

# WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, July 31, 2015

## DC PREPARES FOR NATIONAL NIGHT OUT ON AUGUST 4

On Tuesday, August 4, thousands of DC residents are expected to join with their neighbors, police officers and other community leaders in celebrating National Night Out (NNO). From community cookouts to open houses – block parties, candlelight vigils and athletic events – DC is gearing up for the 32nd annual celebration of “America’s Night Out Against Crime.” The citywide kickoff will begin at 5 pm at the Takoma Recreation Center, 300 Van Buren Street, NW, in the Fourth District. Public safety characters McGruff the Crime Dog® and the National Knight® will be available to meet attendees and have their photos taken. In addition to the numerous activities taking place at the kickoff event, communities across DC – in all seven police districts – have scheduled NNO events during the late afternoon and evening hours.

National Night Out is an annual event, sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch, that takes place on the first Tuesday in August. Each year, the Metropolitan Police Department actively participates in National Night Out by rallying community members throughout the District of Columbia to join with neighbors and police officers in their PSAs to be a part of this annual event.

The National Night Out campaign involves citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials from 9,500 communities from all 50 states, US territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide.

» For complete list of events scheduled to take place in the seven police districts and other information about National Night Out in DC, go to:

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

» Even if you can't participate in an organized National Night Out event, you can still be involved. Residents are encouraged to turn on their exterior lights on the evening of August 4 — as a show of neighborhood solidarity against crime. Learn more about NNO at:

<http://www.nno.org>



## REMINDER TO YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES: CURFEW IN EFFECT YEAR-ROUND; SUMMER HOURS CONTINUE THRU 8/31

The MPD offers this reminder to young people and their families concerning DC's teen curfew: From September 1 through June 30, DC's curfew for young people under the age of 17 starts at 11 pm, Sunday through Thursday nights, and at 12:01 am on weekends. Beginning Sunday, July 1, and continuing through August 31, DC's curfew starts at 12:01 am, and continues until 6 am seven days a week. This is an hour later than the weeknight curfew during school months. Under DC law, persons under the age of 17 cannot remain in or on a street, park or other outdoor public place, in a vehicle or on the premises of any establishment within the District during curfew hours, unless they are involved in certain exempted activities. These include work, school, religious, civic or organized recreational activities, as well as the exercise of First Amendment rights. DC's curfew law applies to all young people who are in the District during curfew hours, regardless of whether they live inside or outside the city. During the first six months of 2014, the MPD has processed approximately 1,300 curfew violators.



» For complete details on DC's curfew law, including sample exemptions and alternative resources for young people, go to: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/curfew>

## TRAVELING THIS 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>

### 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>.

**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>.

#### Information, ideas, or comments about this service?

Send an e-mail to **KAYLIN CASTELLI**, Manager of Internet Communications, at [kaylin.castelli@dc.gov](mailto:kaylin.castelli@dc.gov)

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