

# WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



*Friday, February 25, 2011*

## EMAIL LIST GROUPS HELP STRENGTHEN ONLINE COMMUNITY

The MPD police-community Yahoo discussion groups were created for members of the community so they could share public safety information in an effort to help reduce crime and the fear of crime. Information shared on the email list groups include community announcements, meeting dates, crime statistics, safety concerns and ideas, crime reports, and safety tips. The listserv also acts as a virtual community, which helps strengthen partnerships between the local police and the communities they serve. It provides yet another means of visibility and accessibility for the community.

The email discussion groups are designed to attract area residents, employees, students, business owners, elected officials, and government agency representatives interested in coming together to solve problems and share public safety-related information that will improve the quality of life in each police district. It provides an opportunity for all stakeholders and DC service providers to engage in ongoing online interaction with police, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, holidays and weekends.

Information posted to the groups is intended to benefit members of a specific police district. If you don't know your police district, you can find out by visiting access the DC Guide to easily locate a PSA and other resources within a geographic area.

Successes of the police email discussion groups include:

- Faster dissemination of information, especially community meetings and events.
- Assistance with identifying and taking action against nuisance properties.
- Successful collaborations among community groups, elected officials and police.
- Greater assistance with lookouts — from missing persons and pets to found property
- Recognizing good work and identifying areas of service that need improvement.
- Gauging the community's concerns.
- Developing relationships, especially when a police district gets a new commander or new patrol officers
- Identifying community leaders and activists, who are eager to join the group to let their voices be heard.
- Sharing information between districts.
- Expanded communications (MPD postings are regularly shared with other large community online groups, with the potential of reaching 20,000 online users in one day.)

» For more information or the to get the Yahoo group name of your district listserv, go to <http://mpdc.dc.gov/listserv>



## FIGHT GRAFFITI WITH MURALS: COMMERCIAL PROPERTY OWNERS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE

Graffiti is a major problem in the District of Columbia. If not removed, graffiti can cause blight, increase criminal activity in the surrounding neighborhoods, reduce property values, and give the impression that the District is not committed to providing clean and safe environments for residents and visitors.

The DC Department of Public Works (DPW) and the DC Commission on Arts is making plans to launch MuralsDC 2011 to help replace illegal graffiti with artistic works and to provide youth with a legal means to exhibit their talent in a way that promotes respect for public and private property and community awareness.

Once the program has officially launched, DPW will post a Call for Mural Sites, with the hope of installing six to ten murals in repeatedly tagged areas throughout the summer of 2011. This is a great opportunity for commercial properties to address what has been a chronic problem.

The Call for Sites will be open to all commercial property owners donating property in the District of Columbia. Sites for MuralsDC must be a chronic target of graffiti and highly visible from the street. Site owners must consent to donate wall space for at least one year by signing an Authorization and Release form. MuralsDC has proven to be highly effective in ending chronic tagging on properties.

## CONNECT WITH DC GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE DIGITAL PUBLIC SQUARE

DC's Digital Public Square is an online networking and information service with helpful links to DC government social media pages, data catalogs and more. The Digital Public Square offers free downloads of popular data sets like DC Index Crime Data from the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and live data feeds of crime incidents and arrests. Users can also create custom downloads through the Digital Public Square. Users can also create their own visualizations using DC datasets. Users can create and share a variety of data visualizations. The site provides links to some interactive graphs and charts created based on DC datasets. You can create your own visualization using already uploaded datasets or slice and dice data the way no one did before.

- » Connect with DC through the Digital Public Square at:  
<http://dps.dc.gov/>
- » Visit MPD's website to get up-to-date information on homicides, arrests and firearm recoveries in DC, annual official crime statistics for recent years, or preliminary monthly statistics for the current year at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/crimestats>

### NEWS & NOTES

#### Also Noteworthy

**Support the Washington DC Police Foundation.** The Washington DC Police Foundation is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization that brings together the business, civic, and other professional communities to promote public safety by

providing financial and in-kind resources to the MPD, expanding public safety awareness, and advancing public safety policy and initiatives. Learn more about the extraordinary support the Washington DC Police Foundation provides to the MPD. Learn more about the Foundation at <http://www.dcpolicefoundation.org>.

**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>.

- » Get more information on MuralsDC 2011 at:  
<http://muralsdc.org>
- » Commercial property owner wishing to receive an application to have a wall considered for MuralsDC can do so by sending email to:  
[nancee.lyons@dc.gov](mailto:nancee.lyons@dc.gov)

### DATA BOX

<b>Homicides</b>	as of 2/25/11
2011: 14	
2010: 13	
% Change: 7.6%	
Closure Rate: 57% (8 closures)	
<b>Adult Arrests</b>	week end. 2/19/11
Total Arrests: 897	
Weapons: 11	
Robbery: 17	
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 9	
Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 30	
Narcotics: 216	
<b>Juvenile Activity</b>	week end. 2/19/11
Total Arrests: 51	
Weapons: 2	
Robbery: 9	
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 1	
Narcotics: 4	
<b>Firearm Recoveries</b>	as of 2/21/11
February: 97	
2011 Total: 390	
<b>Traffic Fatalities</b>	as of 2/25/11
2011: 5	
2010: 3	
% Change: 66.7%	

#### 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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