

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, March 30, 2012

MPD TO PARTICIPATE IN LITTER ENFORCEMENT MONTH

The Metropolitan Police Department will join the Alice Ferguson Foundation in its efforts to curtail litter in the Washington area with Litter Enforcement Month (LEM) in April. During the month of April, these area law enforcement agencies will work to educate the public about the problems that littering causes to our physical environment and how it can contribute to the perception that crime is tolerated in a community. Many officers have found hard criminals and repeat offenders by noticing them littering. Some of the consequences of littering include:

- » Accumulated trash spoils the watershed, creating a significant public health concern due to contaminated drinking water and impacts on marine life.
- » Litter negatively impacts community aesthetics. Trash reduces real estate values and damages area business, recreation, and tourism.
- » Trash can become a significant financial burden to families and individuals. A street with improperly discarded trash reduces home values, making it difficult to sell, or contribute to higher taxes in order to manage the storm drains and address the damage caused.
- » Trash improperly disposed ends up in places other than where it was discarded.

During the month of April, officers will be paying particular attention to littering offenses, so let's keep things clean. Penalties for littering are as follows:

- » **Illegal Dumping.** Offenders may be imprisoned for up to 90 days and can pay \$5,000 for the first offense and \$10,000 for each subsequent offense; any person who dumps for commercial purpose shall be guilty of a felony, \$40,000 fine and imprisonment not to exceed five years.
- » **Littering from a Vehicle.** The Notice of Infraction (NOI) for littering from a vehicle carries a fine of \$100. It applies to both public and private property.
- » **Non-Traffic Related Littering.** The Notice of Violation (NOV) carries a fine of \$75. If a violator refuses to identify self, he or she can be arrested for "Failure to make Identity Known."

AS SPRING ARRIVES, MPD WARNS RESIDENTS TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR CON ARTISTS

While spring means the blooming of the cherry blossoms and other plants, it can also bring out con artists and other criminals seeking to profit from unsuspecting victims. Some of the most common cons and swindles this time of year are bogus home repair offers, fraudulent door-to-door charities, and individuals posing as police officers or bank investigators who claim to be investigating fraudulent tellers or counterfeit schemes. DC residents are urged to be wary of any "something-for-nothing" offers. Always ask for offers in writing, read over all contracts before you sign, and never agree to "cash-only" deals. Do not hesitate to check the credentials of anyone who comes to your door. Ask to see official identification and inspect it carefully. Legitimate organizations – especially real police officers – will not hesitate to comply. And if you have been victimized by a con artist, please call the police and report it. This is the only way that law enforcement can detect patterns and identify and apprehend offenders.

» For more information about the Alice Ferguson Foundation, please visit:
<http://www.TrashFreePotomac.org>

» The 24th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup is set for Saturday, April 14 from 9 AM to Noon. Volunteers are needed to help make this event a success. For more information, call (202) 973-8203 or visit:
<http://www.potomaccleanup.org> or call

» For more information about con games and swindles, click on:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/scams>

MURALS TO REPLACE CHRONICALLY TAGGED AREAS THROUGH DPW'S MURALSDC PROGRAM

Graffiti is a major problem in the District of Columbia. If not removed, graffiti can cause blight; increase criminal activity in the surrounding neighborhoods; reduce property values, and give the impression that the District is not committed to providing clean and safe environments for residents and visitors. The DC Department of Public Works (DPW) is looking for mural sites in chronically tagged areas of the city to be considered as part of its MuralsDC program for the summer of 2012.

MuralsDC, a collaboration between the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities and the Department of Public Works (DPW), will soon launch the 2012 season of MuralsDC. The program began in 2007 to combat the growing trend of illegal graffiti and reduce urban blight. DPW is looking for building owners of chronically tagged walls who would like to donate wall space for this free program, which has been extremely effective in ending the cycle of tagging. There are currently 34 MuralsDC projects throughout the District. Each tells a unique story of DC's diverse neighborhoods while deterring further illegal graffiti. DPW and DCCA are looking for sites that are frequent targets of graffiti. MuralsDC provides artists, youth, supplies and all materials.

- » Donated space must be privately owned (not a private residence) and located in the District of Columbia.
- » Owners must consent (via a signed Authorization and Release form) to donate wall space for at least one year and leave the mural intact for that year.
- » Donated space must be highly visible from the street.

WEEKEND STREET CLOSURES: CHERRY BLOSSOM 10-MILER ON 4/1

Events associated with the National Cherry Blossom Festival run through April 27. The Cherry Blossom 10-Miler will take place this Sunday, April 1, at 7:30 am. The race starts at the Washington Monument and takes runners around the Tidal Basin to the Memorial Bridge, up Rock Creek Parkway and around East Potomac Park. Streets will be closed for this event from 5 am – 10:30 am. In addition to street closures, residents and visitors should plan for large crowds in that area and are encouraged to keep this in mind when making their weekend plans. Using public transportation is highly recommended.

- » Property owners can download MuralsDC forms on the DPW website by selecting "Sanitation Services" in the left navigation menu, then "Litter and Graffiti Removal" and then "MuralsDC." For more information, go to: at <http://www.dpw.dc.gov>
- » Check out some of the murals – and video – from past years at: <http://www.muralsdcproject.com>

- » For more information on the Festival, go to <http://www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org/>
- » View a road closure map for the 10-mile race at: <http://www.cherryblossom.org/images/2012/12/RoadClosureMapFinal-022912.pdf>

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 3/30/12
2012: 18	
2011: 22	
% Change: -18.2%	
Closure Rate: 61.1% (11 closures)	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 3/27/12
March: 131	
2012 Total: 477	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 3/30/12
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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