

# WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



*Friday, May 22, 2015*

## PLAY IT SAFE WHEN USING YOUR VEHICLE THROUGHOUT THE HOLIDAY WEEKEND

During this holiday weekend, and throughout the summer, many drivers will be hitting the road to reach the destinations of their choice – be it a vacation getaway or a day at a friend's barbecue. Regardless of where you go, if you drive, remember to do so responsibly. Police will be out in force over the holiday trying to keep the streets and highways safe. They'll be enforcing all the rules of the road, so it's important that all drivers out there remember to obey the law. This means absolutely no drinking and driving and no aggressive driving. Everyone in the vehicle should also be properly buckled up whenever the vehicle is moving. Alcohol-related crashes result in thousands of fatalities every year. The legal limit for Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) in DC is .08 percent. It's illegal for anyone to have a BAC over that limit; however, if a person under the age of 21 is found to be operating a motor vehicle with ANY measurable amount of alcohol, he or she will be placed under arrest and charged with Driving While Intoxicated (DWI).

Aggressive driving is described as a combination of unsafe and unlawful actions that demonstrate a conscious and willful disregard for safety, including offenses such as running red lights and stop signs; following too closely, or tailgating; changing lanes unsafely; failing to yield the right of way; improper passing; and speeding. Don't let your anger get the best of you if you're driving. Always allow extra travel time, because traffic congestion — and the related delays — is among the primary factors that lead motorists to drive aggressively. By leaving extra travel time, you will be less inclined to drive aggressively in order to make up for time lost in congestion.

Remember to signal your intentions, concentrate on your driving (not your cell phone, stereo, passengers, or other distractions), and extend common courtesy to other drivers at all times. Finally, keep everyone in your car safe by reminding them to wear their seatbelts. Drivers will be pulled over, ticketed, and fined for not obeying the seat belt laws. Penalties include the assessment points on your driver's license and fines ranging from \$50 to \$150 for offenses.

## DISTRICT OPENS POOLS, OFFERS MORE WAYS TO BEAT SUMMER BOREDOM

Memorial Day is upon us and the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) will open DPR's 19 outdoor swimming pools, 4 children's pools and 24 spray parks for the 2015 summer season starting on Saturday, May 23 at 12 pm. The District's outdoor aquatic facilities will remain open the entire Memorial Day weekend - Saturday, Sunday and Monday - from 12 pm until 6 pm. Weekend hours will continue through June 14; pools will be open on weekdays starting Saturday, June 20. District residents (must show accepted proof of residency) swim free of charge at all DPR pools, non-District residents must pay a fee.

With large outdoor pools, indoor pools, and even walk-to-learn pools for young children, the summer heat is no excuse for not joining in the fun. But remember to exercise caution when cooling off. Parents should ensure that young children are equipped with the proper flotation

» Penalties for drinking and driving include fines, suspended licenses, and jail time. Get details on the offenses and penalties at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/dui>

» Each year, the MPD participates in the Smooth Operator program, targeted at reducing the number of aggressive drivers on the road. Get details on the program as well as ten basic rules of courtesy and safety while driving at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/smoothoperator>

» Remember: Click It or Ticket runs through May 25. Buckle up and encourage your loved ones to do the same. You'll save the cost of a ticket and may even save a life. To learn more about Click It or Ticket, visit:  
<http://www.DCRoadRules.com>

» Every child under the age of eight years of age must be properly seated in an installed infant, convertible (toddler), or booster child seat. For details on Child Safety Seat violations and penalties go to:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/childrestraintlaw>

» For the locations of all of the District's indoor and outdoor swimming facilities, see:  
<http://dpr.dc.gov/page/aquatic-facilities>

» Get more information about DC summer programs at the Department of Parks and Recreation at:  
<http://dpr.dc.gov>

devices and basic understanding of water safety. All children should be supervised when swimming. Adults should avoid drinking alcohol before a visit to the pool. Most pools will be open to the public seven days a week.

## MPD'S MISSING PERSONS GUIDE OFFERS TIPS FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

National Missing Children's Day was first proclaimed in 1983 by President Ronald Reagan and is observed every year on May 25, the anniversary of the disappearance of Etan Patz, to encourage parents, guardians, caregivers and others concerned with the well-being of children to make child safety a priority. On National Missing Children's Day this year, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children is asking people to share the poster of a missing child in their state. Just one small act can bring a child home safe. Sharing a child's image is law enforcement's single most effective tool in recovering missing children.

On May 25, the nation will observe National Missing Children's Day, a time to remember America's missing children and to encourage vigilance in protecting our youth. To support parents and guardians, the MPD has a comprehensive Missing Persons Guide. The online guide provides helpful advice and resources for parents and guardians whose children are missing. The guide stresses that the first 48 hours following a missing person or runaway episode are the most important in locating a child. While many runaway children return home – or, in the case of missing children, are located – during this period, it is critical to take every action available to help locate and safeguard our children. Parents are reminded not wait 48 hours to report your child missing. There is no time limit that you must wait to report a person as missing, whether he or she is considered missing or a runaway. And, contrary to some commonly held beliefs, police do not wait a designated period of time (such as 24 or 48 hours) to begin investigating a missing person report. The Missing Persons Guide includes instructions on what to do immediately if you believe your child is missing. The online guide also includes information on what preparations to take ahead of time, which will assist investigators if your child does become missing. It also includes valuable telephone numbers and other resources.

### REPORTING YOUR MISSING CHILD

We know that finding your loved one is your greatest priority. We are here to help. To aid us in returning your child to you safely, we will need to confirm the child's identity. If your child has dental and medical records, please follow the steps below.

**Visit** this website — [www.mpd.dc.gov/missing](http://www.mpd.dc.gov/missing)

**Ask** your child's dentist and pediatrician/doctor to complete the appropriate sections in the NCIC Missing Person File Data Collection Entry Guide, a 36-page booklet that can be completed online

**Bring** the completed form to MPD's Missing Person Section, located at 1700 Rhode Island Avenue, NE (202) 576-6768 or [missing.persons@dc.gov](mailto:missing.persons@dc.gov)



- » The MPD offers a number of helpful links providing guidance on keeping your kids safe online. Learn more at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/page/fun-and-safe-kids>
- » The MPD's Missing Persons Guide is available online at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/missing>
- » Get information on National Missing Children's Day at: <http://www.missingkids.com>
- » Parents and guardians are encouraged to create a child ID kit and to update it at least once a year. Download a kit at: <http://www.missingkids.com/publications/ChildIDKit>
- » **There's an APP for that!** Use your iPhone or Android to manage the ID information on your children. Just search "FBI Child ID" and download the app. The app is free, and, in the event a child goes missing, parents and guardians can quickly e-mail the photos and information to authorities. No information about you or your child will be collected or stored by the FBI or iTunes.
- » While the vast majority of abductions involve a family member or someone who is known to the child, it's important to talk to your children often about safety and avoiding risky situations. Helpful tips for parents are available at: <http://www.kidsmart.org/ParentTips>

### NEWS & NOTES

#### Also Noteworthy

**DPW Truck Touch Set for 6/6.** Join DPW and members of the MPD for the 8th annual "Truck Touch" on Saturday, June 6, from 8 am to 1 pm at RFK Stadium, Lot 1. Get more information at <http://dpw.dc.gov/page/truck-touch-2015>.

**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](mailto:kaylin.castelli@dc.gov)

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