

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, November 2, 2012

DRIVERS AND WALKERS SHOULD REMEMBER PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AS DAYLIGHT HOURS GROW SHORTER

As the season changes and we lose an hour of daylight, 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. Many of us are now commuting home from work in the darkness. We all need to exercise extra caution and take responsibility for our personal safety and the safety of those around us.

Drivers are reminded to turn on vehicle headlights and be vigilant in looking out for pedestrians. As the weather gets colder, watch the road, as wet or icy spots are considerably harder to see in the dark.

When walking or exercising in the dusk or dark, keep the following tips in mind:

- Stay on the sidewalk, not in the street; only cross the street in crosswalks with traffic control devices.
- 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.

Our officers will continue to enforce traffic safety laws and assist motorists and pedestrians in need. Your participation in ensuring traffic and public safety is critical, and we greatly appreciate your attention to this important matter.

- » The MPD offers safety tips for walkers, runners and bikers online at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/sharetheroad>
- » For more safety tips for you and your children, call (202) 234-9404 or see the DC action for Children website at:
<http://www.dcactionforchildren.org/>
- » Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 am on Sunday, November 4, so remember to reset your clocks before you go to bed on Saturday night!

NOMINATE YOUR FAVORITE DC EMPLOYEE FOR A CAFRITZ AWARD, NOW THROUGH NOVEMBER 9

Mark your calendar now to nominate an exemplary DC government employee for The 2013 Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Awards! The nomination period is now open through Friday, November 9, 2012. During this period, you may submit the Nominations Form via fax to (202) 994-5389, email to director@cafritzawards.org, or online at <http://cafritzawards.org>. Help us celebrate the individuals that exemplify the best in public service! As you consider individuals who merit recognition, keep in mind the following five criteria:

- Solved an extraordinary problem or goal
- Brought positive recognition to the city
- Consistently achieved excellence in overall performance
- Implemented an innovative idea
- Demonstrated inspirational leadership

- » For additional information about the awards, including information about the previous winners, please visit:
<http://www.cafritzawards.org>



TAKE STEPS TO KEEP YOUR VALUABLES SAFE WHEN PARKING IN POPULAR NIGHTSPOTS, SHOPPING AREAS

One of the most common types of theft is theft of valuables from your automobile. Theft from auto is strictly a crime of opportunity that can be prevented if you take away the opportunity. Thieves generally won't waste their time breaking into autos that don't have valuables in plain sight.

Thefts from autos can be a recurring problem in the District because of the prevalence of fashionable stores, popular restaurants, and trendy bars. Visitors to these establishments can become the unwitting target of these crimes of opportunity. Cars parked near sporting venues when games or concerts are scheduled may also be targeted. If you plan on parking your car in a neighborhood that is known for its numerous visitors, remember thieves know these areas are popular, too. Be sure to either take valuable property with you or secure it properly. Please take the precautions listed below to help ensure your auto is not targeted by thieves:

- **Keep Your Valuables Out of Sight.** The best way to prevent theft from your auto is to always keep valuables out of sight. Never leave cell phones, briefcases, suitcases, or electronic devices (cell phones, iPods, laptop computers, etc.) in your car in plain view. Take these items with you, or secure them—all the time, every time.
- **Secure Your GPS Device.** While many GPS devices are mounted in the dashboard of the vehicle, the MPD encourages anyone who uses a portable GPS device to take it with you, along with any other items of value, when you park the car.
- **Use Your Trunk.** If your car has a trunk, use it. Put valuables in there or in a locked glove compartment. Hiding items under seats is better than leaving them in plain view, but securing them inside the glove compartment or trunk is a far better deterrent.
- **Don't Tempt Thieves with New Purchases.** Any time you're shopping, place packages in the trunk, not on the passenger seats or floors.
- **Lock It Up.** Also, keep your car doors and windows locked—all the time!

Remember: "Outta sight, outta mind"—if thieves can't see your valuables, they're less likely to waste their time targeting your auto. Take the time to secure your valuables; it makes a difference.

- » See these tips and more online at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/page/auto-theft-prevention>
- » Take precautions when pumping gas. Learn steps you can take in a brief video on our YouTube channel at:
<http://youtu.be/H4r2v3MhU-s>
- » Download a brochure on "Protecting Your Vehicle from Theft and Tampering" at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/protectingyourvehicle_pdf

NEWS & NOTES

Also Noteworthy

Tell Us How We're Doing. MPD is now part of Grade DC. We invite you to share your thoughts on our service — positive or negative — through MPD's email groups, our social media, or by visiting the Grade DC website. Get more information at <http://grade.dc.gov>.

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 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>.

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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