

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, October 28, 2011

CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN SAFELY WITH SOME HELPFUL TIPS

Halloween is fun for people of all ages, but it's important that you and your children remain safe. These simple tips will help make your Halloween celebration better than ever.

» See these tips and more online at:
<http://www.mpd.d.c.gov/halloween>

Costume Safety

Children should:

- » Wear clothing that is bright, reflective and flame-retardant; wear short clothing that prevents tripping.
- » Wear sneakers or comfortable shoes.
- » Use face paint (non-toxic, hypoallergenic) and avoid masks - especially if the eye holes obstruct the child's vision.
- » See well through facemasks, or use make-up.
- » Don't wear floppy hats or wigs that slide over the eyes. Also, children should not wear long, baggy, or loose costumes or oversized shoes.
- » Avoid toy weapons - if desired, use costume knives and swords that are flexible, not rigid.
- » Stay away from pets. The pet may not recognize the child and become frightened.

» Get the complete list of Halloween activities being offered by MPD and its partners at:
<http://t.co/gp0oRgjA>

Pedestrian Safety

- » Children should stay within familiar areas and surroundings. Parents should establish a route for children.
- » Children should use flashlights and stay on sidewalks.
- » Children should cross the street at corners / crosswalks and not between parked cars.
- » Motorists should drive slowly and watch carefully for children.

General Safety

Many police districts, community groups, business associations and others host Halloween parties. Parents should consider these as a safe alternative to door-to-door "trick-or-treating" for their children.

- » Children should never go into homes - stay on the porch or stoop when asking for treats.
- » Children should avoid homes that don't have their outside lights turned on.
- » Children should never talk to strangers or get into strangers' cars.
- » Children should travel in small groups and be accompanied by parents or an authorized adult chaperone.
- » Children should know their home phone number and their parents' cell phone numbers, when applicable. They should carry coins for emergency telephone calls or know how to make collect calls.
- » Children should have their names and addresses attached to their costumes.
- » Children should bring home treats before eating them so parents can inspect them. When children get home, parents should inspect all candy and other treats before they are eaten. Discard all unwrapped or loosely wrapped candy or fruit.

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- » If you have any questions about suspicious looking treats, call the police department non-emergency number, 3-1-1.
- » Parents and children should carve pumpkins on a stable, flat surface with good lighting. Small children should never carve pumpkins. Instead, they can help by drawing faces with markers, while a parent does the cutting. Older children carving pumpkins should always be supervised.
- » Adults should only give and accept wrapped or packaged candy.
- » Adults should keep porch lights on and their driveways illuminated.
- » Homeowners should ensure that their walkways are cleared of debris on which children may trip and fall.
- » Parents should cut into fruit, such as apples, to make sure they do not contain foreign objects.
- » If in doubt, throw it out.

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>

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>.

Street Closures for Marine Corps Marathon. Roads, bridges, and local streets will be affected by the 36th running of the

Marine Corps Marathon on Sunday. Certain DC streets will be closed from 6 AM to 1:30 PM. For complete road closure information, visit <http://1.usa.gov/sd2w3d>. For more on the marathon, visit www.marinemarathon.com.

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.mpdc.dc.gov/150th.

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 10/28/11
2011: 95	
2010: 108	
% Change: -12.0%	
Closure Rate: 90.5% (86 closures)	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 10/24/11
October: 119	
2011 Total: 1,570	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 10/28/11
2011: 31	
2010: 20	
% Change: 55.0%	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service?

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

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