



# *The Message*

Issue 245

March 2007

## **FISCAL YEAR 2006 AUDIT REPORT** **Vijay K. Manjani, Treasurer**

Bridgett, Mock and Associates, P.A. audited financial statements of the City of Mount Rainier, Maryland as of and for the year ended June 30, 2006. The auditors gave their opinion that the financial statements of the city present fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of the City and the results of its operations are in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

For the second consecutive year, management successfully performed City operations without any deficits. The audit report confirms the positive direction of the City's financial status. In the fiscal year 2006, the City had a fixed asset study performed from an independent outside agency in order to fully implement GASB 34. The study determined the value for all of the City's fixed assets including land, buildings, improvements, infrastructure, equipment and vehicles.

The assets of the City exceeded its liabilities by \$1,634,084 at the close of fiscal year 2006. The City's total net assets were increased by \$472,816. The City's governmental funds reported a combined ending fund balance totaling \$586,209, an increase of \$514,227. At the end of the fiscal year, undesignated fund balance for the general fund totaled \$611,041.

The City's revenue totaled \$3,601,589. This is a \$272,405 increase over FY 2005 mainly due to an increase in operating grants and tax revenue. Nearly half of the City's revenue comes from real property taxes and 68 cents of every dollar comes from some type of tax.

The total cost of all programs and services was \$3,128,773. This is a decrease of \$93,913 over FY 2005 expenditures. Management was able to achieve its financial and organizational goals. Budgets were closely monitored and expenses were cut in order to increase the bottom line. The City's expenses covered a range of services, with about 43% related to public safety and 30% to Public Works.

The final copies of audit report FY 2006 will be available at City Hall. The management is looking into the ways to make the audit report available on-line. If you have any questions about this report or need additional information, contact Vijay K. Manjani, Treasurer at [vmanjani@mountrainiermd.org](mailto:vmanjani@mountrainiermd.org) or at (301) 985-6585.

## FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR MALINDA MILES

Mayor and Council are into budget preparations, contract negotiations, property acquisition, and a host of other major projects on behalf of the Citizens of Mount Rainier. Each month there are new challenges that require review, discussion, and decision about the best and most appropriate use of City resources.

Here are some of the actions that have been taken on behalf of the City, residents, and our quality of life.

1. Kudos to Kay Management, Ernie Baker and our own department of Public Works for getting most of our lights back on and operational. According to Mr. Baker, PEPCO's representative to our City, PEPCO is working to ensure that our lights are 100% on and operational. In addition, PEPCO is working with the City to address the issue of replacing the 600 plus mercury vapor lights throughout the City. Effective January 2008, the Energy Conservation Act of 2005, the Federal government has banned the manufacturing and importation of mercury vapor lights. This will have a serious impact on the City's budget as it seeks to replace the lights throughout the City.
2. On January 18, the Mayor and Council hosted the Prince George's County Municipal Association at our very own Police Station. It was the first time that the PGCMA meeting was hosted at the Police Station; and represented a return to the City by PGCMA after being absent from the City for a number of years.
3. The Maryland Mayors' hosted their annual meeting in Annapolis February 8-9, 2007. I attended this meeting and participated in a variety of lobbying efforts on behalf of municipalities throughout the State. Some of the bills included PG119-07 (McMansions); PG414-07 (Increased Distribution of Revenues to Municipalities); PG412-07 (Property Tax Credit for Restaurants in Arts and Entertainment Districts); and increasing the State Aid to police departments from the current \$1,800 to \$2,400. The purpose of the meeting was for the Mayors from across the State to lobby legislators on a number of issues; and to meet the Governor's new cabinet. This was a very successful meeting, and will help with increasing the City's revenues.
4. Meetings with apartment managers/owners continue. In January, the Mayor, City Manager and Police Chief discussed the implementation of a new decal program to help cut down on out-of-state cars in the City; the purchase of a very much needed police vehicle; and addressing various public safety issues.
5. Chief Scott, Mayor Denny and I held the monthly meeting to discuss and review the MOU between Mount Rainier and Brentwood. It was noted and agreed that the MOU was a success and should be continued. Both municipalities have agreed to pursue funding under this year's Livable Communities grant. In addition, Brentwood, North Brentwood and Mount Rainier are exploring ways to work together to improve and increase our public safety resources by pooling our current resources, and seeking homeland security funds that might be available under a collective partnership.
6. Collective Bargaining – The FOP and City Management engaged in several bargaining sessions but were unable to complete negotiations. Next bargaining sessions have not been scheduled, but are expected to resume within the next several weeks at which time all articles of the collective bargaining agreement will be up for discussion.
7. Strengthening Ties Between African-Americans and Africa" was the topic of discussion on "Spirit in Action" on WPFW, 89.3 FM in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday, February 13, 2007 from 11:00 am to 12:00 noon. This program was hosted by our own Hodari Abdul-Ali who had as his guests, Dr. Suleiman Nyang, renown author and Howard University professor; and Akbar Muhammad, International Representative of the Nation of Islam. Brother Hodari is the new host on WPFW where listeners may call in with comments and questions. For more information contact Brother Hodari at 301-728-8949 or email at [BrotherHodari@hotmail.com](mailto:BrotherHodari@hotmail.com). The show can be heard live online at [www.wpfw.org](http://www.wpfw.org).

8. MARCH 11 --- Congress has created another nightmare for us. Remember to set your clocks, computers and other electronic gears that normally reset itself when we "spring forward" because they won't spring forward on their own. Since the passing of the new law many of us will be caught off guard, if we do not manually reset our equipment.
9. A Quest for Fresh, a new restaurant opens in Mount Rainier. On February 11, 2007, A Quest for Fresh opened its doors. The place was packed and the foods and drink that I was able to sample were exceptional. All foods are raw or natural and made especially for those seeking to live a healthy life style. For now, A Quest for Fresh is only opened on Sundays from 2:00pm until 7:00pm. With help from the community (needs financial support as well as patronage), A Quest for Fresh will be open daily, and based on my experience, you will be glad to have this new business in our CITY!
10. Free Tax Service for Seniors with incomes below \$39,000. If you are a senior and need your taxes done, you may make an appointment by calling 301-541-5031. This free tax service is available at the Cora B. Woods Senior Center, 3601 Taylor Street, Brentwood Maryland. You may also walk in and request this service at the Woodbridge Library 1800 Hamlin Street, NE, Washington, DC between the hours of 10:00am and 1:30pm. (NOTE: If you have the time and/or skills and would like to provide this service in Mount Rainier, IRS is willing to train you. Please call 410-962-9425.)
11. During the recent cold spell more than 30 of our seniors living at Rainier Manor were displaced due to frozen and broken pipes. We offer sincere thanks to Councilman Will Campos and his staff, our own Donald Bell, the management at Holiday Inn on Baltimore Avenue, the management of the IHOP on Baltimore Avenue, Resident Manager Mary Worth, Humphrey Management Corporation, the Department of Social Work and the Department of Aging. Although the repairs will take between 8 and ten months to be completed, through cooperative efforts none of the residents will be or become homeless as a result of this disaster.
12. Homeowners and renters insurance is a must. If you do not have homeowners or renters insurance, please contact one of the insurance carriers/brokers and discuss acquiring a policy for your home or apartment. It is critical that you have this valuable coverage. It is the shield between you and complete devastation should you lose your home or apartment because of a fire, flood or other unanticipated emergency.

## **CITY MANAGER GOES TO CAPITOL HILL TO SEEK FEDERAL FUNDING**

City Manager Jeannelle Wallace met with Congressman Chris Van Hollen's representative Phil Alperson to discuss the best approach to seek funding through the Federal Appropriation process for Fiscal Year 2008. The City was successful approximately two years ago in acquiring funding through the Federal Transit Administration for \$285,000 to build a parking lot or parking garage.

Most of you are aware that the City continually looks for funding to support revitalization efforts including but not limited to acquisition and renovation of property, public safety, restoration of the City's infrastructure to include bridges, curbs and sidewalks, and streetscape improvements in the City's downtown. Mr. Alperson could not of course promise any funding, as Congressman Van Hollen has only a limited amount of resources available to support requests from his constituency which includes both Prince George's and Montgomery Counties. Mr. Alperson and the City manager decided on the best top three priorities based on the exhaustive list compiled by the Mayor and Council and management staff. The request will total over 1 million dollars and it is hoped that the City will be successful in its bid from the federal government. The biggest challenge facing the City in addition to the requests from other jurisdictions is that the majority of the City's needs and the resources that can support those needs can only be supported from the same pot of money from Housing and Urban Development (HUD) EDI grant funds.

While the federal fiscal year begins October 1, 2007, there is no guarantee that funding requests will be honored or that even a response to requests will be provided before or after the fiscal year begins. We will keep you posted.

## **NOMINATION PROCEDURES FOR CITY ELECTION ON MONDAY, MAY 7**

The City Election is scheduled for Monday, May 7, 2007 at the Mount Rainier City Hall, One Municipal Place. The election will fill a council seat in both Ward 1 and Ward 2. To appear on the ballot, nomination petitions are due on Monday April 2nd from 6 to 8 pm. See details below. Absentee ballot applications are also available pick-up from City Hall after April 2nd.

Applicants who wish to run should pick up Nomination Petitions from City Hall. The candidate must be a registered voter and live in the ward which he/she wishes to represent. The candidate must have lived in the city for at least two years prior to the election. Candidates file the petition signed by at least 20 registered voters who live in that ward. A registered voter may only sign one nomination petition. Petitions are available from City Hall and a list of currently registered voters is available for review as well. It is recommended that candidates for office obtain more than 20 signatures, in case some are declared invalid. Also, candidates must file financial disclosure statements, about any gifts received from any person having a contract or doing business with the City and itemizing any real property in Mount Rainier that the candidate owns in whole or in part. Financial disclosure forms are available at City Hall.

On Monday April 2nd, from 6 to 8 pm, the Supervisor of the Board of Elections will certify all candidates for the upcoming election and determine the placement of candidate names on the election ballot. The candidate must bring the nomination petition to be certified. If the candidate wishes to have a short statement in the April MESSAGE, bring a statement no longer than 150 words on that evening. To vote in the election you must be a registered voter in Prince George's County. There is no separate City registration to vote in City elections only. Therefore, all who want to vote in City elections must be registered through the County. You must be a citizen of the United States, 18 years or older, and a permanent resident of the City. Cards for voter registration through the County are available at City Hall, One Municipal Place and at the Board of Supervisors of Elections, Upper Marlboro. For additional information, call 301-952-3270.

The Prince George's County Board of Supervisors of Elections maintains and provides a number of products and services available at very low cost for candidates or others to use to prepare for an election. For example, you can get a printed set of mailing labels for addresses in the City for a fee.

The April edition of The Message will provide specific instructions concerning the election and candidate's statements.

## **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.

## **COUNCILMEMBER KNEDLER'S WARD 2 REPORT**

**PROPERTY TAX DEFERRALS.** With the astronomical rise in home values, one of the fears is that homeowners on fixed incomes will be unable to pay the increased tax bills. I am proposing that our council adopt a little used state law which allows a town to give seniors and disabled persons the option of freezing the amount of property tax they owe. The deferred amount is the value of the increased payments over a certain number of years (the homeowner would continue to pay property tax but at the frozen rate). The election to defer taxes must be made before June 1st of a taxable year in order to receive deferral of the taxes for the succeeding taxable year. The city can set an interest rate on that amount (1 or 2 percent for example) and the amount is due when the house is sold in the future. So, if an eligible homeowner decided to defer starting this year, the tax bill would be frozen at this

year's amount. The homeowner must have been using the home as a principal residence for at least 5 years, and have an annual income of not more than \$50,000.

**BASS PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT.** An upcoming issue in Ward 2 will be the redevelopment of the 3200 block of Rhode Island Ave. (funeral home, Bass Liquors, Thrifty Car). Developers that have expressed interest in rebuilding the block have consistently asked "how high" can a new building go? Developers obviously want to cover as much square footage as possible in order to recoup the investment. Since the property is narrow, they want to build upwards. Whether a developer does the project solo, or partners with the City to purchase the properties (gaining access to potential state/federal dollars), I will keep the Perry St. neighbors (in particular) aware of the proposals and hearings. A tall building will impact the backyards of those neighboring homes. The most likely scenario would be a 4 or 5 story building. The design will have to be reviewed by the Town Center Design Review Committee (a county review board made up of local residents, including myself as a rep of the city council).

**ADOPT A SPOT.** 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 (31st 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.

## **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.

## **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS IMPORTANT UTILITY NOTICE**

The Public Works Department prides itself in taking care of the needs of the residents; however, there are some areas that are outside the scope of services. These areas are **Street Lights, Water Main Breaks, and Sewer** problems.

**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**

This is a true story: George Phillips of Meridian, Mississippi was going up to bed when his wife told him that he'd left the light on in the garden shed, which she could see from the bedroom window. George opened the back door to go turn off the light but saw that there were people in the shed stealing things.

He phoned the police, who asked, "Is someone in your house?" and he said "No." Then they said that all patrols were busy, and that he should simply lock his door and an officer would be along when available. George said, "Okay," hung up, counted to 30, and phoned the police again.

"Hello, I just called you a few seconds ago because there were people in my shed. Well, you don't have to worry about them now cause I've just shot them all." Then he hung up.

Within five minutes three police cars, an armed response unit, and an ambulance showed up at the Phillips residence and caught the burglars red-handed.

One of the policemen said to George: "I thought you said that you'd shot them!" George said, "I thought you said there was nobody available!"

*"The concept of telling a lie to get the police to a crime scene more quickly keys on a basic yet false assumption that if officers of the law are tardy in responding to a summons for aid, their seeming non-response is prompted by sloth. Police have to prioritize calls for assistance based on the comparative severity of presenting events and/or the potential for further harm to those involved. Under such a formula, investigating a stolen car report will never be on par with breaking up a domestic disturbance because the vehicle will remain just as stolen even if the investigation does not begin for a further two hours whereas the screaming and shoving match may turn into an assault with a deadly weapon if not broken up immediately. Likewise, putting officers on the still-hot trail of a rapist or drunk driver makes more sense than does sending those same officers to look into a "strange noises in my shed" situation — the one may get a danger to society off the streets before he harms anyone else, while the other would only a net a miscreant making off with a garden hoe.*

*Our tale is a great story for telling, but not for taking as advice. Not unless one has a hankering to spend a night in the hoosegow, keeping the bedbugs company."*

### **What To Do If A Police Officer Stops You (Part III)**

In Parts I and II of this series I discussed some of the reasons why a police officer would want to question you and what to do if an officer stops you on the street. This month I want to continue with information about what you should do if a police officer stops you in your motor vehicle.

A traffic stop is one of the most frequent encounters between citizens and the police. Usually, police officer will pull a vehicle over if they have reason to believe that some violation has occurred. You may feel anxious, irritated at the delay, or concerned about a possible citation. However, the officer who stops you is also concerned about possible threats to his or her personal safety.

The following procedures are recommended to ensure that the traffic stop can be completed quickly and safely:

- When signaled by an officer, safely pull over to a place out of the flow of traffic.
- Sit calmly, with your hands visible on the steering wheel. If you have passengers, ask them to sit quietly with their hands visible as well. Avoid sudden movements or ducking down in the seat; these actions can unnecessarily alarm the officer as he or she approaches your vehicle.

- If you are stopped at night, turn on your inside lights when you pull the car over. For safety reasons, the officer will want to visually scan the interior of your vehicle before approaching to speak with you.
- Do not get out of your vehicle unless the officer asks you to step out. If you are asked to do so, comply in a calm manner.
- A sure way to put the officer at ease is to communicate your actions in advance by telling the officer what you will be doing before you do it. You may also ask to see the officer's identification, especially if her or she is not in uniform.
- If requested, you are required by law to give the officer your driver's license and the registration card for the vehicle. Tell the officer where these items are located before reaching for them – especially if one is tucked away in the glove box or some other place in the vehicle such as a center console.

If you are issued a citation, you will be asked to sign it. Signing is not an admission of guilt; it is only your acknowledgement of receipt of the citation and your personal promise to either pay the fine listed, or appear in court to contest the violation. While you may wish to clarify the circumstances that led to your receiving the citation, keep in mind that your guilt or innocence can only be determined by a judge - in court. Arguments over or protests about the citation cannot be resolved in the street. If you refuse to sign the citation when requested, you are subject to immediate physical arrest by the officer. You will be taken immediately before a court commissioner to post a bond, which is in most cases the collateral amount listed on the citation.

## **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).

## **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.

## **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.

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.

## **COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FOR FEBRUARY 2007** **February 6, 2007 Mayor and Council Meeting**

**Presentation and acceptance of Fiscal Year 06 Audit.** Council approved and accepted the audit by unanimous vote.

**Resolution 2-2007/Resolution 3-2007** approving the application and receipt of financing for Washington Area Community Investment Fund (WAIF) (First reading/vote) Approved 4-0.

**Appointing Alta Morton**, Council member Ward 1 to the Gateway CDC Board. Approved 4-0

**Resolution 4-2007** appointing Hannah Grisar, Tim McLoraine, Ivy Thompson, and Sydney Pierce to the Mount Rainer Tree Commission (First reading/vote). Approved 4-0.

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

**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

## BUNKER HILL FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

The following is a list of fire & EMS calls and losses in the City of Mount Rainier for the month of January, 2007.

Comm. Building	0	
Private Dwelling	3	1-good intent, 1-front porch, 1-no service
Apartment	2	1- dryer/contents, 1-good intent
Personal Injury Accident's	1	
Vehicle	1	1-total loss
Brush	0	
Trash	0	
Natural Gas Leak	2	
Flooded Condition	0	
Alarm Bells	10	
Wires	3	
Miscellaneous- Service	7	
Hazardous Condition	1	
Hazmat	0	
Assist Ambulance	12	
EMS	55	
Assist Police	1	

Monday January 1st at 1030 hrs. ,4200 blk 28<sup>th</sup> St. House fire, Good Intent Call, No Fire.

Saturday January 20th, at 0530 hrs. 4200 blk 30<sup>th</sup> St. House fire on front porch.

Sunday January 21st at 0200 hrs.,3700 blk Wells Ave. House fire, nothing found.

Thursday January 4<sup>th</sup> 2100hrs, 4900 blk LaSalle Rd. for Investigation. No service.

Thursday January 25th, at 1600hrs.,3300 blk Buchanan St. Dryer fire. \$400.00 loss,, no damage to building. On Saturday January 20<sup>th</sup> 0500hrs., Eastern Ave & Russell Ave. for vehicle fire.

Total loss	
Total Building Loss	\$0
Total Property Loss	\$400
Total Vehicle Loss	N/A
Total	\$400

### NEW ENGINE 553

Financing from Oshkosh Capital has been approved and we expect delivery mid August 2007.

Preliminary drawings of New Engine 553 can be viewed on our website at [www.bhvfr.com](http://www.bhvfr.com).

## 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.

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

### Dumpsters and Temporary Storage Units

Permits are now required for dumpsters and temporary storage units. The Mayor and Council adopted Ord. 15-2006 and Ord. 17-2006 which regulate use and placement of dumpsters and temporary storage units in the city. The relevant City Code sections are 3A-105.C (temporary storage units), 6-111 (allowed uses), 7-106.J (permits), 7-108 (fees), 7-109.D (penalties), and 13-104 (placement on streets). Below is a summary. See the appropriate sections of the City Code for exact language of the regulations.

#### 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 length. A temporary storage unit on an active construction site shall be placed 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 Mt. Rainier, for March and April 2007. 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 and all bulk trash appointments made before 12 noon on the Friday preceding pick up day.**

DATE	PARTICULARS	DATE	PARTICULARS
March 2	Recyclables Pick Up	April 2	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up
March 5	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up	April 4	Regular Trash Pick Up
March 7	Regular Trash Pick Up	April 6	Recyclables Pick Up
March 9	Recyclables Pick Up	April 9	Yard Waste Pick Up
March 12	Yard Waste Pick Up	April 11	Regular Trash Pick Up
March 14	Regular Trash Pick Up	April 13	Recyclables Pick Up
March 16	Recyclables Pick Up	April 16	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up
March 19	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up	April 18	Regular Trash Pick Up
March 21	Regular Trash Pick Up	April 20	Recyclables Pick Up
March 23	Recyclables Pick Up	April 23	Yard Waste Pick Up
March 26	Yard Waste Pick Up	April 25	Regular Trash Pick Up
March 28	Regular Trash Pick Up	April 27	Recyclables Pick Up
March 30	Recyclables Pick Up	April 30	Yard Waste Pick Up

## 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.

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**

**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**

**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. 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)

*The City of Mount Rainier is an equal opportunity employer, without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, disability, political or union affiliation.*

Mount Rainier, MD 20712

Postal Customer

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March 2007 Message  
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