WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

Friday, October 3, 2014

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Domestic Violence Awareness Month was in 1981 following a "Day of Unity" event hosted by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Domestic Violence Awareness Month is now recognized nationwide and has been instrumental in highlighting the dangers of domestic violence. Through grassroots outreach efforts, media events, and client advocacy the domestic violence movement is able to use the testimony of victims to educate the public. Throughout the month, coalitions and agencies host programs and events within the community to inform people about domestic violence. Stakeholders use that time to explain what domestic violence is, who it affects, and available resources.

One of the major obstacles for victims of domestic violence is lack of funding for the victims. Inadequate funds leave victims to fend for themselves as they try to access safe housing, transportation, and counseling. The Crime Victims Compensation Program (CVCP) assists victims of violent crime with the financial burdens brought by tragic occurrences through reimbursement or direct payment to providers for necessary services. Some of those services include payment for medical treatments, medications, mental health counseling, funeral and burial cost, lost wages, crime scene clean up, temporary emergency shelter, and moving expenses.

The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) is working to increase community consciousness about the problem of domestic violence. In recognition of domestic violence awareness month, MPD has produced several brochures to educate the public about different aspects of domestic violence. These pamphlets include information on elder abuse, domestic violence in the workplace, domestic abuse in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender relationships, domestic abuse during pregnancy, domestic violence amongst teens, violence targeted at male victims, and the harmful effects of domestic violence witnessed by children. Additionally, there are informational brochures on steps that can be taken to escape domestic violence situations, such as the procedure for obtaining a civil protection order and the process for creating a safety plan.

» For information on Victim Services Branch activities during Domestic Violence Awareness Month contact Tyria Fields, Program Manager of the Victim Services Branch, at (202) 724-4339.

» For more information about the Crime Victims Compensation Program, visit: http://mpdc.dc.gov/victimassistance

» A list of organizations and telephone numbers to contact for help and support is provided in the domestic violence resources section, at: http://mpdc.dc.gov/domesticviolence

» Printable PDFs of all the MPD's Domestic Violence brochures are available online at: http://mpdc.dc.gov/dv_brochures

» The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence provides a number of resources for victims of domestic violence and suggestions on how to raise awareness. Get details online at: http://www.ncadv.org/takeaction/DomesticViolenceAwarenessMonth.php

» The National Domestic Violence Hotline provides 24-hour assistance for shelter, counseling programs and resources across the country and can be reached at: 1-800-799-SAFE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OFFERS GRAFFITI REMOVAL SERVICES

Graffiti is generally described as a drawing or inscription made on any exterior surface—from street signs to sidewalks—for the purpose of being seen by the public. The inscription can be rudimentary or elaborate, colorful or plain black. Gang members use graffiti to define territory and intimidate rivals.

In an effort to keep the District clean and attractive, the DC Department of Public Works (DPW) deploys graffiti removal crews to clean graffiti from public space and private property. When power washing is impractical, crews resort to more low-tech methods, such as simply painting over the graffiti. "Tags," those spray-painted black squiggles sometimes found on traffic signs, fences or metal garage doors, are often removed with chemical-treated cleaning cloths.

Owners of private property may request graffiti removal services from the city. Although the service is free, property owners must read and sign a graffiti removal waiver of liability form. Unfortunately, DPW can't guarantee that the graffiti will be completely removed by chemical means.

Additionally, since paint colors offered by the city are limited to four or five basic shades, homeowners may want to try painting out graffiti themselves. To request graffiti removal on private property and/or to get a waiver form, contact the Mayor's Citywide Call Center at 311.

» For more information on graffiti removal by the DPW, including the information you should provide for service and hours of operation, go to: http://dpw.dc.gov

» To request graffiti removal on private property and /or to get a waiver form, contact the Mayor's Citywide Call Center at 311.

DC311 FREE SMARTPHONE APP OFFERS ALTERNATIVE METHOD TO REPORTING SERVICE REQUESTS

The DC311 smartphone app is a free download that allows citizens to report service requests from their iPhone or Android mobile devices. There are a large number of different service requests to choose from, including complaints about trash, potholes, graffiti and illegal dumping.

This tool, together with the Citywide Call Center and 311Online, is yet another way the community can report a problem. Information from all these sources is funneled into one database for tracking and resolution. The free app automatically pinpoints the location of the reported problem using GPS technology. Registered users can also attach a photo and provide the exact location for the service request. Once the request is submitted, users will receive an e-mail from 311 confirming receipt of the request, including the service request number. They will also receive a follow-up e-mail when the request has been closed by the servicing agency. Citizens can also track the status of their requests any time.

» Download the DC311 smartphone app at: http://ouc.dc.gov/page/dc-311-smartphone-app

» Request city services by calling 3-1-1 or visit the website: http://311.dc.gov/

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**.

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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