

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, December 20, 2013

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE MPD

Chief Cathy Lanier, her Command Staff and all the members of the MPD wish our partners in the community a happy and peaceful holiday season.



YOUTH AND POLICE SHARE IN THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT DURING ANNUAL SHOP WITH A COP EVENT AT WALMART

MPD members teamed up with the Washington, DC Police Foundation and Walmart on Thursday, December 12, 2013, to brighten some kids' holidays for our annual "Shop with a Cop" program. Walmart's new store on Georgia Avenue played host to the event and the officers and children had a great time shopping and preparing for the holiday season. The event was made possible by a grant from the DC Police Foundation.



» The Washington DC Police Foundation is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization that brings together the business, civic, and other professional communities to promote public safety by providing financial and in-kind resources to the MPD, expanding public safety awareness, and advancing public safety policy and initiatives. Learn more about the extraordinary support the Washington DC Police Foundation provides to the MPD. Learn more about the Foundation at: <http://www.dcpolicefoundation.org>

HOLIDAY REMINDER: DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE IN DC

Metropolitan Police officers are out in force this holiday season, looking for impaired drivers, speeders and other aggressive or unsafe drivers. Several sobriety checkpoints will be conducted between now and New Year's Day, as part of the MPD's holiday traffic safety detail. The MPD is also throwing its support behind both the designated driver and SoberRide programs this holiday season. Sponsored by the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), SoberRide provides holiday revelers with free cab rides home (up to \$50) every evening from 10 pm to 6 am, now through January 1. To receive a free cab ride home (up to a \$30.00 fare), please call 800-200-8294 (TAXI). AT&T customers may dial #WRAP from their wireless phones. Please refer to the SoberRide information listed below for important details concerning this program. You must be 21 or older to use the SoberRide service.

The MPDC reminds motorists that DC has tough drunk driving laws, including a Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) standard of .08, zero tolerance for youthful offenders, and penalties that include stiff fines, license revocation and the possibility of jail time, even for first offenders.

» Learn more about drunk driving laws in DC by going to: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/dui>

» More details on SoberRide are available at: <http://www.wrap.org/soberride/>

FBI OFFERS ONLINE HOLIDAY SHOPPING TIPS

As Christmas day draws near and shoppers are finalizing their online purchases, the FBI reminds you to beware of cyber criminals who are out to steal money and personal information. Scammers use many techniques to defraud consumers, from phishing e-mails offering too good to be true deals on brand-name merchandise to offering quick cash to victims who will re-ship packages to additional destinations.

While monitoring credit reports on an annual basis and reviewing account statements each month is always a good idea, consumers should keep a particularly watchful eye on their personal credit information at this time of year. Scrutinizing credit card bills for any fraudulent activity can help to minimize victims' losses. Unrecognizable charges listed on a credit card statement are often the first time consumers realize their personally identifiable information has been stolen.

Bank transactions and correspondence from financial institutions should also be closely reviewed. Consumers should never click on a link embedded in an e-mail from their bank, but rather open a new webpage and manually enter the URL (web address), because phishing scams often start with phony e-mails that feature the bank's name and logo.

When shopping online, make sure to use reputable sites. It's best to shop on sites with which you are familiar and that have an established reputation as trusted online retailers.

If you look for an item or company name through a search engine site, scrutinize the results listed before going to a website. Do not automatically click on the first result, even if it looks identical or similar to the desired result. Many fraudsters go to extreme lengths to have their own website appear ahead of a legitimate company on popular search engines.

Here are some additional tips you can use to avoid becoming a victim of cyber fraud:

- Do not respond to unsolicited (spam) e-mail.
- Do not click on links contained within an unsolicited e-mail.
- Be cautious of e-mail claiming to contain pictures in attached files; the files may contain viruses. Only open attachments from known senders.
- Avoid filling out forms contained in e-mail messages that ask for personal information.
- Always compare the link in the e-mail to the link you are actually directed to and determine if they match and will lead you to a legitimate site.
- Log on directly to the official website for the business identified in the e-mail instead of "linking" to it from an unsolicited e-mail. If the e-mail appears to be from your bank, credit card issuer, or other company you deal with frequently, your statements or official correspondence from the business will provide the proper contact information.
- If you are requested to act quickly or there is an emergency that requires your attention, it may be a scam. Fraudsters create a sense of urgency to get you to act quickly.
- Remember if it looks too good to be true, it probably is.

» For additional information about safe online shopping, please visit the following sites:

- o US-CERT: <http://www.us-cert.gov/cas/tips/ST07-001.html>
- o OnGuard Online: <http://www.onguardonline.gov/articles/0020-shopping-online>
- o Microsoft: <http://www.microsoft.com/security/online-privacy/online-shopping.aspx>
- o Privacy Rights Clearinghouse: <http://www.privacyrights.org/Privacy-When-You-Shop>
- o Internet Crime Complaint Center: <http://www.ic3.gov/media/2010/101118.aspx>
- o Internal Revenue Service: <http://www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits/Exempt-Organizations-Select-Check>

» Please visit the following link for additional information about Phishing Scams and Malware Campaigns:

<http://www.us-cert.gov/ncas/current-activity/2013/11/19/Holiday-Season-Phishing-Scams-and-Malware-Campaigns>

NEWS & NOTES

Also Noteworthy

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 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>.

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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