

# WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



*Friday, September 13, 2013*

## SPAN OF 11TH STREET BRIDGE NAMED AFTER FALLEN OFFICER KEVIN J. WELSH DURING DEDICATION CEREMONY

Mayor Vincent C. Gray, District Department of Transportation (DDOT) Director Terry Bellamy, DDOT Chief Engineer Ronaldo “Nick” Nicholson, Metropolitan Police Chief Cathy L. Lanier and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) D.C. Division Administrator Christopher Lawson joined residents and representatives of businesses from Anacostia and Capitol Hill at a community celebration marking the official opening of the 11th Street Bridge’s span for local traffic. During the event, Mayor Gray dedicated a plaque naming the new local bridge as the 11th Street Officer Kevin J. Welsh Memorial Bridge.

The local bridge is being named for Metropolitan Police Officer Kevin J. Welsh, who died there in 1986 while attempting to assist a citizen in distress. Officer Welsh, a veteran of the Special Operations Division, drowned in the line of duty during a daring rescue attempt to save a suicidal woman.

“While many people run from danger, Officer Kevin Welsh went towards it and made the ultimate sacrifice,” said Chief Lanier. “Officer Welsh was a devoted husband and father and his family legacy lives on, as his brother and his nephew are currently Metropolitan Police Department officers. We are pleased that he is being honored.”

The 11th Street Bridge Project is the District’s first river-bridge replacement in 40 years and the largest project in DDOT’s history. The project is providing direct connections between DC-295 (Anacostia Freeway) and I-695 (SE/SW Freeway), diverting traffic from local roads. All proposed local roadways are completed and open to traffic, including formerly missing Interstate-highway connections, three new 1,000-foot bridges over the Anacostia River, and four new ramps for motorists to access historic Anacostia and Capitol Hill.

» See photos from the dedication and read personal remembrances of Officer Kevin Welsh at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/multimedia/span-11th-street-bridge-named-after-fallen-officer-kevin-j-welsh-during-dedication>



## SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

National Preparedness Month is sponsored annually in September by the US Department of Homeland Security’s “Ready” campaign. It is designed to encourage individuals across the nation to take steps to increase their preparedness, including making a family emergency plan, making an emergency supply kit, and being informed about the different emergencies that may affect them. This year, National Preparedness Month will focus on encouraging Americans to work together to take concrete actions toward emergency preparedness. We are encouraging all Americans to join the readiness team and truly help themselves, their neighbors, and their communities to be ready.

The MPD offers a number of recommendations on how people can prepare for a possible emergency situation. The first thing to consider are the basic necessities for survival: fresh

» Plan TODAY for what’s on the way. September is National Emergency Preparedness Month. To learn how to prepare & to sign up for critical emergency alerts, go to:  
<http://www.72hours.dc.gov>

» Did you know DC Alert provides emergency and police alerts, sent directly to your email, cell phone, pager or PDA? To register, go to:  
<https://textalert.ema.dc.gov/>

water, food, clean air and warmth. Households should create an emergency supply kit that provides these necessities for every person (and pet) who lives there. Families should also create a plan and review it as a group so everyone knows where to go, who to contact, and how to reach each other in the event of an emergency. In addition to the recommendations offered by the MPD, the DC Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMA) offers a number of preparedness guides and other emergency planning tools for reference.

Whether you plan to shelter in place or evacuate—which clearly depends on the emergency circumstances—it's important to monitor the news (on TV, the radio, or the internet) for information and official instructions. If you live in the District of Columbia, you may want to register with Alert DC to receive regular emergency alerts via email or text.

- » Get of preparedness guides and other emergency planning tools from DC HSEMA online at: <http://hsema.dc.gov>
- » Prepare. Plan. Stay informed. Get more information on how you can take steps to prepare for an emergency online at: <http://www.ready.gov>

## TWENTY-ONE NEW OFFICERS ARE HITTING THE STREETS OF DC

Patrols in DC neighborhoods are being boosted by the addition of 21 officers who were sworn in during a graduation ceremony on Friday, September 13, 2013, at the Metropolitan Police Academy in Southwest DC.

Training awards presented during the ceremony recognized Officer Gregory Hill (Academic Training Award); Officer Travis Collins (Firearms Training Award); Officer Gregory Hill (Vehicle Skills Awards); and Officers Steven Ochocki and Kandice Young (Physical Skills Awards). The new officers all completed approximately 24 weeks of training at the police academy, which includes a full program of physical, classroom, and firearms training to prepare them for the challenges of being a police officer. The subjects covered include laws of arrest, search and seizure, criminal law, traffic regulations, human relations, community policing, and ethics. In addition, recruit officers receive skills training in firearms, operation of emergency police vehicles, self-defense, advanced first aid, and much more.

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.

- » For more information on becoming a police officer in the MPD visit the police recruiting website at: <http://dcpolicejobs.dc.gov>
- » 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>



### NEWS & NOTES

#### Also Noteworthy

**Tell Us How We're Doing.** MPD is now part of Grade DC. We invite you to share your thoughts on our service — positive or negative — through MPD's email groups, our social media,

or by visiting the Grade DC website. Get more information at <http://grade.dc.gov>.

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

**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>.

#### 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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