

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, August 12, 2011

MPD TO JOIN IN CRACKDOWN ON DRUNK AND IMPAIRED DRIVING AS PART OF NATIONAL FOCUS

As a community, we all support law enforcement efforts to protect us from theft, burglary and assault. Yet, many otherwise law-biding citizens continue to view impaired driving merely as a traffic offense. Don't be fooled. Impaired driving is no accident nor is it a victimless crime. It is a serious crime that kills more than 16,000 people and injures nearly 305,000 others every year. Every 32 minutes, someone in America dies in an impaired driving crash. Every two minutes, someone is injured. Law enforcement agencies in every State and locality are serving on the frontlines in the fight against this deadly threat to America's communities. Traffic crashes are not only a threat to our citizens but are also the leading cause of death for law enforcement officials.

The cost to both the family of victims, those responsible for DUI-related crashes, and society is startling. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the average alcohol-related fatality in the United States costs \$3.2 million: \$1.2 million in monetary costs and \$2 million in quality of life losses. The estimated cost per injured survivor of an alcohol-related crash averaged \$79,000 — that's \$36,000 in monetary costs and \$43,000 in quality of life losses.

That's why the Metropolitan Police Department is conducting Checkpoint Strikeforce — an initiative to curtail and eliminate drunk and impaired driving in the District of Columbia. The effort involves sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols designed to identify and arrest impaired drivers before they can do themselves, property, or others harm. The MPD reminds all drivers that drinking and driving are no joke — Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over.



» The Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign is part of NHTSA's national effort to curb drunk driving. To learn more, visit: <http://www.stopimpaireddriving.org>

VERIZON ASKS CUSTOMERS TO BE AWARE OF SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY AROUND TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT

In light of recent incidents in which Verizon equipment has been tampered with in Washington, DC, the public should be aware of any suspicious activity that occurs at or around any Verizon equipment. Here are a few activities to be alert for:

- 1) There should be a marked Verizon vehicle present if an individual is working on a telephone box; orange cones should be present.
- 2) Non-Verizon vehicles should have signage indicating that their specific company is a contractor working on behalf of Verizon.
- 3) Be alert for activity at telephone equipment at off hours. Most service-related activities will take place between the hours of 6 AM and 6 PM.
- 4) Be alert for suspicious people. e.g., persons walking, on skates or on bikes (particularly any wearing red shirts) that stop at a telephone box, a cross connect box or fiber hub or other telephone facility and appear to be working on telephone equipment.
- 5) Be alert to someone carrying an ax, hatchet or cutting tool of any type including a scissors.
- 6) Be alert for someone who spends a very short time in an opened phone box.
- 7) All Verizon employees should be visibly displaying his/her company issued ID badge at worksites.



- » To learn more about acts of sabotage and vandalism within communication facilities, go to: <http://newscenter.verizon.com/assets/wrapper/2011-bargaining/Verizon-update-release.pdf>
- » To download a brochure on this and other safety topics, go to: <http://www.mpd.dc.gov/safety>

If you see any suspicious activity, please call 9-1-1 and give an accurate location, description of any persons or vehicles, and the suspicious activities being observed.

NEWS & NOTES

Also Noteworthy

Screen on the Green. HBO and Comcast are proud to announce the return of a favorite Washington summertime tradition. The free admission outdoor event will continue with screenings each Monday evening at sunset through August 15th. The location is the National Mall between 8th and 14th Streets. For further information regarding Screen on the Green, visit www.hbo.com/screenonthegreen.

Beautification Day 2011. Roll up your sleeves and transform our schools. Invest your time and resources in our youth, connect with

your community and enhance our schools. This will be held Saturday, August 20th at 8:00 am-1:00 pm. To register or donate, email dcps.beautificationday@dc.gov or call 442-5447.

7D Back-to-School Jamboree. The Seventh Police District is teaming up with several community organizations to sponsor a Back-to-School Jamboree on Friday, August 19 at Congres Park Community Center, located at 1345 Savannah Street, SE. The free event begins at 3 PM and will feature school supply giveaways, a spelling bee, rap contest, voter registration, health screenings, crime prevention information and more. For more information, contact Lendia Johnson, 7D Outreach

Coordinator, at (202) 698-1454.

MPD Celebrates 150 Years. The Metropolitan Police Department turned 150 on August 6. Look for a special decal on most marked vehicles to highlight and celebrate this landmark in the agency's history. In addition, many of our uniformed officers have chosen to honor the sesquicentennial by wearing a commemorative badge through September 30, 2011. To learn more, visit www.mpd.dc.gov/150th.



DATA BOX

Homicides as of 8/12/11

2011: 67

2010: 73

% Change: -8.2%

Closure Rate: 85.1% (57 closures)

Adult Arrests week end. 8/6/11

Total Arrests: 1,052

Weapons: 19

Robbery: 18

Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 5

Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 24

Narcotics: 214

Juvenile Activity week end. 8/6/11

Total Arrests: 69

Weapons: 5

Robbery: 4

Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 1

Narcotics: 4

Firearm Recoveries as of 8/8/11

August: 44

2011 Total: 1,124

Traffic Fatalities as of 8/12/11

2011: 24

2010: 18

% Change: 33.3%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service?

Send an e-mail to **KEVIN PALMER** at kevin.palmer@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