

# WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



*Friday, August 22, 2014*

## SCHOOLS OPEN ON AUGUST 25: REMEMBER TO DRIVE SAFELY AND BE ALERT!

The Metropolitan Police Department's School Safety Division is looking forward to a safe start to the 2014-2015 school year, which kicks off for most schools on Monday, August 25.

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>

## DC ALERT TRANSITIONING TO NEW SOFTWARE PLATFORM

AlertDC is the official District of Columbia communications system that sends emergency alerts, notifications, and updates to your devices. This system enables the District to provide you with critical information in situations such as traffic conditions, government closures, public safety incidents and severe weather. Get the alerts you want — directly from the District of Columbia's public safety officials and emergency manager. When an incident or emergency occurs, District officials can quickly notify you using this emergency alert and warning system. AlertDC is your personal connection to real-time updates and instructions to protect yourself, your loved ones, and your community.



» To get started today, click on the AlertDC "Sign Up For Alerts;" if you already have an account click the "Update Your Profile" button at:  
<http://hsema.dc.gov/page/alertdc>

### What Type Of Alerts Can I Sign Up For?

AlertDC is customizable and allows residents to pick and choose what kind of notifications they want to receive. You can elect to receive alerts about traffic incidents, police events impacting public safety, widespread power and water utility outages, city government delays and closings, and more. Residents can sign up for alerts based on alert type and location.

### What Type Of Devices Can I Receive My Alerts On?

The following devices can be included to receive alerts from AlertDC:

- Text Messaging/SMS
- E-mail
- Cell Phone (COMING SOON)
- Landlines (COMING SOON)
- App (available download through your device's app store - COMING SOON)

### How Do I Sign Up?

Signing Up for AlertDC is easy! Simply create a user name and password, add contact information then select any additional community updates to receive.

#### 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://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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