





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

Friday, November 1, 2013

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.

HAVE YOU BEEN A VICTIM OF A THEFT OR ROBBERY? CHECK MPD'S WEBSITE FOR PHOTOS OF RECOVERED PROPERTY 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 or donated. Before any recovered bicycles are auctioned or donated, images will be posted online.

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, #17 DC Village Lane, SW, to retrieve it.

To claim property pictured via one of the links above, individuals must provide the MPD's Evidence Control Branch with a form of Government Identification; the bar code included with the bicycle image; and either Proof of ownership of property OR documentation that a police report was filed (CCN).

- 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 3, so remember to reset your clocks before you go to bed on Saturday night!

- Learn more about recovering stolen property and see photos of recovered bikes and electronics at: http://mpdc.dc.gov/recoveredproperty
- The MPD handles over 100,000 recovered or seized property cases every year. Learn more about how the Evidence Control Branch approaches this task at: http://mpdc.dc.gov/ecd

NEW POLICE TACTICAL TRAINING FACILITY TO HOST REALISTIC SIMULATIONS FOR TRAINING MPD MEMBERS

On October 2, 2013, Mayor Vincent C. Gray and other District officials held a ribboncutting ceremony to open the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) new Tactical Training Facility, located at 4665 Blue Plains Drive, SW. The facility was constructed by the Department of General Services (DGS) on the grounds of the old MPD shooting range and is designed for training of new recruits and officers.

"This facility will help our police recruits and officers train to respond to emergency situations in settings that realistically recreate conditions they would find in our urban environment," Mayor Gray said. "This is a crucial facility that will help our MPD officers keep us safe."

The project included the construction of two new structures, the Gas House and the Tactical Village. The Gas House is a single-story, 1,000-square-foot structure that will be used to train officers and recruits on the use of tear gas, pepper spray and other MPD non-lethal ordnance. The Tactical Village is a 40 foot-tall, pre-engineered metal building that houses a realistic representation of an urban environment. It includes an entry street, a main street, a cross street and two alleyways. This four-block village contains five training modules designed to emulate different tactical scenarios that a police officer may face while on duty, as well as a four-story rappelling tower. It also included the renovation of an existing structure to be used as the administrative offices.

"Our new Tactical Training Facility will help us provide state-of-the-art training to recruits and continuing education for current MPD officers in an environment that closely simulates what they might encounter in the real world," said MPD Chief Cathy Lanier.

"Our security teams face a daunting and ever-changing challenge, and this simulated environment allows everyone from new recruits to seasoned veterans to hone their skills," said DGS Director Brian Hanlon.

- Read the complete news release at: http://mayor.dc.gov/release/mayor-grayopens-new-police-tactical-training-facility
- Interested in becoming a police officer and using tools like the new Police Tactical Training Facility to learn the ropes? Right now is a great time to explore an exciting career in law enforcement with the Metropolitan Police Department. Learn more at:

http://dcpolice.jobs



NEWS & NOTES Also Noteworthy

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.

Tell Us How We're Doing. MPD is now

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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