

# WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, May 4, 2012

## NATIONAL POLICE WEEK TO BRING THOUSANDS TO DC TO HONOR OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation designating May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which that date falls as “National Police Week.” Every year since, tens of thousands of law enforcement officers from around the world converge on DC each May to participate in a variety of events to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and were killed in the line of duty. The 24th Annual Candlelight Vigil will be held at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial on Sunday, May 13, 2012. Sponsored by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF), at the Memorial grounds, located at Judiciary Square, on the 400 block of E Street, NW, Washington, DC. Other Police Week events include bicycle and motorcycle rides, wreath-laying ceremonies, the 14th annual Blue Mass (May 8 at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church, 10th and G Streets, NW), seminars by Concerns of Police Survivors, a Pipeband March and Service, and the Police Unit Bicycle Tour.

Locally, the Fraternal Order of Police Auxiliary sponsors the 33rd Annual Memorial Service for law enforcement officers from the region killed in the line of duty. The ceremony will take place at 11 am on Monday, May 7, 2012, at the memorial fountain outside MPD Headquarters at 300 Indiana Avenue, NW.

» National Police Week info and a schedule of events are at:

<http://www.nleomf.org/programs/policeweek/>

» To learn more about the the Blue Mass and to see photos from past years, see:

<http://www.saintpatrickdc.org/bluemass.shtml>

» MPD maintains an online memorial to officers killed in the line of duty. Family members, friends and other loved ones may submit remembrances at:

<http://mpdc.gov/heroes>

## RESIDENTS REMINDED TO OPERATE MINIBIKES AND OTHER SMALL VEHICLES RESPONSIBLY

Like cars and trucks, motorcycles, motorized bicycles, Segways, and mopeds must be operated safely on city streets. Minibikes, ATVs, and dirt bikes are designed for off-road use and may not be driven on city streets or sidewalks.

It is illegal to ride or operate a minibike, dirt bike or All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) on the District’s streets or sidewalks. It is okay to ride bicycles, mopeds, motorized bicycles, Segways, and motorcycles on the street, but not on city sidewalks.\*

No matter what or where you ride, obey traffic and safety laws and yield to pedestrians. And don’t forget to wear a helmet for your own protection!

» Get more information on regulations on operating small motorized vehicles in the District of Columbia, as well as helpful posters and fliers online at:

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

Vehicles That Are <b>Legal</b> On DC Streets (not sidewalks)*	Vehicles That Are <b>Illegal</b> On DC Streets or Sidewalks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>» Motorcycle</li><li>» Moped</li><li>» Bicycle (<i>Motorized or Non-Motorized</i>)</li><li>» Segway</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>» All Terrain Vehicle (ATV)</li><li>» Minibike</li><li>» Dirt Bike</li></ul>

\* Non-motorized bicycles may be ridden on the sidewalk in neighborhoods outside the central business district.

## MAY IS MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

During “Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month,” all motorists are reminded to safely share the road with motorcycles and to be extra alert when driving to help keep motorcyclists safe.

With warmer weather here, more motorcycles are back on the roads. Drivers of all vehicles need to be extra alert. Motorcycles are some of the smallest vehicles on the road, so folks in other vehicles need to really look out for them—and to take extra care to safely share the road. Because of their smaller size, motorcyclists are often hidden in a vehicle’s blind spot. It’s crucial that motorists and bicyclists always make a visual check for motorcycles by checking mirrors and blind spots before entering or leaving a lane of traffic and at intersections.

Motorcyclists are much more vulnerable than passenger vehicle drivers in the event of a crash. Research shows that approximately 80 percent of motorcycle crashes injure or kill a motorcycle rider, while 20 percent of passenger car crashes injure or kill a driver or passenger in their vehicle.

Drivers can follow these tips to help keep motorcyclists safe on our roadways:

- » Remember the motorcycle is a vehicle with all of the rights and privileges of any other motor vehicle on the roadway. Always allow a motorcyclist the full lane width—never try to share a lane;
- » Always make a visual check for motorcycles by checking mirrors and blind spots before entering or leaving a lane of traffic and at intersections;
- » Always signal your intentions before changing lanes or merging with traffic;
- » Don’t be fooled by a flashing turn signal on a motorcycle – motorcycle signals are often not self-canceling and riders sometimes forget to turn them off. Wait to be sure the motorcycle is going to turn before you proceed;
- » Remember that road conditions which are minor annoyances to other vehicles pose major hazards to motorcyclists;
- » Allow more following distance, three or four seconds, when following a motorcycle, so the motorcyclist has enough time to maneuver or stop in an emergency. And don’t tailgate. In dry conditions, motorcycles can stop more quickly than cars.

Motorcyclists have responsibilities, too, by following the rules of the road, being alert to other drivers, and always wearing DOT-compliant helmets and protective gear.

The message to all drivers is: make this the first year in recent years when motorcycle fatalities do not increase. Help to share in the responsibility and do your part by safely sharing the road with motorcycles.

» Get more information on motorcycle safety at:

- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration – <http://www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/Motorcycles>
- Motorcycle Safety Foundation – <http://www.msf-usa.org/>

### DATA BOX

#### Homicides as of 5/4/12

2012: 28

2011: 34

% Change: -17.6%

Closure Rate: 60.7% (17 closures)

#### Adult Arrests (week end. 4/28/12)

Total Arrests: 817

Weapons: 15

Robbery: 10

Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 9

Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 18

Narcotics: 139

#### Juvenile Activity (week end. 4/28/12)

Total Arrests: 53

Weapons: 2

Robbery: 5

Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 1

Narcotics: 5

#### Firearm Recoveries as of 4/30/12

April: 134

2012 Total: 643

#### Traffic Fatalities as of 5/4/12

2012: 6

2011: 13

% Change: -53.8%

#### NEWS & NOTES

### Also Noteworthy

#### 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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