



# ***The Message***

**Issue 282**

**October 2010**

## **Mount Rainier Tour of Interesting Homes and Buildings**

As part of our centennial celebration, the City will be holding its first tour of homes in over a dozen years. The tour will include historically renovated homes, green homes and homes that have been renovated for artist work-studio space.

Sunday, October 17, 2010  
Noon to 5pm.

Tours will begin at Mount Rainier City Hall  
For more information call (301)985-6585 or (301)335-6099

## **Mount Rainier City Hall Receives Solar Panels through Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program**

As a result of a multi-city grant funded by the federal stimulus plan, the City received \$100,000 to install solar panels. The grant program is intended to assist U.S. cities, counties, states, territories, and Indian tribes to develop, promote, implement, and manage energy efficiency and conservation projects. The Program is designed to:

- Reduce fossil fuel emissions;
- Reduce energy cost at City Hall \$8000 annually; and
- Improve energy efficiency in building

### *IN THIS ISSUE...*

From Desk of the Mayor	2
Councilmen Knedler Ward Report	3
Council Highlights	4
Upcoming City Events	5
Message from Chief	5
Curbside Leaf Schedule	6
Trash Collection Notice	7
Directory of Important Contacts	8

### **Zipcars in Mount Rainier**

City of Mount Rainier now has Zipcars parked in downtown Mount Rainier. The vehicles are parked on the North side of Rhode Island Avenue just south of the traffic circle. Mount Rainier is among one of the first cities in Prince Georges County to have zip cars placed in our downtown area. The way zip cars work is that you join for \$25 and there is an annual fee of \$60. You make a reservation on line and using a card that is sent to you in the mail, you can open up the zip car and the keys are in the car waiting for you. The rates are \$7-\$9 per hour and \$69-\$77 per day. The program is specially designed for those people who do not have a regular need for a car but may need one on an occasional basis. You can learn more by going to [www.zipcar.com](http://www.zipcar.com).

## **FROM THE DESK OF THE MAYOR...**

### **Mount Rainier Nature Center HAS CHANGED!**

Have you visited the Mount Rainier Nature/Recreation Center (the Nature Center) recently? If not, you have missed a big change that has occurred there. For one Kevin is no longer there.. Miss Tonya Banks, Katrina Williams and Ashley are the new staff at the Nature Center. They have come with new ideas and programs. On Saturday night they had movie night for the kids and the Nature Center was open until 9:00pm. Approximately 47 people (mostly children and teens) came out and enjoyed the evening. Two or three of the adults were overjoyed to be able to sit out under the stars and take in a really good movie.

But that is not all that has changed at the Nature Center. There is a push and a MOVEMENT to make it a real recreation center for teens. Here are some of the things that are new at the Nature Center.

1. Xtreme teens program -- the Xtreme Teen Open House is Oct 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The fun begins at 7pm.
2. After school programs where teens can get their service hours, do homework, and have fun with other teens.
3. Partnership with the Community Center at Queens Manor so that when the children age out of programs there, they can automatically become members of the Nature Center and continue in various recreational programs.
4. MNCPPC admissions cards are now available at the Nature Center. this card is good for all MNCPPC programs throughout the County.
5. Ms. Tonya Banks really wants to hear from the residents of Mount Rainier about programs and activities that you wish to see at the Nature Center.

### **Announcements**

Congresswoman Edwards invites students to apply to admission to one of our nation's military academies: the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland; the U.S Military Academy, at West Point, New York; the U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colorado; or the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York. The rewards for individuals who qualify include tuition, career training, and service to our country. Please click here for information on the application process. Applications are due Friday, October 15, 2010.

For more information, contact the Mount Rainier Nature/Recreation Center at 4701 31st Pl Mt Rainier, MD 20712 - (301) 927-2163. I believe you will be glad you did.

### **Suite Magazine**

Just received a copy of the Suite Magazine. If you have not picked up one, stop by City Hall and get a copy. Mount Rainier is featured in the magazine in the Magazine's feature article "Our Town." Also featured in the magazine is Brentwood and North Brentwood. There is a full list of the Mount Rainier business community as well as other useful information about the City. This is another must see. Pick up your copy today.

### **Speed Cameras**

There has been a lot of talk about speed cameras, but few of those talking about the speed cameras have addressed the need or the reason those cameras exist.

Here's my take on the speed cameras. I hate them. They are annoying, and they actually take pictures of the car, the tag, and the speed that the car is travelling. What would be better would be for the cameras to take pictures of the drivers.

We actually race around our streets at speeds that are definitely above our posted speed limits. We run stop signs or do a "rolling stop." We zip through our own City with little regard for our children, and think nothing about it until that envelope arrives in the mail. With today's cars and trucks it is easy to go above the speed limit without knowing it, and those speed cameras remind us. I know because I have had two reminders, and I could not believe it. Those two reminders made me pay more close attention to my speed when I am behind the wheel. I hope those little reminders did the same for you.

Congresswoman Edwards will hold her 2nd annual *college fair and symposium from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 16, 2010 at Northwestern High School located at 7000 Adelphi Road in Hyattsville. "Planning for Future Success: Helping Students and Families Understand and Navigate the College Application Process" is designed to help students and parents learn about financial aid resources and post-secondary education and training opportunities.* The event will also feature representatives from colleges and universities, testing centers, and career training institutions, as well as lessons on writing essays, resumes, and completing applications. For more information, or call 301-516-7601 or click/copy or paste this link:

<http://donnaedwards.house.gov/uploads/2010%20College%20and%20Career%20Forum.pdf>

## COUNCILMEMBER KNEDLER'S WARD REPORT

**Revitalization** efforts often move slowly, but rest assured that the City Council and staff are working on many projects. Listed below are some of those efforts.

3405 and 3409 Rhode Island Avenue. The architects have been meeting with the Design Review Board, Town Center Design Review Committee, Friends of the Library, and City Council on the design for the new municipal complex that will ultimately connect the current City Hall with the Eastern Star building and a new building that will replace 3409 Rhode Island Avenue (old city hall and current library). In addition, the Eastern Star Hall has been designated a county historic site.

The county council is expected to adopt the new guidelines for the Mount Rainier mixed-use town center zone by the end of October 2010.

The county council has provided additional funding for the renovations to Rainier Manor Senior Housing complex. 3300 Rhode Island Avenue. We have received word that the "Singer Building" is under contract and the new owners intend to renovate the building. A meeting is to be set up with the new owners and the city council (likely to occur in October). Putting that long-

vacant eyesore into productive use will be a major major accomplishment and boost to town center revitalization.

3200 Rhode Island Avenue. The city council met with the consultant that is preparing a request for proposals from developers interested in the city-owned properties in the 3200 block of Rhode Island Avenue. We hope to have the RFP ready in late October. Meanwhile, the properties are the site to the farmers' market and also available for parking with a city permit.

**Green Home Initiative.** 15 homes will receive \$5,000 worth of "green" improvements through a program for which the city staff did the recruitment. Funding comes from the Community Legacy Funds and the Washington Area Community Investment Fund (WACIF).

**New Trees.** In early October, the planting of 100 new trees should take place. This project commemorates the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the city's incorporation. Funding comes from the county's ReLeaf Program and the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area Inc. The Tree Commission is beginning work on the next grant application. If you would like a

street tree, please contact the commission at [trees@20712.org](mailto:trees@20712.org).

**Parking Issues.** The Parking Task Force has recommended that the meter time limits on Rhode Island Avenue remain status quo, but that the fees increase. City staff continues to work through the federal red-tape to procure funding for purchase of a municipal parking lot in the 3400 block of Perry Street.

**Prostitution Stings.** Chief Scott announced in September that Prince George's County police vice squad officers had arrested over a dozen men for soliciting decoy prostitutes at Rhode Island Avenue and Eastern. They also in conjunction with the operation arrested men for illegal drug possession. As background, the city council had given the city manager directive months ago to crack down on men soliciting prostitutes in the city. Prior to this, most of the arrests had been of prostitutes. In the last six months, Howard County had been in the news with several successful operations to arrest men in north Laurel who solicited undercover policewomen posing as prostitutes. Councilmember's have received complaints about men harassing women in our town center for years. Because of the open prostitution, these men assumed that any woman

walking alone in our town center was soliciting. Prostitution is not a victimless crime in instances like this. Not only are innocent women being harassed but the city itself suffers economically as law-abiding citizens refuse to patronize legitimate businesses in our town center because of the atmosphere created by open prostitution. The city council also required that signs be

posted that warn potential customers of prostitutes that we are serious about arresting men involved.

**Centennial History Books** are still available for \$5. They are being sold at the farmer's market and at City Hall. I am sure we will have them for sale during the house tour in October.

**The GLBT community** has started meeting for coffee once a month at the Spotlight Café, in addition to the monthly happy hour events at the Calvert House in Riverdale Park. To be included on the mailing list, send an email to [glmrd@aol.com](mailto:glmrd@aol.com).

## Council Highlights

### June 1, 2010- Regular Meeting

**Ordinance 4-2010** - an Ordinance approving a real property tax credit for qualifying artists and arts and entertainment enterprises and generally relating to a real property tax credit. (First reading)

**Resolution 5-2010** - a Resolution supporting the financing of Rainier Manor renovations through the Maryland Community Development Administration (First Reading/Vote) (approved unanimously by the council)

**Resolution 6-2010** - a Resolution appointing Snow Removal Task Force Members (First reading/vote - approve 3-0)

### June 15, 2010 - Special Meeting Called by the Mayor

**Ordinance 4-2010** approving a real property tax credit for artists (Second Reading) approved 5-0

**Resolution 7-2010** - Declaring August 3, 2010 as National Night Out in the City of Mount Rainier and recognizing the national association of town watch and national night out for the relationships and partnership built in the community (Requestor - Chief Scott/Councilmember Knedler)

### M-NCPPC - MUTC Guidelines and Plan Vision Update

**AHD1 Queens Manor Apartments** - request to reduce license fees in lieu of asphalt and sidewalk repairs

**Spotlight Café Support** Discussion on support letter to Board of License Commissioners in order for the establishment to obtain a wine and beer license

### July 7, 2010 - Special Meeting Called by the Mayor

**4003 - 37<sup>th</sup> Street Variance Request** - Approved 3-0

**Consultant Position for Development of Rhode Island Avenue** - Applicants Rhoda Tobeck and Alvin Nichols presented

**Open Space Grant** - council consensus to apply for funding to purchase 33<sup>rd</sup> and Perry Street Lot

### August 9, 2010 - Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council

Discussion regarding Development Opportunities with Office of Prince George's Councilmember Will Campos and Streetsense Developer

### September 7, 2010 - Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council

Declaration of Council Vacancy - Ward 1

**Resolution 08-2010** - Approving Community Legacy Application for 2011 (First Reading/Vote) (approved 4-0)

**Resolution 09-2010 Stated Shared Income** (First Reading/Vote) A Resolution to petition the Administration and the Maryland General Assembly to reinstate the state shared revenues diverted from municipal governments to fund operations of the state and to provide more diverse revenue raising authority to municipalities. Approved 4-0

**Resolution 10-2010 Disposal of Vehicles 98 and 99 as surplus property** (First Reading/Vote) Resolution tabled for further discussion at September 21<sup>st</sup> work session.

**Approval of Collective Bargaining Agreement Management Team** for the purpose of negotiating with the Mount Rainier FOP Lodge 85 contract. Management Team is Mayor, City Manager, Chief Scott, and Treasurer Manjani

**Approval of signage for 3601 Bunker Hill Road - Bicycle Cooperative** - Item referred to Design Review Board for recommendation

## Message from Chief Scott

### *Maryland Cell Phone Law Fact Sheet – Effective October 1, 2010*

**1. What is Maryland’s Cell Phone Law that takes effect on October 1, 2010?**

Maryland [Senate Bill 321](#) and [House Bill 934](#) were signed into law by Governor O'Malley. The new law will prohibit all Maryland drivers from using a **cell phone** without a [hands free device](#) while operating a motor vehicle in motion on a street or highway. In addition, the new law would prohibit a school bus driver or a holder of a learner’s permit, or provisional license who is 18 years of age or older, from driving a motor vehicle while using a handheld telephone. A driver under 18 already is prohibited from using any cell phone.

**2. What exceptions are allowed?**

Phone calls placed to 9-1-1, ambulance, hospital, fire, or law enforcement agencies are allowed, as are calls made by emergency and law enforcement personnel. A driver is allowed to turn a handheld phone on or off and to initiate or terminate a call.

**3. Is the law a primary offense?**

The new law is a secondary offense, meaning that a driver must first be detained for another offense, such as speeding or negligent driving, before he or she can be ticketed for a cell phone offense. However, be advised that “negligent driving” is a primary offense in Maryland and can be used as a precursor to citing violators of the new cell phone law.

**4. What is the fine for the offense?**

The fine for a first offense would be \$40 and subsequent offenses would be \$100. Points will not be assessed to the first-time violator’s driving record, except, three points are assessed if the violation contributed to a crash. One point is assessed for a second or subsequent offense.

**5. Is this the same law as the texting law?**

No, Maryland also bans texting while driving. This law prohibits an individual from writing or sending a text message while operating a motor vehicle that is in motion or in the travel portion of the highway. If convicted of violating this law a person may be assessed a fine not exceeding \$500. This law does not apply to texting 9-1-1 or using a global positioning system.

**6. Why is this law needed?**

Studies indicate that cell phone conversations distract a driver and delays reaction time, which can cause and increase the severity of a vehicular crash. The National Safety Council has estimated that cell phone use is responsible for 1.6 million crashes a year, nationally -- about 28 percent of all crashes. Maryland now joins 7 other states (Calif., Conn., Del., N.J., N.Y., Ore. and Wash.), D.C. and the Virgin Islands in banning handheld cell phone use while driving. For more information, please visit [www.ChooseSafetyForLife.com](http://www.ChooseSafetyForLife.com)

**The Mount Rainier Fall Festival** will be held on October 9, 2010 at 3200 Rhode Island Ave in Mount Rainier. The community is located near the DC line in Prince George's County.

The day will be filled with farmers, activities for children, food, pumpkins for sale, apple pie contest, music and fun. The market organizers would love to promote and offer local wineries and their products for the community of Mount Rainier as well as the DC area.

### **Mount Rainier Holiday Soiree**

Save The Date - Saturday December 4th at Joe's Movement Emporium. More details to follow.



## FREE Fun Family-Friendly Flicks & Popcorn on Fridays in downtown Mount Rainier

The City of Mount Rainier will show a FREE movie outdoors at 33<sup>rd</sup> & Perry Streets on Fridays September 10<sup>th</sup> through October 8<sup>th</sup>. The movies are all family-friendly, but fun for all ages. They are shown on a large inflatable screen and popcorn is free while it lasts. Bring your blankets and chairs and enjoy a neighborhood party under the stars.

The fun starts at 7 pm. Come out for a great time with your neighbors!

### Movie Schedule

10/8 Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lighting Thief

## CITY SEEKS COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Our committees need you! Several of our committees are in need of members. I am sure that there is a committee in our City that maybe of interest to you and their meeting schedules are sure to fit your schedule. If you are interested in becoming a member of a committee in our city please feel free to contact Michael Jackson, assistant city manager at City Hall at 301-985-6585, to find out more information about the following committees:

- Tool Shed Committee
- Tree Commission
- Youth and Recreation Council
- Environmental Protection Board

## PARKING AVAILABLE

**THE CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER HAS PARKING AVAILABLE ON THE BASS LOT LOCATED AT 3208 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE FOR \$25 PER MONTH FOR RESIDENTS, BUSINESS OWNERS AND THEIR EMPLOYEES.**

**PARKING PASSES CAN BE OBTAINED FROM CITY HALL.**

## 2010 Curbside Leaf Schedule

### Area 1

**Rake Leaves Out by Oct. 31 for  
Collection Nov. 2-11**

3800-4600 30th Street\*  
 3800-4500 31st Street  
 3700 34th Street  
 3700 35th Street  
 3700 36th Street  
 3500-3800 37th Street  
 3400-3600 Eastern Ave.  
 3500 37th Street  
 3400-3700 Perry Street  
 Wells Avenue

Newton Street  
 Oak Lane  
 4000-4200 28th Street  
 4000-4500 29th Street  
 2800-3300 Shepherd Street  
 2800-3200 Taylor Street

### Area 2

**Rake Leaves Out by Nov 14 for  
Collection Nov. 16-23**

3800-4500 32nd Street  
 3800-4100 33rd Street  
 3100-3300 Perry Street  
 2900-3300 Bunker Hill Road  
 Rainier Avenue

2800-3200 Upshur Street  
 3100-3200 Varnum Street  
 3100 Webster Street  
 3100 Windom Road  
 3100-3200 Arundel Road  
 3800-4500 34th Street  
 3800-4000 35th Street  
 4000 36th Street  
 4000 37th Street  
 3400-3700 Bunker Hill Road  
 3400-3700 Shepherd Street  
 3400 Taylor Street  
 3400 Tilden Street

### 2nd Pick Up Schedule

#### Area 1

**Rake Leaves Out Nov 28  
For Collection Nov 20—Dec 9**

#### Area 2

**Rake Leaves Out Dec 12  
For Collection Dec 14-23**

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS RECYCLE AND  
TRASH COLLECTION NOTICE**

All recyclables (aluminum cans, bottles, paper and cardboard) can be put in the same yellow recycle bin which will be picked up Friday of each week. These items will be taken to the County recycle plant as they now have the capability to separate the items.

**PUBLIC WORKS CALENDAR**

**October and November 2010 Schedule**

*Listed hereunder is the scheduled pick up dates for trash in the City of Mt. Rainier, for October and November 2010.*

<b>DATE</b>	<b>PARTICULARS</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>PARTICULARS</b>
October 1	Recyclables Pick Up	November 1	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) <b>Yard Waste Pick Up</b>
October 4	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) <b>Yard Waste Pick Up</b>	November 3	Regular Trash Pick Up
October 6	Regular Trash Pick Up	November 5	Recyclables Pick Up
October 8	Recyclables Pick Up	November 8	Yard Waste Pick Up
October 11	<b>Columbus Day (City Hall and Public Works closed)</b>	November 10	Regular Trash Pick Up
October 12	Yard Waste Pick Up	November 12	Recyclables Pick Up
October 13	Regular Trash Pick Up	November 15	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) <b>Yard Waste Pick Up</b>
October 15	Recyclables Pick Up	November 17	Regular Trash Pick Up
October 18	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) <b>Yard Waste Pick Up</b>	November 19	Recyclables Pick Up
October 20	Regular Trash Pick Up	November 22	Yard Waste Pick Up
October 22	Recyclables Pick Up	November 24	Regular Trash Pick Up
October 25	Yard Waste Pick Up	November 25	<b>Thanksgiving Day (City Hall and Public Works closed)</b>
October 27	Regular Trash Pick Up	November 26	<b>Employee Appreciation Day(City Hall and Public Works closed)</b>
October 29	Recyclables Pick Up	November 29	Yard Waste Pick Up

