

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, May 1, 2015

DC POLICE MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM WORK TO REPAIR FOUNTAIN IN FRONT OF MPD HQ

Throughout the history of the District of Columbia, more than 125 law enforcement officers have given their lives in the line of duty. To date, 122 of those officers were members of the DC Metropolitan Police Department. The current memorial, which was erected in 1942, and has long suffered from neglect, has become sadly dilapidated.

In 2011, Retired Lieutenant Donald Blake put forth the idea that the memorial fountain that has sat in front of DC Metropolitan Police Headquarters since 1942, be repaired and made into a better memorial. He was motivated by not only creating a fitting memorial for those who had given their lives in the service of the city, but by the sad and uninviting condition of the memorial fountain as it was. From there, a memorial project committee was formed, but not without careful guidance and advice from Tom Gallagher, who has experience in project management. After identifying the appropriate stake holders, a board was established with the blessing of Chief of Police, Cathy Lanier.

The DC Police Memorial and Museum Project Board invites you to join us in creating a new memorial that will appropriately honor these fallen colleagues and in establishing a police museum to honor all those who serve the District of Columbia.

» Learn more about the DC Police Memorial and Museum at:
<http://dcpolicememorial.org/>



ALWAYS REMEMBERED. NEVER FORGOTTEN.

MPD OFFERS REMINDERS ABOUT PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

The Metropolitan Police Department would like to remind everyone to be aware of their surroundings to ensure the safe travels of other drivers and pedestrians on our city streets. Drivers are reminded to be vigilant in looking out for pedestrians. When walking or exercising, especially in the early morning or at dusk or dark, pedestrians should keep the following tips in mind:

- Stay on the sidewalk, not in the street; only cross the street in crosswalks with traffic control devices.
- Look both ways before crossing the street.
- Never run between cars into the street.
- Wear clothing that allows drivers and people to see you. That means no dark clothes after dark or early in the morning.
- Exercising outdoors at dusk or at night can be dangerous without some type of reflective device on your clothing. Many athletic shoes have reflective qualities built in, but also consider a vest complete with reflective tape.
- Keep alert! Dawn and dusk offer convenient shadows for muggers and other crooks
- Runners are also reminded to ALWAYS carry identification with them when they go out.
- If carrying a license seems too inconvenient, please consider purchasing an identification bracelet or tag for your shoe. Products designed especially for runners, bikers and other athletes are readily available. A simple internet search for "identification bracelet" will provide numerous results.

» The MPD offers safety tips for walkers, runners and bikers online at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/runners>

MAY IS MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

During “Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month,” all motorists are reminded to safely share the road with motorcycles and to be extra alert when driving to help keep motorcyclists safe.

With warmer weather here, more motorcycles are back on the roads. Drivers of all vehicles need to be extra alert. Motorcycles are some of the smallest vehicles on the road, so folks in other vehicles need to really look out for them—and to take extra care to safely share the road. Because of their smaller size, motorcyclists are often hidden in a vehicle’s blind spot. It’s crucial that motorists and bicyclists always make a visual check for motorcycles by checking mirrors and blind spots before entering or leaving a lane of traffic and at intersections.

Motorcyclists are much more vulnerable than passenger vehicle drivers in the event of a crash. Research shows that approximately 80 percent of motorcycle crashes injure or kill a motorcycle rider, while 20 percent of passenger car crashes injure or kill a driver or passenger in their vehicle.

Drivers can follow these tips to help keep motorcyclists safe on our roadways:

- Remember the motorcycle is a vehicle with all of the rights and privileges of any other motor vehicle on the roadway. Always allow a motorcyclist the full lane width—never try to share a lane;
- Always make a visual check for motorcycles by checking mirrors and blind spots before entering or leaving a lane of traffic and at intersections;
- Always signal your intentions before changing lanes or merging with traffic;
- Don’t be fooled by a flashing turn signal on a motorcycle – motorcycle signals are often not self-canceling and riders sometimes forget to turn them off. Wait to be sure the motorcycle is going to turn before you proceed;
- Remember that road conditions which are minor annoyances to other vehicles pose major hazards to motorcyclists;
- Allow more following distance, three or four seconds, when following a motorcycle, so the motorcyclist has enough time to maneuver or stop in an emergency. And don’t tailgate. In dry conditions, motorcycles can stop more quickly than cars.

Motorcyclists have responsibilities, too, by following the rules of the road, being alert to other drivers, and always wearing DOT-compliant helmets and protective gear.

The message to all drivers is: make this the first year in recent years when motorcycle fatalities do not increase. Help to share in the responsibility and do your part by safely sharing the road with motorcycles.

» Get more information on motorcycle safety at:

- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration – <http://www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/Motorcycles>
- Motorcycle Safety Foundation – <http://www.msf-usa.org/>

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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