

# WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, April 8, 2016

## HELP MPD IDENTIFY RECKLESS ATV OPERATORS IN DC

The Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD's) Criminal Intelligence has gathered close to 250 photos of individuals recklessly driving dirt bikes and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) on the streets of the District of Columbia. These types of vehicles are dangerous to pedestrians and other motorists and are illegal to operate on DC's streets.

The MPD is seeking the public's assistance in identifying the operators of these vehicles as well as any locations where the vehicles are being stored. A reward of \$250 is being offered for information on each person identified.

To share a tip, contact the Command Information Center at (202) 727-9099 with your information. The tip must lead to a successful confiscation and identification of the driver/operator of the vehicle.



- » View photos of close to 250 illegal dirt bike operators at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/page/help-mpd-identify-reckless-atv-operators-dc>
- » Through "Bonus 2 Phone Us," MPD is offering a reward of \$250 for information on illegal ATVs and dirt-bikes. Get more information at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/b2pu>
- » Learn the rules about operating minibikes and other small vehicles in the District of Columbia at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/page/minibikes-and-other-small-vehicles>

## MPD'S HARBOR PATROL SAVES 16 PEOPLE FROM POTOMAC RIVER

Warm weather and cherry blossom season has inspired many to start their water activities early. Last month, the Potomac instantly became populated with fishers, rowers, kayakers, and boaters enjoying Mother Nature's rewards. Whether it is hot or cold, the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Harbor Patrol continues to monitor the waterways in the District. Their main priority is to provide assistance during occurrences such as capsized canoes or boats caused by high winds, bad weather, or careless boaters.



- » More information on the MPD's Harbor Patrol and safety tips can be found at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/page/harbor-patrol>

The Harbor Patrol is prepared for unexpected occurrences such as these, including the incident that emerged on Monday, March 28, 2016, at approximately 1:14 pm. Underneath the 14th Street Bridge in the Potomac River, two small racing shells, along with a motor boat that belonged to a local high school, were participating in a practice race.

"High winds quickly made the water choppy and the boat suddenly capsized in the water," said Special Operations Division (SOD), Commander Jeffery Carroll. "The weather was a major factor and may have contributed to the accident." The Harbor Unit falls under the SOD, which provides support during patrol operations. They develop special tactics and deploy specially

trained personnel in unusual law enforcement situations and events.

“That day, the well-trained team made an extraordinary rescue,” continued Carroll.

The Districts of Columbia’s Public Safety team, including MPD’s Harbor Patrol, DC Fire and Emergency Medical Service, and the U.S. Coast Guard’s swift actions saved the lives of 16 people.

“The MPD’s Harbor Patrol, along with DC Fire Department’s Fireboats responded with our boats and rescued everyone out of the water safely,” said Carroll. “The US Coast Guard, US Coast Guard helicopter, and Maryland State helicopter also assisted on the scene to locate the rowers in the water.”

The passengers were all accounted for and no injuries were reported. All of the passengers were also evaluated as a precautionary measure.

The DC Harbor Patrol is a critical, part of the MPD. The Harbor Patrol polices all of the rivers, inlets, and waterways that surround our nation’s capital. The 18-member unit encounters the same types of incidents that occur on DC streets, including: disorderly conduct, loud music, domestic violence, high-speed chases, and robberies.

The Harbor Patrol has immense responsibilities. They oversee the marina, regulate fishing, and ensure boats meet safety standards. With many roadways that run along the Potomac River, there have been numerous vehicles that have needed assistance. The most dangerous job that the Harbor Patrol faces is a rescue from a car in the water.

## AS SPRING ARRIVES, MPD WARNS RESIDENT TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR CON ARTISTS

While spring means the blooming of the cherry blossoms and other plants, it can also bring out con artists and other criminals seeking to profit from unsuspecting victims. Some of the most common cons and swindles this time of year are bogus home repair offers, fraudulent door-to-door charities, and individuals posing as police officers or bank investigators who claim to be investigating fraudulent tellers or counterfeit schemes. DC residents are urged to be wary of any “something-for-nothing” offers. Always ask for offers in writing, read over all contracts before you sign, and never agree to “cash-only” deals. Do not hesitate to check the credentials of anyone who comes to your door. Ask to see official identification and inspect it carefully. Legitimate organizations – especially real police officers – will not hesitate to comply. And if you have been victimized by a con artist, please call the police and report it. This is the only way that law enforcement can detect patterns and identify and apprehend offenders.

» For more information about con games and swindles, click on:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/scams>

### 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>.

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

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