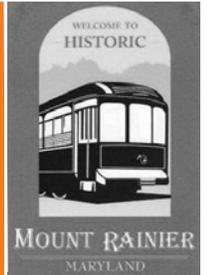


Welcome
Meet the 2015 Candidates
The Buzz around the City
Mount Rainier Day—May 16!



Mount Rainier — The City on the Move

The Message



**Election Day is
May 4, 2015
7 AM – 8 PM**

**Meet the 2015
Candidates**
Forum #1 – April 18,
2015 – City Hall 6pm
Forum #2 – April 25,
2015, Mount Rainier
Nature Center 6pm



**Earth Day is April 22
Arbor Day is April 24**

**Mark your Calendar!
City Council Worksession
April 14, 2015 at 7 pm**

**Budget Public Hearing
April 21, 2015 7 pm
Listen LIVE:
www.mountrainiermd.org**

Development is coming!

With the resurgence of Spring, development and construction is on the way! We have several construction projects that are coming to the City of Mount Rainier that we want all residents to be aware of early to make preparation for the potential of street closures and temporary inconveniences that will occur to make way for a better City!

Those projects are as follows:

- 1) Rainier Manor Senior Building development will bring 67 more senior apartments to the City of Mount Rainier.
- 2) Buchanan Green Street project is a project that we are excited about to handle the storm water issues.
- 3) The Allison Street levee project will address the flooding at Chillum Road.
- 4) The Redevelopment Authority is moving forward with the Net Zero Demonstration Home with Urban Green and the 3300 block of Rhode Island Avenue with the Menkiti Group.
- 5) Fly Wheel Development is breaking ground later in the year with four new NetZero homes.

Mayor Malinda Miles

- 6) Discussions continue for the project on 3200 block of Rhode Island Avenue.

All of these projects will bring new jobs, street improvements, bike and pedestrian access and new residents to increase the tax base of the City. We will bring updates as we move closer towards these projects.

Next month, we have an upcoming election and we encourage every resident to get out and vote in the upcoming election. Your elected officials are your voice towards progress in our City.

Our police officers continue to engage our citizenry with a continuous dialogue. This dialogue is for everyone to jump on board to ask questions on how to keep their business and families safe in the City. The next forum will be in the coming months.

Lastly, we invite you to become a vendor for Mount Rainier Day to help us to make this a festive occasion on May 16th, 2015.

Happy Earth Day!

Set the stage >>> **Economic Development** Samantha Olatunji

The City joined ICSC (International Council of Shopping Centers) in February 2015. Membership benefits include: extensive access to retailers, site selectors, development professionals, and professional development opportunities. Property owners, please contact Samantha Olatunji, Economic Development Director, if you need assistance in attracting new tenants.

Business-Friendly Surveys are out !

Surveys have been emailed and mailed to businesses. The goal of the survey is to learn more about the businesses in the City of Mount Rainier to identify ways the City can best support our existing businesses. The confidential survey is also conveniently available online at <http://goo.gl/forms/DmU0TCYiqo>.

Attention Community Stakeholders : Your thoughts on Economic Development?

We are seeking input from the City of Mount Rainier Community Stakeholders to use in the development of the Economic Development Strategy for the City of Mount Rainier. Your input is valuable to us, as it will help in developing programs and services that encourage economic prosperity, economic diversity, and the betterment of the overall community's quality of life. Results from the survey will be summarized and included in the Economic Development Strategy. A confidential online form is available here <http://goo.gl/forms/17OhF0tRUO>.

Business Locator Map and Property Database

The City is set to release the new **Business Locator Map** on the city's economic development website this summer 2015. Businesses - we need you!

information. This is an exciting marketing opportunity to showcase what the City has to offer.

The Economic Development office will also unveil a real-time, on-line **Economic Development Site Selection Tool**, which is a GIS-enhanced site database system. Having this tool will give us a strong competitive advantage in the rough and tumble world of site selection. Detailed information on sites, buildings, and locations for businesses looking to grow will be available on the City's Economic Development website in Summer 2015. **Let us put your business on the MAP!**

Food and Retail

What will draw you downtown? Let us know what type of food you like to eat? What type of retail shops do you like?

Email: Samantha Olatunji at solatunji@mountrainiermd.org or call 301.985.6585

CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER NOTICE OF PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Mount Rainier, Maryland, proposes to increase real property taxes.

For the tax year beginning July 1, 2015, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 1.0%, from \$343,468,698 to \$346,891,343.

If the City of Mount Rainier maintains the current tax rate of \$0.86 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 1.0% resulting in \$29,435 of new real property tax revenues.

In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments the real property tax rate should be reduced to \$0.8515, the constant yield tax rate.

The City is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The City proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$0.86 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 1.0% higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$29,435 in additional property tax revenues.

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 in the City Council Chambers – Upper Level at Mount Rainier City Hall, One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, MD 20712.

The hearing is open to the public and public testimony is encouraged.

Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call (301) 985-6585 for further information.

Shining Stars of Mount Rainier >>>



Mount Rainier Resident, Nanna Invarsson won a Helen Hayes award (in the Helen category) for lead actress in a play ("The Amish Project" at Factory 449)

Mount Rainier Police Officer of the Year—First Class Michael V. Ferebee

Calendar

The Buzz around the City

Trash & Recycle Schedule

April 14, 2015
 Special Work Session
 City Council
 Mount Rainier City Hall
 One Municipal Place

April 21, 2015
 Public Hearing
 Public Comment on
 proposed FY2016 Budget
 & Constant Yield Tax
 Rate
 Mount Rainier City Hall
 One Municipal Place
 7 pm

April 18, 2015
 Election Forum, City Hall
 6pm

April 22, 2015
 Earth Day!

April 24, 2015
 Arbor Day!

April 25, 2015
 Seed and Plant Swap
 Community Toolshed
 3601 Bunker Hill Road

May 4, 2015
ELECTION DAY
 7AM—8 PM
 City Hall
 One Municipal Place
 Mount Rainier, MD

May 5, 2015
 Mayor and City Council
 Second Reading and Vote
 on FY 2016 Budget and
 Constant Yield Tax Rate
 One Municipal Place
 Mount Rainier, MD

May 16, 2015
Mount Rainier Day
 10am—6pm
 Mount Rainier Day
 Parade

**Need a Ride to the Polls?
 Need a Ride to the
 Doctor?**



Call the
CALL A BUS
 240.832.6559
 301.985.6583

FREE rides to the Polls on Election
 Day only— 9am—1pm and 3pm—
 8pm
**Affordable Transportation for
 our Residents!**

Thomas Stone
 Elementary School

**Flea Market
 Sell your Stuff!**

May 2, 2015

Vendors Wanted

Mount Rainier
Annual

**Seed and Plant
 SWAP!**

Date: April 25, 2015
Place: 3601 Bunker Hill Rd
 Mount Rainier, MD



DATE	Trash / Recycle
April 1	Regular Trash Collection
April 3	Recycle Collection
April 6	Bulk Trask (appointment only) Yard Waste Collection
April 8	Regular Trash Collection
April 10	Recycle Collection
April 13	Yard Waste Collection
April 15	Regular Trash Collection
April 17	Recycle Collection
April 20	Bulk Trask (Appointment Only) Yard Waste Collection
April 22	Regular Trash Collection
April 24	Recycle Collection
April 27	Yard Waste Collection
April 29	Regular Trash Collection
Place all Recycle materials in Recycle Bins!	NO PLASTIC BAGS ON Recycle DAY!
	DPW
	301.985.6583

Backyard Composting Bins Available

From Garbage to Garden

Got compost?

Mount Rainier has a goal to get 225 new households turning food scraps and paper products into useful compost for your yard and garden.

We need your help to reach this goal.

What is compost?

Composting is nature's way of recycling. Yard waste and food waste are broken down and become food for plants. Finished compost looks like soil—dark brown, crumbly and smells like a forest floor.

Benefits of composting

- Save money by reducing landfill waste. Food waste makes up approximately 1/4 of the average household trash. Help save tax dollars by reducing the amount of trash the City produces.
- Save money by not buying soil amendments like fertilizer and compost from the store.
- Promote a natural and healthy yard and garden. Healthy plants come from healthy soil.



Picture of bins available in Mount Rainier

How to get a bin?

Where: Contact City Hall to purchase a bin. You will pay at City Hall and then pick it up a Public Works. 301-985-6585.

Cost: Bins are available to residents for \$20. The bins generally retail for more than \$80.

Need Help? Come to the Mount Rainier Annual Seed Swap and Native Plant Sale on April 25 for a demonstration at 11:00 a.m. on how and what to compost. This event is hosted at the Mount Rainier Tool Shed located at 3601 Bunker Hill Rd.

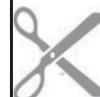
Need someone to come and help you set it up and explain how it works? Contact the Mount Rainier Green Team and we can arrange for an on-site visit: greenteam@20712.org

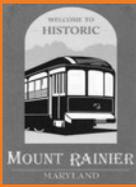


Brought to you by the Mount Rainier Green Team

www.mountrainiermd.org

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Mount Rainier Election

The City of Mount Rainier, Maryland will hold its Municipal Election on Monday, May 4, 2015 at the City of Mount Rainier Municipal Building, One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, Maryland.

Polls will open 7:00am until 8:00pm. The Election will be conducted to fill the seats of three (3) Council Members, two of which are four year terms and one is a two-year term. Come out and meet the Candidates:

#1—April 18, 2015 at City Hall 6 pm—8 pm

#2— April 25, 2015 at Mount Rainier Nature Center 6pm — 8 pm

Each forum is being sponsored by the League of Women Voters.

Meet the 2015 Candidates

Tracy Loh



Ward: 1
Email: thadden@gmail.com
Website: www.tracyloh.org
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GETLOHMTR>

How long have you lived in the City of Mount Rainier? I have lived in the City for 2 years.

What led you to run for a Council position? I think I could be helpful in guiding Mount Rainier through some of its current challenges, including working with developers, balancing the city budget, and personnel management/organization.

Tell us about your Strengths/

Background: I have a Ph.D. in City and Regional planning and decade of professional experience working on planning and urban development issues in various capacities. I am also a dedicated volunteer community organizer, activist, and leader – I have served as everything from the president of the board of a condominium association to a church youth group leader to founder of a nonprofit civic organization (allwalksdc.org). In other words, my personal and professional background is in working at the community level to foster shared values, basic good governance, and occasionally agitate for change.

What are your priorities for the City of Mount Rainier? As I've gone door-to-door meeting neighbors, I'm reminded over and over again of why I moved here and what makes Mount Rainier unique: diversity, the arts, and engaged citizens caring for our natural and historic built environment. I see the role of the city council as twofold: empowering and facilitating neighbors to serve, and protecting the affordability (for both housing and local businesses) that is the key to our inclusive, walkable, quirky community.

Shivali Shah



Ward: 2
Email: vote4Shilvali@shivalishah.com
Website: <http://www.shivalishah.com>
Facebook: www.facebook.com/shivaliformountrainier

How long have you lived in the City of Mount Rainier? I have lived in the City for 10 years.

What led you to run for a Council position?

When Shivali Shah and her husband, Deepak, joined the Mount Rainier community in 2005, they were attracted by the sense of community, the city's commitment to the arts and to environmentally sustainable practices. For an artist, a social entrepreneur, and a consummate upcycler, it seemed a perfect fit. During her ten years as a Mount Rainier citizen, Shivali worked tirelessly as an advocate for women's and immigrant rights — both as an activist shaping policy in Congress and as a self-employed lawyer helping battered immigrant women and other exploited immigrants with nowhere else to turn. The eldest of four, when she was not taking care of much younger siblings, she worked in her parents' small business.

Tell us about your strengths/background: Shivali has a BA from Columbia University in Economics and Political Science and her law degree from Duke Law School.

What are your priorities for the City of Mount Rainier? While living in North Carolina, Shivali met her husband, Deepak, who plays music at Joe's Movement Emporium during Brooke Kidd's Saturday morning yoga class. As Shivali and Deepak's family has grown with the addition of Devan in 2011, so too has Shivali's passion for helping Mount Rainier continue to strive to achieve its vision to move forward while retaining the best aspects of its character.

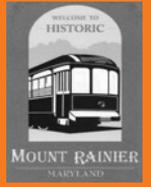
Bryan Knedler



Ward: 2
Email: bknedler@aol.com

How long have you lived in the City of Mount Rainier? I have lived in the City for 23 years .

Meet the Candidates



What led you to run for a Council position? Desire to continue working to improve our great city! Specifically to push to completion several projects that began over 5 years ago and to work with the new team members who have fresh energy, ideas and enthusiasm.

Tell us about your strengths/background: 14 years of service with the city council and staff and knowledge of community concerns. Served as Mayor for 3 years. Familiarity with on-going redevelopment projects. I'm a good listener who asks relevant questions, and makes informed common-sense decisions. Patience. Law degree from University of Maryland. Service on Tree Commission, Town Center Design Review Committee, Design Review Board, and author of the city's centennial history.

What are your priorities for the City of Mount Rainier? The Redevelopment of 3200 and 3300 blocks of Rhode Island Ave. Continue the city's leadership in the county on environmental and quality-of-life issues, including completion of the Buchanan "Green" Street Project and increased tree planting. Improve communication with citizens using new forms of media. Preservation of community character as a place of front porches, tree-lined walkable streets, and affordable homes. Lobby the county to expand the nature center into a full-service recreation center. Find funding or develop a public/private partnership to build the civic center, including a new upgraded public library. Creation of a long-term infrastructure improvement plan to include streets,

sidewalks, trees, traffic calming, stormwater management, bike lanes, etc. Cease deficit spending that is depleting the city's "rainy day" funds. Hire top-notch city staff that understand our "small town" with big city problems and potential.

Charnette I. Robinson



Ward: 1

Email: Charnette.Robinson@Comcast.net

How long have you lived in the City of Mount Rainier? I have lived in the City for 24 years.

What led you to run for a Council position? I am very concerned with the political and residential environment that affects our City. As residents we have consistently seen an increase in the rate of property taxes, yet a decrease in city services. Vacant and abandoned properties cause blight and safety concerns, which are not being properly addressed, while new trash collection policies are levied, and fines imposed.

Tell us about your strengths/background: As a Command staff official with the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department, I have vast knowledge and experience interacting with government agencies and participating on various administrative and community-based boards. By engaging agency leaders and through teamwork, commitment to service and consistent contact, we effectively addressed various community concerns. This teamwork further allowed for the development of a mutual trust between police officers and the community.

What are your priorities for the City of Mount Rainier? As the Ward 1 council representative, I will work diligently to improve the financial condition of our city by attracting new businesses and improvements to the downtown

community, improve neighborhood stabilization and beautification by addressing vacant properties and increase homeownership.

My credentials include a Bachelor of Science degree from West Virginia State University in Political Science. A Bachelor of Science in Leadership/Management from Johns Hopkins University and a Master's Degree in Executive Leadership from Johns Hopkins University. I am a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) Law Enforcement Executive Development Program (LEED).

ELECTION SCHEDULE

April 18
City of Mount Rainier's Candidate Forum #1, 6 pm at City Hall, One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, MD 20712

April 21
Last Day to file as write-in Candidate

April 25
City of Mount Rainier Candidate Forum #2, Mount Rainier Nature Center 6pm

April 27
Last day for voters to apply for an application for an Absentee Ballot

May 4
ELECTION DAY
Polls open from 7 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

More Info: Questions? Call: 301.985.6585 or email the Election Board mtrainierboardofelections@gmail.com

MRTV Channel 71 Comcast
MRTV Channel 20 Verizon

www.mountrainiermd.org

the Message Newsletter

Let us know if you have ideas for an upcoming story, business news, free event, or neighborhood star to feature in an upcoming issue of the Newsletter.

Contact the Editor: Veronica Owens at vowens@mountrainiermd.org

www.mountrainiermd.org

coming soon >>>

Volunteer Mount Rainier!

Economic Development

The Buzz around the City

Deadline for the May

edition is April 24, 2015

Mayor

Malinda Miles
301-699-1378

mayormiles@gmail.com

City Manager

Jeannelle B. Wallace

301-985-6585, ext. 22

fax: 301-985-6595

jwallace@mountrainiermd.org

Asst. City Manager

Veronica Owens

301-985-6585 ext.30

vowens@mountrainiermd.org

City Treasurer

Vijay Manjani

vmanjani@mountrainiermd.org

Economic Development

Director

Samantha Olatunji

solatunji@mountrainiermd.org

Councilmembers

Ward 1

Jacqlyn Riposo

301-985-6585

jwriposo@gmail.com

Jesse Christopherson

301-985-6585

jschris@gmail.com

Ward 2

Bryan Knedler

bknedler@aol.com

Brent Bolin

301-744-9465

brentbolin@gmail.com

Message

Veronica Owens

vowens@mountrainiermd.org

MRTV Director

Gerome Williams

gwilliams@mountrainiermd.org

Important Numbers

City Hall open: Mon.-Fri., 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Police Department admin. offices open 9:00 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Public Works open 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

47th District Reps
Senator Victor Ramirez
301-858-3745

Del Diana Fennell
Del Jimmy Tarlou
Del Deni Taveras
301-858-3326

Call-A-Bus 240-832-6559 and 301-985-6586
(hours M-F, 9 am-2 pm)

City Code Enforcement Office
301-985-6551

Alex Brown
301-674-9175
Ruth Sandy
240-508-4187

City Hall
301-985-6585; fax: 301-985-6595

City Police Department

Chief Michael E. Scott
mescott@mountrainierpd.org
301-985-6565 (non-emergency calls)
301-985-6566 (non-emergency calls)
301-985-6590 (administrative)
911 - Emergency calls - 911

City Public Works 301-985-6583,
Bulk Trash Appts. 301-985-6558

Child Abuse
and Neglect Hotline
301-699-8605

Congresswoman Donna Edwards
Prince George's County Office
5001 Silver Hill Road
Suite 106

Suitland, Maryland 20746
301-516-7601 main
301-516-7608 fax

Washington, D.C. Office
2445 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-8699 main
202-225-8714 fax

Consumer Affairs
301-470-7534

County Animal Control
301-780-7200

County Building Permits
301-883-5784

County Executive
Rushern Baker
301-952-4131

County Councilman
Will Campos
301-952-4436

CSX railroad
1-877-Tell CSX

Energy Assistance
301-422-5110

Family Services
301-699-2680

Fire Department
301-985-5406 (non-emergency)
911 (emergency)

Gateway CDC
4102 Webster Street
301-864-3860

Gazette Circulation
301-670-7350

Health Department
301-386-0300

Library 301-864-8937
Hours: M-Thursday 11-7:00 (closed 2-2:30)
Sat. 10-5

Landlord-Tenant Commission
800-487-6007

Mt. Rainier Nature/Rec Center
4701 31st Place
301-927-2163

M-National Capital
Park and Planning, Park Permit Office
301-699-2400

North Brentwood Comm. Ctr
4012 Webster St.
301-864-0756

Office of Handicapped Services
TDD 301-627-3352

Park Police
301-459-3232 (emergency)
301-459-9088 (non-emergency)

Parks and Recreation
301-699-2407

Pepco
Lights Out
1-877-737-2662
(you must give the 10-digit phone number
or 10-digit account number for location of outage)
Live Wire, Other Emergency
202-872-3432

P. G. Animal Control
3750 Brown Station Road
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
(301) 780-7201

Post Office
301-699-8856

Public Defender
301-699-2760

Public Schools
301-952-6000

State's Attorney
301-952-3500

Washington Gas Light
703-750-1000

WSSC
301-206-8000
301-206-4002 (emergency)

The City of Mount Rainier is an equal opportunity employer, without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, disability, political or union affiliation.

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Mount Rainier, MD 20712

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The Message
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One Municipal Place
Mount Rainier, MD 20712