

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, July 22, 2011

MPD WARNS OF NEW SCHEME AIMED AT DEFRAUDING ELDERLY

The Metropolitan Police Department wants to alert members of the community — particularly senior citizens — of a recent advance fee scheme being reported in our area. The perpetrators begin by approaching elderly individuals to offer jobs for \$100 a day. They then get the elder to open a bank account with \$50 the schemer provides them. Afterwards, the perpetrator drives the elder around to buy goods with the elder's new checking account, often for items valued much more than the original \$50 — sometimes racking up thousands of dollars in expenses. When the issuing bank seeks repayment for the expenditures over the initial \$50, the elderly victim is left with the balance, unable to pay. Residents are advised to be alert to the potential for scams such as this and others in which they can become easy targets. If an opportunity seems implausible, it is probably best avoided. The old saying that "if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is" definitely applies here.

» For more information and tips on ways to avoid being the victim of common fraud schemes, visit the FBI's website at:

<http://www.fbi.gov/scams-safety/fraud>

» Senior citizens are frequently the target of fraud schemes. Learn more about ways to aid your elderly neighbors and family members at:

<http://www2.fbi.gov/majcases/fraud/seniorsfam.htm>

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OFFERS GRAFFITI REMOVAL SERVICES

Graffiti is generally described as a drawing or inscription made on any exterior surface—from street signs to sidewalks—for the purpose of being seen by the public. The inscription can be rudimentary or elaborate, colorful or plain black. Gang members use graffiti to define territory and intimidate rivals.

In an effort to keep the District clean and attractive, the DC Department of Public Works (DPW) deploys graffiti removal crews to clean graffiti from public space and private property, such as sidewalks, bridges and exterior walls. When power washing is impractical, our crews resort to more low-tech methods, such as simply painting over the graffiti. "Tags," those spray-painted black squiggles sometimes found on traffic signs, fences or metal garage doors, are often removed with chemical-treated cleaning cloths.

Owners of private property may request graffiti removal services from the city. Although the service is free, property owners must read and sign a graffiti removal waiver of liability form (pictured above). Unfortunately, DPW can't guarantee that the graffiti will be completely removed by chemical means.

Additionally, since paint colors offered by the city are limited to four or five basic shades, homeowners may want to try painting out graffiti themselves. To request graffiti removal on private property and/or to get a waiver form, contact the Mayor's Citywide Call Center at 311.

» For more information on graffiti removal by the DPW, including the information you should provide for service and hours of operation, go to:

<http://dpw.dc.gov>

» To request graffiti removal on private property and/or to get a waiver form, contact the Mayor's Citywide Call Center at 311.

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.

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.

- » 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>

| DATA BOX | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Homicides | as of 7/22/11 |
| 2011: 62 | |
| 2010: 69 | |
| % Change: -10.1% | |
| Closure Rate: 82.3% (51 closures) | |
| Adult Arrests | week end. 7/16/11 |
| Total Arrests: 914 | |
| Weapons: 10 | |
| Robbery: 7 | |
| Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 7 | |
| Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 26 | |
| Narcotics: 162 | |
| Juvenile Activity | week end. 7/16/11 |
| Total Arrests: 65 | |
| Weapons: 2 | |
| Robbery: 9 | |
| Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 1 | |
| Narcotics: 3 | |
| Firearm Recoveries | as of 7/18/11 |
| July: 95 | |
| 2011 Total: 1,011 | |
| Traffic Fatalities | as of 7/22/11 |
| 2011: 22 | |
| 2010: 15 | |
| % Change: 46.7% | |

NEWS & NOTES

Also Noteworthy

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