

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, March 11, 2016

MPD ANNOUNCES THE THIRD COHORT OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACADEMY

The Metropolitan Police Department announced the beginning of the third cohort of the Community Engagement Academy on March 9, 2015. The program allows interested community members to learn firsthand about police operations by joining a twenty-eight hour training program for the duration of six weeks. The following list below highlights some aspects of this initiative.

» For more information about the program or if interested in participating, please visit: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/page/community-engagement-academy>

Overview of the Recruit Training Program

- Common Policing Scenarios and Challenges
- Juvenile Issues and Youth Investigations
- Overview of Patrol Services and Station Tour
- Overview of Specialized Policing Units (e.g., K-9, bomb squad, harbor patrol)
- Use of Force Discussion
- Discussion on Relevant Policing Topics with Command Staff Members



Through the Community Engagement Academy, MPD seeks to provide participants with a personal view of both positive aspects and challenges that confront police members on a daily basis.

WITH THE ARRIVAL OF DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME, MPD OFFERS REMINDERS ABOUT PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

It's time to "spring forward" and change your clocks this Sunday. Sure, you may "lose" an hour of sleep and your morning routine might be a little darker, but the extra daylight as the five-o'clock hour approaches may inspire you to get outside and enjoy some early evening activities.

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:

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

» For more safety tips for you and your children, call (202) 234-9404 or see the DC action for Children website at: <http://www.dckids.org>

- 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. New products designed especially for runners, bikers and other athletes have recently come on the market. A simple internet search for “identification bracelet” will provide numerous results.

HAS WARM WEATHER INSPIRED DREAMS OF SAILING THE POTOMAC? TAKE MPD’S BOATING SAFETY COURSE AND BE PREPARED

The DC Harbor Patrol is a critical, but largely unknown, part of the Metropolitan Police Department. The Harbor Patrol polices all of the rivers, inlets, and waterways that majestically surround our nation’s capital. The 20-member unit encounters the same types of incidents that occur on DC streets including disorderly conduct, loud music, domestic violence, high-speed chases, and robbery suspects.



The Harbor Patrol has immense responsibilities: it oversees the marinas, regulates fishing and game, and makes sure boats are safe and meet safety regulations. The Patrol’s main priority is to provide assistance if anyone gets into trouble on the water. The most common occurrences are capsized canoes or boats, caused by high winds, bad weather, or careless boaters. Most of the time, the well-trained team makes an easy rescue. There are a lot of roadways that run right along the side of the river. The most dangerous job that the Harbor Patrol faces is a rescue from a car in the water. The divers work against the clock and operate a four-man team—the primary diver; a time-keeper, who makes sure there is air in the tanks; a communications officer, who gives directions and uses sonar; and a back-up diver, who rescues the primary diver if he becomes entangled.

The Harbor Patrol also prepares boaters in the District of Columbia by offering a Boating Safety Course. This free one-day, 8-hour boating safety course is available throughout the year. It is designed to educate boaters of the legal requirements, navigational rules, safety equipment, risks of boating accidents, and other issues pertaining to safe boating. Anyone operating a vessel on District of Columbia waterways is required to have a Boating Safety Certificate. The Boating Safety Certificate is issued to individuals who successfully complete the Boating Safety course.

- » Learn more about the MPD’s Harbor Patrol online at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/harborpatrol>
- » Boating Safety courses are offered by Harbor Patrol throughout the year. To see the schedule and for information on registering for a course, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/boatingsafetycourses>
- » Need to renew your vessel registration? The MPD’s Online Vessel Registration System (OVERS) lets you complete the process from the comfort of your own home... or boat:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/overs>

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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