



# ***The Message***

Issue 244

February 2007

## **FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR MALINDA MILES**

The City has worked diligently on several issues that will be of great benefit to the City. A summary of some of these key issues follows:

### **Verizon Contract**

On January 16, 2007, the Mayor and Council approved the Verizon Contract which will provide competitive cable subscriber services to the citizenry of Mount Rainier. The key components of this contract include a senior rate, a customer service center, and reduced costs to those choosing this service. We are anticipating good things from this contact.

### **Town of Brentwood MOU**

The City of Mount Rainier and the Town of Brentwood are both very pleased with the partnership that has evolved as a result of the community policing services. A major arrest was recently made by the Mount Rainier Police Department as a result of this partnership as well as improved enforcement efforts along the 36<sup>th</sup> and 37<sup>th</sup> Street corridors. We have received great reports and high praise from the Brentwood community including the Mayor and Council. As a result, both cities are looking into the possibility of expanding the partnership which will allow for additional police coverage in both cities.

While the details have not been worked out, the City of Mount Rainier will be looking into future funding through the County's Livable Communities Grant from County Executive Jack Johnson. If funding is not granted through the LCI program, the Town of Brentwood is looking into the possibility of funding an additional officer through their annual budget. This would give the City additional coverage and the ability to enforce issues along our shared borders.

### **Mount Rainier Apartment Manager's Meetings**

The Mayor and City management staff have met monthly with the property managers of our multi-family residential housing complexes to address issues including but not limited to improved lighting, increased law enforcement efforts to combat criminal activity, and residential vehicle decals for those citizens with lease agreements registered at the apartment complexes. While we have worked on the particulars of this effort for quite some time, each apartment complex will issue to its residents decals which are to be placed in the rear left window identifying that vehicle as one that is registered at the particular complex. Residents who have guests visiting with them will be issued temporary guest passes from the apartment management. The vehicle decals will assist the Mount Rainier Police Department with identifying vehicles properly registered to residents and their guests, enabling the officers to quickly recognize those vehicles that may be stolen or improperly tagged. Although this program became effective January 1, 2007, residents will be given until February 28, 2007 to comply. Those residents not in compliance will be issued citations beginning March 1, 2007. This effort will

***From the desk of Mayor Malinda Miles (continued from page 1)***

assist the City in reducing the number of illegally parked vehicles, and ultimately provide more parking for residents.

**Mount Rainier Police Lodge 85 Contract Negotiations**

As you are aware, the Mayor and Council decided not to implement the Law Enforcement Officer Pension System (LEOPS) at this time due to budget constraints. The current Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) states that if the Council did not implement LEOPS by July 1, 2006, the current contract negotiations would have to be reopened on the issues of Health Insurance Benefits and Salary.

The Mayor and Council appointed the management team as City Manager Jeannelle Wallace, Mayor Malinda Miles, Citizen Jimmy Tarlau, and Chief Michael Scott as an advisor. The City's management team has met with the representatives of FOP Lodge 85 which includes President Alberto Ortiz, Vice President Steve Malley, Trustee Victor Kenworthy, and Alternate Robb Caplan. Thus far two meetings have occurred with proposals presented by the FOP Lodge 85 and a counter proposal submitted by management. The goal is to reach an agreement on the two re-opener issues by February 1, 2007.

As your Mayor, I will continue to work on those issues which will bring revenue to the City, reduce the day to day operational costs whenever possible, and enhance our service delivery. ***Continued on Page 10***

**COUNCILMEMBER KNEDLER'S WARD 2 REPORT**

**NEW TRAFFIC LIGHT** Washington, DC is in the planning phase for a new traffic light at Bunker Hill and Eastern. We have been asking DC for such a light for 20 years (at least). According to my source, the light is a year and a half away from actual installation. I have asked city staff to make contact with the DC planners and be sure they keep us in the loop as this progresses.

**McMANSION CONTROL LEGISLATION.** According to the Gazette, our lawmakers are supporting passage of a bill that would allow municipalities to enact stricter controls on new houses and additions. We would have the option of enacting rules on size, massing, height, etc.

**ADOPT A SPOT.** Volunteers led by 33rd St. resident Kathy Osore recently spruced up Gazebo Park with the help of a donation of mulch from MNCPPC. But there is much more to do. If you would like to adopt a city park or garden, let me know. Areas include: Richardson Park (4500 block 31st), Spring Park (Shepherd and 33rd), Edgemont Park (31<sup>st</sup> and Perry), Gazebo Park (Bunker Hill and 33rd), Bunker Hill/Eastern garden, Memorial Park (at the roundabout). You can volunteer to care for a single area within the park, clean up trash in the area, etc. If more than one person is interested in the same area, I will try to set up a team to share the job.

**VIDEOS OF COUNCIL MEETINGS.** Our city website now provides videos of prior council meetings. We are working toward having the meetings broadcast live on the website.

**GLBT BRUNCHES.** The social potluck group for gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered, and friends meets every other month. If you are interested, contact [glmrmd@aol.com](mailto:glmrmd@aol.com).

**COMMUNITY LIST SERVE.** An email list service has been created by residents. Among other things, the group has been sharing names of contractors and you could access that list of names if you sign up for the listserv. Other topics have ranged from the need for a dog park to crime to various local events. Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MountRainierMD/> and click on the "Join this group" button. If you don't want to deal with lots of emails, you can join my email list, [mtrainiernews@aol.com](mailto:mtrainiernews@aol.com).

## **SNOW EMERGENCY INFORMATION**

Residents of Mount Rainier can do their part to help the Public Works staff during a snowstorm. The best policy for residents is to keep off the roads so the snow removal crews can operate unimpeded. If at all possible, residents should wait until the storm has passed and roads are passable. Abandoned vehicles prevent snow plows from clearing streets.

During a snowstorm, the first streets to be cleared are the snow emergency routes. In Mount Rainier snow emergency routes are clearly identified by signs. Snow emergency rules are in effect when the District of Columbia declares a snow emergency.

The Mount Rainier Police Department has an active role during a snowstorm. For example, once a snow emergency has been declared by the District, the Police will check the snow emergency routes in Mount Rainier to make sure that all vehicles have been removed. The snow emergency routes in Mount Rainier are currently as follows:

1. 34<sup>th</sup> Street from Rhode Island Avenue to Arundel Road
2. Chillum Road from Arundel Road to the City boundary at Queens Chapel Road
3. Rainier Avenue from 34<sup>th</sup> Street to Upshur Street
4. Upshur Street from Rainier Avenue to 28<sup>th</sup> Place
5. 28<sup>th</sup> Place from Upshur Street to Russell Avenue
6. Russell Avenue from 28<sup>th</sup> Place to Arundel Road
7. Varnum Street from Russell Avenue to Eastern Avenue
8. Arundel Road from Russell Avenue to 34<sup>th</sup> Street.

Violation and Penalties. Every person convicted of a violation of any provision of Chapter 13A shall be required to pay a fine of \$100 in addition to any other costs provided by law.

When removing snow from around a parked vehicle, it is better to deposit the snow on tree boxes or grassy areas instead of throwing it out on the street or on the sidewalk.

## **JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

The City of Mount Rainier is seeking a qualified applicant for an **Assistant City Manager** position, salary to \$50,000. Bachelor's Degree in Urban Planning, Public Administration, or related field with an emphasis on grant writing and human resource experience. Knowledge of municipal government operations preferred. Send resume, salary history and references to the attention of the City Manager, One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712. All applications must be postmarked by March 15, 2007. City of Mount Rainier is an Equal Opportunity Employer and complies with all ADA requirements. Minorities and women are encouraged to apply.

## **FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED**

Make a difference in our community by providing care, love and guidance to a child in a family setting. Become a foster parent for needed children and youth. Training, support and stipend are provided. For more information about the next training class call CONCERN at (301) 429-2370 or the website: [www.concern4kids.org](http://www.concern4kids.org).

## REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER JEANNELLE WALLACE

Many of you are aware of the recent discussions about Collective Bargaining Unit with the FOP Lodge 85 of the Mount Rainier Police Department. Since some of the statements made may have been somewhat confusing if not disturbing. Therefore I am providing through this article some factual information that may be helpful to the Mount Rainier residents to clarify some of the important issues related to this matter.

### **Personnel Policy**

The City of Mount Rainier operated for several years without an employee handbook although several previous drafts had been written and rejected. One of my first projects was to get a policy drafted which was acceptable to the Mayor and Council. The Institute of Government Service (IGS) was contacted at the University of Maryland to research several existing documents that had been reviewed and approved by IGS and were currently being used by municipalities within the State. After collecting this information the personnel policy was drafted in accordance with this City's needs, practices and policies. The Mayor and City Council reviewed this document, made editorial comments, revisions and deletions. The document was submitted to the City attorney for further review and legal scrutiny. The Mayor and Council had a final review and subsequent approval prior to adopting by Ordinance the current Employee Personnel Manual.

Chapter 10 of this document lists step by step the process for filing grievances. Any matter not resolved at the department head or supervisory level can be brought to the attention of the City Manager.

*Chapter 10-104, Section B states that in the event the decision of the City manager does not satisfy the employee's grievance, the employee may, within five working days of receiving the City manager's written reply, file a written request for a hearing before the City of Mount Rainier Personnel Board. (The Personnel Board shall be an independent commission appointed by the Mayor and Council). The City manager shall collect any pertinent data or other written material concerning the matter and promptly present the employee's written request and all other pertinent written material to the Personnel Board.*

**Allegation:** Five (5) employees have attempted to have a hearing before the personnel board but were stopped from doing so at the City Manager level.

There have been four employees who were either terminated or resigned of their own free will. Three of the four employees filed an EEO complaint against the City which after review by Maryland Equal Employment Opportunity Commission was dismissed and found without merit. The other employee resigned after accepting employment with another City. While this employee did request a hearing, the City attorney determined that they did not have a grievance because they did not resign under duress or coercion, but after it was determined that they were working for two employers simultaneously and receiving compensation from both employers. Under no circumstances has this City Manager denied an employee the right to file a grievance with the City's Personnel Board.

Additionally, every employee is issued a personal copy of the manual. They are subsequently required to sign an affirmation that they have received, read, and understand the document.

Management informs the Mayor and Council of every personnel litigation filed against the City and any and all decisions rendered. It is the policy of management to continue to be fair and impartial in all of its deliberations and decisions pertaining to personnel matters of City employees.

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

### **Identity Theft Prevention**

The holiday season is now past, and many of us are eyeing our credit card statements trying to figure out how to pay off all those holiday gifts before Uncle Sam wants his cut April 15<sup>th</sup>. As stressful as the reckoning month of January may be, it is a good time to examine those credit card and bank statements to make sure only you made the purchases for which you've been billed. Identity thieves are becoming more and more skilled at stealing your personal information. As we recently experienced here in Mount Rainier, all a thief needs is a copy of your personal check to begin paying his or her bills with your money! With the bank routing number and your account number, which are clearly printed on the lower left of most checks, a thief can quickly drain all the money in your account. Here are just a few tips to help you protect yourself from identity theft.

### **Theft of Credit Cards and Documents**

Identity thieves often steal purses or wallets, and steal newly issued cards or credit card applications from your mailbox. Some, known as "dumpster divers," will even rummage through trash to pick out bank and credit card statements. Letters that contain pre-approved credit card offers, if not shredded or otherwise destroyed can be sent back to the issuing bank requesting that the card be sent to the recipient (you) at a new address of the thief's choosing.

### **Shoulder Surfing**

Some identity thieves also engage in what's called "shoulder surfing": looking over your shoulder or from a nearby location as you enter your personal identification number (PIN) at an ATM machine. By installing a fake ATM device that reads your card's encoded data, or by distracting you while your card is taken or switched for another, an identity thief can then use your PIN to drain your bank account without your knowledge.

### **Skimming**

Identity thieves also "skim" or "swipe" customer credit cards at restaurants or cash registers using an electronic device known as a skimmer. The skimmer records the personal information data from the magnetic stripe on the back of the card. The thief will then transfer or transmit the data to another location, sometimes overseas, where it is re-encoded onto fraudulently made credit cards.

### **E-Mail and Website "Spoofing"**

Many criminals who want to obtain personal data from individuals online use a technique known as "spoofing:" the creation of e-mails and websites that appear to belong to legitimate businesses such as financial institutions or online auction sites. Consumers who receive e-mails claiming to be from a legitimate business are directed to enter personal data such as account numbers and passwords. In fact, the criminal who created the fraudulent e-mails or website have no connection to the legitimate business whose identity they stole in order to steal yours. The reality is that, no bank, credit card company, online auction house such as Ebay, or online retailer such as Amazon will ever ask you for your personal information, especially account numbers or passwords, by e-mail. Most of these institutions or companies have security or fraud units that you can contact either by forwarding the suspicious e-mail or by telephone to verify the request. And, do not call the fraud hotline number listed in the e-mail! That will only connect you to the thief, who is probably in a foreign country somewhere, who will tell you it's a legitimate request. Then, to add insult to injury, at the end of the month the phone company will send you a several hundred-dollar bill for the long distance overseas call!

## How to Minimize Your Risk of Identity Theft

- Sign all credit cards when you receive them and *never* lend them to anyone, especially to your teenage child.
- Cancel and destroy credit cards you do not use and keep a list of the ones you use regularly.
- Carry only the identification information and credit cards that you actually need.
- Pay attention to your billing cycles and follow-up with your creditors and utility companies if your bills do not arrive on time.
- Consider subscribing to a credit reporting company such as Credit Inform. These subscription services send you a quarterly statement of your credit rating compiled from the three major credit-reporting agencies. The report will list any new accounts opened or closed in your name, and any increase in credit limits granted by credit card companies. Read the report thoroughly and question any entry that is inaccurate, incorrect, or one you did not authorize. If you do not subscribe to a service, by law you are entitled to receive one free copy of your credit report once a year. Take advantage of this and review your credit report annually.
- Check carefully each of your monthly credit card statements. Immediately report lost or stolen credit cards and any discrepancies in your statement(s) to the credit card company.
- Destroy by shredding paperwork you no longer need, such as ATM receipts, electronic and credit card purchases, utility bills, and any document that contains personal and/or financial information. This also includes pre-approved credit card offers *before* putting them in the trash.
- Secure personal information in your home or office so that it is not readily accessible to others who may have access to the premises.
- On trash day, do not put your trash out at the curb the night before. Wait until morning. Criminals are less likely to rummage through your trash when it's secured (lid on tight) next to your house. It also helps control rodents! Please ignore this precaution if you are discarding evidence of a crime with your household trash. The police department may want to come and seize the trash in what's called a "trash rip." The trash rip allows us to recover evidence discarded as trash so we can use it as probable cause to obtain a search warrant for your house or an arrest warrant for you. Should you inadvertently mix evidence of a crime with your household garbage, please make sure to put the lid tightly on the can before setting it out at the curb. Rodents are not looking for evidence, and there are more of them than us!
- Do not give out personal information over the telephone, through the mail, or over the Internet unless you are the one who initiated the contact and know the person or organization with which you are dealing. Before you share your personal information, make sure the institution is legitimate.
- Password protect your credit card, bank and phone accounts, but do not keep a written record of your PIN, social security number or passwords. Do not carry such information with you in your purse or wallet.

## CITY ELECTION BOARD MEMBERS SOUGHT

The City seeks an election supervisor, judges, and clerks for the upcoming city election on Monday May 7, 2007. The Mayor and Council appoint an elections board to manage the municipal elections. If you are interested in serving on this important board, please submit a letter stating your interest to the City Manager, Jeannelle Wallace, by February 15, 2007. The election supervisor receives \$300, Judges \$100 and election clerks \$75. The election supervisor is responsible for running the nomination process, as well as preparing for and supervising the election itself. The two election judges and two clerks assist the supervisor. All board members must be able to spend the entire day at the poll on May 7, as well as attend some training sessions. See City Charter Sec. 501 and Ordinance 1-116 for more details. An election process guidebook also is available from City Hall.

## **STATE INCOME TAX REMINDER**

The City of Mount Rainier 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.

## **DESIGN REVIEW BOARD**

The Mayor and Council are seeking applicants to appoint to the city's Design Review Board (DRB). The DRB was established in 1992 (by Resolution 14-92) to "(1) critique designs, develop designs, recommend guidelines, and propose legislation related to the existing built environment and construction projects that will enhance public safety and welfare or otherwise enhance the physical appearance of the community; (2) advise, upon request from the Mayor and Council or based on its own judgment, concerning design related issues including, but not limited to, fences, retaining walls, public plantings, construction proposals and regulations. The DRB, for instance, reviews requests for variances to the zoning standards and makes recommendations to the Mayor and Council on disposition of those requests. The DRB in the near future may also be asked to review existing zoning standards and make a proposal to the Mayor and Council on how to protect the historic architecture of our neighborhoods. The DRB consists of at least three but not more than five city residents, appointed by the Mayor and Council for a term of two years that is renewable. Please note that the DRB is a city board, and is separate from the Town Center Design Review Committee (TCDRC) which reviews applications for exterior changes to properties in the downtown area of the city. If you are interested in serving on this board, please forward a resume to City Manager, Jeannelle Wallace, City Hall, One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, 20712. Or e-mail her at [jwallace@mountrainiermd.org](mailto:jwallace@mountrainiermd.org).

## **TREE COMMISSIONERS SOUGHT**

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 resume to City Manager, Jeannelle Wallace, City Hall, One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, 20712. Or e-mail her at [jwallace@mountrainiermd.org](mailto:jwallace@mountrainiermd.org).

## **IMPORTANT LEAD SEMINAR – PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND!!**

The Prince George's County Public Health Department's Lead Poisoning Prevention Program is hosting a free, one day Lead Awareness Training Seminar on Thursday, March 15, 2007. The event is scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and will be held at the Saint Joseph's Roman Catholic Church auditorium located at 2020 Saint Joseph's Drive, Largo, Maryland, 20774. Breakfast, lunch and light refreshments will be provided.

This seminar will cover topics including the health effects of lead poisoning, sources of lead, new laws and legal issues related to rental property owners, lead safe work practices and the roles of the Prince George's County Public Health Department, and the Maryland Department of the Environment regarding lead poisoned children.

The target audience for this training includes Prince George's county homeowners, rental property owners, managers, maintenance personnel, child day-care providers, day care inspectors, public and private school's maintenance employees and nurses, housing inspectors and public health professionals. Scheduled speakers for this event will be representatives from local and state government, non-profit organizations and private industry. **Continued next page--**

Although registration is free, space is limited and pre-registration is required. Please reserve your space by calling Ms. Karen Burkhardt, Administrative Aide, at (301) 883-7215, weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

## **LOCAL BUSINESSES AND OTHERS SUPPORT THANKSGIVING LUNCH FOR CITY EMPLOYEES**

Due to the generosity of the following individuals and area businesses, an employee appreciation Thanksgiving luncheon was held at the Bunker Hill Fire Station November 16, 2006. In addition to the feast, turkeys were also distributed to all City employees. The businesses and individuals that supported this effort were Party Time Liquors; Kaywood Liquors; H&W Printing; 7-11 Store – Chillum Road; Terminal Snack Bar; WWCG Book Store; Mr. John Hines; Alpha Engineering; Joe's Restaurant; Kay Management; Rock Creek Baptist Church; Mr. Nick Francis, and Thrifty Car Rental.

The entire City of Mount Rainier work force wishes to publicly acknowledge the support of these individuals and businesses for this event. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

## **BUNKER HILL FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2006**

The following is a list of Fire & EMS calls and losses in the City of Mount Rainier for the month of December, 2006.

Note: This report only reflects calls for the City of Mount Rainier.

Comm. Building	0	
Private Dwelling	2	1- Food on stove fire, 1- No Service
Apartment	3	1- trashcan, 1-Food on stove,1-good intent
Personal Injury Accident's	4	
Vehicle	3	1-loss at \$1,000.00. 1-no service. 1-N/A.
Brush	1	
Trash	0	
Natural Gas Leak	0	
Flooded Condition	0	
Alarm Bells	3	
Wires	0	
Miscellaneous- Service	1	
Hazardous Condition	0	
Hazmat	0	
Assist Ambulance	9	
EMS	65	
Assist Police	1	

On Saturday December 23<sup>rd</sup>, members took time out of their busy holiday schedules to once again take Santa Clause around the City on the ladder truck. We would like to thank the Mount Rainier City Police Department for particularly Lt. Jimmy Stoots for taking his time from his holiday schedule to come and give Santa a police escort this year around the City.

## **COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FOR NOVEMBER 2006 TO JANUARY 2007**

**November 2, 2006 – Special Meeting Called by the Mayor** – Council voted to go into closed session to discuss possible property acquisition. No action or vote was taken.

**November 14, 2006 – Mayor and Council Meeting** – Office Aaron Wilson was sworn in my Chief Scott and Mayor Miles.

**Ordinance 15-2006** – This ordinance amends the *Mount Rainier Code* prohibiting the use of dumpsters in the City for regular household trash and refuse and requires a permit for the placement of construction dumpsters within the City – First Reading.

**Ordinance 16-2006** – amends Chapters 9 and 13 of the *Mount Rainier Code* authorizing parking enforcement officers and code enforcement officers in addition to police officers to issue parking citations – First Reading

**Ordinance 17-2006** – limits the use of temporary portable storage units (PODS) on private property in the City - First Reading.

**Resolution 17-2006** – approving the designation of a Community Legacy Area and application and a receipt of financing for Community Legacy Projects in the City – First Reading/Vote

**Resolution 18-2006** - approving the request for an Urban Corn Grain Bin – First Reading/Vote. Legislation passed unanimously.

**November 28, 2006 – Joint Meeting with the Mayor and Councils of the City of Mount Rainier and the Town of Brentwood** – discussion focused on the Memorandum of Understanding for Community Police Services

### **December 5, 2006 – Mayor and Council Meeting**

**Ordinance 15-2006** amending the Mount Rainier Code to prohibit the use of dumpsters without a permit (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading/Vote) legislation passed 4-0

**Ordinance 16-2006** authorizing parking enforcement officers and code enforcements officers in addition to police officers to issue parking citations (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading/Vote) passed 4-0

**Ordinance 17-2006** limiting the use of temporary storage units on private property in the City (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading/Vote) legislation passed 4-0

**Ordinance 18-2006** repealing Chapter 1A, Collective Bargaining of the Mount Rainier Code -First Reading

### **December 12, 2006 - Special Meeting Called By The Mayor**

Discussion items – Cost of LEOPS and impact on the City’s Budget; Police Union Letter of August 4, 2006 requesting to re-open negotiations and Council Vote on Police Union request on the Contract’s Article XIV Retirement, Article XI, Section 7 Pay Scale and Article XIII, Section 23 Health Insurance Benefits.

Council voted to go into closed session to discuss contract negotiations with the City Attorney.

### **January 2, 2007 Mayor and Council Meeting**

**Resolution 16-2006** – The City of Mount Rainier election to participate in the Alternate Contributory Pension Selection Plan (a contributory pension plan for all city employees that increases the rate of

contribution from 2% to 3% during FY 07 and to 5% by FY 08 for both the employees and City) (Second Reading and Vote) legislation passed 4-0.

**Ordinance 1-2007** – Granting a Cable Franchise to Verizon Maryland, Inc., and authorizing a Cable Franchise Agreement between the City and Verizon Maryland, Inc. (First Reading)

### **January 16, 2007 – Special Meeting Called by the Mayor**

**Ordinance 1-2007** - Granting a Cable Franchise to Verizon Maryland, Inc., and authorizing a Cable Franchise Agreement between the City and Verizon Maryland, Inc. (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading) Legislation passed 4-0.

**Resolution 1-2007** – Setting the calendar of events for preparation of the Fiscal Year 2008 Budget (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading/Vote) Legislation passed 4-0

## **FY 08 BUDGET CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**January 12, 2007**- Budget instructions to City Departments

**January 23, 2007** – Work session on FY 08 Budget if necessary to discuss tax rates

**January 26, 2007** - Fire department Budget due to City Manager

**February 9, 2007** – City department budget requests due to City Manager

**February 20, 2007** – Public Hearing on Tax Rate; work session on FY 08 budget

**February 27, 2007** – Notification of any proposed changes on Variable Tax Rate due to State

**March 12, 2007** – City Manager submits proposed FY 2008 Budget to Mayor and Council including Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2008, 2009, and 2010

**March 20, 2007** – Work Session on FY 2008 Budget and Capital Improvement Plans

**April 3, 2007** – Presentation and public comment, proposed FY 2008 Budget for All City programs other than police, parking enforcement, public works and code enforcement

**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

## **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.

## **ON-GOING CONCERNS (*Mayor Malinda Miles continued from page 2*)**

Residents are still running our stop signs. Chief Scott has acquired and trained his officers in the use of a new laser speed-detection device. Speedsters will be caught.

Residents are still parking their vehicles across City sidewalks forcing residents to walk in the streets to get around them. Tickets will be issued for these violations.

Residents are still parking commercial vehicles on City Streets. We want to improve our quality of life. We need to enforce our code and ordinances. We need your help.

## Kudos and Thank You

**Cedar Lane Methodist Church** for providing fresh fruit to all of our City employees during the Christmas holidays; **Paul Messersmith** and his staff for picking up and helping to deliver organs to employees; **Janis Lomax** for coordinating the efforts to solicit and distribute turkeys to all employees an for organizing and implementing the holiday party for employees; **Dyrell and Andaiye Madison** and **Artmosphere Café** for bringing such a needed service to Mount Rainier; **Brooke Kidd** and **Joe's Movement Emporium** for staying focused and give us the "NEW" Joe's; **Ms. Janet Reed**, Principal, Mount Rainier Elementary School for allowing the Mayor to serve as Principal for a Day; **Juliellen Sarver** for dedicated volunteer on the City's Tree Commission.

Welcome to Mount Rainier **Mr. Raymond Miller**, Principal at Thomas Stone Elementary School. We are glad to have you in our community and appreciate you and Ms. Reed participating in our Mini-Conference on Reading. **New Police Officers** – Over the last few months, the City has hired three new police officers, **Kirk Banton**, **Crystal Goldring**, **Devonna Reddick**, and **Aaron Wilson**. Please join with me in extending to them a heartfelt welcome to our great City.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPCOMING EVENTS

**February 10, 2007** – Winter Meltdown Dance Party for 8-12 year olds – Mount Rainier Nature Center;  
**March 10, 2007** – Earth Day Every Day 11: am- 3Pm Mount Rainier Nature Center;  
**May 19, 2007** – Annual Mount Rainier Day Festivities

*Beginning 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. All bulk trash appointments must be made before 12 noon on the Friday preceding pick up day. Call 301-985-6558 for more information.*

DATE	PARTICULARS	DATE	PARTICULARS
February 2	Recyclables Pick Up	March 2	Recyclables Pick Up
February 5	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558)	March 5	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up
February 7	Regular Trash Pick Up	March 7	Regular Trash Pick Up
February 9	Recyclables Pick Up	March 9	Recyclables Pick Up
February 12	Yard Waste Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558)	March 12	Yard Waste Pick Up
February 14	Regular Trash Pick Up	March 14	Regular Trash Pick Up
February 16	Recyclables Pick Up	March 16	Recyclables Pick Up
February 19	Presidents day (Public Works and City Hall Closed)	March 19	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up
February 20	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558)	March 21	Regular Trash Pick Up
February 21	Regular Trash Pick Up	March 23	Recyclables Pick Up
February 23	Recyclables Pick Up	March 26	Yard Waste Pick Up
February 28	Regular Trash Pick Up	March 28	Regular Trash Pick Up
		March 30	Recyclables Pick Up

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**

**James Booth**  
301-985-6585  
fax: 301-985-6595

jbooth@mountrainiermd.org

**Councilmembers**

**Ward 1**

**Carol Gandee**  
301-277-6377

gandydncr@aol.com

**Alta Morton**  
202-309-5455

altamm1@yahoo.com

**Ward 2**

**Pedro Briones**  
301-277-1833

pedroeb@aol.com

**Bryan Knedler**  
301-699-3134

bknedler@aol.com

**Message**

**Sandra Joseph**  
tumkho@yahoo.com

## 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. Rosetta Parker  
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 Mount**

Rainier Office Information:  
3409 Rhode Island Avenue  
301-927-5223 (voice)  
301-927-6122 (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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February 2007 Message  
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