

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, June 3, 2011

SECURE YOUR BICYCLE TO REDUCE THE RISK OF THEFT

Bicycling is a great form of exercise and it helps reduce pollution. It's fun for both adults and children. Whether you use a bicycle to get to and from school, for your daily work commute, or for exercise, it is important that you always secure it when it's not being used. Recently, the Metropolitan Police Department has seen an increase in the number bicycle thefts in the city. In an effort to prevent thefts and to aid in the recovery of stolen bicycles, the MPD offers the following simple suggestions.

- Invest in a quality lock and use it whenever you are not riding the bicycle.
- Lock your bicycle in an area that is well-lit.
- If you are not going to use your bicycle for a significant period of time, locate a place (preferably inside) where you can safely secure it.
- Document the following information about your bicycle: make, size and serial number. Store this information in a safe place. The serial number is found underneath the bicycle between the crank arms and the bottom bracket. Keep all receipts for your bicycle, including the purchase receipt and repair receipts; these will help provide proof of ownership if your bicycle is stolen.
- Register your bicycle with the National Bike Registry.

While bicycle registration is no longer required in the District of Columbia, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and the MPD strongly encourage residents to register their bicycles with the National Bicycle Registry (NBR). NBR is a service that allows you to register your bicycle by serial number in a national database. If your bike is ever stolen, it can be identified and you can prove ownership. Law enforcement anywhere can access this database. NBR also guarantees your registration. If your bike is stolen and not recovered by police within six months, NBR will register your next bike for free and the stolen bike information will remain in the database until the bike is recovered no matter how long it takes.

JUNE IS INTERNET SAFETY MONTH

Recognizing a need to "educate the people of the United States on the dangers of the Internet and the importance of being safe and responsible online," Congress designated June as National Internet Safety month. As Internet use in the United States continues to rise, so does the concern over Internet safety. Internet crimes — including cyber-stalking, cyber-bullying, child pornography, Internet fraud, and identity theft — are problems that

Internet users now face. Fortunately, despite all of the opportunities for criminals to use the Internet to prey on their victims, there are also many techniques and precautions that Internet users, children and adults, can take to avoid victimization and maintain privacy online. In recognition of National Internet Safety Month, the National Criminal Justice Reference Service has prepared a compilation of Internet safety resources.

- » Read the MPD's frequently asked questions on registering your bike in the District of Columbia at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/bikereg>
- » Get details on the bike helmet law in DC at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/bikesafety>
- » The MPD offers theft prevention tips as well as a variety of other tips on ways to protect yourself and your property. Check out all of our safety tips online at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/safety>

- » To learn more and access these free resources, go to: <http://www.ncjrs.org/internetsafety>
- » Identity theft remains one of the most common Internet crimes. Useful information on preventing identity theft is available at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/identitytheft>

POOLS, SPRAY PARKS IN DC OFFER WAYS TO STAY COOL AND BEAT SUMMER BOREDOM

With the temperatures heating up, DC is pleased to announce that all outdoor pools managed by the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) opened last weekend to kick off the outdoor summer swimming season. Weekend and holiday hours of operation for outdoor pools are 12 pm until 6 pm. Outdoor pools will be open on weekends only until school lets out for the summer, and then all outdoor pools will be open six days a week (closed one day per week for cleaning and maintenance). With 19 large outdoor pools, seven indoor pools, and even six 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 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.

In addition to pools, the DPR now has six Spray Parks, located at the Columbia Heights Community Center, Friendship Recreation Center, Lafayette Recreation Center, Palisades Community Center, Petworth Recreation Center, and Riggs LaSalle Community Center. Spray Parks are safe and unique play areas where water is sprayed from structures or ground sprays and then drained away before it can accumulate. Spray Parks offer an exciting and alternative way to cool off and have fun. Check the Department of Parks and Recreation website for hours of operation.

TRAVELING THIS SUMMER? HELP KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE AND SECURE WHILE YOU'RE AWAY

Burglars can strike at almost any time and on almost any target. But burglars particularly like targets that look vulnerable. So if you're traveling this summer, make sure you take a few minutes to plan how to help keep your home and your possessions secure while you're away. The primary goal is to make your home look "lived in" (almost all burglars prefer homes where residents clearly aren't home). That means arranging to have your newspaper deliveries stopped and your mail collected by a trusted neighbor. If you're going to be away for a couple of weeks, it may be a good idea to have someone mow your lawn. It's probably best not to put your garbage cans out for pickup—or, alternatively, arrange to have a neighbor take in your can after the collection date. Empty trash cans left at the curb or in an alley for several days can be a sure-fire sign that no one is home. Inside, set timers to turn on lights—as well as radio or television sets—in various rooms at various times of the day. And don't change your voice mail message or your email reply to indicate that you are "out of town."

- » For the hours of operation at all of the District's aquatic facilities – including indoor and outdoor pools and the spray parks – see: <http://dpr.dc.gov>
- » Get more information about the DC Summer Fun programs of the Department of Parks and Recreation. Details at: <http://summeryouthprogram.dc.gov/>

- » Learn more burglary prevention tips that you can use throughout the year at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/burglary>

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 6/3/11
2011: 47	
2010: 43	
% Change: 9.3%	
Closure Rate: 72% (34 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 5/28/11
Total Arrests: 1,010	
Weapons: 17	
Robbery: 22	
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 10	
Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 10	
Narcotics: 199	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 5/28/11
Total Arrests: 75	
Weapons: 3	
Robbery: 7	
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 4	
Narcotics: 3	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 5/30/11
May: 134	
2011 Total: 764	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 6/3/11
2011: 15	
2010: 12	
% Change: 2%	

NEWS & NOTES

Also Noteworthy

MPD Meetings on Police Boundary Realignment Set to Begin June 7. The MPD will discuss plans to improve the delivery of police services in the District of Columbia beginning on June 7, 2011 at the First District.

See the complete schedule of meetings at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/districts>.

Street Closures this Weekend. The Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure is set to take place along the National Mall on Saturday, June 4. Traffic congestion in the vicinity is expected to be extremely heavy. Visitors to the Mall are encouraged to use Metro.

Citywide Neighborhood Watch Training Set for June 13. MPD will be hosting a Citywide Neighborhood Watch Training Session in the Sixth District in partnership with the Citizens Advisory Council. For more information, visit <http://www.mpdc.dc.gov/NeighborhoodWatch>.

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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