



The Message

Issue 271

October 2009

Mount Rainier Mixed-Use Town Center (M-U-TC) Zone Development Plan Community Events announcement

The Prince George's County Planning Department of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission is looking to engage YOU, residents, and business owners of Mount Rainier in updating the 1994 *Approved Mount Rainier Mixed-Use Town Center (M-U-TC) Zone Development Plan*. All are invited to participate as we discuss future plans for revising development policies and design standards.

Come join us and share your vision for Mount Rainier!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Kick-Off Presentation

Wednesday, October 7, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.

Community Workshop

Monday, October 19, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.

Hands-on Session

Saturday, October 31, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 pm

***Note: All community meetings will be held at the Bunker Hill Fire Station, 3712 Utah Avenue, Brentwood, MD 20722.**

For more information please visit the project website www.pgplanning.org/Mount-Rainier.

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Mount Rainier Autumn Festival

Please join us in celebrating the community of Mount Rainier this October 24th! The Autumn Festival will bring together community members, local businesses, community organizations, and government offices to:

- Promote local small businesses;
- Share information about community organizations & services; and
- Have a good time, of course.

When: Saturday, October 24th - 10:00am to 5:00pm

Where: 34th Street, between Bunker Hill Road and Shepherd Street

If you are a local musician or artist and would like to perform at the festival, or if you want to know how your business or organization can participate, please write to MR.AutumnFestival@gmail.com or call (503)516-6672.

We look forward to seeing you on the 24th!

Mount Rainier Mixed Use Town Center Development Plan: Moving Forward in the 21st Century

As the City of Mount Rainier prepares to celebrate its centennial anniversary in 2010, the Gateway Arts District and its four communities will also celebrate 10 years as Prince George's County's premier arts and entertainment district. As the gateway community to both the County and the Arts District, the City of Mount Rainier, our artists, businesses and residents have accomplished too much to not bring to fruition the vision of the Arts District.

The stage is set for what is to come. The City Council and staff are busy working to revitalize the Rhode Island Avenue corridor and we need the input of everyone to continue the work that was started 10 years ago.

At the request of the Mount Rainier City Council to The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) -Prince George's County Planning Department is updating the 1994 Approved Mount Rainier Mixed-Use Town Center (M-U-TC) Zone Development Plan. The purpose of the M-U-TC Zone in Mount Rainier is to "promote reinvestment and redevelopment opportunities" in our City.

The M-U-TC Zone Development Plan area is 11.46 acres and encompasses Rhode Island Avenue northward from Eastern Avenue to 35th Street. It also extends along 34th Street between Rhode Island Avenue and Bunker Hill Road. There is no expansion of the M-U-TC being proposed as a part of this development plan. The new study will examine current market conditions, amend development policies and revise urban design standards.

Cunningham and Quill is the lead consultant firm working on the update of the development plan. The firm will lead a series of community workshops, stakeholder meetings and interviews to solicit public input, identify and discuss critical issues, refine alternatives and create a detailed development plan. The plan objectives include the creation of a community supported vision that establishes a realistic development program and an implementation strategy that can serve as a tool to use to guide development in our downtown area.

So, mark your calendars, update your blackberry, save the dates and plan to lend your voice to the vision! M-NCPPC staff is hosting a series of meetings at the Bunker Hill Fire Station during October. The initial presentation to the community about the MUTC Zone Development Plan is on Wednesday, October 7, 2009, at 7 pm. Business and resident participation is needed.

For more information or periodic update check out the project website at:
http://www.pgplanning.org/Projects/Ongoing_Plans_and_Projects/Community_Plans/Mount_Rainier.htm

Environmental Protection Board and Tree Commission Meeting

The Environmental Protection Board and Tree Commission will meet together on Wed. Oct. 14th at 7:30 pm at City Hall. The purpose is to recruit new members to these committees. Anyone with an interest in being appointed to either committee should plan on attending.

The purpose of the Tree Commission is to advise the city on issues related to the trees in public spaces, write grants for new tree plantings, evaluate tree removals, and plan the city's annual Arbor Day. An inventory of the city's public trees also needs to be maintained.

The Environmental Protection Board has a much wider mandate of advising the city about environmental issues, advocating "green" policies, and evaluating the environmental impacts of city projects.

Questions can be emailed to the city council liaison, Bryan Knedler, at bknedler@aol.com.

MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL E. SCOTT, CHIEF OF POLICE

***Halloween* Safety Reminders**

The most important part of Halloween is having fun, and the most important thing about having fun is to have it safely. I have listed below some of the more important safety tips to help parents and children ensure a night of fun without incurring the risk of future nightmares.

The police department will have additional officers on duty on Halloween night, and we will be encouraging our Neighborhood Watch groups to mobilize their members to assist us in ensuring that the City has a safe and fun Halloween.

- Help your child pick out or make a costume that will be safe. Make it fire proof, and if you use a mask, be sure that the eyeholes are large enough for good peripheral vision. It is always better to use non-allergenic face paint rather than wearing a mask.
- It is always best to use a non-flame light source to illuminate your decorative jack-o-lanterns. If you set jack-o-lanterns on your porch with candles in them, be sure that they are far enough out of the way so that kids' costumes won't be accidentally set on fire.
- Make sure that if your child is carrying a prop such as knives or swords as part of his or her costume that the tips are smooth and flexible enough not to cause injury if the child falls or comes into contact with another child or adult.
- Children always want to take part in pumpkin carving. Small children should not be allowed to use a sharp knife or saw to cut the top or carve the face. There are many commercially available pumpkin-carving kits that come with tiny saws that work better than knives and are safer for older children to use. It is best to let the younger children clean out the pumpkin and draw a face or other design on it, which parents or older children can then carve for them.
- Treating your kids to a spooky Halloween dinner will make them less likely to eat the candy they collect before you have the chance to check it for them. Instruct your children not to eat any treats until they bring them home to be examined by you.

- Review with your children some basic personal safety tips such as not getting into cars or talking to strangers, and watching both ways before crossing streets.
- Let your children know not to cut through back alleys and fields. Make sure they know to stay in populated places and don't go off the beaten track. Stay in well-lighted areas.
- Make sure your child carries a flashlight, glow stick or has reflective tape on their costume to make them more visible to cars.
- It is important that younger children not be permitted to go out Trick or Treating by themselves without some adult supervision. It is a good rule of thumb to have at least one adult for every 3-5 children in a group. Take this opportunity to partner with a neighbor or other family member to assist with supervising the kids. Heck, why not get into costume yourself – no sense letting the kids have all the fun!
- If you allow your older children to go out Trick or Treating by themselves, know the route they will be taking. It is also a good idea for you to walk the route, in the dark, a day or so before hand so you'll be aware of any hazards the children may come across. If you have a friend or neighbor you know that lives along the planned route, alert them to what costume your child is wearing so that they can keep an eye out for them.
- Make sure you set a time by which the children should be home, and be sure to stress to them the importance of being home on time *before* they leave. Some children do not have a good sense of time, so an alternative would be to have them come home after they have gone around the block once.
- Explain to your children the difference between tricks and vandalism. Throwing eggs or papering a house may seem like fun, but they need to know that this is unacceptable behavior. Damaging someone's property or causing them a lot of messy clean up is not fun. Clean up, having to pay for damages and other legal repercussions can ruin Halloween for both children and their parents. The Mount Rainier Police Department is extremely intolerant of vandalism of any sort, regardless of a person's age.
- Explain to your kids that animal cruelty is not acceptable. Kids know this, but sometimes peer pressure can be a bad thing. Make sure that they know that harming animals is not only morally wrong, but punishable by law and will not be tolerated.
- The official Halloween Safety Game - <http://www.halloweenmagazine.com/play.html> is a fun, interactive way to teach younger children basic Halloween safety rules.

Homeowners should consider healthy food alternatives to candy for trick-or-treaters which may include packages of low-fat crackers with cheese or peanut butter filling, single-serve boxes of cereal, packaged fruit rolls, mini boxes of raisins and single-serve packets of low-fat popcorn that can be microwaved later. You can also offer non-food treats such as plastic rings, pencils, stickers, erasers, or other small school supplies.

What is Nixle?

The short answer: It's like Twitter only one-way and secure.

The Mount Rainier Police Department and other surrounding police agencies recently implemented a new notification system called Nixle. Nixle allows police supervisors to inform residents of breaking public safety information literally minutes after it happens. Information about missing children and seniors, lookouts for stolen vehicles or individuals wanted for crimes, street closures and other time-critical information can be sent out to residents' email and cell phones from the scene of the incident without having to use more conventional notification methods. Nixle allows local police departments, municipal agencies and authorized community organizations to directly communicate trusted information to the persons located in precise geographically targeted locations, sharing important, time-sensitive information using their existing secure computer terminals. This ensures that subscribers receive trusted and accurate information.

The creators of Nixle and the agencies that have implemented it believe that access to trusted information is the best way to build safer, stronger and more connected neighborhoods and communities. In order to ensure that the information broadcast to subscribers is secure and trusted, Nixle has partnered with NLETS, the International Public Safety and Justice Network. NLETS is the international, computer-based message

switching system that links together state, local and federal law enforcement and justice agencies for the purpose of exchanging information. NLETS helps police departments throughout the country and internationally communicate with one another over a secure closed network system. Nixle and NLETS now take communication to the next level, allowing local agencies to directly communicate with subscribers sharing geographically targeted, important and time sensitive information.

Best of all – *it's free!*

Residents can sign up to receive Nixle notifications simply by visiting www.Nixle.com.

Selected Crimes – August 2009

The statistics I report each month in *The Message* represent those crimes that one, have been designated by the FBI as Part I offenses for Uniform Crime Report (UCR) purposes, and two, that have been verified by an officer and a report has been written to document the circumstances of the crime. This list also includes selected UCR Part II offenses such as vandalism. Miscellaneous incident reports, accident reports, field interview reports, and those incidents when an officer responds to a call for service and no report is required are not included.

AUGUST 2009 SELECTED OFFENSES BY TEAM POLICING AREA

Date	Offense	Location			TPA
01-Aug-09	Vandalism to Auto	3300	BL	CHILLUM RD	1A
02-Aug-09	Stolen Vehicle	3500	BL	BUNKER HILL RD	1A
05-Aug-09	Theft - From Auto	3200	BL	QUEENSTOWN DR	1A
09-Aug-09	Theft - From Auto	3200	BL	CHILLUM RD	1A
10-Aug-09	Property Damage	3300	BL	BUCHANAN ST	1A
12-Aug-09	Stolen Vehicle	3200	BL	VARNUM ST	1A
12-Aug-09	Theft < 500	3300	BL	CHILLUM RD	1A
17-Aug-09	B & E - Residential	3200	BL	QUEENSTOWN DR	1A
17-Aug-09	B & E - Residential	3500	BL	PERRY ST	1A
22-Aug-09	Theft - From Auto	3200	BL	QUEENSTOWN DR	1A
22-Aug-09	Theft - From Auto	3200	BL	CHILLUM RD	1A
23-Aug-09	Theft < 500	3200	BL	VARNUM ST	1A
26-Aug-09	Theft - Vehicle Tags	2901	BL	ARUNDEL RD	1A
29-Aug-09	Theft - Vehicle Tags	2900	BL	ARUNDEL RD	1A
08-Aug-09	B & E - Residential	3700	BL	35TH ST	1B
14-Aug-09	B & E - Residential	3500	BL	RHODE ISLAND AV	1B
15-Aug-09	Vandalism to Auto	3800	BL	35TH ST	1B
20-Aug-09	Property Damage	3700	BL	34TH ST	1B
20-Aug-09	Vandalism to Auto	3700	BL	PERRY ST	1B
28-Aug-09	Theft - From Auto	4000	BL	36TH ST	1B
31-Aug-09	Stolen Vehicle	3600	BL	PERRY ST	1B
01-Aug-09	Robbery - Citizen	4200	BL	28TH ST	2A
03-Aug-09	Robbery - Commercial	4300	BL	RUSSELL AV	2A

03-Aug-09	Vandalism to Auto	2900	BL	ALLISON	ST	2A
03-Aug-09	Vandalism to Auto	2700	BL	ALLISON	ST	2A
05-Aug-09	Stolen Vehicle	3000	BL	QUEENS CHAPEL	RD	2A
06-Aug-09	B & E - Residential	4200	BL	31ST	ST	2A
08-Aug-09	Stolen Vehicle	4200	BL	28TH	ST	2A
11-Aug-09	Robbery - Citizen	4300	BL	28TH	PL	2A
14-Aug-09	Stolen Vehicle	4200	BL	KAYWOOD	DR	2A
14-Aug-09	Theft - From Auto	4300	BL	RUSSELL	AV	2A
17-Aug-09	Property Damage	2300	BL	VARNUM	ST	2A
17-Aug-09	Robbery - Citizen	4100	BL	RUSSELL	AV	2A
18-Aug-09	Vandalism to Auto		BL	TAYLOR	ST	2A
18-Aug-09	Vandalism to Auto	4600	BL	25TH	ST	2A
19-Aug-09	Stolen Vehicle		BL	RUSSELL	AV	2A
21-Aug-09	Robbery - Citizen	4200	BL	KAYWOOD	DR	2A
21-Aug-09	Theft < 500	2500	BL	QUEENS CHAPEL	RD	2A
23-Aug-09	Robbery - Citizen		BL	TAYLOR	ST	2A
23-Aug-09	Theft - Vehicle Tags	4600	BL	30TH	ST	2A
27-Aug-09	Theft - From Auto	2700	BL	ARUNDEL	RD	2A
27-Aug-09	Theft - From Auto	2700	BL	WEBSTER	ST	2A
27-Aug-09	Theft - From Auto	4500	BL	30TH	ST	2A
27-Aug-09	Theft - From Auto	4500	BL	30TH	ST	2A
28-Aug-09	B & E - Residential	4100	BL	29TH	ST	2A
29-Aug-09	Theft - From Auto	2700	BL	ALLISON	ST	2A
30-Aug-09	Vandalism to Auto	4300	BL	KAYWOOD	DR	2A
04-Aug-09	Theft - From Auto	3400	BL	RHODE ISLAND	AV	2B
06-Aug-09	Stolen Vehicle	2800	BL	SHEPHERD	ST	2B
06-Aug-09	Vandalism to Auto	3300	BL	BUNKER HILL	RD	2B
09-Aug-09	Theft < 500	4000	BL	33RD	ST	2B
11-Aug-09	Robbery - Citizen	4100	BL	31ST	ST	2B
13-Aug-09	Assault - Aggravated	3400	BL	EASTERN	AV	2B
15-Aug-09	B & E - Residential	4000	BL	32ND	ST	2B
17-Aug-09	Theft > 500	3200	BL	RHODE ISLAND	AV	2B
23-Aug-09	Robbery - Commercial	3200	BL	RHODE ISLAND	AV	2B
30-Aug-09	Theft - From Auto	3100	BL	BUNKER HILL	RD	2B
30-Aug-09	Vandalism to Auto	4200	BL	31ST	ST	2B
31-Aug-09	Theft - Vehicle Tags	3200	BL	RHODE ISLAND	AV	2B

What are the symptoms of swine flu (also known as 2009 H1N1 Virus)?

The symptoms of swine flu are similar to regular seasonal influenza and include fever, lethargy, lack of appetite and coughing. Some have also reported runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

How is swine flu spread?

In humans, swine flu is thought to spread the same way as seasonal flu—primarily through person-to-person transmission when an individual infected with the virus coughs or sneezes.

What can I do to protect myself and others?

- Cover your nose and mouth with tissue when you cough or sneeze. Dispose of the tissue immediately.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- Try to avoid contact with sick people.
- If you are sick, the Centers for Disease Control recommend that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.
- Practice good health habits.

Where can I find more information?

- PandemicFlu.gov
U.S. Government resources and information regarding swine, avian, and pandemic influenza.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Updated information and resources.
- World Health Organization
Current pandemic threat level and alerts.
- Maryland Government Flu Preparedness



Mount Rainier Television
Comcast Channel 71 Verizon Channel 21

What you need to know...What you want to know... Watch *MRTV* for the latest in City News, Information, and Updates!

MRTV now provides a 24/7 programming schedule. Watch for the daily [Program Guide](#) for a list shows and times. This month watch for the following:

-  **On Air with the Mayor** - hosted by Mayor Malinda Miles. "2010 Census"
-  **CitiScope** – hosted by City Manager Jeannelle Wallace, City Department Updates from City Hall, the Police Department, Public Works and more.
-  **LIVE Programs** – 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month, City Council Meetings and Work Sessions – 7pm

The 2010 Census Show scheduled for this month's *On Air with the Mayor* will be a Call-in show and have a studio audience. If you have questions about the 2010 Census and would like to be in the audience, [RSVP by Wednesday October 14th](#) for show details. Call 301-985-6585 ext. 28. Leave name, address and phone number.

MRTV is looking for video and media production college students to volunteer for credit or experience. We need producers, writers, researchers, reporters, Final Cut Pro editors, and studio personnel.

Monthly City Council Meetings and Work Sessions are available on the City's website:

www.mountrainiermd.org

MRTV comments, suggestions and show ideas: mrtvchannel71@yahoo.com or call 301-985-6585 ext. 28 voice mail, Graciela Carbonell, Department Director

H & F
FINE ARTS

**3311 Rhode Island Avenue
Mt. Rainier, MD 20712**

Forest Friendly Framing from environmentally responsible sources!

H&F Fine Arts introduces new certified "green" frames!

Maryland and D.C. resident's work towards living a "greener" lifestyle, the need for eco-friendly products and services grows. Fountain Framing is now offering a selection of certified forest friendly frames and mat boards for your next custom framing project.

Now offering Larson-Juhl frames from the Biltmore and Sorrento collections that are PEFC certified. PEFC, which stands for the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification, is the world's largest forest certification system ensuring the chain of custody from forest to final product meets sustainability standards. Through third-party certifications, such as PEFC, Maryland's consumers can be confident that they are purchasing a product that is from a well-managed, sustainable forest. In addition we are carrying FSC certified Artique Matboards. The presence of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) logo certifies that the materials used to produce the product were sourced responsibly. The Rainforest Alliance works with the FSC to ensure that products do not negatively impact indigenous populations, that they come from conservation areas and genetically modified trees, and that they are not harvested.

H & F Fine arts is aiming to be the DC Metro area's picture framer of choice.

A comprehensive range of picture framing services are available including: Forest friendly, traditional to contemporary frames, and helpful advice on the choice of frames offered.

Fountain Framing is recognized for quality framing whether it is a personal piece or a Monet reproduction, everyone gets the same beautiful museum quality and personal care when framing any work of art. We also carry unique ready-made-frames for the do-it-yourselfer that start at \$5.00.

FREE OBAMA PRINTS...min one per family (while supplies last).

New hours start Sat. Sept. 19th...thank you

Location: H&F Fine Arts, 3311 Rhode Island Avenue, Mount Rainier, MD 20712 Hours of operation: Mon-Fri 12-7 Sat 10-5 Sun 11-3 www.fountainframing.com www.hffinearts.com

For additional details on how you can source certified "green" products for your home, or to see these certified products, please visit H&F or call (301) 887-0080

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 3014-985-6585 extension 30, to find out more information about the following committees:

- Tool Shed Committee
- Design Review Board
- Youth and Recreation Council
- Bike Coop (volunteers)

TREE COMMISSIONERS NEEDED

Openings exist on the city's Tree Commission. The Commissioners review permits for trimming and removal of street trees and trees in the city-owned parks. They also help choose what trees to be planted in the available locations, plan Arbor Day events, and help raise money for tree purchases through grant writing. If you are interested in serving, please forward a letter of interest and/or resume to City Manager, Jeannelle Wallace, City Hall, One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, 20712. Or e-mail her at jwallace@mountrainiermd.org.

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 2009 Schedule

Listed hereunder is the scheduled pick up dates for trash in the City of Mt. Rainier, for October and November 2009

DATE	PARTICULARS	DATE	PARTICULARS
October 2	Recyclables Pick Up	November 2	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up
October 5	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up	November 4	Regular Trash Pick Up
October 7	Regular Trash Pick Up	November 6	Recyclables Pick Up
October 9	Recyclables Pick Up	November 9	Yard Waste Pick Up
October 12	Columbus Day (Public Works and City Hall Closed)	November 11	Veterans' Day (Public Works and City Hall Closed)
October 13	Yard Waste Pick Up	November 12	Regular Trash Pick Up
October 14	Regular Trash Pick Up	November 13	Recyclables Pick Up
October 16	Recyclables Pick Up	November 16	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up
October 19	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up	November 18	Regular Trash Pick Up
October 21	Regular Trash Pick Up	November 20	Recyclables Pick Up
October 23	Recyclables Pick Up	November 23	Yard Waste Pick Up
October 26	Yard Waste Pick Up	November 25	Regular Trash Pick Up
October 28	Regular Trash Pick Up	November 26	Thanksgiving Day (Public Works and City Hall Closed)
October 30	Recyclables Pick Up	November 27	Employee Appreciation Day (Public Works and City Hall Closed)
		November 30	Yard Waste Pick Up

During the months December - March yard waste will be collected 2nd Monday and by appointment only. All bulk trash appointments must be made before 12 noon on the Friday preceding bulk pick up day

