

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, May 20, 2011

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

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.

- » 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>

CALL OR TEXT THE MPD'S ANONYMOUS CRIME TIP LINES

Concerned community members are encouraged to call 888-919-CRIME or text 50411 to anonymously provide crime information to the MPD.

The toll free crime tip line — 1-888-919-CRIME — is staffed by detectives 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Anyone who has information concerning a homicide, gangs, guns, or other violent offenses can call the anonymous tip line, and a detective will report all information. The toll-free number will also be displayed on L.E.D. boards in patrol cars throughout the District. This toll-free tip line is part of an ongoing effort to devise innovative ways to further reduce violence in the District, which has declined in recent years.

Additionally, community members can now use their cell phones to anonymously text tips to the Metropolitan Police Department.

Give 5-0 the 4-1-1 with the new Text Tip Line: 50411. Text messages are monitored by members of the department 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Tips are then analyzed and passed on to the appropriate unit or division for follow up. Because the tip line is anonymous, the sender will not receive a response to the original message.

Neither of these anonymous tips lines is an emergency number. If you witness a crime in progress or have an emergency that requires the police, please call 9-1-1.

- » Get more information on the MPD's anonymous crime tip lines at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/tipline>
- » Other important numbers include:
MPD Gun Recovery Unit: Gun Recovery Unit Task Force, 698-5662
24-Hour Violent Crime Tip Line: Crime Tip-line (888) 919-crime
24-Hour Crime Tip Text Number: Text: 50411
Emergency: 9-1-1
Mayor's Call Center: 3-1-1

SHARE THE ROAD: TIPS FOR DRIVERS, CYCLISTS, AND PEDESTRIANS

On average, 265 bicycle and 600 pedestrian crashes are reported to the Metropolitan Police Department each year in the District of Columbia. Approximately 2,700 pedestrians and bicyclists are injured every year in the Washington region, and 89 are killed. Pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities accounted for 23% of the total traffic fatalities in the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland and northern Virginia from 2004-2008. What's disappointing is that many of these fatalities could have been avoided. By exercising some common sense and extending some common courtesies, future tragedies can be avoided. The following tips should help drivers, bikers and walkers share the road and get where they're going safely.

Tips for Drivers - Drivers are reminded to turn on vehicle headlights at dusk and be vigilant in looking out for cyclists and pedestrians. Additionally, drivers should:

- Stop for pedestrians at crosswalks.
- Slow down and obey the posted speed limit.
- Yield to pedestrians and cyclists when turning.
- Look before opening your door.
- Be careful when passing stopped vehicles.
- Allow three feet when passing bicyclists.

Tips for Cyclists - When travelling on city streets, cyclists should follow the same rules of the road as motorized vehicles. This means stopping at stop signs; obeying traffic signals and lane markings; and using hand signals to let others know your intention to stop or turn. Furthermore, cyclists are advised to be aware of their surroundings:

- Don't wear headphones; you need to be able to hear if a car is approaching.
- Slow down and check for oncoming traffic before entering any street or intersection.
- Do your best to anticipate hazards and adjust your position in traffic accordingly.
- Be predictable: ride with the flow of traffic, on the right, and in a straight line – not in and out of parked cars on the side of the street.

Tips for Walkers and Runners - Whether you're going for an afternoon stroll, commuting to work on foot, or getting some exercise, walking and running are great activities. However, it's important to pay attention. 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.

- » Tips for drivers, bikers and pedestrians are available on the Street Smart website: <http://www.beststreetsmart.net>
- » Get more Smart Bicycling Tips from Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA): <http://www.waba.org/areabiking/safecycling/>
- » Get cycling tips and hand signals from the Street Smart Campaign: <http://www.beststreetsmart.net/bike.php>
- » Get more walking and running tips at: mpdc.dc.gov/runners
- » Aggressive driving is a combination of unsafe and unlawful actions that demonstrate a conscious and willful disregard for safety. If you witness aggressive driving, report it. Learn more about aggressive driving at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/smoothoperator>

| DATA BOX | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Homicides | as of 5/20/11 |
| 2011: 40 | |
| 2010: 37 | |
| % Change: 7.5% | |
| Closure Rate: 70% (28 closures) | |
| Adult Arrests | week end. 5/14/11 |
| Total Arrests: 872 | |
| Weapons: 21 | |
| Robbery: 7 | |
| Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 12 | |
| Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 10 | |
| Narcotics: 165 | |
| Juvenile Activity | week end. 5/14/11 |
| Total Arrests: 80 | |
| Weapons: 7 | |
| Robbery: 9 | |
| Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 5 | |
| Narcotics: 3 | |
| Firearm Recoveries | as of 5/16/11 |
| May: 59 | |
| 2011 Total: 689 | |
| Traffic Fatalities | as of 5/20/11 |
| 2011: 13 | |
| 2010: 12 | |
| % Change: 0.7% | |

NEWS & NOTES

Also Noteworthy

Join the MPD Reserve Corps. The MPD Reserve Corps, a volunteer policing program is seeking new members. Applications are now being accepted at <http://dcpolice.jobs>.

Preventing terrorism is everybody's

business. If you SEE something, SAY something. Call the Metropolitan Police Department at (202) 727-9099 to report suspicious activity or behavior that has already occurred. Call 911 to report in-progress threats or emergencies. Learn more about steps you can take to help fight terrorism at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/operationTIPP>.

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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