

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, April 10, 2015

APRIL IS LITTER ENFORCEMENT MONTH

The Metropolitan Police Department will join the Alice Ferguson Foundation in its efforts to curtail litter in the Washington area with Litter Enforcement Month (LEM) in April. During the month of April, these area law enforcement agencies will work to educate the public about the problems that littering causes to our physical environment and how it can contribute to the perception that crime is tolerated in a community. Many officers have found hard criminals and repeat offenders by noticing them littering. Some of the consequences of littering include:

- Accumulated trash spoils the watershed, creating a significant public health concern due to contaminated drinking water and impacts on marine life.
- Litter negatively impacts community aesthetics. Trash reduces real estate values and damages area business, recreation, and tourism.
- Trash can become a significant financial burden to families and individuals. A street with improperly discarded trash reduces home values, making it difficult to sell, or contribute to higher taxes in order to manage the storm drains and address the damage caused.
- Trash improperly disposed ends up in places other than where it was discarded. During the month of April, officers will be paying particular attention to littering offenses, so let's keep things clean.

Penalties for littering are as follows:

- **Illegal Dumping.** Offenders may be imprisoned for up to 90 days and can pay \$5,000 for the first offense and \$10,000 for each subsequent offense; any person who dumps for commercial purpose shall be guilty of a felony, \$40,000 fine and imprisonment not to exceed five years.
- **Littering from a Vehicle.** The Notice of Infraction (NOI) for littering from a vehicle carries a fine of \$100. It applies to both public and private property.
- **Non-Traffic Related Littering.** The Notice of Violation (NOV) carries a fine of \$75. If a violator refuses to identify self, he or she can be arrested for "Failure to make Identity Known."

How You Can Help

Pick up the litter and trash in your alley and around your property, rather than sweeping these items into the gutter to eventually end up in one of the District's rivers.

» Learn more about MPD's Littering Enforcement Program at:

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

» Is there an area in your neighborhood that you would like to help keep clean? Why not "adopt-a-block?" Learn more through DC's Office of the Clean City (OCCC) at:

<http://occc.dc.gov/service/adopt-block>

» Litter Enforcement Month is sponsored by the Alice Ferguson Foundation, whose mission is to raise awareness of litter, illegal dumping, and related crimes; the laws associated with them, and their social and environmental effects on our communities, our economy, and the Potomac River. Learn more about the foundation at:

<http://fergusonfoundation.org/trash-free-potomac-watershed-initiative/litter-enforcement/litter-enforcement-month/>

HELP KEEP DC CLEAN

A clean city is essential to the health and safety of our residents and the economic vitality of our neighborhoods. Everyone shares responsibility for maintaining a clean and green city! The Department of Public Works and the Mayor's Office of the Clean City will continue to lead DC's litter prevention efforts, as keeping the city clean is central to their mission. But, Metropolitan Police Department officers, with their round-the-clock presence on the streets, will also help deter people from littering.

New Littering Enforcement

On September 1, 2014, MPD launched citywide enforcement of the District of Columbia's anti-littering laws, allowing officers to issue \$75 Notices of Violation (NOV) or make an arrest of any pedestrian observed littering. The citywide enforcement comes after warnings were issued during the month of August.

- If an officer sees you dropping garbage, trash, debris, or any other kind of discarded material on public space, in waterways, or on someone else's private property, you may receive a \$75 Notice of Violation for littering.
- If you are issued an NOV for littering, you are required to provide an accurate name and address to the officer. If you refuse or fail to provide an accurate name and address, you can be arrested. Upon conviction, you will be fined an additional \$100 to \$250 by the DC Superior Court.
- Failure to respond to the NOV for littering by either paying the fine or appealing the ticket will result in additional penalties.

Continuing Littering Enforcement

MPD officers will continue to issue \$100 traffic tickets to the driver of any vehicle where an officer observes either the driver or any passenger toss trash of any kind onto someone else's private property or onto any public space, such as streets, alleys, or sidewalks.

Questions

If you have questions, please contact Senior Police Officer Keith DuBeau (Monday – Friday, 8 am – 4 pm, at 202.345.1007 or Keith.dubeau@mpdc.gov).

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STREET CLOSURES PLANNED FOR CHERRY BLOSSOM 10-MILER

From March 20-April 12, 2015, the District of Columbia hosts the National Cherry Blossom Festival with activities throughout the city. The Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile Run is set for this Sunday, April 12, 2015. Most streets will be closed from approximately 7 am – 10:30 am. Street closures include Memorial Bridge, portions of Rock Creek Parkway, streets around the Tidal Basin and Ohio Drive in East Potomac Park. With approximately 15,000 runners registered for the race, traffic congestion is expected to be heavy and drivers are encouraged to plan accordingly. Using Metro transit is highly recommended for individuals participating in the race as well as those going to cheer on others.

- » For more information about the Cherry Blossom Ten Mile Run – including a map of associated street closures – go to: <http://www.cherryblossom.org/generalinfo/thebasics.php>

NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH GEARED TOWARD RAISING AWARENESS OF CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

Child abuse and neglect awareness activities are being promoted across the country during the month of April. Detectives in the Youth Investigations Division (YID) have received intensive training in recognizing and investigating child abuse. They work in conjunction with the United States Attorney Office, the Attorney General Office for the District of Columbia, the Children's National Medical Center, the Child & Family Services Agency, and the Child Advocacy Center to determine the best recourse for suspected cases of child abuse.

Child neglect occurs when a child has been abandoned or abused by his/her parent, guardian, or custodian. A child is entitled to a certain level of parental care or control, subsistence, education as required by law, or other care or control necessary for his/her physical, mental, or emotional health. A child regularly exposed to illegal drug-related activity in the home or who is born addicted or dependent on a controlled substance is also a victim of neglect.

All sworn members of the MPD are required to report child abuse and neglect. In addition to medical and school personnel, law enforcement officers are required to notify the YID or the Child CFSA if the member has reasonable cause to suspect that a child known to him/her in his/her professional or official capacity has been or is in immediate danger of being a mentally or physically abused or neglected child.

The best way to prevent child abuse and neglect is to get involved by promoting healthy families.

- » If you have concerns about a youth who may be abused or neglected, contact the Youth Investigations Division on: (202) 576-6768
- » Get more information on National Child Abuse Prevention Month and download the 2015 Prevention Resource Guide at: <https://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/preventionmonth/>

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>.

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

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