

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, May 30, 2014

TRAVELING THE SUMMER? HELP KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE AND SECURE WHILE YOU'RE AWAY

Burglars can strike at almost any time and on almost any target. But burglars particularly like targets that look vulnerable. So if you're traveling this summer, make sure you take a few minutes to plan how to help keep your home and your possessions secure while you're away. The primary goal is to make your home look "lived in" (almost all burglars prefer homes where residents clearly aren't home). That means arranging to have your newspaper deliveries stopped and your mail collected by a trusted neighbor. If you're going to be away for a couple of weeks, it may be a good idea to have someone mow your lawn. It's probably best not to put your garbage cans out for pickup—or, alternatively, arrange to have a neighbor take in your can after the collection date. Empty trash cans left at the curb or in an alley for several days can be a sure-fire sign that no one is home. Inside, set timers to turn on lights—as well as radio or television sets—in various rooms at various times of the day. And don't change your voice mail message or your email reply to indicate that you are "out of town."

» Learn more burglary prevention tips that you can use throughout the year at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/burglary>

MPD TO JOIN DPW AND OTHER DC AGENCIES AT TRUCK TOUCH ON JUNE 7

The DC Department of Public Works invites the public to attend a free, citywide "Truck Touch" Saturday, June 7, 2014, from 9 am to 2 pm at RFK Stadium, Lot 7. A host of DC government agencies will present and demonstrate nearly 30 vehicles used to clean and repair streets, change traffic lights, collect refuse, clear snow, provide emergency services, administer mobile health care, and more.



This is the city's seventh Truck Touch, which is coordinated annually by the DC Department of Public Works. Its popularity throughout the Washington metropolitan area over the years has caused its visitor attendance to grow from several hundred to several thousand. Last year, more than 5,000 residents came out to climb on packer, sweeper and boom trucks; sit atop MPD's Mounted Unit's police horse and maneuver the levers of a police chopper; ride Segways, and test drive electric sedan vehicles. Residents also learned how potholes are repaired, sewers are vacuumed and received information about vital city services.

DC's Citywide Truck Touch features vehicles from the DC Departments of Public Works, Transportation, Health, Employment Services, Parks and Recreation, Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency, the Metropolitan Police Department, and the DC Water and Sewer Authority. Other agencies will also be available to provide direct services and disseminate information about other DC government agencies.

» The 7th Annual City-Wide Truck Touch is set for Saturday, June 7, 2014, from 9 am -2 pm at RFK Stadium, Lot 7 (2400 East Capitol Street, NE). Read the full news release with all the details at:
<http://dpw.dc.gov/release/dc-government-hold-7th-annual-%E2%80%9Ctruck-touch%E2%80%9D-sat-june-7-rfk-lot-7>

DO YOUR PART TO PREVENT THEFTS FROM AUTO AND AUTO THEFTS AT GAS STATIONS

The MPD would like to raise the public's awareness about a common crime tactic perpetrated by thieves. These thieves target unsuspecting vehicle owners when they are pumping gas or paying the tab in the station. Purses and other valuables, which are often visible or easily accessible from passenger side of a vehicle, are the main targets. To simplify things for the thief, the vehicle is often left unlocked. The thefts normally take place when the victim is most distracted – when he or she is pumping gas or going into the station to pay for a purchase. A suspect vehicle will drive up next to the victim's auto, quickly open the unlocked door, and grab any easily-accessible items. Then they will just as quickly drive off. It happens in a matter of seconds.

These sorts of thefts can be prevented when the appropriate precautions are taken. Below are some helpful tips on how to avoid becoming a victim:

- Pick stations that are well-lit and have video-surveillance cameras at the pump.
- Make a list of favorite gas stations along your regular travel routes. Stations near police departments and state police barracks are good choices.
- Always remove your keys and lock the car doors while you are pumping gas. If you sense danger and you have a panic button on your car keys, keep your hands on the panic button until help arrives.
- Keep valuables out of sight in your vehicle and lock the doors, even if you are going inside for just a moment.
- Pick your pump with care. It might be worthwhile to wait for the pump nearest to the attendant or building.
- Pay attention to your surroundings.
- Don't be distracted by your cell phone.

» Learn more about how you can reduce the risk of having property in your car – or your vehicle – stolen, by watching the video and downloading additional information at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/gasstationsafety>



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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