

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, August 9, 2013

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

Submitted by Karla Melendez, MPD Summer Intern

The Metropolitan Police Department would like to remind everyone to be aware of their surroundings to ensure the safe travels of other drivers and pedestrians on our city streets. We all need to exercise extra caution and take responsibility for our personal safety and the safety of those around us. Crossing unsafely can lead to serious injury or death. In 2012, 19 people died in traffic crashes; almost half of these were pedestrian fatalities. Approximately 2,700 pedestrians and bicyclists are injured every year in the Washington region, and 89 are killed.

Unsafe driving and walking has its penalties. Drivers can be fined \$75-\$500 for failing to obey the stop and right of way signals when pedestrians are crossing. Pedestrians may also be fined up to \$20 for disobeying a crossing signal. Pedestrians should take note of their surroundings. Both the drivers and pedestrians should take measures to avoid crashes.

Some safety tips for pedestrians:

- Always look at both ways when crossing the street
- Follow the directions of traffic signals and crossing guards
- Never run between cars into the street
- Wear clothing that allows drivers and people to see you

Some safety tips for drivers:

- Always take the time to drive safely
- Yield to pedestrians and cyclists when turning
- Stop for pedestrians at crosswalks
- Slow down and obey the posted speed limit

» The MPD offers safety tips for walkers, runners and bikers online at:

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

» For more safety tips for you and your children, call (202) 234-9404 or see the DC action for Children website at:

<http://www.dcactionforchildren.org/>

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCHES HELP CREATE SAFER, FRIENDLIER COMMUNITIES

Neighborhood Watch is a community-based crime prevention program where neighbors look out for each other's safety, property and homes in a systematic and sustained way. It is based on the idea that when residents, businesses, clergy, police and other partners look out for the safety of the neighborhood, establish and maintain open lines of communication, and collaborate to resolve problems of crime and disorder, they create safer, friendlier and healthier neighborhoods.

By establishing and using communication networks such as phone trees and listservs, residents can alert police and one another of crimes in progress, suspicious activity, and neighborhood concerns. By working with police, community leaders and other agencies, Neighborhood Watch members can identify crime trends and patterns, such as a series of robberies or burglaries, and alert their neighbors to take crime prevention steps.

Neighborhood Watch also serves as a communication link for disaster preparedness and terrorism alerts. Since September 11, 2001, the ongoing threat of terrorism has necessitated community residents as well as police to look out for suspicious activities of terrorism. Hurricane Katrina — which devastated New Orleans in 2005 — illustrated the importance of establishing effective communication and collaboration networks within communities.

» Learn more about creating a neighborhood watch and get details about upcoming training events at:

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

CONSIDER A CAREER AS A POLICE OFFICER WITH THE MPD

The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) is focused on building a crime-fighting partnership with the community, and developing our own promise and potential as a department. Police work requires a certain type of individual — one who has strong interpersonal skills and the motivation to work with our partners to help build strong, safe and healthy communities throughout the District of Columbia.

The MPD has a rolling admissions process. Interested candidates are encouraged to apply online and will be notified within 24 hours if they have been selected to attend a New Candidate Orientation, the next step in the police officer selection process. The MPD expects to hire more than 200 officers over the course the next year. Individuals interested in joining the MPD should go to dcpolicejobs.dc.gov to apply and to get complete details on the police officer selection process.

MPD offers a great starting salary and benefits and has opportunities for advancement through our competitive promotional process. If you choose the Metropolitan Police Department, you will learn hands-on from some of the best public safety professionals in the country and get a chance to make a difference.

- » For more information on becoming a police officer in the MPD visit the police recruiting website at:
<http://dcpolicejobs.dc.gov>
- » Think you have what it takes? Check out the MPD's Physical Ability Test Video to see what's required:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/multimedia/physical-ability-test-video>
- » The MPD is looking for volunteers to join the MPD's Reserve Corps, which provides qualified civic-minded individuals with the opportunity to assist the MPD in carrying out its policing responsibilities. Details on the Reserve Corps and other volunteer programs are available at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/page/volunteer-opportunities-mpdc>

CALL OR TEXT THE MPD'S ANONYMOUS CRIME TIP LINES

Concerned community members are encouraged to call 727-9099 or text 50411 to anonymously provide crime information to the MPD.

The crime tip line — 202-727-9099 — is staffed by detectives 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Anyone who has information concerning a homicide, gangs, guns, or other violent offenses can call the anonymous tip line, and a detective will report all information.

Community members may also use their cell phones to anonymously text tips to the Metropolitan Police Department. Give 5-0 the 4-1-1 with the MPD's Text Tip Line: 50411. Text messages are monitored by members of the department 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Tips are then analyzed and passed on to the appropriate unit or division for follow up. Because the tip line is anonymous, the sender will not receive a response to the original message.

Neither of these tips lines is an emergency number. If you witness a crime in progress or have an emergency that requires the police, please call 9-1-1.

- » Get more information on the MPD's anonymous crime tip lines at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/tipline>
- » Other important numbers include:
 - MPD Gun Recovery Unit: Gun Recovery Unit Task Force, 698-5662
 - 24-Hour Violent Crime Tip Line: (202) 727-9099
 - 24-Hour Crime Tip Text Number: Text: 50411
 - Emergency: 9-1-1
 - Mayor's Call Center: 3-1-1

NEWS & NOTES

Also Noteworthy

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>.

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>.

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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