

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, July 12, 2013

TOWARD ZERO DEATHS: WORK ZONE SAFETY

The District of Columbia is committed to protecting the lives of those traveling on city roads. Toward Zero Deaths represents the city's goal of reducing traffic fatalities to zero. Traffic deaths are preventable and over the next few weeks, "What's New" will be sharing information on what you can do to protect yourself in a variety of areas, including seat belt safety, impaired driving, speeding & aggressive driving, distracted driving, and pedestrian & bicycle safety.

Work Zone Safety

Each year, lives are lost in work zones, and the majority of those fatalities are drivers not the workers. With federal funds now jumpstarting thousands of road projects across the country, drivers need to be attentive and careful. Here are some tips and notes about driving in work zones in the District of Columbia:

- According to DC law, fines double and penalties increase for traffic offenses committed in work zones.
- Slow down and do not pass while driving in a work zone.
- Keep a safe distance from flaggers and pay attention to their signs and signals.
- Watch out for flaggers and other workers on or near the road and in and behind equipment.
- Pay attention and follow all warning devices in a work zone, such as signs, cones, drums, barricades, and message boards.



- » Toward Zero Deaths represents the city's goal of reducing traffic fatalities to zero. Learn more about how you can improve your safety by going to:
<http://towardzerodeathsdcc.com/>
- » Learn more about driving safely in the District of Columbia and download the Work Zone Safety brochure at:
<http://dcroadrules.com/>
- » By implementing traffic enforcement initiatives, offering tips on sharing the road, and participating in regional programs, the MPD is improving safety on the streets for walkers, bicyclists and drivers. Here are some tips:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/traffic>

DC PREPARES FOR NATIONAL NIGHT OUT ON AUGUST 6

On Tuesday, August 6, thousands of DC residents are expected to join with their neighbors, police officers and other community leaders in celebrating National Night Out (NNO). From community cookouts to open houses – block parties, candlelight vigils and athletic events – DC is gearing up for the 30th annual celebration of "America's Night Out Against Crime." The citywide kickoff will begin at 6 pm at Sursum Corda in the First Police District. Public safety characters McGruff the Crime Dog® and the National Knight® will be available to meet attendees and have their photos taken. In addition to the numerous activities taking place at the kickoff event, communities across DC – in all seven police districts – have scheduled NNO events during the late afternoon and evening hours.

National Night Out is an annual event, sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch, that takes place on the first Tuesday in August. Each year, the Metropolitan Police Department actively participates in National Night Out by rallying community members throughout the District of Columbia to join with neighbors and police officers in their PSAs to be a part of this annual event.

The National Night Out campaign involves citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials from 9,500 communities from all 50 states, US territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide.

- » For complete list of events scheduled to take place in the seven police districts and other information about National Night Out in DC, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/NNO>
- » Even if you can't participate in an organized National Night Out event, you can still be involved. Residents are encouraged to turn on their exterior lights on the evening of August 6 — as a show of neighborhood solidarity against crime. Learn more about NNO at:
<http://www.nno.org>

RESIDENTS URGED: BEAT THE HEAT BUT DON'T OPEN FIRE HYDRANTS

As temperatures rise, the District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department and DC Water urge those in the District not to open fire hydrants to beat the heat. Unauthorized hydrant use can hamper firefighting, damage the water system and cause injury. It can also flood streets, creating traffic dangers.

Hydrants need to be ready and available to fight fires. Only official personnel with specialized tools should operate them. Opening a hydrant without the right tools can damage the hydrant, the nozzle and the pipes in the water distribution system. Additionally, opening a hydrant can lower the water pressure and seriously affect our ability to fight fires. Also, the force of pressurized water coming out of a hydrant can knock a person down and lead to injury.

Residents and visitors in the District can keep cool by staying in shade or air conditioning and drinking plenty of water. When the temperature or heat index reaches 95, residents are encouraged to take extra precautions against the heat. If they do not live in an air-conditioned building, they may take refuge at a District swimming pool, cooling center, recreation facility, senior center or other air-conditioned building. More information, and locations, can be found at dc.gov or by calling 311.

In the event of a life-threatening heat emergency, please call 911 for medical assistance. Tampering with a District hydrant is a crime, subject to a \$100 fine. To report unauthorized use of fire hydrants, please call the DC Water Command Center at (202) 612-3400.

- » Tampering with hydrants is illegal, dangerous, can cause low water pressure throughout a neighborhood and can damage the water system. Read more about why you should leave hydrants alone at: http://www.dewater.com/news/listings/press_release602.cfm
- » To learn more about the perils of opening a hydrant, view the DC Water video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NSSFxNFe9yM>
- » Looking for a way to cool off? The District of Columbia has 19 outdoor pools and 10 spray parks. Find locations at: <http://dpr.dc.gov>
- » DC Water offers a misting tent and cooling stations for large community events sponsored by District agencies and community groups. The misting tent has an online registration option at: <http://dcwater.com/mistingtent>.

THIRTY-ONE NEW OFFICERS ARE HITTING THE STREETS OF DC

Patrols in DC neighborhoods are being boosted by the addition of 31 officers who were sworn in during a graduation ceremony on Friday, June 28, 2013, at the Metropolitan Police Academy in Southwest DC.

Training awards presented during the ceremony recognized **Officer Katherine Canefield** (Academic Training Award); **Officer Zachary Trumpp** (Firearms Training Award); **Officer Marcus Smith** (Vehicle Skills Awards); and **Officers Katherine Canefield** and **Marcus Smith** (Physical Skills Awards). The new officers all completed approximately 24 weeks of training at the police academy, which includes a full program of physical, classroom, and firearms training to prepare them for the challenges of being a police officer. The subjects covered include laws of arrest, search and seizure, criminal law, traffic regulations, human relations, community policing, and ethics. In addition, recruit officers receive skills training in firearms, operation of emergency police vehicles, self-defense, advanced first aid, and much more.

The MPD is focused on building a crime-fighting partnership with the community, and developing our own promise and potential as a department. Police work requires a certain type of individual — one who has strong interpersonal skills and the motivation to work with our partners to help build strong, safe and healthy communities throughout the District of Columbia.

- » For more information on becoming a police officer in the MPD visit the police recruiting website at: <http://dcpolicejobs.dc.gov>
- » The MPD is looking for volunteers to join the MPD's Reserve Corps, which provides qualified civic-minded individuals with the opportunity to assist the MPD in carrying out its policing responsibilities. Details on the Reserve Corps and other volunteer programs are available at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/page/volunteer-opportunities-mpdc>

NEWS & NOTES

Also Noteworthy

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>.

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>.

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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