

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, October 21, 2011

TAKE STEPS TO KEEP YOUR VALUABLES SAFE WHEN PARKING IN POPULAR NIGHTSPOTS, SHOPPING AREAS

One of the most common types of theft is theft of valuables from your automobile. Theft from auto is strictly a crime of opportunity that can be prevented if you take away the opportunity. Thieves generally won't waste their time breaking into autos that don't have valuables in plain sight.

Thefts from autos can be a recurring problem in the District because of the prevalence of fashionable stores, popular restaurants, and trendy bars. Visitors to these establishments can become the unwitting target of these crimes of opportunity. Cars parked near sporting venues when games or concerts are scheduled may also be targeted. If you plan on parking your car in a neighborhood that is known for its numerous visitors, remember thieves know these areas are popular, too. Be sure to either take valuable property with you or secure it properly. Please take the precautions listed below to help ensure your auto is not targeted by thieves:

- » **Keep Your Valuables Out of Sight.** The best way to prevent theft from your auto is to always keep valuables out of sight. Never leave cell phones, briefcases, suitcases, or electronic devices (cell phones, iPods, laptop computers, etc.) in your car in plain view. Take these items with you, or secure them—all the time, every time.
- » **Secure Your GPS Device.** While many GPS devices are mounted in the dashboard of the vehicle, the MPD encourages anyone who uses a portable GPS device to take it with you, along with any other items of value, when you park the car.
- » **Use Your Trunk.** If your car has a trunk, use it. Put valuables in there or in a locked glove compartment. Hiding items under seats is better than leaving them in plain view, but securing them inside the glove compartment or trunk is a far better deterrent.
- » **Don't Tempt Thieves with New Purchases.** During the holiday season especially, or any time you're shopping, place packages in the trunk, not on the passenger seats or floors.
- » **Remove Your Radio Faceplate.** If you can unfasten your sound system and take it with you, or lock it in your trunk, do so. And don't forget to do the same with your CDs and tapes.
- » **Lock It Up.** Also, keep your car doors and windows locked—all the time!

Remember: "Outta sight, outta mind"—if thieves can't see your valuables, they're less likely to waste their time targeting your auto. Take the time to secure your valuables; it makes a difference.

- » See these tips and more online at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,559555,mpdcNav_GID,1551.asp
- » Take precautions when pumping gas. Learn steps you can take in a brief video on our YouTube channel at:
<http://youtu.be/H4r2v3MhU-s>
- » Download a brochure on "Protecting Your Vehicle from Theft and Tampering" at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/frames.asp?doc=/mpdc/lib/mpdc/info/safety_pdf/Protecting_Your_Vehicle.pdf

NOMINATE YOUR FAVORITE DC EMPLOYEE FOR A CAFRITZ AWARD, NOW THROUGH NOVEMBER 18

Mark your calendar now to nominate an exemplary DC government employee for The 2012 Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Awards! The nomination period is now open through Friday, November 18, 2011. During this period, you may submit the Nominations Form via fax to (202) 994-5389, email to director@cafritzawards.org, or online at <http://nominate.cafritzawards.org>. As you consider individuals who merit recognition, keep in mind the following five criteria:

- » Solved an extraordinary problem or goal
- » Brought positive recognition to the city
- » Consistently achieved excellence in overall performance
- » Implemented an innovative idea
- » Demonstrated inspirational leadership

For additional information about the awards, including information about the previous winners, please visit www.cafritzawards.org. You also may call (202) 994-5390 or email director@cafritzawards.org. Help us celebrate the individuals that exemplify the best in public service!



» Learn more by visiting the Cafritz Awards on Facebook:
<http://www.facebook.com/CafritzAwards>

STREET CLOSURES FOR HOWARD HOMECOMING THIS WEEKEND

Howard University will celebrate its homecoming on Friday, October 21 and Saturday, October 22. The Yard Fest, which takes place today, will affect some streets around the campus, including Howard Place and Girard Street, NW. On Saturday, the homecoming parade at 10 AM and football game at 1 PM will require street closures along parts of 4th Street, Harvard Street, Georgia Avenue, Girard Street, and other streets near the campus.

Residents should take care to drive safely in the area or take alternate routes.

» For a complete listing of all events on and off campus please visit the Homecoming 2011 website at:
<http://www.bisonhomecoming.com/2011>

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>.

Meet MPD on the MBT. The MPD's Mountain Bike Unit will be joining community members for a bike ride on the Metropolitan Branch Trail in the Fifth District on Saturday, October 22 at 10 AM. Interested riders of all skill levels should meet at 4th and S Streets, NE. The ride will feature bike safety tips, refreshments, and an opportunity to meet your police. To learn more, call **Fayette Vaughn-Lee**, SD Community

Outreach Coordinator, at **698-0188** or email fayette.vaughn-lee@dc.gov.

Math Competition Tomorrow at Boys & Girls Club. MPD is sponsoring a math competition for fifth and sixth graders from select DC Public and Charter elementary schools on Saturday, October 22 at the Richard England Boys & Girls Club, located at 4130 Benning Road, NE. Come and cheer the 28 students representing seven different schools starting at Noon. The awards ceremony will begin at 1:30 PM. Good luck!

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 honor of the milestone, additional information about the Department's history is being added to our website, including the biographies of every Chief of Police since 1861, a history of the badge, and more each week. Special banners highlighting the anniversary are also being displayed at MPD Headquarters and other facilities.

To see the special section, visit www.mpd.dc.gov/150th.



DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 10/21/11
2011: 93	
2010: 106	
% Change: -12.3%	
Closure Rate: 90.3% (84 closures)	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 10/17/11
October: 70	
2011 Total: 1,521	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 10/21/11
2011: 30	
2010: 20	
% Change: 50.0%	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service?

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

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