

# WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, April 20, 2012

## SECURE YOUR BICYCLE TO REDUCE THE RISK OF THEFT

Bicycling is a great form of exercise and it helps reduce pollution. It's fun for both adults and children. Whether you use a bicycle to get to and from school, for your daily work commute, or for exercise, it is important that you always secure it when it's not being used. In an effort to prevent thefts and to aid in the recovery of stolen bicycles, the MPD offers the following simple suggestions.

- » Invest in a quality lock and use it whenever you are not riding the bicycle.
- » Lock your bicycle in an area that is well-lit.
- » If you are not going to use your bicycle for a significant period of time, locate a place (preferably inside) where you can safely secure it.
- » Document the following information about your bicycle: make, size and serial number. Store this information in a safe place. The serial number is found underneath the bicycle between the crank arms and the bottom bracket. Keep all receipts for your bicycle, including the purchase receipt and repair receipts; these will help provide proof of ownership if your bicycle is stolen.
- » Register your bicycle with the National Bike Registry.



While bicycle registration is no longer required in the District of Columbia, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and the MPD strongly encourage residents to register their bicycles with the National Bicycle Registry (NBR). NBR is a service that allows you to register your bicycle by serial number in a national database. If your bike is ever stolen, it can be identified and you can prove ownership. Law enforcement anywhere can access this database. NBR also guarantees your registration. If your bike is stolen and not recovered by police within six months, NBR will register your next bike for free and the stolen bike information will remain in the database until the bike is recovered no matter how long it takes.

## APRIL IS NATIONAL 911 EDUCATION MONTH

Emergencies don't happen very often. But when they do, you want to get help fast. No one wants to spend time looking up the phone number. That's why 911 was created — to make it easy. In the United States and Canada, dialing 911 on your telephone is the fastest way you can get help for yourself or someone else. In 2008, April was identified National 911 Education Month.

In Washington, DC, the Office of Unified Communications oversees the designated call center for all District emergency 911 calls and for all District non-emergency and citywide 311 calls. Dial 911 to request police, fire, and emergency medical services for life-threatening situations. 911 is designed for contacting the MPD and the DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department (FEMS) in all situations requiring an onsite response by MPD or FEMS. 911 is a toll-free call accessible through residential, wireless, and pay telephones throughout the District of Columbia.

» Has your bike been stolen in DC? Photos of bicycles recovered by the MPD are now available for review online at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1242,q,569026.asp>

» Read the MPD's frequently asked questions on registering your bike in the District of Columbia at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/bikereg>

» Get details on the bike helmet law in DC at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/bikesafety>

» The MPD offers theft prevention tips as well as a variety of other tips on ways to protect yourself and your property. Check out all of our safety tips online at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/safety>

» For information on calling 911 in the District of Columbia, go to:

<http://ouc.dc.gov/page/about-911>

» Dial 311, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to request scheduled services such as trash removal, pothole repair, bulk pick-ups and recycling collection. For more information on 311 and to download a smartphone app, go to:

<http://ouc.dc.gov/page/about-311>

## APRIL IS NATIONAL 911 EDUCATION MONTH (continued)

Most people know that 911 is for people emergencies only, but you may need to remind young people how and when to use 911 responsibly. Never call 911 as a joke or just to see what might happen. When the emergency dispatcher has to take the time to talk to people who don't have a real emergency, other people who call and do need help right away might have to wait.

If you do have to call 911 in an emergency, be sure to stay on the phone. Do not hang up until the 911 operator tells you it's OK to do so. That way, you can be sure that the operator has all the information to get help to you fast!

## DON'T BE A VICTIM: CON ARTISTS OFTEN TARGET ELDERLY

Most of us think we would be the last people in the world to be tricked into handing over our hard-earned money for deals that, in retrospect, are obviously phony. But con artists are experts in human psychology and behavior. They know how to win over your confidence with their smooth talk and self-assured manner. Unless you are careful, you may find yourself turning over cash or buying worthless merchandise. You won't be able to recognize a con artist by the way he or she looks, but you can be on the lookout for some of their "pitches."

Some of the most common cons and swindles in the springtime 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. These con artists often target the elderly. Regardless of your age, 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.

A good rule of thumb in these situations is to remember that if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is! Don't let your excitement get the best of you. If you are approached by someone (in person, on the phone, or by email) DO NOT send money. If you ever really do win the lottery, the lottery association will arrange to take a portion of the winnings to pay taxes directly out of your winnings.

» Learn how you can avoid scams – and get descriptions of some of the more common scams in the DC area – at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/scams>

## DATA BOX

<b>Homicides</b>	as of 4/20/12
2012: 21	
2011: 31	
% Change: -32.3%	
Closure Rate: 61.9% (13 closures)	
<b>Adult Arrests</b>	(week end. 4/20/12)
Total Arrests: 779	
Weapons: 11	
Robbery: 16	
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 7	
Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 21	
Narcotics: 167	
<b>Juvenile Activity</b>	(week end. 4/20/12)
Total Arrests: 65	
Weapons: 5	
Robbery: 3	
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 0	
Narcotics: 4	
<b>Firearm Recoveries</b>	as of 4/16/12
April: 76	
2012 Total: 585	
<b>Traffic Fatalities</b>	as of 4/20/12
2012: 6	
2011: 13	
% Change: -53.8%	

### NEWS & NOTES

#### Also Noteworthy

**Street Closures and Parking Restrictions this Weekend.** Street closures and parking restrictions were implemented for the Spring Meetings of the IMF/World Bank Board of Governors on Thursday, 4/19 and will continue through Sunday, 4/22. For details, go to <http://ddot.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>.

**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>.

**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>.

### Information, ideas, or comments about this service?

Send an e-mail to **KAYLIN CASTELLI**, Manager of Internet Communications, at [kaylin.castelli@dc.gov](mailto:kaylin.castelli@dc.gov)

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