

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, January 16, 2015

GET CRIME ALERTS FROM MPD THROUGH ALERTDC

AlertDC enables the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) to notify you quickly about crimes in your neighborhood that may affect you, your home or your business. 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.

The District of Columbia government does not charge a fee for this service. It's free! However, your wireless carrier may charge you a fee to get messages on your cell phone or wireless device. Contact your carrier to find out how much these messages may cost you under your current plan. You can choose to stop getting messages at any time.

When crime occurs in your community, the sooner police learn about it, the quicker they can respond. Since rapid police response increases the likelihood of a crime being solved with an arrest or the gathering of important evidence in a crime, taking action to report what you know is vital to a case being closed. Most arrests occur within minutes of a crime, not hours after it is reported. If you have actionable information regarding a crime, CALL 911 DO NOT TAKE ACTION ON YOUR OWN!

It is important to note, however, that details of a crime can be difficult to ascertain at first glance. The information can be mis-categorized or a certain element recorded inaccurately in the initial reporting of the crime. In those instances where the first report of a crime contains erroneous information, a follow-up message will be relayed to provide updated details."

PROVIDE 911 WITH A SAFETY PROFILE THROUGH SMART911

Smart911, an initiative by the Office of Unified Communications (OUC) improves public safety by providing immediate crucial information to emergency responders. Smart911 provides emergency responders with much more complete information about 911 callers so they can respond to the right location, with the right personnel and the right equipment. Smart911 is a public/private partnership enabling the creation of a critical caller database that integrates with the District's 911 system.

Coupled with the DC 311 smart-phone app, the availability of Smart911 adds to OUC's goal of making OUC the nation's most efficient and responsive emergency communications agency. Smart911 will provide users a greater sense of security in knowing our first responders have information that could ultimately save their lives.

» Be aware of crimes in your area. Sign up for free at: <http://hsema.dc.gov/page/alertdc>



» Create your safety profile with Smart911 online at: <https://www.smart911.com/>

» Smart911 is supported by the DC Office of Unified Communications (OUC), which oversees the 9-1-1 call center in the District of Columbia. Learn more about OUC at: <http://ouc.dc.gov/>

» Need to report a non-emergency issue in your neighborhood? Try the DC311 Smartphone app. Get more information at: <http://ouc.dc.gov/page/dc-311-smartphone-app>

With Smart911, residents are able to create a Safety Profile at www.smart911.com that is automatically displayed to 9-1-1 during emergency calls. The profile can include home and work addresses associated with mobile phone numbers, specific medical conditions and disabilities, all family members, vehicle information and even information about pets.

Residents are encouraged to create their Safety Profile with Smart911 today to have their information immediately available to 911. Smart911 data is private and secure, is only used for emergency responses, and is only made available to the 911 system in the event of an emergency call.

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) provides residential and business property owners with two free options to remove graffiti themselves. The Graffiti Removal Voucher Program issues a voucher to property owners that may be redeemed at several local paint stores. Call 311 to obtain a voucher. The paint store will match the color of the paint of the property. The voucher will provide property owners with paint, primer, a brush, roller, pan, drop cloth and graffiti scrubs free of charge.

Property owners who want to remove the graffiti using a non-toxic solvent should call 311 and ask for a graffiti removal kit, which will be delivered to the owner's residence or business. The solvent is applied and sprayed off with a garden hose. There are two separate solvent formulas, one for bare brick and masonry, and a separate formula for sensitive surfaces. The solvents do not contain phosphates, chlorinated hydrocarbons, xylene or any other products known to cause health or disposal problems for graffiti removal technicians. They are 100 percent biodegradable and meet US Environmental Protection Agency standards.

DPW will clean graffiti from public and private property using paint or non-toxic solutions that are applied then removed with a high-pressure water spray, known as a power wash. The power wash is not suitable for walls with loose or crumbling masonry. Call 311 to request either of these services. A waiver of liability form will be provided, which must be signed by the property owner and returned to DPW before abatement will occur on private property.

- » For more information on graffiti removal by the DPW, go to: <http://dpw.dc.gov/service/graffiti-removal-serv>
- » Planning a clean-up effort for the spring? The DPW helps community groups that organize Saturday neighborhood clean-up projects through the Helping Hand Program. Get more information about Helping Hand at: <http://dpw.dc.gov/service/helping-hand-neighborhood-clean>
- » Need to request a city service? Call 3-1-1 or visit: <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>.

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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