

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, October 18, 2013

EMAIL LIST GROUPS HELP STRENGTHEN ONLINE COMMUNITY

The MPD police-community Yahoo discussion groups were created for members of the community so they could share public safety information in an effort to help reduce crime and the fear of crime. Information shared on the email list groups include community announcements, meeting dates, crime statistics, safety concerns and ideas, crime reports, and safety tips. The listserv also acts as a virtual community,

which helps strengthen partnerships between the local police and the communities they serve. It provides yet another means of visibility and accessibility for the community.

The listserv discussion groups are designed to attract area residents, employees, students, business owners, elected officials, and government agency representatives interested in coming together to solve problems and share public safety-related information that will improve the quality of life in each police district. It provides an opportunity for all stakeholders and DC service providers to engage in ongoing online interaction with police, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, holidays and weekends.

Information posted to the groups is intended to benefit members of a specific police district. If you don't know your police district, you can find out by visiting access the DC Guide to easily locate a PSA and other resources within a geographic area.

Successes of the police listserv include:

- Faster dissemination of information, especially community meetings and events.
- Assistance with identifying and taking action against nuisance properties.
- Successful collaborations among community groups, elected officials and police.
- Greater assistance with lookouts — from missing persons and pets to found property
- Recognizing good work and identifying areas of service that need improvement.
- Gauging the community's concerns.
- Developing relationships, especially when a police district gets a new commander or new patrol officers
- Identifying community leaders and activists, who are eager to join the group to let their voices be heard.
- Sharing information between districts.
- Listserv-to-Listserv communications (MPD postings are regularly shared with other large community online groups, with the potential of reaching 20,000 online users in one day.)



» For more information or the to get the Yahoo group name of your district email list group, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/emailgroups>

MPD STRESSES SAFETY, OFFERS ACTIVITIES AT DISTRICT STATIONS THIS HALLOWEEN

To help ensure that youngsters across DC have a safe and fun place to celebrate Halloween, many of the MPD police districts are holding special events to celebrate the spooky holiday. Festivities include parties, haunted houses and Halloween celebrations at each of the seven police stations. All of the events are free and designed to provide an opportunity for Halloween fun for young people and parents who might want an alternative to trick-or-treating in the community.

For those who will be out and about on Halloween, the MPD offers a number of common-sense safety tips to help keep young ghosts and goblins safe. For example, in selecting costumes, bright, reflective and flame-retardant materials are a must, as are comfortable, well-fitting shoes. Instead of masks, which can restrict vision, youngsters are encouraged to get creative with face paints. To promote their safety while walking, trick-or-treaters are reminded to stay on the sidewalk and to cross only at the corner (never between cars). Motorists need to slow down and be on the lookout for children. Homeowners are encouraged to turn on exterior lights and clean up any debris near their property that children could trip on. And, of course, youngsters should never go into peoples' homes, talk to or accept rides from strangers, or eat any goodies before adults have a chance to inspect them.



- » Get Halloween safety tips as well as details on the MPD-sponsored Halloween parties, go to: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/halloween>
- » Through SoberRide, adults who have done a little too much Halloween celebrating can get free cab rides home from 10 pm on Thursday, October 31 through 6 am on Friday, November 1. Please call 1-800-200-TAXI or #TAXI on your AT&T wireless telephone. For further details, visit: <http://www.wrap.org/soberide/>

MPD AND DC COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SEEK CELL PHONES FOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE

The Metropolitan Police Department has collaborated with the DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence to collect unwanted gently-used cell phones (and chargers and batteries if you have them) to distribute to victims who are living in domestic violence situations. Phones are collected by Victim Specialists and distributed to clients through our partner agencies, including: the Domestic Violence Intake Center at DC Superior Court and the Southeast Satellite Office at Greater Southeast Community Hospital. Collection sites will be in every district and substation. Individuals may drop off their used and unwanted cell phones (and chargers/batteries, if you have them) in the designated boxes.

The DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence will handle all tax deduction requests. Individuals requesting to receive a tax deduction for their contribution may either mail them directly to the DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence, drop them off at any police district, or contact the Victim Services Branch to schedule a time to drop off your phones with a Victim Specialist at the Metropolitan Police Department Headquarters location.

The phones will be cleaned and programmed for the purposes of 911 only by the DC Coalition for Domestic Violence and will be provided to victims of domestic violence. These phones may be a valuable tool to those victims who do not have access to a telephone either a landline or cellular by connecting him/her to emergency services when needed.

- » For more information on the cell phone collection program, visit: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/donatecellphone>
- » To donate a cell phone, contact:
Tyria Fields
Program Manager
Metropolitan Police Department
Victim Services Branch
(202) 724-4339
tyria.fields@dc.gov

DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence
5 Thomas Circle, NW
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 299-1181

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>.

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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