



*City of Mount Rainier*  
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**CITY MANAGER REPORT**  
**DECEMBER 3, 2013**

**Prince George's County News**

The Department of Environmental Resources announced approximately two (2) months ago that effective January 1, 2014, the County would no longer accept yard waste in plastic bags. Residents will be required to place yard waste loose in a collection can or use large yard waste paper bags. This information has been posted on the city's website [www.mountrainiermd.org](http://www.mountrainiermd.org) and on the city's cable stations Verizon 21, and Comcast 21. It was also posted in the November edition of *THE MESSAGE* and will appear again in the December/January edition. Please note that Prince George's County will no longer accept yard waste in plastic bags under any circumstances. Please forward this information to your neighbors, colleagues, friends, and relatives, or anyone who does not have access to cable television on the Internet.

**Intra-governmental Network (I-Net)**

As the City Manager, I serve on the Executive Committee for I-Net and one of the representatives from the original 17 member municipalities. The I-Net Annual Report will be out within a few days and I was asked to submit an article about how the I-Net had services had supported the city. The article speaks to the city's ability to provide live streaming of its council meetings, in addition to the support provided to the city's police department and the code enforcement division with the use of Pictometry. A draft copy of the article is attached to this report.

**Finance Department**

The Fiscal Year 2013 annual audit is under way with the auditing firm of Murphy and Murphy. Preliminary analysis is being conducted, along with certifications and verifications from the financial entities used by the city. The auditing team has scheduled interviews with the management team during this week.

### **Code Enforcement**

The city's code enforcement division has recently been equipped with mobile technology which will enable them to conduct administrative paperwork in the field eliminating down time in the office trailer and additional time for inspections, investigations, and increased court appearances. The city manager has requested a total of \$29, 440 in property liens as a result of court adjudication in Prince George's County District Court through the code officers, and code abatements by the city's contractor as a result of property code violations.

### **Grants**

The city manager met with Community Legacy Project Manager Veronica Owens, and Prince George's County Redevelopment Authority (RDA) Executive Director Howard Ways regarding grant applications submitted by both the City and RDA for Community Legacy and Smart Growth Investment Funds (SGIF) respectively. The city submitted a grant requesting funding for the Buchanan Green Street Project to construct the bio-retention cell, and RDA submitted its request for funding to assist with the purchase of the Singer Building. It has since been reported that the Singer Building was successfully purchased. Formal announcements of all awardees will be made in the upcoming weeks. In the interim, the city will submit a grant to Chesapeake Bay Trust for completion of the Buchanan Street Project, since this is the entity that funded the design of the project and as an option if the city is not successful with its proposal through Community Legacy.

The City submitted a grant support letter regarding the upcoming application by the Town of Bladensburg which will be comprised of the third municipal collaboration for home improvement green initiatives if the Town's application is successful. The last collaboration resulted in funding from the Maryland Energy Administration totaling \$398,958 and \$115,000 from Community Legacy. Mount Rainier received funding for eight projects for 8 single family homes, totaling \$30,508. The work included duct sealing and insulation, attic air sealing and floor insulation, smoke alarm insulation, boiler wrap, furnace replacement, basement crawl space sealing, roof lead testing and repair.

### **City Redevelopment Progress**

The Mayor and Council and city staff are scheduled to meet with County representatives to discuss among other issues the Tax Incremental Financing requirements for the development of the 3200 block of Rhode Island Avenue. The Developers (Streetsense and Neighborhood Design Corporation) submitted updated pro forma data to the County which will be the basis for the discussion. In the next two weeks, the Mayor and Council will meet with Howard Ways to determine the possibilities of the development and rehab of the Singer Building.

### **Façade Program**

The Assistant City Manager spearheaded this program and reports the following:

- Colors By Tangie – new awning and exterior painting of the building
- Hands on Barber – exterior painting
- Island Style Ice Cream – exterior painting, signage, and exterior electrical upgrades
- Nisey's – signage, exterior electrical upgrades and gooseneck lighting
- Potomac Fish House – demolition of old light box, exterior painting, and exterior signage
- Francis Carry-out – exterior painting, signage, exterior electrical upgrades

While most of the work has been done, remaining work is expected to be completed within two weeks.

### **Youth and Recreation Program**

The City has had one (1) request for funding during FY 2014 and one (1) inquiry to date about possible future funding. Artworks has been approved for \$750 for its At School After School Program which supports art curriculum for youth at both Mount Rainier Elementary School and Thomas Stone Elementary School. During the past year, the program supported a total of 129 youth, 18 of whom are residents of the City of Mount Rainier. For copies of the report, please contact the city manager at [jwallace@mountrianiermd.org](mailto:jwallace@mountrianiermd.org).

***\*\*End of Report\*\****