

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, May 24, 2013

PLAY IT SAFE WHEN USING YOUR VEHICLE THIS HOLIDAY WEEKEND

During this holiday weekend, and throughout the summer, many drivers will be hitting the road to reach the destinations of their choice – be it a vacation getaway or a day at a friend's barbecue. Regardless of where you go, if you drive, remember to do so responsibly. Police will be out in force over the holiday trying to keep the streets and highways safe. They'll be enforcing all the rules of the road, so it's important that all drivers out there remember to obey the law. This means absolutely no drinking and driving and no aggressive driving. Everyone in the vehicle should also be properly buckled up whenever the vehicle is moving. Alcohol-related crashes result in thousands of fatalities every year. The legal limit for Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) in DC is .08 percent. It's illegal for anyone to have a BAC over that limit; however, if a person under the age of 21 is found to be operating a motor vehicle with ANY measurable amount of alcohol, he or she will be placed under arrest and charged with Driving While Intoxicated (DWI).

Aggressive driving is described as a combination of unsafe and unlawful actions that demonstrate a conscious and willful disregard for safety, including offenses such as running red lights and stop signs; following too closely, or tailgating; changing lanes unsafely; failing to yield the right of way; improper passing; and speeding. Don't let your anger get the best of you if you're driving. Always allow extra travel time, because traffic congestion — and the related delays — is among the primary factors that lead motorists to drive aggressively. By leaving extra travel time, you will be less inclined to drive aggressively in order to make up for time lost in congestion.

Remember to signal your intentions, concentrate on your driving (not your cell phone, stereo, passengers, or other distractions), and extend common courtesy to other drivers at all times. Finally, keep everyone in your car safe by reminding them to wear their seatbelts. Drivers will be pulled over, ticketed, and fined for not obeying the seat belt laws. Penalties include the assessment points on your driver's license and fines ranging from \$50 to \$150 for offenses.

- » Penalties for drinking and driving include fines, suspended licenses, and jail time. Get details on the offenses and penalties at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/dui>
- » Each year, the MPD participates in the Smooth Operator program, targeted at reducing the number of aggressive drivers on the road. Get details on the program as well as ten basic rules of courtesy and safety while driving at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/smoothoperator>
- » Every child under the age of eight years of age must be properly seated in an installed infant, convertible (toddler), or booster child seat. For details on Child Safety Seat violations and penalties go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/childrestraintlaw>

TRAVELING THIS SUMMER?

HELP KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE AND SECURE WHILE YOU'RE AWAY

Burglars can strike at almost any time and on almost any target. But burglars particularly like targets that look vulnerable. So if you're traveling this summer, make sure you take a few minutes to plan how to help keep your home and your possessions secure while you're away. The primary goal is to make your home look "lived in" (almost all burglars prefer homes where residents clearly aren't home). That means arranging to have your newspaper deliveries stopped and your mail collected by a trusted neighbor. If you're going to be away for a couple of weeks, it may be a good idea to have someone mow your lawn. It's probably best not to put your garbage cans out for pickup—or, alternatively, arrange to have a neighbor take in your can after the collection date. Empty trash cans left at the curb or in an alley for several days can be a sure-fire sign that no one is home. Inside, set timers to turn on lights—as well as radio or television sets—in various rooms at various times of the day. And don't change your voice mail message or your email reply to indicate that you are "out of town."

- » Learn more burglary prevention tips that you can use throughout the year at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/burglary>

DISTRICT OPENS POOLS, OFFERS MORE WAYS TO BEAT SUMMER BOREDOM

Memorial Day is upon us and the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) will open DPR's 19 outdoor swimming pools, 4 children's pools and 11 spray parks for the 2013 summer season starting on Saturday, May 25 at 12 pm. The District's outdoor aquatic facilities will remain open the entire Memorial Day weekend - Saturday, Sunday and Monday - from 12 pm until 6 pm. District residents (must show accepted proof of residency) swim free of charge at all DPR pools, non-District residents must pay a fee.

With large outdoor pools, six indoor pools, and even six walk-to-learn pools for young children, the summer heat is no excuse for not joining in the fun. But remember to exercise caution when cooling off. Parents should ensure that young children are equipped with the proper flotation devices and basic understanding of water safety. All children should be supervised when swimming. Adults should avoid drinking alcohol before a visit to the pool. Most pools will be open to the public seven days a week.

- » For the locations of all of the District's indoor and outdoor swimming facilities, see: <http://app.dpr.dc.gov/dprmap/index.asp>
- » Get more information about DC summer programs at the Department of Parks and Recreation at: <http://dpr.dc.gov>

POLICE RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM OFFERS COMMUNITY MEMBERS INSIGHT INTO THE DAILY OPERATIONS OF THE MPD

The Metropolitan Police Department's Police Ride-Along program allows residents to accompany officers during their tour of duty in a police vehicle. "Ride-Along" means to be an official passenger in a patrol vehicle, accompanying a police officer during part of a normal tour of duty. The primary purpose of a police Ride-Along is to provide an opportunity for the community to see firsthand the day-to-day workings of law enforcement in the District of Columbia. The Ride-Along participant receives important insight into what it means to be a police officer. Criminal Justice students and individuals interested in law enforcement careers have found it particularly useful. The Ride-Along program fosters a better understanding of the challenges, hazards and rewards of the police officer's role in the community. Other Ride-Along goals are to:

- » For additional contact information and to download an application to participate in the MPD's Police Ride-Along program, go to: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/ridealong>

- provide citizens the opportunity to get to know their police officers.
- offer citizens interested in a career in law enforcement an opportunity to examine the job.
- educate the community about the responsibilities of police officers.
- provide an opportunity for police officers to get to know their community.

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>.

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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