

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, July 15, 2011

DC PREPARES FOR NATIONAL NIGHT OUT ON AUGUST 3

On Tuesday, August 2, thousands of DC residents are expected to join with their neighbors, police officers and other community leaders in celebrating National Night Out (NNO). From community cookouts to open houses – block parties, candlelight vigils and athletic events — DC is gearing up for the 28th annual celebration of “America’s Night Out Against Crime.” The citywide kickoff will begin at 6 pm at the Deanwood Recreation Center in the Sixth District. Public safety characters McGruff the Crime Dog® and the National Knight® will be available to meet attendees and have their photos taken. In addition to the numerous activities taking place at the kickoff event, communities across DC — in all seven police districts — have scheduled NNO events during the late afternoon and evening hours.



- » For more information on National Night Out in DC, including a complete list of events scheduled to take place in the seven police districts, go to: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/NNO>.
- » Even if you can't participate in an organized National Night Out event, you can still be involved. Residents are encouraged to turn on their exterior lights on the evening of August 2 — as a show of neighborhood solidarity against crime. Learn more about NNO at: <http://www.nno.org>

National Night Out is an annual event, sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch, that takes place on the first Tuesday in August. Each year, the Metropolitan Police Department actively participates in National Night Out by rallying community members throughout the District of Columbia to join with neighbors and police officers in their PSAs to be a part of this annual event.

The National Night Out campaign involves citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials from 9,500 communities from all 50 states, US territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide.

SUMMER IS A GOOD TIME TO PRACTICE BURGLARY PREVENTION

With many of us enjoying outdoor activities this summer, the chances of getting careless—and giving burglars an opportunity to strike—are, unfortunately, increased.

With the warm weather, both homeowners and apartment dwellers may be tempted to leave their doors unlocked or their windows open. Common excuses are that they are going outside for “only a few minutes” or they will “only be in the backyard.” But it only takes a few minutes for a burglar to enter a home through an unlocked door or an open window. Throughout the year, but especially during the summer, residents are reminded to have good locks installed on their doors—and to use them all the time, especially when they leave their homes. Ground-floor windows should be closed and locked when residents leave their homes, and window locks are recommended on all windows at all times. In addition, homeowners should keep ladders secured—preferably in a locked garage—at all times. Some burglars have been known to use a resident’s ladder to enter a second-story window. Most of all, residents are encouraged to look out for one another and call the police if they seem anything suspicious.

- » For a complete list of burglary prevention tips: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/burglary>
- » Traveling this summer? Make sure you install light timers, have your mail and newspapers picked up, and take other steps to make your home looks “lived in” while you are gone.

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. Weather 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. 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.

» 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>

DATA BOX	
Homicides	as of 7/15/11
2011: 60	
2010: 66	
% Change: -7.3%	
Closure Rate: 78.3% (47 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 7/9/11
Total Arrests: 1,271	
Weapons: 25	
Robbery: 10	
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 14	
Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 22	
Narcotics: 246	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 7/9/11
Total Arrests: 41	
Weapons: 0	
Robbery: 1	
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 3	
Narcotics: 4	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 7/11/11
July: 44	
2011 Total: 960	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 7/8/11
2011: 22	
2010: 15	
% Change: 46.7%	

NEWS & NOTES

Also Noteworthy

Drug Free Zone in Effect in the Sixth District. Metropolitan Police are enforcing DC's anti-loitering law in designated a designated area in PSA 604. Get details online <http://mpdc.dc.gov/dfz>.

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>.

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>.

Information, ideas, or comments about this service?

Send an e-mail to **KAYLIN CASTELLI**, Manager of Internet Communications, at kaylin.castelli@dc.gov

Would you like *What's New in the MPD* emailed to you each week?

Register with DC.Gov at <http://dc.gov/DC/Subscribe/Email+Alerts>

LEARN MORE AT
mpdc.dc.gov