

# WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



*Friday, August 23, 2013*

## **SCHOOLS OPEN ON AUGUST 26: REMEMBER TO DRIVE SAFELY AND BE ALERT!**

The Metropolitan Police Department's School Safety Division is looking forward to a safe start to the 2013-2014 school year, which kicks off for most schools on Monday, August 26.

Motorists are reminded to drive safely and pay close attention to pedestrian traffic in school zones. Children will be walking to and from school and crossing the streets—sometimes at busy intersections—at different times of the day. Please be particularly vigilant during rush hour. The MPD is asking that everyone stay alert and watchful so that the travels of DC's students to and from school are safe. Parents and community members are also encouraged to take the time to help monitor the passageways that the children use in your neighborhood. Finally, don't hesitate to report any suspicious behavior or activity to the police immediately by calling 911.



Children should also learn how to protect themselves when crossing the street, riding the school bus, riding a bicycle, or playing on the playground. Young children—especially those who are just starting school—should be provided additional attention and given extra help in the first few weeks of school to ensure they are familiar with common safeguards when crossing the street and dealing with strangers. Following are some suggestions for helping to protect your children:

- Look both ways before crossing the street.
- Never run into the street. When you come to the curb, STOP, then look both ways.
- Never run between cars into the street.
- Be sure to cross the street at a crosswalk or where the crossing guard is. Only walk when the signal flashes the walk sign or when a crossing guard says it's okay.
- Walk on the sidewalk, not in the street.
- Wear clothing that allows drivers and people to see you. That means no dark clothes after dark or early in the morning. If you have to be out in the dark, be sure to put reflective tape on your coat.
- Don't talk to strangers, take anything from them, or go anywhere with them.

The Metropolitan Police Department is looking forward to a safe and successful school year. Please join School Safety Division in creating a positive learning environment for all DC students, teachers and staff!

» For more Back to School safety tips for you and your children, go to:

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

» A variety of other safety tips are provided by the Metropolitan Police Department. For a complete list, go to:

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

» Regardless of your mode of transportation—car, bicycle, or feet—it's important to know the rules of the road. Get some tips on the MPD's website at:

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

## AS STUDENTS RETURN TO COLLEGE, THE MPD STRESSES CAMPUS SAFETY

In the next few weeks, DC's colleges and universities will welcome tens of thousands of students for the 2013-2014 academic year. While college campuses in general are among the safest communities, no campus is immune from crime. That is why the MPD has offers a comprehensive "Campus Safety" guide containing safety tips and other important resources. Promoting safety on campus is the responsibility of students, faculty, staff, campus and MPD officers, and other members of the campus community. An important part of everyone's education is learning how to be alert, use common sense, and prevent unnecessary threats to the safety of themselves and others. Most campus crimes occur when criminals are given the opportunity to commit them. By taking away the opportunity, students and others can help prevent crime before it happens. This is especially true in the case of property crimes such as burglary and theft, especially theft of laptop computers, electronic devices and bicycles. These are among the most common of campus crimes. However, students also need to know how to protect themselves from violent crimes such as robbery, assault and sexual assault. And they need to know and understand the role that alcohol and drug abuse often plays in campus crime.

- » For a detailed list of campus safety tips and resources, go to:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/campusafety>

## MPD POLICE CADET PROGRAM PROVIDES REAL-LIFE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE TO DC STUDENTS INTERESTED IN POLICING

The Police Cadet Training Program provides training and experience in the field of law enforcement to qualified individuals between the ages of 17 to 21 who have the desire to pursue a career with the Metropolitan Police Department. The program is designed to prepare candidates for entrance into the Metropolitan Police Officer Recruit Program.

The comprehensive benefits package includes a starting salary of \$25,315–\$33,055 per year; full college tuition through the University of the District of Columbia; dental and health benefits; and annual and sick leave. In addition, cadets will gain familiarization with the daily operations of the department and its rich history through temporary assignments throughout the department's police districts and specialized units. Cadets will participate in community policing activities, and interface with citizens and visitors of the District of Columbia.

In order to enter the Police Cadet Training Program, candidates must be enrolled in a District of Columbia high school or have graduated from high school and received their diploma or a GED issued by the District of Columbia. Candidates must also pass a comprehensive background investigation that includes a medical examination, drug screening and a psychological evaluation; meet certain academic requirements and conform to Physical Fitness Standards.

- » For more information on joining the MPD Cadet Program, go to:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/cadet>
- » Ever wonder what it takes to join the MPD? Check out the MPD's Physical Ability Test Video to see what's required:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/multimedia/physical-ability-test-video>

### NEWS & NOTES

#### Also Noteworthy

#### March on Washington Set for 8/24.

Join Mayor Vincent C. Gray in a rally for DC Statehood and Self-Determination march to the Lincoln Memorial in recognition of the 50th

Anniversary March on Washington at 8:30 am on August 24, 2013 at the DC War Memorial. Learn more at <http://marchondc50.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](mailto:kaylin.castelli@dc.gov)

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