



# ***The Message***

**Issue 246**

**April 2007**

## **SPECIAL ELECTION EDITION**

**The next City election will be held on Monday May 7, 2007 for one council seat in Ward 1 and one council seat in Ward 2.**

In order to be eligible to vote in the City election, each person must meet the following requirements: a) is a citizen of the United States; b) is at least 18 years of age; c) is registered to vote in accordance with the provisions of the City charter; d) has resided in the corporate limits of the city for at least (30) days preceding the City election; and e) has registered to vote at least 30 days prior to the election. Registration by the Prince George's Board of Elections shall be deemed the only registration for City elections. All perspective voters must be registered with the County by April 7, 2007.

Any qualified voter registered to vote may vote by absentee ballot if they are unable to cast a ballot during regularly scheduled polling hours. A qualified voter desiring to vote in a City election as an absentee voter shall make application to the City Board of Elections in writing. This application must be received no later than the Monday preceding the election (April 30, 2007). The application must be signed by the applicant or, if he or she is unable to sign, must bear the mark of the applicant and the signature of two (2) witnesses. Applications for an absentee ballot may be picked up from City Hall, One Municipal Place, and Mount Rainier.

All Nomination petitions were presented to the Supervisor of Elections on Monday, April 2, 2007. The Supervisor of Elections certified the following candidates for the next election which will be held on Monday, May 7, 2007 at City Hall, and the polls will be open from 7:00 am until 8:00 pm on election-day. For further information, please contact City Hall at One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712, (301) 985-6585.

**Please exercise your right to vote and participate in the upcoming City election. Let your voice and concerns be heard.**

### **JIMMY TARLAU, CANDIDATE FOR WARD 1**

In the last two months I have visited over 250 people in Ward 1. I have heard from many of you of your pride in the diversity and the sense of community in Mt. Rainier. You have also talked of your concerns about crime, keeping our city clean, and developing the downtown area.

There are no magic answers but some of the small things I will immediate work for on Council are 1) Making sure that we have a full complement of police officers – we have an almost 25% vacancy

## **Jimmy Tarlau, Candidate for Ward 1 (continued from page 1)**

rate; 2) Having some of our Council meetings at the Mt. Rainier Nature Center so it will be easier for people in the Northern part of our town to attend; 3) Forming a Tenant's Advisory Committee; 4) Improving our relations with the Gateway CDC; 5) Reinvigorating the Town's Committees so more people can become involved; and 6) Improving the communications between the Council and the residents of Ward 1 – so people know about new regulations and policies before they become effective.

I hope to work very hard for the residents of Ward 1. I believe my 30 years experience as a labor negotiator and organizer will help me play a positive role on the Mt. Rainier City Council. If anybody has any comments, please call me at 301-335-6099 or e-mail me at [jtarlau@cwa-union.org](mailto:jtarlau@cwa-union.org).

PS: Because my job as a labor negotiator with the Communications Workers of America does not allow me to receive an extra income, I will be donating my salary to programs in the area supporting recreational activities for our youth.

## **BRYAN K. KNEDLER, CANDIDATE FOR WARD 2**

Neighbors,

I ask that you re-elect me to represent you in Ward 2. I offer experience, level-headed thinking, and institutional memory.

For those of you who do not know me, I have lived in the City since 1992 and currently live on Bunker Hill Road where I am renovating a house. I have served on the Council since 1997 as a councilmember and as mayor.

I have been working closely with Mayor Miles, the council, and staff for the last two years and think we are working very well as a team.

Some thoughts:

Revitalization increases property values and tax burdens. I am leading efforts to help longtime residents keep their homes, and ensure that homes for working class people are not replaced with "mcmansions."

I want to represent you in ongoing revitalization efforts. I helped close Bass Liquors and want to be one of the decision-makers on redeveloping that property.

And a few promises:

Communicate with and advocate for constituents;

Continue to focus on quality-of-life issues;

Support a clean natural environment;

Retain the great city staff that led us back to financial health;

Continue efforts with D.C. and neighboring towns to fight crime;

Support safe rental housing;

Retain the historic neighborhood while allowing compatible new construction;

Support arts-oriented redevelopment;

Promote our fantastic assets of great location, attractive homes, tree-lined streets, and creative active citizens.

Even though I am unopposed in this election, I ask that you come to City Hall on Monday May 7<sup>th</sup> and cast your ballot.

## **CITY MANAGER'S SUMMARY OF FISCAL YEAR 2008 BUDGET PROPOSAL**

Fiscal Year 2006 was a pivotal year for the City of Mount Rainier as the required provisions of GASB 34 have been fully met. The City has been in the black for the past two fiscal years reversing the prior trend of several years of deficit spending. The City's financial condition is good. For the period ending June 30, 2006 there was an excess of revenues over expenditures in the amount of \$476,488. This was the result of city departments staying within budget, an increase in tax revenue, successful acquisition of grant revenue and not borrowing against the city's line of credit.

For Fiscal Year 2008, management does not propose any changes to the tax rate for personal property, real property (business personal property tax) and railroad and utility taxes. It is proposed that these rates remain at FY 2007 levels of \$0.79, \$1.98 and \$2.50 respectively for every \$100 of assessed valuation.

Management further proposes 6% merit increases for City employees and no Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). The Mayor and Council requested an improved health insurance benefit package which increases the amount that the city pays for family health insurance coverage. Based on the Mayor and Council requests, the proposed budget includes an improved benefit package where the City will continue to pay 100% of individual medical coverage, and 50% of the cost for family health insurance.

A Capital Improvement Plan has been included in the proposed budget for the second consecutive year forecasting expenditures through FY 2010. A total of \$120,00 in capital outlay is proposed for FY 2008 including but not limited to renovations to the public works facility, possible property acquisition, two (2) marked police vehicles, phase II of the meter replacements (Varnum Street), a public works packer, and Motor Segway

While it is anticipated that the city will receive additional revenue in the amount of approximately \$350,000, increases in expenditures due to the rising costs associated with providing key services will negate the additional \$350,000 in revenue. Management therefore, still recommends conservative spending. *For a complete description of the executive summary and detailed information on the FY 2008 budget, please go to the city's website [www.mountrainiermd.org](http://www.mountrainiermd.org) or pick up a copy of the budget summary at City Hall.*

### **FISCAL YEAR 08 BUDGET CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**April 17, 2007** – Special meeting before work session, presentation and public comment proposed FY 2008 Budget for police department and parking enforcement

**May 1, 2007** – Presentation and public comment on proposed FY 2008 Budget for public works and code enforcement; work session on budget and decide proposed tax rate

**May 15, 2007** – Work session on budget

**May 29, 2007** – Public hearing on Constant Yield Tax Rate, Variable Tax Rate, and budget; first reading of FY 2008 Budget Ordinance

**June 4, 2007** – Second reading and vote FY 2008 Budget Ordinance

### **FEDERAL INCOME TAX ENERGY CREDITS**

You may qualify for a residential energy credit on your federal income tax return if in 2006 or 2007 you: replace a window or exterior door with one that is energy efficient; install a metal roof or insulation; or install energy efficient heat pump, central AC, water heater, or heating system. Check for Form 5695 and the instructions for details and needed documentation.

## **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.

Please bear with us as we continue to pick up regular trash on WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS, This will continue until the new trash truck is delivered. If your trash is not picked up on Wednesday, it will be collected on Thursday.

**TRASH CAN REGULATIONS TO BE ENFORCED.** Public works and code enforcement will continue making special efforts to enforce the City's trash can requirements. The City Code Section 11-105 requires all regular residential trash to be placed in watertight and rodent proof containers with lids. Trash set out in plastic or paper bags is accessible to birds, rats and other rodents. The use of trash cans is a requirement to help improve the appearance of the city and deter rat infestations.

**IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT EACH AND EVERY RESIDENT ADHERE TO THE CITY'S TRASH CODE. RATS HAVE LITTERS OF 6-12 YOUNG, WHICH ARE BORN 21-23 DAYS AFTER MATING. YOUNG RATS REACH REPRODUCTIVE MATURITY IN ABOUT THREE MONTHS. BREEDING IS MOST ACTIVE IN THE SPRING AND FALL. THE AVERAGE FEMALE HAS 4-6 LITTERS PER YEAR. RATS LIVE ABOUT 6 MONTHS IN THE WILD, BUT CAN LIVE FOR 12-18 MONTHS IN AN URBAN ENVIRONMENT WITH GOOD SHELTER AND ADEQUATE SOURCES OF FOOD AND WATER. PLEASE CONTAIN YOUR TRASH, PUT AWAY ALL BIRD FEED, AND PICK UP YOUR DOG FECES AS THIS PROVIDES A SOURCE OF FOOD FOR RATS AS WELL.**

Trash cans should be set out no sooner than 7:00 pm the night before the trash pick up, and no later than 7:00 am on the day of the collection.

**All Street Lights** are the responsibility of Pepco. To report outages please contact the Lights Out number at **1-877-737-2662**.

**All Water Main breaks and Sewer** problems are the responsibility of WSSC. The **emergency** number for reporting sewer back ups and leaks, etc. is **(301) 206-4002**. The regular number to call for questions and concern is **(301) 206- 8000**.

In an effort to assist our residents, public works will call in these outages and breaks in an effort to double the report calls for the problem (to the same number you call). Please call the public works department **(301) 985-6582 or 6583** and provide them with the same information given to the utility company so that they can report the same information.

Please note that the Public Works drivers and crew operates between the hours of 7 am to 3 pm, with office hours 7:00 am until 5:00 pm each day. Calls received after 5 pm will be dealt with on the next business day.

## **FROM THE DESK OF MICHAEL E. SCOTT, CHIEF OF POLICE**

The Mount Rainier Police Department is gearing up for its annual seatbelt/child safety seat education and enforcement campaign known as Click It or Ticket or the Chief's Challenge. Each year during the months of April, May and June, police departments across Maryland focus on enforcing these critically important motor vehicle laws.

The seatbelt law in Maryland covers the driver, and the front seat passenger next to the door. Each or both of whom may receive a ticket for not wearing a seatbelt. For example:

## **Michael E. Scott, Chief of Police (continued from page 4)**

- In the case where *neither* the driver *nor* the passenger is buckled up – each of them will receive a ticket for \$25.
- In the case where *neither* the driver *nor* the front seat passenger who is 15 years old or younger is buckled up, the driver will receive a ticket for *both*. A \$25 adult fine for the driver and a \$53 fine for the front seat passenger. The \$53 fine is covered under the provisions of the child passenger safety law.

A child younger than six years old, regardless of his/her weight, or who weighs forty pounds or less, regardless of his/her age, must be secured in an approved safety seat. For example, a five year old who weighs only 38 pounds, or a 3-½ year old who weighs 42 pounds would still be required to use child safety seats. A person may not transport a child younger than 16 years of age unless the child is secured in a child safety seat or a vehicle's seat belt in all seating positions.

*Traffic safety, not just seatbelt violations, has and will continue to be a priority for the Mt. Rainier Police Department. This year, we will be combining our annual seatbelt enforcement strategies to include strict enforcement of stop sign violations and excessive speed on our residential streets. With spring comes an increased desire of our residents to be out and about enjoying the weather and reconnecting with neighbors and neighborhood events. Our children also use their newfound freedom to play on our streets and sidewalks, and, being children, don't always look first to see if a car or truck is coming down the street before darting into the road. The men and women of the MPRD will work to ensure that our residents can safely walk along and play in our streets without the fear of tragedy caused by drivers speeding, running stop signs or otherwise violating our motor vehicle laws.*

## **A Word About Noise**

The Mt. Rainier City Code Section 10-121 defines noise, and basically boils down to this: If the noise emanating from your property is excessively or unusually loud, and annoys, disturbs, injures or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace or safety of others, and that noise can be heard more than 50 feet from your property, you are in violation of City Code and are subject to a fine of \$75. The officer who responds for a noise complaint will ask the property owner, or another responsible party who may be present, to reduce the offending noise level to a point where it complies with the Code. He or she will extend this courtesy *only once*. If we receive a second complaint, someone will receive a City citation for \$75.

Motor vehicles driven on City streets are also subject to excess noise rules. Maryland law provides that when a motor vehicle is operated on a highway or street, the driver may not permit the operation of a sound amplification system from the vehicle that can be heard outside the vehicle from 50 or more feet. The fine for violating this provision of Maryland vehicle law can be as high as \$500.

## **What to Do If a Police Officer Stops You, Part IV**

This is the final installment of a four-part series designed to educate residents about what to expect when they are contacted by police in a variety of settings. This final installment discusses what you should do if a police officer comes to your home.

Usually, if a police officer knocks at your door, it is for one of the following reasons:

- To interview you or a member of your household as a witness to an incident or crime that is being investigated.
- To make a notification.
- To serve an arrest warrant.

## What to do if a police officer stops you, Part IV (continued from page 5)

- To serve a search and seizure warrant.
- To speak with you about a concern for which you have asked to be seen by an officer.

When serving a warrant, officers may dispense with the knock and announce requirement if they believe some emergency circumstance exists which necessitates a speedy or unannounced entry. Examples of such circumstances include, but are not limited to, protection of life or the possibility that evidence may be destroyed.

If the officers have a warrant, you may ask to see a copy of it. If it is an arrest warrant, it is not necessary for the warrant to be in the officers' possession for them to make an arrest. You must comply with the warrant and admit the officers into your home.

An arrest warrant commands a police officer to arrest the person named in the warrant. It also authorizes the officer to search the residence of the named individual in order to locate the person to carry out the arrest. An arrest warrant does not permit the entry and search of a third party's residence for the named individual without a search and seizure warrant. A search and seizure warrant is a document supported by an affidavit and signed by a judge, commanding a police officer to search a specifically named premise for the property or person described in the warrant. The officer will provide the resident with a copy of the warrant after reading the contents of the warrant to them. Once the search is completed, a list of the property seized (known as an inventory), if any, will be provided to the resident.

An officer may execute a search and seizure warrant at any time of the day or night. The owner/occupant of the residence does not have to be present. When this occurs, a copy of the warrant and inventory will be left at the residence in a conspicuous location.

Police officers may conduct a search without a warrant in certain situations. Two main examples of when this might occur would be in situations involving the emergency circumstances noted previously, or searches done with the consent of a person that has authority over the property. If you consent to a search of your residence, you have the right to withdraw that consent at any time during the search. Just clearly tell the officers that you wish the search to stop and they will comply with your decision.

If two people are present and both have an ownership interest in the property, either person has the right to refuse a *consent* search of the residence. In other words, if one owner says it's OK to search the residence and the other objects, no search can be legally conducted. This also applies when one owner returns to the residence after another owner has given consent to search and an actual search has already begun. Once either owner objects to a search of the residence, the search must stop.

I hope this series of articles has been useful for our residents to get a better idea of their rights and responsibilities when engaged by a law enforcement officer, and to reduce the possibility of unnecessary conflict between our police officers and the citizens of Mount Rainier.

After a little over a year of trying to provide the citizens of Mount Rainier information they can actually use to improve their safety and security, I am starting to run out of ideas for my monthly *Message* submissions. I want to make each issue meaningful and include practical information our residents can act on, not just read and discard like the weekly news magazine. So, if there is an issue about which you need more information, or some crime prevention information that I need to address either again or for the first time, please let me know. You can e-mail me your ideas at [msscott@mountrainiermd.org](mailto:msscott@mountrainiermd.org), or contact me, or a member of my staff, at 301-985-6580.

## **SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE**

The Prince George's County Municipal Association is offering scholarships to residents of municipalities in Prince George's County. Applications can be picked-up at any Prince George's municipality. The entire application (including letters of recommendation) is due no later than April 30. Incomplete applications and applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered. Selection of the scholarships will be made by a countywide selection committee and announced by the end of May. Applicant must be accepted to or currently enrolled in an accredited college or university in an undergraduate degree program intended to prepare students for a career in governmental or public service.

Applicants must have good scholastic standing, i.e., at least a 2.0 GPA.

Each applicant's application must indicate or include:

A commitment to public service, e.g., past or current involvement with civic organizations.

An educational program in local governmental or public service.

Applicant's statement of educational objectives and career goals.

Two letters of recommendation. One must be from a faculty member of the current educational institution; the other should be from a municipal public official.

An essay on the importance of municipal government in the community.  
Completion of the scholarship application.

Questions regarding this scholarship program can be directed to the PGCMA Scholarship Committee c/o council member Michael Leszcz, City of Laurel: 301-725-5300 ext. 120.

More information at:

<http://www.mdmunicipal.org/chapterweb/pgcma/scholarships/index.htm>

## **MOUNT RAINIER CALL-A-BUS**

The Mount Rainier Call-A-Bus offers curb to curb bus service to medical appointments, shopping centers, recreation centers, libraries, and beauty and barber shops. Services are also available for field trips, special outings, and after school special events. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 9: am to 3:30 pm. For reservations and additional information, call 301-985-6586.

## **BUNKER HILL FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Fire & EMS calls in the City of Mount Rainier for the month of February 2007.

Comm. Building	0
Private Dwelling	2
Apartment	1
Personal Injury Accident's	2
Vehicle	0
Brush	1
Trash	0
Natural Gas Leak	0

**Bunker Hill Fire Department Report (continued from page 7)**

Flooded Condition	0		
Alarm Bells	6		
Wires	3		
Miscellaneous- Service	5		
Hazardous Condition	2		
Hazmat	1	Total Building Loss	\$ 0
Assist Ambulance	11	Total Property Loss	\$ 400
EMS	55	Total Vehicle Loss	N/A
Assist Police	0	<b>Total Loss</b>	<b>\$400</b>
False Call	1		
Good Intent	1		
Extinguished Dryer	1		
Stove	1		

**ANACOSTIA HOURS, INC.**

Anacostia Hours, Inc. is a local currency which has been established in the communities of Mount Rainier, Hyattsville, Brentwood and North Brentwood and surrounding areas to promote local economic strength and community self-reliance in ways that will support economic and social justice, ecology, community participation and human aspirations. Businesses, large and small, and individuals offering a service or product(s) may join. For more information please call 301-927-6216 and ask for Mary Parker or Betty Scholten.

**STATE INCOME TAX REMINDER**

The City shares in the state income taxes paid by residents ONLY if you write in "Mount Rainier" as your municipality in the appropriate box on your state tax return. This does not increase your taxes; it assures that a share of your tax dollars will help fund city services like police, public works, etc. All of Kaywood and Queens Manor, as well as most of Queenstown are within the borders of Mount Rainier.

**CITY SEEKS MEMBERS FOR TOWN CENTER DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE**

The City is currently soliciting one business representative member for the Town Center Design Review Committee. The Committee is composed of 2 business members, 2 resident members and 2 municipal members and reviews all new development projects and exterior renovations in the Mixed-Use Town Center Zone. The Committee is advisory to the county Planning Board. The Zone extends along Rhode Island Avenue from the City limits into the 3400 block and along 34<sup>th</sup> Street from the 3700 block into the 4000 block and includes part of Bunker Hill. Each Committee member will be given a copy of the Mount Rainier Town Center Development Plan. This plan contains the design guidelines which the Committee uses to review applications.

**Business and/or property owner members** must own either a business or property within the Mixed-Use Town Center Zone or the City. The City is looking for members who have a sense of fairness in reviewing applications and who are interested in the on-going revitalization of the downtown business area. Committee members should be willing to help encourage appropriate building alterations and signage among business and property owners and to help educate rather than regulate.

Applications to be on the Committee are due to City Hall by May 15th.

## **Town Center Design Review Committee Members Needed (continued from page 8)**

The final selection of committee members will be made by the Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission from the pool of applicants submitted by the City.

## **VOLUNTEERS SUPPORT BEAUTIFICATION EFFORTS AT CITY PARKS**

Resident David Hilmy has volunteered to spearhead regular clean up of Spring Park. Persons interested in participating in this effort should contact Mr. Hilmy at (202-276-9430) or the Spring Park website (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/springpark/>). The regular clean-up schedule will be from 10am to 12pm every Sunday and regular updates, gardening or site-specific files, and photos will also be available from the website.

Resident Joe Robbins has volunteered to be the contact person for Richardson Park. The E-mail address is [robbins629@aim.com](mailto:robbins629@aim.com).

The regular schedule for persons interesting in the clean up of this park is on a once-per-week sweep of the park on Tuesdays after work (say around 6:30pm-7:30pm). Volunteers have been picking up trash weeding the flower bed. Since everyone can not adhere to this schedule they are trying to stop by and pick up trash whenever they are able. Mr. Robbins is hopeful that all volunteers can get into the habit of at least doing a once-a-week pick-up.

## **DUMPSTERS AND STORAGE UNITS REQUIRE PERMITS**

### **Dumpsters**

1. No person shall place or cause to be placed or use a dumpster on private property or on a public right of way for the disposal of regular household trash, refuse, or garbage. Dumpsters are restricted to the storing, collection, and hauling of construction, renovation, demolition, and excavation debris and refuse and require a construction-dumpster permit.
2. This regulation does not apply to dumpsters or other refuse storage containers maintained for use by commercial or multi-family residential facilities in the City, provided that the dumpster or other outdoor refuse storage area is properly screened from the view of adjacent properties and public rights of ways.
3. A construction-dumpster permit shall be valid for a period of up to three months. No more than two construction dumpsters shall be permitted on a single property or construction site at the same time without the express authorization of the City Manager.

### **Temporary storage units (PODS)**

1. A "temporary storage unit" is any portable on-demand storage (PODS) structure, steel shipping container, shed-like container or other portable structure that is designed or used for the storage of personal property of any kind and which is located for such purposes outside an enclosed building.
2. A temporary storage unit may be located as a temporary structure on property within the City for a period not exceeding 30 days in duration from time of delivery to time of removal. The City Manager may grant a one-time extension in cases of hardship. No more than two temporary storage units may be located on a specific piece of property within the City at one time and each structure shall be individually limited to the duration time period. Any temporary storage unit that exceeds the permitted time limit is considered an accessory structure (e.g., a shed) and must comply with all regulations that pertain to a shed including but not limited to building permits, height restriction, lot coverage, siting, and setbacks.
3. A temporary storage unit may be allowed upon a site where there is active construction, provided that a City building permit has been obtained and that such temporary storage unit is to be used only in connection with the construction and shall not remain upon the property for longer than two weeks past the completion of the project, or expiration of the City building permit, whichever occurs first. Such temporary storage unit may not exceed 8 feet 6 inches in height, 10 feet in width and 20 feet in

**Dumpster and Storage Units Require Permits (continued from page 9)**

length. A temporary storage unit on an active construction site shall be place in the least conspicuous location available to minimize disturbance to any adjoining residential properties; the final location of the temporary storage unit shall be determined by the City manager.

**HAZARDOUS AND BULK WASTE DISPOSAL**

County residents can take items to the county landfill for free on Sundays from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. You can take car tires and batteries, household hazardous wastes, old paint, old air conditioners and refrigerators, and old electronics like computers. The city will pick up some of these items for a fee during bulk trash days. The county facility is located at 3500 Brown Station Rd., near Upper Marlboro. Landfill entrance is located on White House Road near intersection of MD 202. (301)883-5045.

***Listed hereunder is the scheduled pick up dates for trash in the City of Mount Rainier for April and May 2007.***

DATE	PARTICULARS	DATE	PARTICULARS
April 2	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up	May 2	Regular Trash Pick Up
April 4	Regular Trash Pick Up	May 4	Recyclables Pick Up
April 6	Recyclables Pick Up	May 7	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up
April 9	Yard Waste Pick Up	May 9	Regular Trash Pick Up
April 11	Regular Trash Pick Up	May 11	Recyclables Pick Up
April 13	Recyclables Pick Up	May 14	Yard Waste Pick Up
April 16	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up	May 16	Regular Trash Pick Up
April 18	Regular Trash Pick Up	May 18	Recyclables Pick Up
April 20	Recyclables Pick Up	May 21	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up
April 23	Yard Waste Pick Up	May 23	Regular Trash Pick Up
April 25	Regular Trash Pick Up	May 25	Recyclables Pick Up
April 27	Recyclables Pick Up	May 28	City Hall and Public Works closed Memorial Day Holiday
April 30	Yard Waste Pick Up	May 29	Yard Waste Pick Up
		May 30	Regular Trash Pick Up

***Beginning in March, Yard Waste will be every Monday. Please have all bulk trash and yard waste out by 7:00 am on the respective pick up day and all bulk trash appointments made before 12 noon on the Friday preceding pick up day***

## HOMEOWNERS PROPERTY TAX CREDITS

Concerned about increased property taxes? The State of Maryland has a program that sets a limit on the amount of property taxes any homeowner must pay based upon his or her income. This program is available to all homeowners regardless of their age. To be eligible, your combined gross household income cannot exceed \$60,000. Your net worth, not including the value of your real property nor any qualified retirement savings or IRAs, must be less than \$200,000. For purposes of the tax credit program, "income" means the combined gross income before any deductions are taken. Income from all sources must be reported whether or not the monies received are included as income for Federal and State income tax purposes. Nontaxable retirement benefits such as Social Security and Railroad Retirement must be reported as income for the tax credit program. The tax credit is based upon the amount by which the property taxes exceed a percentage of your income according to the following formula: 0% of the first \$8,000 of the combined household income; 4% of the next \$4,000 of income; 6.5% of the next \$4,000 of income; and 9% of all income above \$16,000.

**Example:** If your combined household income is \$16,000, your tax limit is \$420. You would be entitled to receive a credit for any taxes above the \$420. If your actual property tax bill was \$990, you would receive a tax credit in the amount of \$570 -- this being the difference between the actual tax bill and the tax limit.

Applications are available at most public libraries, or by calling the Tax Credits Telephone Service at 1-800-944-7403. Or visit the Web site: <http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/htc.html>.

At the website there is a chart that provides the tax caps for each income level.

## ANNUAL MOUNT RAINIER DAY PROGRAM

The Annual Mount Rainier Day Program and Festivities will be held on May 19, 2007. **Vendors and participants may pick up applications at City Hall, One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, Maryland** or call 301-985-6585. So mark your calendars for a great event. Set up for vendors is scheduled for 9:00am. The festivities begin at 11:00 am and will end at 6:00 pm. Rhode Island Avenue is the place where all of the staging will be. The Basketball Tournament will be held on Perry Street adjacent to City Hall. Once again we are anticipating a wonderful and exciting event. Plan to be there!

## MOUNT RAINIER BIKE COOP RE-OPENS

The Mt Rainier Bicycle Co-op will re-open officially on Saturday, > April 22nd at 1:00pm for another season of cycling! MRBC is located behind City Hall at 3409 Rhode Island Avenue, and membership couldn't be easier or any more affordable - - only \$5.00 for the year/individual, \$10/family. Plan on being a part of the MRBC this season! If you are familiar with bike repairs and can volunteer once or twice a month, or just like working with kids, please contact us at [jbelltower@yahoo.com](mailto:jbelltower@yahoo.com), or 240-461-4560. Check us out on the web (<http://bikerecyclery.org/>) for timely updates, including hours of operation, currently slated to be 10:30a - 1pm, Saturdays. The MRBC Board: John Campanile, Barbara Klieforth, Anne Villacres and David Paul Zuk.

www.mountrainiermd.org

**Mayor**

**Malinda Miles**  
301-699-1378

mayormiles@malindamiles.com

**City Manager**

**Jeannelle B. Wallace**  
301-985-6585, ext. 22  
fax: 301-985-6595

jwallace@mountrainiermd.org

**Asst. City Manager**

**Position Vacant**  
contact

City Manager  
for application

**Councilmembers**

**Ward 1**

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**Bryan Knedler**

301-699-3134

bknedler@aol.com

**Message**

**Jeannelle B. Wallace**

jwallace@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 5:00 p.m. Public Works open 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

47th District Reps  
301-858-3745

Sen. Gwendolyn Britt

301-858-3326

Del. Doyle Niemann

Del. Jolene Ivey

Del. Victor Ramirez

Call-A-Bus 301-985-6586  
(hours M–F, 9 am–2 pm)

City Code Enforcement Office  
301-985-6551

City Hall

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

**City Police Department**

Chief Lieutenant Michael Scott

Mscott@mountrainiermd.org

301-985-6565 (emergency calls)

301-985-6566 (nonemergency calls)

301-985-6590 (administrative)

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

Child Abuse  
and Neglect Hotline  
301-699-8605

Congressman Chris Van Hollen's

Satellite Office:

6475 New Hampshire Ave, Suite C-201  
Hyattsville MD 20783

301-891-6982 (voice)

301-891-6985 (fax)

Monday–Friday 9:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Consumer Affairs  
301-470-7534

County Animal Control  
301-499-8301

County Building Permits  
301-883-5784

County Executive

Jack Johnson

301-952-4131

County Councilman

Will Campos

301-952-4436

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–W 10-6:30 (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

301-918-8111

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

Post Office

301-864-5168

Public Defender

301-699-2760

Public Schools

301-952-6000

State's Attorney

301-952-3500

Washington Gas Light

703-750-2500

WSSC

301-206-8000

301-206-4002 (emergency)

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Mount Rainier, MD 20712

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April 2007 Message  
City of Mount Rainier  
One Municipal Place  
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