

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

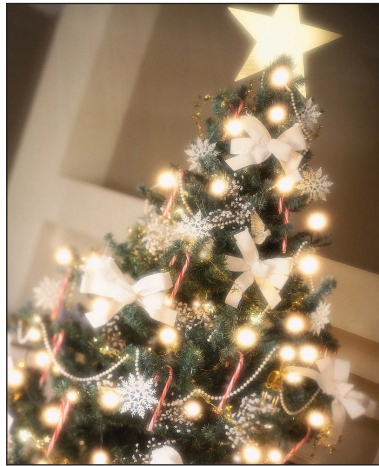
A weekly update for residents, visitors, and workers in the District of Columbia



Friday, December 27, 2013

SIXTH ANNUAL TREE OF REMEMBRANCE HONORS THE LIVES OF LOVED ONES LOST TO HOMICIDE

On Saturday December 7, 2013, the Metropolitan Police Department's Criminal Investigative Division, Victim Services Branch hosted its Sixth Annual "Tree of Remembrance" ceremony. The event was held at the First District Police Station, 101 M Street, SW. This annual event provides an opportunity for families and friends to honor their loved ones lost to homicide. Families honor their loved ones by placing an ornament on the tree with the loved one's name on it, and by viewing a memorial slide show of pictures of their family member, while hearing each loved one's name recited. Table activities for the children were provided and the Metropolitan Police Department Honor Guard presented. Community Volunteers performed inspirational dance, and read uplifting poems. An information table also provided support resources with tips on how to cope with loss during the upcoming holidays. Each family was also given a ribbon to wear in honor of their loved one and an ornament to take with them. Over 400 families, relatives and friends were in attendance at this year's event. As a reminder to surviving families, that they are not alone, **Assistant Chief Diane Groomes**, **Assistant Chief Peter Newsham**, and **Commander George Kucik** of CID, provided encouraging words of commitment and support to the families. A special thanks to the families, volunteers, participants and staff who made this year's special event another success.



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

MPD members teamed up with the Washington, DC Police Foundation and Target last Friday to brighten some kids' holidays for our annual "Shop with a Cop" program. The officers and children had a great time shopping at the Target store in Columbia Heights and preparing for the holiday season. The event was made possible by a \$10,000 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>

MPD ANNOUNCES INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT

In an effort to broaden our communication with the community, the Metropolitan Police Department has launched an Instagram account. Our Instagram handle DCPOLICEDEPT is our latest venture in social media.

The Metropolitan Police Department already has more than 32,000 followers on Twitter (@DCPOLICEDEPT). Over 16,000 residents receive valuable information through our police listservs, and the MPD reaches a growing audience through our other social media pages, which include Facebook (DCPolice), YouTube (OfficialDCPolice), and Pinterest (dcpolice).

The community has also continued to embrace our text tip initiative. In 2012, we received more than 2,000 text tips, six times the number of tips we received the year we first launched the system in 2008.

Our relationship with the community is paramount to our success and we continue to look for different ways to improve that communication.

Please follow us on Instagram and look for videos and photographs that could help us in our investigations.

Anyone with information about crimes is asked to call the police at (202) 727-9099. Additionally, anonymous information may be submitted to the department's TEXT TIP LINE by text messaging 50411.



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 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/>

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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