thunder, and street 22nd Street between Constitution Avenue and C Street, NW will be closed.

On Sunday, May 27, 2012 the annual Rolling Thunder Rally will take place. The event will begin at approximately 11 am and will conclude at approximately 5 pm. The motorcycle ride will proceed from the Pentagon, across the Arlington Memorial Bridge, north on 23rd Street to Constitution Avenue, east to Pennsylvania Avenue, south on 3rd Street, NW, west on Independence, to Franklin D. Roosevelt Park, where the ride will end.

On Monday, May 28, 2012, the National Memorial Day Parade will take place from 2 pm until 5 pm. Streets along the National Mall, between 7th and 17th Streets, NW, will be closed from 5 am until 7 pm.

Motorists traveling in the area of both of these events may encounter traffic delays and heavy pedestrian traffic due to the extended road closures. In addition to the roads listed above, many roads leading to these processional routes may be closed as well. Please use extreme caution when driving in these areas.

DATA BOX

Homicides as of 5/25/12

2012: 33

2011: 41

% Change: -19.5%

Closure Rate: 73% (24 closures)

Adult Arrests (week end. 5/19/12)

Total Arrests: 892

Weapons: 12

Robbery: 14

Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 9

Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 18

Narcotics: 170

Juvenile Activity (week end. 5/19/12)

Total Arrests: 60

Weapons: 4

Robbery: 11

Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 2

Narcotics: 9

Firearm Recoveries as of 5/21/12

May: 148

2012 Total: 791

Traffic Fatalities as of 5/25/12

2012: 6

2011: 15

% Change: -60%

NEWS & NOTES

Also Noteworthy

DMV Closed for Memorial Day; Inspection Station Summer Hours begin June 5. In observance of Memorial Day,

all DC DMV locations will be closed from Saturday, May 26, 2012, through Monday, May 28, 2012. Also, on Tuesday, June 5, 2012, the DC DMV Inspection Station, located at 1001 Half Street, SW, will begin its summer hours' schedule — 6 am — 2 pm. Customers are also encouraged to

stay alert to possible code red days which result in the Inspection Station operating on different hours. For more information, please visit us online at <http://dmv.dc.gov>.

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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