

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, March 16, 2012

MARATHONERS RUN TOMORROW AND CHERRY BLOSSOMS EXPECTED TO BLOOM EARLY; PREPARE YOUR TRAVEL ROUTES IN ADVANCE

The sun has been shining and the temperatures have been rising. With several days in the 70s and 80s this past week, forecasters predict that the cherry trees will blossom sooner than originally expected. And as any resident of DC knows, the city will see an increase of visitors when the pink and white petals abound. The beautiful blossoms – coupled with a marathon expected to draw over 24,000 runners and walkers – guarantees a very busy and very congested weekend in the District of Columbia.

Readers of What's New are reminded that the SunTrust Rock 'n' Roll USA Marathon & CareFirst Rock 'n' Roll Half Marathon are set to take place in DC tomorrow, Saturday, March 17, 2012. The course for this race, which begins at 8 am near RFK Stadium, takes runners through several DC neighborhoods including Capitol Hill, downtown DC, Dupont Circle, Columbia Heights, the Southwest Waterfront, and Anacostia Park. Major streets will be closed at different times during the day to accommodate the runners. Rolling street closures will begin as early as 7:20 am; all streets should re-open by 3 pm.

Due to the early blossom of the Cherry Trees and Rock and Roll Marathon closure of Constitution Avenue, DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) traffic control officers will be posted from 7:30 am to 6 pm on March 17-18, 2012. The alternate traffic pattern which directs all traffic west on Ohio Drive will go into effect on March 17 at 4 am. This will help alleviate any additional traffic congestion from Constitution Avenue closure and increased visitation from the warm weather and possible early Cherry Blossom Bloom.

Residents and individuals planning to visit DC this weekend encouraged to use public transportation to avoid traffic delays. If you must drive, please take some time to review the marathon course map to ensure your route will be open or to plan an alternative route.

HARBOR PATROL ANNOUNCES BOATING SAFETY COURSES FOR 2012

The Harbor Patrol polices all of the rivers, inlets, and waterways that majestically surround our nation's capital. The 20-member unit encounters the same types of incidents that occur on DC streets including disorderly conduct, loud music, domestic violence, high-speed chases, and robbery suspects. The Harbor Patrol has immense responsibilities: it oversees the marinas, regulates fishing and game, and makes sure boats are safe and meet safety regulations. The Patrol's main priority is to provide assistance if anyone gets into trouble on the water. The most common occurrences are capsized canoes or boats, caused by high winds, bad weather, or careless boaters. Most of the time, the well-trained team makes an easy rescue.

The Harbor Patrol also prepares boaters in DC by offering a Boating Safety Course. This course is designed to educate boaters of the legal requirements, navigational rules, safety equipment, risks of boating accidents, and other issues pertaining to safe boating. Anyone operating a vessel on District of Columbia waterways is required to have a Boating Safety Certificate. The Boating Safety Certificate is issued to individuals who successfully complete the Boating Safety course.

- » For the latest information on the blooming period for the cherry blossoms, including peak bloom dates, check out the National Cherry Blossom Festival "bloom watch" at:
<http://www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org/about/bloom-watch/>
- » Spend more time experiencing the beauty of the National Cherry Blossom Festival and its events by knowing about your transportation options. Get more information at:
<http://www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org/visitor-information/go/>
- » View course information, including PDF of the marathon and half marathon routes and a grid listing scheduled street closures, at:
<http://runrocknroll.competitor.com/usa/road-closures>
- » Need assistance with alternate directions on the day of the Rock 'n' Roll Marathon, contact the race organizers through the community relations contact form at:
<http://runrocknroll.competitor.com/contact/community-contact>
- » Individuals who have issues to be resolved or questions regarding traffic access during the races should call the **Metropolitan Police Department's Command Information Center** on (202) 727-9099.

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- » Learn more about the MPD's Harbor Patrol online at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/harborpatrol>
 - » Boating Safety courses are offered by Harbor Patrol from March through September. To see the schedule and for information on registering for a course, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/harborpatrolevents>

MPD ANNOUNCES MAJOR OPERATION TO CURTAIL ROBBERIES AND FENCING OPERATIONS

On Monday, March 12, 2012, Mayor Vincent C. Gray and Police Chief Cathy L. Lanier announced significant progress in the Metropolitan Police Department's efforts to curtail robberies and thefts in the District of Columbia. As part of this ongoing effort, MPD's Narcotics and Special Investigations Division concluded a three and a half week long investigation which targeted businesses in the District that trafficked in stolen property.

Police conducted 12 search warrants on businesses in the District of Columbia. An additional search warrant was served by Arlington County Police at a location in Virginia, as part of this investigation. The majority of the 16 individuals who have been arrested are charged with Felony Trafficking in Stolen property, which carries a penalty of up to 10 years in jail and a fine up to \$10,000.

"If you are a criminal and committing thefts or robberies, or if you profit from crime, in the District of Columbia, we will find you, arrest you, and bring you to justice," said Mayor Gray. "The District of Columbia is a place of law and order, and neither Chief Lanier nor I will tolerate any crime on our streets. Every single D.C. resident has the right to walk our neighborhoods in safety and confidence."

"As I have repeatedly said, we are attacking thefts and robberies from all angles," Chief Lanier said. "In this case, we targeted the demand aspect of the problem."

Nicholas Majette, Director of the District of Columbia's Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs said many of the businesses targeted in this investigation were operating without licenses or without the proper licenses. He said \$12,000 in fines have been issued from business compliance inspections.

So far this year, there have been more than 300 arrests for robbery and 300 arrests for theft, theft from auto, and receiving stolen property.

"These numbers definitely show that we are working hard and holding people accountable for their crimes," Chief Lanier said. "We cannot always disclose what is going on behind the scenes and I know how frustrating it is for members of the community who want to know what we are doing to address these issues. But I want to reassure the public that our efforts to curb this problem will continue."

Reclaim Your Stolen Property

The MPD's recent successful operation targeting stolen goods resulted in the recovery of several hundred electronic items. For those of you who believe your item may be among those recovered, you may submit, via stolen.property@dc.gov, your ownership information, such as a serial number or other uniquely identifiable information that conclusively establishes ownership. A member will then follow-up with your inquiry.

- » Read the complete news release, which includes examples of the recovered property as well as locations where search warrants were served, at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov>
- » For information on how you can reduce your risk of becoming a victim of a robbery or a theft, visit: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/safety>
- » Anyone who has information regarding these crimes should call police at **202-727-9099**. Additionally information may be submitted to the **TEXT TIP LINE** by text messaging **50411**.
- » The Metropolitan Police Department currently offers a **reward of up to \$10,000** to anyone who provides information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for any robbery committed in the District of Columbia.

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://dcpolicejobs.dc.gov>.

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>.

Preventing terrorism is everybody's business. If you SEE something, SAY something. Call the MPD at **(202) 727-9099** to report suspicious activity that has already occurred. Call 911 to report in-progress threats or emergencies. Learn how you can help fight terrorism at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/operationTIPP>.

Support the Washington DC Police Foundation. The Washington DC Police Foundation is an 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 at <http://www.dcpolicefoundation.org>.

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 3/16/12
2012: 15	
2011: 18	
% Change: -16.7%	
Closure Rate: 60% (9 closures)	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 3/12/12
March: 66	
2012 Total: 412	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 3/16/12
2012: 5	
2011: 11	
% Change: -54.5%	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service?

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

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