

The Message



Issue 313

November 2013

Composting: A Down to Earth Pollution Solution

By Paul Ruffins

“I just hate to throw anything away. It just bugs me to put anything useful in the trash.” That’s the answer Stephen Velez (30th street) gave when The Message asked him why he composts his kitchen scraps. Mount Rainier also hates for our residents to throw organic material away because it costs the city over \$20,000 a year just to take food scraps and soiled paper to the landfill. This is in addition to the other costs of trash removal and recycling.

Fortunately, there a very down to earth solution right in your own back yard; composting. Ruth Sandy of the Mt. Rainier department of Public Works explains that the city has collection costs and pays tipping fees for four different waste streams: bulk trash, recyclables, yard waste, and household waste. Composting can reduce all of the last three categories because shredded newspapers, leaves, grass, weeds, and most kitchen scraps can all be composted into rich, organic fertilizer for gardens or plants.

“Composting makes even more sense these days because on January first, 2014, the city is going to stop collecting yard waste in plastic bags so resident will have to buy large paper bags instead,” Sandy said.

Going fast: Great composting bins for only 20.00

To encourage composting, Mount Rainier is offering easy to use Earth Machine compost bins for just \$20.00- a \$60.00 discount off the retail price of \$80.00! These black plastic units snap together in a few minutes and come with complete instructions. Residents can purchase one per household from our Department of Public Works located at 3715 Wells Ave (301) 985-6583. Act fast. Half the bins have already sold out.

Many other communities have promoted composting for years. Santana Schaible’s family (32nd St.) has a double barrel tumbling composter her husband built from a set of Boy Scout plans and moved all the way from Washington State. (For free instructions: <http://boyslife.org/hobbies-projects/projects/6184/make-a-compost-tumbler/>) “When I was little, one of my first chores was



Danny and Liz Schaible composting apple cores

taking out the compost,” she said, “In Seattle, people recycle nearly everything and almost everyone had a compost mountain in their backyard. We feel it’s important to raise our kids with the same environmental consciousness.”

A recipe for success:

Successful composting requires a combination of ingredients containing nitrogen, carbon, and other organic matter. For example: green grass clippings, brown dry

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**CITY COUNCIL
MEETINGS
AND SPECIAL DATES**

Unless noted, all City Council meetings occur at 7 pm at City Hall, One Municipal Place

DATE	EVENT
Tuesday, November 5, 2013	Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council
Tuesday, November 19, 2013	Work session Meeting of the Mayor and Council
Tuesday, December 3, 2013	Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council

IT'S THAT JOLLY TIME AGAIN!

*MOUNT*RAINIER

COMMUNITY *CRAFT SALE*

HANDCRAFTED GIFTS BY LOCAL ARTISTS

HOME COOKED LUNCH & BAKED GOODS

SATURDAY DECEMBER 7 10AM TO 5PM

AT JOE'S MOVEMENT EMPORIUM

3309 BUNKER HILL ROAD



News and Information

Wanted! MRTV needs up to four (4) volunteer writers, reporters, camera operators to be “On Air” host and production crew for MRTV’s current show, “CitiScape...What You Need to Know, What You Want to Know”.

CitiScape is a monthly (to be weekly if we get the help!) news and information show covering the events, issues and people of the City of Mount Rainier, MD. This is perfect for students majoring in TV Production and Journalism. Practice what you are learning! Experience in Final Cut Pro editing, (other editing software okay) studio and field production would be preferred.

MRTV has a small studio, studio and field production equipment and a Final Cut Edit Suite. MRTV programs appear on Comcast 71, Verizon 21, “On Demand” at City’s website mountrainiermd.org, and live streamed at mrtv.pegstream.com to computers and mobile devices.

Other MRTV produced shows are: On Air with the Mayor, hosted by Mayor Malinda Miles, Then & Now...History of Mount Rainier hosted by City Councilmember Jimmy Tarlau, and People, Places, & Possibilities hosted by Adrienne Charles, MD.

Contact MRTV Department Director at 301-985-6585x28 or email her at gcarbonell@mountrainiermd.org.

Questions, comments and submissions to the Mount Rainier *MESSAGE* should be sent to **Michael Jackson, Assistant City Manager, via mail at One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, MD 20712 or via e-mail at mjackson@mountrainiermd.org**. All submissions for the October 2013 *MESSAGE* must be received by close of business on Wednesday, December 4, 2013. Submissions received after that time will be considered on a space available basis. The Mount Rainier Message is published monthly except for the combined July-August and December-January issues. Electronic version available.

Message from Mayor Miles

The Department of Aging Secretary, Gloria Lawlah has granted *Whatcha Doin Seniors' Club* (WDSC) \$5,000 for startup funds. The grant award will be signed and drawn down on November 1, 2013. We need to meet to determine our first activity. Implementation date is January 6, 2014.

If you have not signed up to be a member of this newly forming Club, you need to call Miss Janis Lomax immediately so that you can be a founding member! Miss Lomax can be reached at 301-985-6585. There are no fees to join, but you MUST be a senior (60 years and over). See the October's issue of the "Message" to learn more about the *Whatcha Doin Seniors' Club*.

Mayor attended Maryland Municipal League's (MML) Fall Conference. It was a very enlightening and successful conference. Some of the topic discussed and attended by the Mayor included:

Over, Around and Through the Tough Spots: Achieving a High Performing Council or Commission- In the real world of local government, city and town councils and commissions have to make decisions that impact their communities today and for many years to come. But the environment is fraught with challenges, demand for more customized services, uncertainty about the financial future, divergent opinions about what is right and what is wrong, and non-stop media attention. This session focused on some of the obstacles to good governance and how your staff and council can work together to become more effective, efficient, and credible. Workshop components included role playing obstacles to effective governance, roles and responsibilities of elected and appointed members of the council/commission, and tools to build good governance;

Small Towns Forum; Structure of Government- This course provided a comprehensive introduction to the legal framework for municipal government in Maryland. The speaker addressed the various forms of municipal government, municipal-state relations, municipal home rule, and the relationship between the legislative, executive and administrative functions;

Maryland Mayors Association Meeting provided opportunity to meet with other mayors and discuss some of our similar issues;

Planning for Long Term Financial Sustainability. This session discussed the financial health of a municipality, and the critical role of financial planning, especially when operating in an uncertain economy with reduced revenues. Recommended various strategies to help ensure a city or town remain economically viable, both in the present and in the future.

Workshop: Speed Cameras – Are They Right for Your Community? Maryland law permits local jurisdictions to utilize speed cameras to better manage speeding around our schools. Although they've been authorized for several years, there's still considerable controversy about how they are utilized and administered. Speakers provided an overview of Maryland's speed camera law, and also discussed the do's and don'ts of running a successful and effective municipal speed camera program. Residents' questions about speed cameras on Rhode Island Avenue and 34th Street were raised, and it was noted that our concerns are being addressed.

Business Meeting and adoption of MML Priority Legislative which once again will be the full funding of the City's Highway User Funds that dropped from more than \$200,000+ in 2009 to less than \$50,000; also will be working with municipalities and MACO to address double taxation, i.e., residents having to pay taxes to the County and municipality for services provided by the municipality, e.g., police, waste pickup, recycling etc.

Developing an Effective Communication Plan for your Municipality. This session was geared toward how to get started using social media (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn) as well as advanced techniques and practices in the social media world. Discussed the need for municipalities to setup their own Facebook and Twitter pages, and to take ownership of those using the City's logo, etc., and to develop a municipal policy on the use of the social media.

As always, lots of networking on behalf of the City. (NOTE: During the Summer Conference, the Mayor was able to get our dispatch services reduced from \$64,000+ to \$55,000. This might not have been accomplished had the Mayor not been at the MML

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Summary of Legislation Adopted by the Mayor and Council January 2013 to October 2013

Ordinance 1-2013 an Ordinance authorizing the acquisition of the Singer Building, a blighted property in the Mount Rainier Town Center Urban Renewal Area, by purchase or eminent domain.

Ordinance 2-2013 an Ordinance amending Chapter 11, Refuse Collection of the *Mount Rainier Code* to require dumpsters and refuse containers for non-residential properties to be placed on concrete pads constructed of an impervious surface.

Ordinance 3-2013 an Ordinance amending Chapter 10 Peach and Order of the *Mount Rainier Code* adding a new section 10-125 which bans the possession, sale, manufacture, use or distribution of synthetic drugs.

Ordinance 5-2013 an Ordinance establishing the tax rate, adopting an annual budget, and appropriating funds for Fiscal Year 2014, beginning July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2014.

Ordinance 6-2013 an Ordinance amending Chapter 7A, Commercial District Management Authority, of the *Mount Rainier Code* to increase the annual fees to businesses and business property owners and to increase the City's collection fee.

Ordinance 7-2013 an Ordinance to revise the local supplement to state homeowner's property tax credit percentage; to clarify that the historic preservation tax credit program is subject to funding limits set by the Council; to increase the rental occupancy license fees; and to increase parking meter rates.

Ordinance 8-2013 an Ordinance adopting a Fiscal Year 2014 Pay Scale Schedule for City Employees

Resolution 1-2013 a resolution setting the calendar of events for preparation of the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget.

Resolution 2-2013 a resolution appointing new members to the City of Mount Rainier Youth and Recreation Committee.

Resolution 3-2013 A resolution appointing Bryan Knedler to the City of Mount Rainier Design Review Board.

Resolution 4-2013 a resolution appointing members to the City of Mount Rainier Board of Elections for the period March 4, 2013 to March 3, 2015.

Resolution 5-2013 A resolution to appoint citizens to the Mount Rainier Tree Commission

Resolution 6-2013 A resolution requesting the Prince George's County District Council to designate the Mount Rainier Architectural Conservation District and reaffirming Mount Rainier Resolution 18-2008

Resolution 7-2013 a resolution reappointing Adrienne Charles and Arthur Fuller to the City of Mount Rainier Ethics Commission.

Resolution 8-2013 a resolution declaring the City-owned personal property consisting of an inoperable vehicle (2001 Chrysler Sebring) is in disrepair and no longer available by the City of Mount Rainier for public use; and, providing for the City to dispose of the vehicle through public auction or sale.

Resolution 9-2013 a resolution approving the application and a receipt of financing for a (Community Legacy Project) (the "Project") further described in the Community Legacy Application (The "Application"), to be financed either directly by the Department of Housing and Community Development (the "Department") of the State of Maryland or through other departments or agencies of the State of Maryland.

Resolution 10-2013 A resolution declaring the City of Mount Rainier's intent to take a leadership role in renewal energy generation within the City of Mount Rainier, partnering with the Maryland Energy Administration, and enrolling as a Maryland Smart Energy Community.

Resolution 12-2013 A resolution declaring the City of Mount Rainier's intent to take a leadership role in reducing electricity consumption within the City of Mount Rainier, partnering with the Maryland Energy Administration, and enrolling as a Maryland Smart Energy Community.

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Community Happenings

The Mount Rainier Business Association (MRBA) is hosting two upcoming events that are VERY important for you and your business. We want you to be involved.

1. **Wednesday, November 13th, 8:30-**

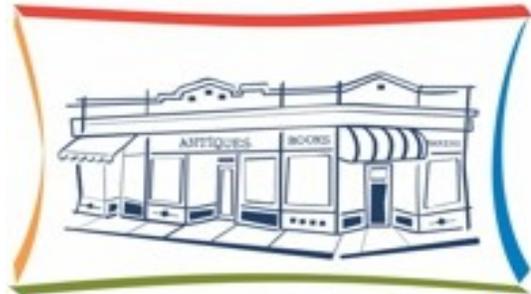
10:30am: MRBA Monthly Membership Meeting at the Mount Rainier Police Department, 3249 Rhode Island Avenue. This is an important meeting to attend. We are discussing plans for next year, which will be beneficial to ALL businesses and property owners. Get in the discussion now, so you can be informed and possibly benefit.

2. **Wednesday, December 11th, 6:30-8:30 pm: Annual Holiday Membership Meeting.** Election of Officers and Board Members. We will also have guest speakers and information about MRBA's new website. At this meeting, we will vote on new Board members and Executive Leadership for MRBA. The current slate of officers is:

- * President: Larry Solomon, Thrifty Car/Truck Rental
- * Vice President: Michelle Lee, Mingus Communications
- * Secretary: Neil Dicken, Party Time Liquors
- * Treasurer: Brooke Kidd, Joe's Movement Emporium

Other business and property owners can be nominated at the December meeting. In addition, we will also vote on new board members. Current members are:

- * Judy Davis, Glut Food Coop
- * Sheliyah Smith, Sweet and Natural



MOUNT RAINIER
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
SINCE 1988

* Kim Deane, Revive Community Acupuncture

* Annette Martin, Urban Eats

* Intisar Haamid, Circe Café

* Randy Randhawa, Chuck's Liquors

Any additional members to the Board may be nominated at the meeting for vote by the membership.

Any questions, please email us at **MountRainierBA@gmail.com** or call **(301) 358-5111**. We hope to see you represented at these important events.

Caring Neighbors Lending a Helping Hand

Brrr, it's getting cold out there!

We're making sure none of our Mount Rainier neighbors are left out in the cold this time of year.

The Mount Rainier Community Task Force Team is a group of caring people looking to connect



those who can provide assistance with those who are in need. We have volunteers; are you or someone you know in Mount Rainier in need of the following?

* Check-ins from neighbors on those who may be ill, disabled, elderly, or shut-ins.

◇ The clearance of ice and snow from property (if the resident(s) are unable to do so.

* The provision of full holiday meals or food drive items for those without food for the holidays.

* The provision of winter holiday gifts for those without any (particularly children).

For more information, to receive friendly support from neighbors, or to lend a helping hand, please contact us at atmtrneighbors@gmail.com, <http://www.mountrainierneighbors.org>, or (240) 389-4118.

Community Happenings

Shop Small & Local Saturday, November 30th

The annual Small Business Saturday® is dedicated to supporting small businesses. Shop small at your favorite local stores - like Nisey's Boutique, GLUT, Joe's Movement Emporium, Urban Eats, Oscar's Flower Shop — they all help fuel the local economy. It's a chance to show your support for Mount Rainier's local small businesses and artists that create jobs, boost the economy and makes Mount Rainier and the Arts District the unique destination that it is.



The Mayor and Council are hosting the annual Veterans Day Celebration honoring local veterans on Monday, November 10, 2013 from 2:00pm until 4:00pm.

All Mount Rainier Veterans and their families are invited as well as all residents of Mount Rainier. Awards will be given to Mount Rainier Veterans along with tokens of appreciation.

Secretary of Maryland's Veterans Affairs, Edward Crow, Jr., and Maryland Municipal League's first vice president Bruce Wahl will be in attendance. Refreshments will be provided by the City.

All are welcome to attend. Full program available on website. Contact Janis Lomax for more information, 301-985-6585.

BRENTWOOD ARTS EXCHANGE

in the Gateway Arts Center
3901 Rhode Island Avenue
Brentwood, MD 20722
301-277-2863

OPENING RECEPTION:

MY HAIKU: Paintings by Cianne Fragione

Cianne Fragione's art pours over with the physical material of paint and mark-making as an act of exploration. Her complex use of color and her layered covering up of forms create images that reveal themselves slowly and with great reward. On view through December 28th.

Saturday, November 9th, 5:00-8:00pm

FREE. Open to the public.

KIDS METALWORKING

In this fun workshop your child will be introduced to basic metal working processes such as forging, melting, bending, annealing and metal coloration. Projects include rings, bracelets, and usable bowls. Talk to teacher about parent participation.

Saturday, November 16, 11am-3pm

Fee and registration required, Ages 9-13

The Fall Gateway Arts Center and ezStorage Open Studios Day

Come visit the studios of artists working in the Gateway Arts Center and the ezStorage building. See their creative spaces, their artwork in process, and purchase direct from the artists themselves.

Saturday, November 16, 1pm-5pm

FREE. Open to the public.

THANKSGIVING FAMILY WORKSHOP

In celebration of Thanksgiving, join us for a fun workshop making a table ornament for your home.

Saturday, November 23rd, 11:00am-2:00pm

No registration required.

BLACK FRIDAY SALE

Come take advantage of sale prices on the full variety of beautiful crafts in our store. Perfectly suited for your holiday gift giving.

Friday, November 29th

It's Time for the Annual Community Craft Sale

The Mount Rainier Craft Sale has become an annual social and networking event in the City. It happens like clockwork, local crafters know not to put anything on their calendars for the first Saturday in December. Residents of Mount Rainier as well as neighboring communities come out to support a wide variety of vendors and their talents.

"It started with six"

The Mount Rainier Craft Sale started was born in the living room of Ms. Mimi McKinley-Ward. There were six talented crafters who wanted to display their crafts. As

the Sale grew over the years, the crafter would travel to several other homes. Eventually the Mount Rainier Craft Sale would grow to occupy church halls and other community building in Mount Rainier. In 2007, the Mount Rainier Craft Sale made the move to current location, Joe's Emporium. Over the last nineteen years the Mount Rainier Craft Sale has grown from six vendors to over twenty-five vendors including a few community nonprofits. Where the Craft Sale once took up just one room at Joe's Emporium, this year it will be taking up multiple studios and the theater.

"Not just for adults"

This cooperative community event offers a wide variety of vendors which crafts include but not limited to soap, jewelry, pottery, art, sculpting, knitted and crocheted clothing. The Craft Sale is not limited to adults. Each year there is on table that is for the kids. This allows young crafters to sell their wares. All items are hand crafted by the crafter. This makes each item at the Craft Sale special and unique.

"Make of Day of it!"

Along with wonderfully hand crafted items the Mount Rainier Craft Sale provides wonderful music from local musicians as well as



food. This creates a wonderful atmosphere to socialize and network. Some people stay and hang out all day to catch up with neighbors and friends. With a local vendor selling mouth water treats for breakfast and lunch, why not make a day of it.

"Join us!"

Spots for craft sale vendors are still available. Contracts are accepted until the space is full. We hope you consider joining this year's sale – as a vendor or a shopper. For more information contact Vendor Relations Coordinator, Linda Couch at linda@nlihc.org.

Mount Rainier Community Craft Sale features Handcrafted Gifts by Local Artists, home cooked lunch and baked goods, Saturday December 7th, 10am- 5pm at Joe's Movement Emporium, 3309 Bunker Hill Road, Mount Rainier, MD 20712



Mount Rainierites Show



Their Pumpkin Pride!



CHIEF'S BLOG

Summary of New Maryland Laws for 2013

SB 281 Firearm Safety Act of 2013: The Governor's firearms law that dramatically alters how firearms are purchased and used.

HB 1101 Medical Marijuana: Allows academic medical centers to perform research on the medicinal affects of marijuana on a limited basis.

SB 87 Seat Belts and Child Safety Seats: Requires seat belts to be used by passengers using a rear seat in a motor vehicle. A violation is a secondary offense.

HB 753 Prohibition of Handheld Wireless Communication Device While Driving: Makes using a cell phone while driving a primary offense.

SB 276 Death Penalty Repeal: Although legislation was passed a few years ago to increase the degree of certainty for conviction in death penalty cases, the Governor continued a moratorium on the death penalty. This law removes future cases from resulting in the death penalty.

SB 19 Aiming Laser Pointer at Aircraft: Prohibits knowingly and willfully shining, pointing, or focusing the beam of a laser pointer on an individual operating an aircraft.

HB 56 State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists - Criminal History Records: Requiring a criminal background check on applicants for a license or certificate from the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists.

SB 72 Damage to Highways from Overweight or Oversized Vehicles: Clarifies that a person who drives or moves overweight vehicle loads on a municipal highway is liable for damage caused to the highway.

SB 224 State Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare Benefits Program Wellness Program: Requires a wellness program to be included in the state employee and retiree health and welfare benefits program.

HB 311 Requirement to Report Death or Disappearance of Minor: Requires the reporting of a disappearance of an individual under the age of 13 within 24 hours and the reporting of a death of an individual under the age of 13 within 5 hours.

SB 360 Aggravated Animal Cruelty - Baiting: Prohibits the use or allowing a dog to be used for "baiting," which is the use of a dog to train another dog in fighting or to test another dog's fighting or killing instinct.

HB 396 Misuse of Interactive Computer Service (Grace's Law): Prohibits the use of an interactive computer service to maliciously engage in a course of conduct that inflicts serious emotional distress on a minor or places a minor in reasonable fear of death or serious bodily injury.

HB 364 Automated External Defibrillator Programs: Requires an external defibrillator program to be implemented at public pools.

SB 610 Overdose Response Program: Establishes an Overdose Response Program overseen by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene that will help combat the increase in drug-overdose related deaths.

HB 767 Spay/Neuter Fund: Establishes a Spay/Neuter Fund that will be funded by a fee on commercial feed prepared and distributed for consumption by dogs or cats.

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Public Safety Night 2013



For additional pictures, please check out the MRPD Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mountrainierpd.

Chief Scott with Park Police Mounted Unit officers

Below: *Patchwork Band*

Chubby the Clown



City Manager Jeannelle Wallace with PGPD "Air 1"



COMPOST, *Continued from page 1*

leaves and kitchen scraps such as eggshells, banana peels, bread, coffee grounds, or veggies that are past their prime. Shredded newspapers and animal hair are also good because they absorb water and help soil retain moisture.

What NOT to compost:

Meat or bones may smell or attract dogs and other animals.

Slick coated paper or glossy magazines may contain toxins and are slow to break down. Shredded newspapers are ok. Most use soy inks.

Dog or cat poop. Put in household trash or down the toilet to be treated as sewage.

Diseased leaves or plants: may contaminate healthy plants

The composting process also requires oxygen, that's why composters have vents or holes and need to be tumbled or turned over with a shovel once or twice a month. If the process is going properly, the center of the bin or pile will begin to heat up and become noticeably warmer as the materials break down. During the winter, your compost may give off a little steam.



Ruth Sandy demonstrates the composter Mount Rainier sells at a deep discount. (Ruffins)

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MARYLAND LAWS, *Continued from page 10*

SB 841 Higher Education Fair Share Act: Requires public institutions of higher education to allow for collective bargaining with an employee organization.

HB 942 Identity Fraud - Health Information and Health Care Records: Prohibits a person from knowingly and willfully possessing, obtaining, or helping another to possess or obtain personal identifying information with fraudulent intent to access health information or health care.

SB 1029 Maryland Agricultural Certainty Program: Establishes a voluntary Agricultural Certainty Program that would allow farmers to accelerate the implementation of agricultural best management practices to meet State agricultural nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment reduction goals. In return, farmers would receive a certification, valid for 10 years, if the operation remains in compliance.

HB 1062 Hospitals - Notice to Patients - Outpatient Status and Billing Implications: Requires a hospital to provide notice to a patient of the patient's outpatient status and the billing implications of the outpatient status.

HB 1148 Shark Fins - Restriction on Possession or Distribution: Prohibits a person from possessing, selling, offering for sale, trading, or distributing a shark fin.

HB 1211 Slayer's Statute (Ann Sue Metz Law): Clarifies that a person who feloniously and intentionally kills, conspires to kill, or procures the killing of the decedent is disqualified from inheriting, taking, enjoying, receiving, or otherwise benefiting from the death, probate estate, or non-probate property of the decedent, or from receiving a general or special power of appointment conferred by the will or trust of the decedent, or from serving as a personal representative, guardian, or trustee of a trust created by the decedent.

Legislation, continued from page 4

Resolution 13-2013 A resolution awarding a contract to Funk & Bolton, P.A., for Municipal Bond Counsel Services in connection with proposed tax increment financing for the Mount Rainier Gateway Project.

Resolution 14-2013 A resolution authorizing Wash-

ington Suburban Sanitary Commission to perform sidewalk restoration, asphalt resurfacing, and widening of the grassy areas in the public right-of-way, and where required and authorized, reduction of the sidewalk width and/or reduction of street surface width.

Resolution 15-2013 a resolution awarding a contract to Murphy & Murphy, CPA,LLC for preparation of an Audit of the Fiscal year 2013 Financial Records of the City of Mount Rainier.

Resolution 16-2013 a resolution authorizing the execution and delivery of a master lease agreement and related instruments with Sun Trust Equipment Finance and Leasing Corporation for the purpose of financing the acquisition of two police vehicles and one trash truck.

Resolution 17-2013 a resolution revising the due date for the report from the Community Services Task Force Committee.

COMPOST Continued from page 12

A word about worms: It is **not** true that you have to add worms to a compost pile. There are lots of insects and bacteria who naturally live in the leaves, grass clipping, and food scraps that end up in your composter. Whether you use a bin, tumbler or an old fashioned compost pile, under optimum conditions in the summer you can go from waste to rich compost for your plants in as little as six weeks.

MAYOR, Continued from page 3

Summer Conference.)

With the Mayor's attendance at the Fall Conference, the City is poised once again to receive recognition as a MML Banner City. The City has been a Banner City since the inception of this MML program except for one year! To complete this contract, the City must observe municipal government month, participate in the "If I Were Mayor Contest, and serve on an MML Committee, task force or provide other services that show the City is keeping up with changes in municipal government while sharing that information with others. (NOTE: Mayor's attendance at the Open Meetings workshop during the Summer Convention satisfied a new State requirement which mandates open meetings training for at least one individual from every city and town. So we are in compliance.)

Update on Bunker Hill Road and other streets in Mount Rainier. Work and disasters continue on Bunker Hill Road. Since the last update, Brent Bolin, Jimmy Tarlau and I met with representatives from Washington Gas and WSSC. We were assured that they will strive to complete their work prior to winter setting in, but everything depends on the weather and no more unexpected surprises. Even though we discussed constant communications as the vehicle to keep us on the same page, communications continue to be our downfall, and recently led to streets being blocked off and closed without any notice to the City or the safety and welfare of residents. This was addressed, and hopefully we will avoid further occurrences of this in the future. Chief Michael Scott and I will be meeting to address this issue.

Temporary asphalt is being laid, and I am expecting the entire street to get at least a temporary cover before the winter sets in. Most of the work being done on Bunker Hill Road now is being done by Washington Gas Company. They are tying in lines to the new high pressure gas system that they installed a few months back. Once this is completed (in about four more weeks), paving should be the next order of business.

NOTE: The question was raised as to why they are tearing out the solid concrete base? Answer: They can't have concrete on one side and asphalt on the other; the concrete has deteriorated over the years; the new standard is 3ight inches of asphalt and a top covering. It is supposed to be equal to what we had or better than. In addition, it is what is being done on County roads, at least that is what I was told.

Public Works Leaf Collection Schedule

Public Works staff will NOT conduct return vacuuming after each street is completed. Bagged leaves are acceptable as yard waste for pick-up. If weather conditions prevent curb side leaf vacuuming, residents are asked to brown bag all leaves and contact Public Works at 301-985-6583 for collection.

Remember—The City of Mount Rainier is going green. We encourage you to shred your own leaves and use them as mulch in your garden or compost. For more information regarding leaf collection contact Ruth Sandy at Public Works at 301-985-6583.

Area 1

**Rake Leaves Out by October 27, 2013
For Collection October 28 to November 8**

Blocks

4000 – 4200 28th Street
4000 – 4500 29th Street
3800 – 4600 30th Street
3800 – 4500 31st Street
3700 34th Street
3700 35th Street
3700 36th Street
3500 – 3800 37th Street
3400 – 3600 Eastern Avenue
3400 – 3700 Perry Street
2800 – 3300 Shepherd Street
2800 – 3200 Taylor Street
Wells Avenue
Newton Street
Oak lane
Otis Street

2nd Pickup

Area 1

Rake Leaves Out By Nov 24
For Collection Nov 25 – Dec. 6



Area 2

**Rake leaves Out by Nov 10
For Collection Nov 12 - 22**

Blocks

3800 – 4500 32nd Street
3800 – 4100 33rd Street
3800 – 4500 34th Street
3800 – 4000 35th Street
4000 36th Street
4000 37th Street
3100 – 3200 Arundel Road
2900 – 3700 Bunker Hill Road
3100 – 3300 Perry Street
Rainier Avenue
3400 – 3700 Shepherd Street
3400 Taylor Street
3400 Tilden Street
2800 – 3200 Upshur Street
3100 – 3200 Varnum Street
3100 Webster Street
3100 Windom Road
Cedar Lane Alley

Area 2

Rake Leaves Out by Dec. 8
For Collection Dec. 9 – 20

Rake, Romp, Compost Your Leaves

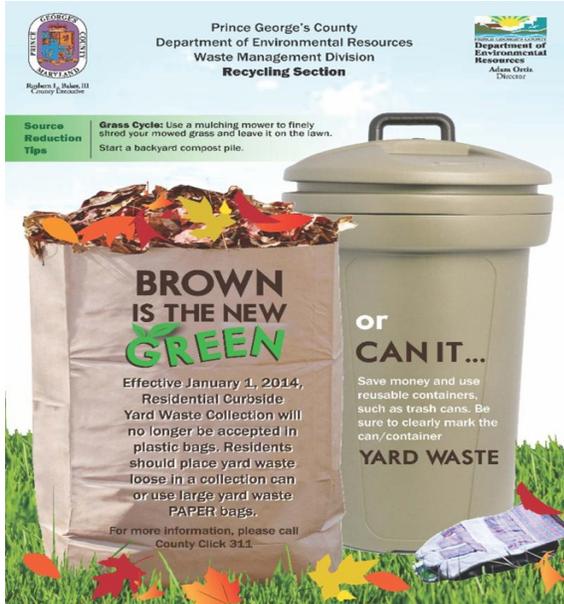
By Dana Grabiner

Raking autumn leaves is an American tradition. Bagging the leaves and placing them at the curb for pickup used to be the only option. But now we know what our country cousins have always known: that decomposed leaves are great “nutrition” for your lawn or garden. As leaves decay, they gradually create beautiful, lush, dark soil – compost! – that is like black gold for plants. You can use it to enrich your garden or as a mulch around your trees and shrubs. It’s natural ... and no cost.

Here is what we do at our house: first, we pile up the leaves in a corner of the yard. After the kids have romped in the pile for a little bit, we run the lawnmower over the pile a few times to shred the leaves and jump-start the decay process, and then sprinkle some water from a hose or bucket to tamp everything down.

You don’t have to build an official compost container – although it’s easy to make a 3-sided one by standing pallets on end and nailing them together. You can get discarded pallets from a hardware store, grocery, or construction site like we

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Effective January 1, 2014, All yard waste must be in brown bags or cans for collection.

Leaves, continued from page 14

did. (Ask permission first!) Then watch your pile slowly shrink over the next few months as the leaves decompose and transform.

If you like, over the winter you can throw your kitchen waste into the pile, such as carrot scrapings, potato skins, coffee grounds, banana peels, melon rinds, apple cores, and egg shells – all the discards from your holiday meal preparation (but no meat or fats). Use a shovel or pitchfork to turn the pile over so the new materials make contact with the composted materials. As you mix everything in, you'll feel the heat from the natural decomposition underway.

By spring, you should have a tidy pile of rich soil that will feed your plants without the need for any store-bought fertilizer. An extra benefit is that your kids will learn about nature's cycle: from decay comes new life.

Hope you're so convinced about the nutritional value of leaf compost for your flowers, vegetables, and shrubs that you might think twice before disposing of leaves the "old-fashioned" way and, instead, make home-made compost for free.

Public Works

RECYCLE, BULK TRASH AND YARD WASTE COLLECTION TIPS

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.

All BULK TRASH appointments must be made before 12 Noon on the Friday preceding the pick up day. All bulk trash items must be set out before 7 AM on pick up day. Call 301-985-6558, select option 2.

Beginning December 2nd all Yard Waste collection will be the second Monday and by appointments only. All appointments must be made before 12 noon on the Friday preceding the pick-up day.

November 11	Veteran's Day - City Hall and Public Works Closed
November 12	Yard Waste Collection
November 13	Regular Trash Pick Up
November 15	Recycle Pick Up
November 18	Bulk Trash (call 301-985-6558 for appointments) Yard Waste Collection
November 20	Regular Trash Pick Up
November 22	Recycle Pick UP
November 25	Yard Waste Collection
November 27	Regular Trash Pick Up
November 28	Thanksgiving Day (City Hall and Public Works Closed).
November 29	Employees Appreciation Day (City Hall and Public works Closed)
December 2	Bulk Trash (call 3019856558 for appointments)
December 4	Regular Trash Pick Up
December 6	Recycle Pick UP
December 9	Yard Waste Collection (call 3019856558 for appointments)
December 11	Regular Trash Pick Up
December 13	Recycle Pick UP
December 16	Bulk Trash (call 3019856558 for appointments)
December 18	Regular Trash Pick Up
December 20	Recycle Pick UP
December 25	Christmas Day (City Hall and Public Works Closed)
December 26	Regular Trash Pick Up
December 27	Recycle Pick UP

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