

# WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



*Friday, April 5, 2013*

## BIKES TO BE AUCTIONED BY MPD ONLINE

Every year, the Metropolitan Police Department recovers hundreds of stolen and abandoned bicycles, and hundreds of lost and found electronic devices. This property is inventoried by the MPD's Evidence Control Branch. Property not claimed within 90 days of recovery is considered abandoned. The MPD will advertise this property as abandoned and may dispose of any property not claimed within the designated timeframe. Recovered property not claimed may be auctioned through [www.govdeals.com](http://www.govdeals.com) or donated. Before any recovered bicycles are auctioned or donated, images will be posted online.



A number of bicycles recovered by the MPD are slated to be auctioned through [govdeals.com](http://www.govdeals.com) sometime in May 2013. A complete list of these bicycles is now available for review on the MPD's website. Any person or entity having a right of claim to any item of property pictured online must appear in person to the Evidence Control Branch at # 17 DC Village Lane, SW, Washington, DC 20032.

To claim property recovered by the MPD, individuals must provide the MPD's Evidence Control Branch with the following information:

- Government Identification
- Bar code included with the bicycle image
- Proof of ownership of property OR documentation that a police report was filed (CCN)

## APRIL IS 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, 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

» A list of bicycles slated to be auctioned in May 2013 is available online at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/bikeauctionmay2013>

» View property recovered by the Metropolitan Police Department at:

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

» Every year, the MPD handles over 100,000 recovered or seized property cases. Our Evidence Control Branch approaches this task with two goals in mind: to secure, catalog and store property in a safe manner; and to return all property to its rightful owners, as quickly and efficiently as possible. Learn more about the Evidence Control Branch at:

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

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."

#### How You Can Help

Pick up the litter and trash in your alley and around your property, rather than sweeping these items into the gutter to eventually end up in one of the District's rivers.

## DISB WARNS: JAMAICAN SCAM ARTISTS TARGET ELDERLY TO PAY "TAXES" ON PHONY LOTTERY WINNINGS

The D.C. Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking warns District residents of telephone scams, many originating in Jamaica, aimed at gouging the elderly for as much as hundreds of thousands of dollars in what the scam artists claim are taxes on phony lottery prizes.

The Federal Trade Commission reported 30,000 complaints about Jamaican lottery scams last year, as hucksters on the Caribbean island increasingly target elderly Americans, claiming to be lottery officials and saying their victims have won prizes but need to pay taxes in advance to get the prizes. Or they make threatening calls to victims, claiming to be American IRS agents demanding taxes on the supposed winnings.

And the number of complaints may be almost twice as high, the Federal Trade Commission estimates, since many scams go unreported because victims are ashamed.

So far, the District's Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking hasn't had any complaints.

"But you can be sure the scammers are targeting people in a relatively affluent area like the District," said Stephen M. Perry, the associate commissioner in charge of the department's Enforcement and Consumer Protection Bureau. "So we warn people to be extra-careful about someone calling and saying you won a lottery you didn't enter. And please be sure to report these calls to us."

» Is there an area in your neighborhood that you would like to help keep clean. Why not "adopt-a-block?" Learn more through DC's Office of the Clean City (OCCC) at: <http://occc.dc.gov/service/adopt-block>

» Litter Enforcement Month is sponsored by the Alice Ferguson Foundation, whose mission is to raise awareness of litter, illegal dumping, and related crimes; the laws associated with them, and their social and environmental effects on our communities, our economy, and the Potomac River. Learn more about the foundation at: <http://fergusonfoundation.org/trash-free-potomac-watershed-initiative/litter-enforcement/litter-enforcement-month/>

» Many of us think we would never fall prey to a con artist, but some are very skilled at their trade. Learn about some other common scams and how to avoid becoming a victim at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/scams>

» To report any financial scam,

- o email the Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking at [disbcomplaints@dc.gov](mailto:disbcomplaints@dc.gov)
- o go to [disb.dc.gov/service/file-complaint-or-report-fraud](http://disb.dc.gov/service/file-complaint-or-report-fraud)
- o or call (202) 727-7108

#### NEWS & NOTES

### Also Noteworthy

**Street Closures.** The MPD and the DCDOT would like to inform the public of street closures associated with the Cherry Blossom Ten Mile

Run set for Sunday, April 7. Runners will gather at the Washington Monument before running a course that includes portions of Independence Avenue, the Memorial Bridge, and Rock Creek Parkway. For more information, go to: <http://www.cherryblossom.org/theraces/>

#### tenmile.php

**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>.

#### 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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