

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, March 23, 2012

DRIVERS AND PEDESTRIANS ENCOURAGED TO BE "STREET SMART" AS PART OF AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Overwhelming data show that area roads are not safe enough for walkers, cyclists, transit riders and drivers. In order to create a sustainable, livable community, the situation must improve. Nationally, over 4,000 pedestrians died in traffic crashes in 2009. Almost 90 percent of pedestrian fatalities occurred during normal weather conditions, not during rain, snow and fog.

The Washington region ranks 20th out of the 52 largest metropolitan areas in pedestrian deaths per capita. On average, over 2,600 pedestrians and bicyclists are injured in the region every year, and 89 are killed. Motorized fatalities dropped from 324 in 2006 to 197 in 2010, more than a one third decline. Meanwhile, the number of pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities remained essentially flat. As a result, pedestrians and bicyclists now account for 30% of the region's traffic fatalities.

The Street Smart program emphasizes education of motorists and pedestrians in conjunction with the enforcement of pedestrian and traffic safety laws. It is meant to complement, not replace, the efforts of state and local governments and agencies to build safer streets and sidewalks, enforce laws, and train better drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians. Police in the DC Metropolitan region are currently enforcing pedestrian and traffic safety laws. This year's Street Smart campaign will continue through the second week of April 2012.

» Obey pedestrian and traffic safety laws, or get tickets, fines or points. Learn more about the Street Smart initiative at:
<http://bestreetsmart.net/>

MPD OFFERS REMINDERS ABOUT PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

The Metropolitan Police Department would like to remind everyone to be aware of their surroundings to ensure the safe travels of other drivers and pedestrians on our city streets. Drivers are reminded to be vigilant in looking out for pedestrians. When walking or exercising, especially in the early morning or at dusk or dark, pedestrians should keep the following tips in mind:

- » Stay on the sidewalk, not in the street; only cross the street at designated crosswalks.
- » Look both ways before crossing the street.
- » Never run between cars into the street.
- » Wear clothing that allows drivers and people to see you. That means no dark clothes after dark or early in the morning.
- » Exercising outdoors at dusk or at night can be dangerous without some type of reflective device on your clothing. Many athletic shoes have reflective qualities built in, but also consider a vest complete with reflective tape.
- » Keep alert! Dawn and dusk offer convenient shadows for muggers and other crooks.

Runners are also reminded to ALWAYS carry identification with them when they go out. If carrying a license seems too inconvenient, please consider purchasing an identification bracelet or tag for your shoe. New products designed especially for runners, bikers and other athletes have recently come on the market. A simple internet search for "identification bracelet" will provide numerous results.

» The MPD offers safety tips for walkers, runners and bikers online at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/runners>

» For more safety tips for you and your children, call **(202) 234-9404** or see the DC action for Children website at:
<http://www.dckids.org>

MPD CONTINUES EFFORTS TO KEEP COMMUNITY MEMBERS EDUCATED ON FILING POLICE COMMENDATIONS AND COMPLAINTS

The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) is committed to providing quality, professional service to all members of the community. The MPD does its best to recognize individuals who provide exemplary service. Community members or visitors to DC who have had a positive experience with an MPD officer or civilian employee are invited to share their positive experiences by submitting a commendation.

Sometimes, however, individuals may feel that a member of the MPD has failed to meet that standard by engaging in misconduct or using excessive force. In these situations, individuals are encouraged to report this information to the MPD or the District of Columbia's Office of Police Complaints (OPC). The Office of Police Complaints is a District Government agency that is independent of the MPD, and its mission is to receive, investigate, and resolve police misconduct complaints filed by the public against MPD and DC Housing Authority Police Department officers.

The MPD will investigate all complaints, including anonymous complaints, in a fair, thorough, and impartial manner. OPC has the authority to investigate complaints alleging harassment; use of unnecessary or excessive force; use of language or conduct that is insulting, demeaning, or humiliating; discrimination; retaliation for filing a complaint with OPC; or failure to wear required identification or refusal to provide name and badge number when requested to do so by a member of the public.

» For more information on filing a commendation or complaint, visit <http://mpdc.dc.gov/citizencomplaints>

» OPC complaint forms and information sheets can be obtained by:

- Visiting OPC at 1400 I St., NW, # 700, Washington, DC 20005
- Calling OPC at (202) 727-3838
- Calling the OPC 24-hour, toll-free hotline at 866-588-0569
- Visiting OPC's website, <http://policecomplaints.dc.gov>

» OPC complaint forms can be submitted:

- In person or by mail to the address above
- By fax to (202) 727-9182
- By dropping forms off at any MPDC district station

» To file a complaint with the MPD, you may:

- Visit any MPD District station or facility
- Call (202) 727-4385 or the 24-hour hotline at 800-298-4006
- Visit MPD's website at mpdc.dc.gov
- Email the Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) at citizen.complaints@dc.gov
- Call the IAB TTY number at (202) 898-1454
- Submit your complaint in person at any MPD facility or by mail to this address: Internal Affairs Bureau, Metropolitan Police Department, 3244 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Washington, DC, 20020
- Fax your complaint to (202) 727-5116

NEWS & NOTES

Also Noteworthy

Cherry Blossom Festival Events.

Events associated with the National Cherry Blossom Festival run March 20-April 27. The peak bloom is expected this weekend, so large crowds are anticipated to be visiting the DC region. Residents and visitors are encouraged to keep this in mind when making their weekend plans. Using public transportation is highly recommended. For more information on the Festival, go to <http://www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org/>

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 3/23/12
2012: 17	
2011: 20	
% Change: -15%	
Closure Rate: 58.8% (10 closures)	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 3/19/12
March: 97	
2012 Total: 443	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 3/23/12
2012: 5	
2011: 12	
% Change: -58.3%	

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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