

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, April 4, 2014

AS SPRING ARRIVES, MPD WARNS RESIDENT TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR CON ARTISTS

While spring means the blooming of the cherry blossoms and other plants, it can also bring out con artists and other criminals seeking to profit from unsuspecting victims. Some of the most common cons and swindles this time of year are bogus home repair offers, fraudulent door-to-door charities, and individuals posing as police officers or bank investigators who claim to be investigating fraudulent tellers or counterfeit schemes. DC residents are urged to be wary of any “something-for-nothing” offers. Always ask for offers in writing, read over all contracts before you sign, and never agree to “cash-only” deals. Do not hesitate to check the credentials of anyone who comes to your door. Ask to see official identification and inspect it carefully. Legitimate organizations – especially real police officers – will not hesitate to comply. And if you have been victimized by a con artist, please call the police and report it. This is the only way that law enforcement can detect patterns and identify and apprehend offenders.

» For more information about con games and swindles, click on:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/scams>

RESIDENTS REMINDED TO OPERATE MINIBIKES AND OTHER SMALL VEHICLES RESPONSIBLY

Like cars and trucks, motorcycles, motorized bicycles, Segways, and mopeds must be operated safely on city streets. Minibikes, ATVs, and dirt bikes are designed for off-road use and may not be driven on city streets or sidewalks.

It is illegal to ride or operate a minibike, dirt bike or All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) on the District's streets or sidewalks. It is okay to ride bicycles, mopeds, motorized bicycles, Segways, and motorcycles on the street, but not on city sidewalks.*

No matter what or where you ride, obey traffic and safety laws and yield to pedestrians. And don't forget to wear a helmet for your own protection!

» Get more information on regulations on operating small motorized vehicles in the District of Columbia, as well as helpful posters and fliers online at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/minibike>

Vehicles That Are Legal On DC Streets (not sidewalks)*	Vehicles That Are Illegal On DC Streets or Sidewalks
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Motorcycle• Moped• Bicycle (<i>Motorized or Non-Motorized</i>)• Segway	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All Terrain Vehicle (ATV)• Minibike• Dirt Bike

* *Non-motorized bicycles may be ridden on the sidewalk in neighborhoods outside the central business district.*

APRIL IS NATIONAL 911 EDUCATION MONTH

Emergencies don't happen very often. But when they do, you want to get help fast. No one wants to spend time looking up the phone number. That's why 911 was created — to make it easy. In the United States and Canada, dialing 911 on your telephone is the fastest way you can get help for yourself or someone else. In 2008, April was identified National 9-1-1 Education Month.

In Washington, DC, the Office of Unified Communications oversees the designated call center for all District emergency 911 calls and for all District non-emergency and citywide 311 calls. Dial 911 to request police, fire, and emergency medical services for life-threatening situations. 911 is designed for contacting the MPD and the DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department (FEMS) in all situations requiring an onsite response by MPD or FEMS. 911 is a toll-free call accessible through residential, wireless, and pay telephones throughout the District.

Most people know that 911 is for people emergencies only, but you may need to remind young people how and when to use 911 responsibly. Never call 911 as a joke or just to see what might happen. When the emergency dispatcher has to take the time to talk to people who don't have a real emergency, other people who call and do need help right away might have to wait.

If you do have to call 911 in an emergency, be sure to stay on the phone. Do not hang up until the 911 operator tells you it's okay to do so. That way, you can be sure that the operator has all the information to get help to you fast!

- » DC Government uses Smart911, a handy app that lets you create a safety profile online. Download the app at:
<https://www.smart911.com>
- » For information on calling 911 in the District of Columbia, go to:
<http://ouc.dc.gov/page/about-911>
- » Dial 311, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to request scheduled services such as trash removal, pothole repair, bulk pick-ups and recycling collection. For more information on 311 and to download a smartphone app, go to
<http://ouc.dc.gov/page/about-311>
- » Learn more about the Office of Unified Communications (OUC), which manages 9-1-1 communications for the District of Columbia at
<http://ouc.dc.gov>

STREET CLOSURES PLANNED FOR CHERRY BLOSSOM 10-MILER

From March 20-April 13, 2014, the District of Columbia hosts the National Cherry Blossom Festival with activities throughout the city. The Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile Run is set for this Sunday, April 6, 2014. Most streets will be closed from approximately 7 am – 10:30 am. Street closures include Memorial Bridge, portions of Rock Creek Parkway, streets around the Tidal Basin and Ohio Drive in East Potomac Park. With approximately 15,000 runners registered for the race, traffic congestion is expected to be heavy and drivers are encouraged to plan accordingly. Using Metro transit is highly recommended for individuals participating in the race as well as those going to cheer on others.

- » Get more information about the Cherry Blossom Ten Mile Run at:
<http://www.cherryblossom.org/generalinfo/thebasics.php>
- » For a map of street closures associated with the Cherry Blossom Ten Mile Run, go to:
http://www.cherryblossom.org/images/2014/Road_Closures.pdf

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>.

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>.

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>.

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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