

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, May 23, 2014

PLAY IT SAFE WHEN USING YOUR VEHICLE OVER THE HOLIDAY WEEKEND

During this holiday weekend, and throughout the summer, many drivers will be hitting the road to reach the destinations of their choice – be it a vacation getaway or a day at a friend's barbecue. Regardless of where you go, if you drive, remember to do so responsibly. Police will be out in force over the holiday trying to keep the streets and highways safe. They'll be enforcing all the rules of the road, so it's important that all drivers out there remember to obey the law. This means absolutely no drinking and driving and no aggressive driving. Everyone in the vehicle should also be properly buckled up whenever the vehicle is moving. Alcohol-related crashes result in thousands of fatalities every year. The legal limit for Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) in DC is .08 percent. It's illegal for anyone to have a BAC over that limit; however, if a person under the age of 21 is found to be operating a motor vehicle with ANY measurable amount of alcohol, he or she will be placed under arrest and charged with Driving While Intoxicated (DWI).

Aggressive driving is described as a combination of unsafe and unlawful actions that demonstrate a conscious and willful disregard for safety, including offenses such as running red lights and stop signs; following too closely, or tailgating; changing lanes unsafely; failing to yield the right of way; improper passing; and speeding. Don't let your anger get the best of you if you're driving. Always allow extra travel time, because traffic congestion — and the related delays — is among the primary factors that lead motorists to drive aggressively. By leaving extra travel time, you will be less inclined to drive aggressively in order to make up for time lost in congestion.

Remember to signal your intentions, concentrate on your driving (not your cell phone, stereo, passengers, or other distractions), and extend common courtesy to other drivers at all times. Finally, keep everyone in your car safe by reminding them to wear their seatbelts. Drivers will be pulled over, ticketed, and fined for not obeying the seat belt laws. Penalties include the assessment points on your driver's license and fines ranging from \$50 to \$150 for offenses.

DISTRICT OPENS POOLS, OFFERS MORE WAYS TO BEAT SUMMER BOREDOM

Memorial Day is upon us and the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) will open DPR's 19 outdoor swimming pools, 4 children's pools and 19 spray parks for the 2014 summer season starting on Saturday, May 24 at 12 pm. The District's outdoor aquatic facilities will remain open the entire Memorial Day weekend - Saturday, Sunday and Monday - from 12 pm until 6 pm. District residents (must show accepted proof of residency) swim free of charge at all DPR pools, non-District residents must pay a fee.

With large outdoor pools, indoor pools, and even walk-to-learn pools for young children, the summer heat is no excuse for not joining in the fun. But remember to exercise caution when cooling off. Parents should ensure that young children are equipped with the proper flotation devices and basic understanding of water safety. All children should be supervised when swimming. Adults should avoid drinking alcohol before a visit to the pool.



- » Penalties for drinking and driving include fines, suspended licenses, and jail time. Get details on the offenses and penalties at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/dui>
- » Each year, the MPD participates in the Smooth Operator program, targeted at reducing the number of aggressive drivers on the road. Get details on the program as well as ten basic rules of courtesy and safety while driving at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/smoothoperator>
- » Remember this May 19 to June 1: Click It or Ticket. Buckle up and encourage your loved ones to do the same. You'll save the cost of a ticket and may even save a life. To learn more about Click It or Ticket, visit: <http://www.DCRoadRules.com>
- » Every child under the age of eight years of age must be properly seated in an installed infant, convertible (toddler), or booster child seat. For details on Child Safety Seat violations and penalties go to: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/childrestraintlaw>

- » For the locations of all of the District's indoor and outdoor swimming facilities, see: <http://dpr.dc.gov/page/aquatic-facilities>
- » Get more information about DC summer programs at the Department of Parks and Recreation at: <http://dpr.dc.gov>

FBI ANNOUNCES CHILD SUMMER SAFETY TIPS AND NEW APP

In advance of National Missing Children's Day on May 25, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Washington Field Office is sharing tips on how to keep kids safe and information about how the FBI investigates instances of child abduction and exploitation. Through the Child Exploitation Task Force, the FBI works to decrease the vulnerability of children to sexual exploitation, provide a rapid investigative response to crimes against children, and enhance the capabilities of state and local law enforcement agencies.

An unfortunate reality is that every year, thousands of children go missing. In these cases, the FBI works to assist in the investigation and speedy recovery of the abducted child. In cases of child exploitation, an individual often targets a child for the purpose of abuse or violence. This targeting can be done in person by an acquaintance or a stranger, or it can be done online through social websites and chat rooms.

To help in these recoveries, the FBI has developed the Child ID app, which provides an effective way for parents and guardians to keep their child's pictures and information on hand in case he or she goes missing. The app also includes safety tips for parents to help keep their kids out of harm's way. The app is free, and, in the event a child goes missing, parents and guardians can quickly e-mail the photos and information to authorities. No information about you or your child will be collected or stored by the FBI or iTunes. To download the Child ID app, go to iTunes Apps Store on your iPhone or Play Store on your Android phone.



» Get more safety tips from the FBI and download the Child ID app at:
<http://www.fbi.gov/washingtondc/news-and-outreach/stories/fbi-announces-child-summer-safety-tips>

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>.

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>.

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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