



The Message

Issue 256

April 2008 Edition

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

MOUNT RAINIER DAY

WHEN: MAY 17, 2008

**WHERE: MUNICIPAL PLAZA,
RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, MOUNT RAINIER, MARYLAND**

TIME: 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM

THE ANNUAL MOUNT RAINIER DAY IS SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2008; THIS YEAR WE ANTICIPATE THAT THE FESTIVITIES WILL BE BIGGER AND GREATER THAN EVER. WE ARE PLANNING ON AN EVENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND A PRESS CONFERENCE IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED AT 12 NOON.

FESTIVITIES WILL TAKE PLACE ON RHODE ISLAND AVENUE AT THE MUNICIPAL PLAZA. PERSONS INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THIS EVENT AS WELL AS THOSE WHO WISH TO BE A VENDOR, SHOULD CONTACT JANIS LOMAX AT THE MOUNT RAINIER MUNICIPAL CENTER, 100 MUNICIPAL PLACE, MOUNT RAINIER, MARYLAND 301-985-6585. SOME VENDOR SPACES HAVE ALREADY BEEN SECURED, SO PLEASE CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY.

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FROM THE DESK OF THE MAYOR

National Library Week is April 13- 19, 2008, and the theme this year is "Join the Circle of Knowledge!" Here is your opportunity to do just that by coming out to see the "Renewed Mount Rainier Library."

On April 19, 2008, at 10:30am at the Mount Rainier Library 3409 Rhode Island Avenue there will be an open house reception with County Executive Jack B. Johnson, Councilman Will Campos, and Micki Feeny, the Director of the Prince George's County Maryland Library System. This is a very auspicious occasion since it represents a giant step toward the renovation and improvements of our library services here in the city. With a grant from the Bill

and Melinda Gates' Foundation, the Library has received 8 new computers and much needed carpeting.

Electronic Recycling

Saturday, April 19, 2008, you can bundle up all of your old, unwanted electronic equipment and take it to our Public Works Department for recycling. Public Works is located at 3715 Wells Avenue. You must get your electronic equipment there between the hours of 0:00am and 1:00pm.

Public Works will be accepting: CPUs, keyboards, laptop computers, fax machines, telephones systems, printers, computer speakers, main frames, copiers, scanners, surge protectors, pagers, cell phones, cable, wire, circuit boards, CDs players, radios/stereos, VCRs, ink jet and toner cartridges and TVs.

Basketball is COMING to Mount Rainier!

Basketball is here! Thomas Stone is the official location for basketball in Mount Rainier. Since the last Message, Prince George's County's Public Schools' CEO John Deasy, Joe O'Neil, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Mayor and Council of Brentwood, Hands On Barber Shop, and the Ministerial Alliance of Mount Rainier have come together to officially offer basketball to the youths of Mount Rainier and Brentwood.

This youth program is aimed at providing recreational activities for youth's ages 13 to 18 in the form of basketball. The program will also have a life skills component.

Program Details:

- Starting June 1, 2008 the youth basketball developmental program will kick off
- Doors will open at 6:00pm for registration and organizational meeting
- The City of Mount Rainier
- Thomas Stone Elementary School Gymnasium

The program NEEDS youths to sign up to participate in this program. We NEED adults and young adult volunteers to help run the program. Parents and other community adults are encouraged and invited to attend the life skills sessions of the program.

Coaches and want to be coaches, and just plain volunteers who wish to work with our teen population, PLEASE contact me via email or a telephone call to City Hall.

TEENS, this is for you, so let me know if you are interested in participating. Flyers with information will be going to your schools.

For more information and to volunteer, PLEASE call Mount Rainier's City Hall, and/or sends me an email (mayormiles@malindamiles.com).

Community Policing Grant Implementation

The check has been delivered for the Mount Rainier/Brentwood community policing grant. The meeting with Brentwood to work out the details was delayed because of the special election that was held March 17. Now that their new Councilman has been seated, Mayor Bettyjean Schmiedigen and I will be setting the date to get this grant implemented. This is good news for Brentwood and Mount Rainier residents. It is a Livable Community Initiative.

Speed Cameras Legislation

Speed camera legislation just might become law! This is more good news for our City. Although the legislation is NOT designed to be a revenue generator, it will help to improve safety on our streets especially in those areas where children walk and play. Municipalities will be able to place speed cameras near and around schools and on streets where the posted speed limit is 45 miles or less, and to issue fines up to \$40. Once this legislation has been signed into law, the Mayor and Council must issue an ordinance/resolution to adopt this legislation before it can be implemented.

Spring Beautification Program Down Town

Beautification of our downtown area is on schedule. The plantings have been done and there are blossoms. The roundabout looks good with its new plantings, but we need to get motorists to stop damaging the curbs and other public property around the roundabout. Hyattsville Nursery working with our Public Works Department has assured the City that Rhode Island Avenue will be the gateway to Prince George's County and the Gateway Arts District. Keep me informed of what you see and how our program is working with the beautification of our downtown area. New facades are also coming, so stay tuned.

And our New Senator is ...



Senator David Harrington was sworn in as the Senator for the 47th Legislative District during the Fall Conference of the Maryland Mayors, and I was able to attend his swearing in. It was very moving and impressive. Senator Harrington had just been selected as Chair of the Prince George's County Council when he was appointed to be our Senator by the Democratic Central Committee. The new chair of the County Council is Councilman Samuel Dean. Senator Harrington can be reached at the Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West Wing
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401
(410) 841-3745, (301) 858-3745
1-800-492-7122, ext. 3745 (toll free)
e-mail: david.harrington@senate.state.md.us
fax: (410) 841-3387, (301) 858-3387

Recent Public Hearings

A. On February 12, 2008, Mayor and Council hosted a public hearing on Ordinance 2-2008. Widespread publicity was given to this issue and it was covered by many of the local media. Residents who did not attend the hearing sent emails, made telephone calls, and otherwise shared their opinions about the Resolution. On a three - two vote the Resolution was tabled indefinitely. Many residents have since expressed their appreciation for living in a municipality where such issues can be openly discussed and debated. Others have expressed outrage and concern that the Mayor and Council spent so much time on this issue when there were other greater needs that should have been addressed. Still others have expressed disappointment and frustration that the Resolution was not passed. Yet others felt that they were intimidated by those who supported the Resolution. And, some even felt that they would be called racists by their neighbors for opposing the resolution.

These are the outcomes of a Democracy. We don't always get what we want or all of what we want in the Democratic process, but we all should be able to be heard without being called names, intimidated,

slandered, or castigated by those with opposing views. As a community, we still must work together to improve the lives and conditions of ALL of our residents who make up our very diverse population!

I personally believe that the position taken gives us the opportunity to come back together as a community and to continue to move toward embracing our differences and appreciating those things that brought us to Mount Rainier in the first place – the neighborhoods, the big houses, the tree lined streets, the sense of community, the closeness of our neighbors, and the freedom to be ourselves. Our immigrant residents were not at risk prior to the Resolution, and they are not at risk now. Let's continue to work together to bring them to the table while keeping the rest of us at the table!

As reported in a recent **Podunk study**, Mount Rainier is one of ten (10) of the most liberal places with populations under 25,000 to live in America. We are more tolerant of people, their life styles, differences, contributions, voting trends and a host of other factors. Therefore, it is very fitting that we want undertake a discussion of such magnitude, and still remain a VERY cohesive community.

Thank you and kudos to all of you that participated in this great debate! We are so much better because of it.

B) Mayor and Council held a hearing on Resolution 3-2008 regarding eminent domain and defining blight within the City. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend that meeting, but reviewed the CD of the meeting. City staff did an excellent job of showing the blighted condition of our downtown area. The testimony given at the hearing and the emails and telephone calls that I received on this issue supported the need for the legislation although some residents were very clear that they did not approve of the approach that has been taken by the Mayor and Council. Even though there is strong disagreement about the Mayor and Council' methodology, there is equally strong agreement that the development of Rhode Island Avenue is crucial to the overall development of the Gateway Arts District. This project is also moving forward.

Washington Suburban Sanitation Commission

The WSSC has petitioned and been granted an 8% increase in their fees for the water delivered to our homes. This increase, according to WSSC is needed to revamp a deteriorating infrastructure that has been allowed to fall apart over the years and now requires a major overhaul. This 8% increase is less than they requested (9.5% with a flat \$20 assessment added to the bill over the next ten years). As president of the Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA), WSSC was invited to come out and discuss these proposed increases with municipal elected officials. Following WSSC's presentation, municipal officials were asked to contact WSSC and County elected officials to voice their objections to these increases. We did not get all of what we wanted, but we did get the increase reduced and the \$20 fee dropped. Thank you County Executive Jack B. Johnson (Prince George's County) and County Executive Isaiah "Ike" Leggett (Montgomery County) for working together to get the fee dropped and the percentage increase reduced. **Our water bill is going up, but not at the rate proposed by WSSC!**

On Another Note...

County Executive Jack Johnson recently announced His Proposed FY 2009 Budget for the County.

In his announcement, Mr. Johnson said that despite a \$121.6 million budget deficit that had to be addressed education and public safety would remain his top priorities.

According to Mr. Johnson, the budget deficit is a result of the slumping housing market that caused a significant decrease in transfer and recordation taxes because fewer homes are being sold. Additionally, the county lost \$53.3 million when the General Assembly met in a special session last November to close a \$1.7 billion state deficit.

To help cut spending, a hiring freeze has been imposed on all non-public safety positions. Johnson is also proposing an increase in recordation and income taxes.

If approved, the recordation tax rate would go from \$2.20 to \$2.50 per every \$500 of value on each home sold. This is expected to generate \$5.4 million in revenue for the county.

The income tax rate would increase from 3.1 percent to 3.2 percent, generating an additional \$6.5 million in revenues. The average increase to citizens would be \$40 per household.

Veterans Rental Assistance Program Launched

LARGO, MD - On March 1, 2008, the Housing Authority of Prince George's County, in partnership with the Department of Social Services, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, and Karros, a local non-profit organization, admitted its first homeless veteran to its Veteran Rental Assistance Program (VRAP).

The VRAP program will provide rental assistance and supportive services to twenty-five (25) eligible homeless veterans who reside in Prince George's County as well as help veterans increase life skills and/or income, and ultimately, self-sufficiency.

"On any given night in Prince George's County, hundreds of veterans who have sacrificed for this country with blood and limb return to the county only to face homelessness. We need to do better and this is a very small step in addressing a monumental problem", says Tommie Thompson, Executive Director of the Housing Authority of Prince George's County.

Homeless veterans interested in the VRAP program must conduct an initial interview with the Department of Social Services and subsequently referred to the U.S Department of Veterans Affairs for a comprehensive case management assessment. Veterans may contact Victoria Frazer of the Prince George's Department of Social Services at 301-909-6369. The veteran program is another Livable Community Initiative.

Wondering about Crime in the City?

If you have always wanted to know how much crime is happening in your City, then you should check out Chief Michael Scott's blog (<http://mrpdchief.blogspot.com>). Over the past few years, our crime statistics have gone down and continue to go down. Oftentimes, the news reporters report crime in our City that happened along or across our borders. You can get the real story directly from our own Chief of Police through his blog updates. Check it out today.

It's Scholarship Season, and pretty soon our youths will be graduating

Don't forget to contact our State Delegates and PGCMA for scholarships! If you have or know a deserving students in the 47th Legislative District who plan to attend a two- or four-year college located in Maryland have them contact me for PGCMA and Delegates Doyle Niemen, Victor Ramirez and Jolene Ivy for the Delegates' scholarships. **The application deadline for the State Delegates is Friday, March 28.** To get a copy of their application and rules, please visit their websites. You must apply for scholarships with each of your Delegates individually. You may get additional information on the application process and download the application from PGCMA's website <http://www.pgcma.com/pgcmascholarship.html>.

WARD REPORT FROM COUNCILMEMBER KNEDLER

Besides dealing with the FY 2009 proposed budget, the City Council and city staff has been busy on several other projects. Here are a few highlights

New Library. The Council is considering several proposals for rebuilding 3409 Rhode Island Ave. We received 5 proposals in response to our advertisement and they all average around \$4 million for removal of the existing building and reconstruction of a multi-story building that expands the county-branch library on the first floor.

Rhode Island Ave. The council recently voted to declare the north sides of the 3200 and 3300 blocks of Rhode Island Ave. to be blighted and invoked our urban renewal powers to work toward removal of the blight and redevelopment of the properties. The next step will be for the City and its partner, Landmark Atlantic, to offer to purchase the properties. If we are unable to come to agreement on the straightforward purchases, then the City may need to use its eminent domain powers to purchase the properties via court action.

D.C. News: For many years, I have advocated a closer relationship with Woodridge in the District of Columbia. I have attended civic association meetings and numerous letters have been sent to the Ward 5 councilman regarding the Eastern Ave. problems. Our police department has been working for a long time with its D.C. counterparts on cross-border crime issues. Recent meetings with D.C. Councilman Thomas and his staff have moved the working relationship forward. Our city staff met with Thomas and there is interest in extending (and coordinating) the arts-related redevelopment into D.C. along Rhode Island Ave. Our success in redevelopment will be bolstered if D.C. works in a coordinated effort. The blight must be removed from both sides of the border in order to deter crime and encourage economic development. Movement on this front has been fostered by Dallas Evans who is a former D.C. deputy mayor and is our liaison with our redevelopment partner, Landmark Atlantic. In addition, our county councilman, Will Campos, has met with his Ward 5 counterpart and there is hope that the long-awaited traffic light at Bunker Hill and Eastern will finally be installed.

Dog Park: County Councilman Campos recently announced that a county sponsored dog park will be built across from the West Hyattsville metro along Ager Road (in the field across from Denchfield Nursery). I know many dog owners in Mount Rainier have been looking for an appropriate site for such a park.

JIMMY TARLAU, COUNCIL MEMBER WARD REPORT

Lighting Planned On NW Branch Trail

At a February 28th meeting Park Police told about 20 community residents that lighting would be installed on the trail between Queens Chapel Road and the trail bridge over the NW Branch. It should be installed by the end of the year. Park Police maintained that the crime had gone down along the path in the last couple of years. But a number of us were quite skeptical about the claim. We all believe that coming home from the Metro at night is dangerous and more has to be done to make it safer. People in the audience suggested cameras and emergency call boxes at certain locations. The park police said all this was being discussed but made no commitments. At least they have agreed to put in the light, which was a big step for Park and Planning, since the general policy of Park and Planning is not to light trails because people are not supposed to be on the trail after dark. Of course we have all made it clear that this part of the trail, which is a regular commuter path between our town and the Metro station, should not be treated like a normal park trail.

Urban Renewal/Eminent Domain Resolution Is Passed by Council

City Council passed a resolution that enables the City to take eminent domain action (condemning and purchasing properties) on the North side of Rhode Island Avenue between Eastern Ave and 34th St. Before the vote, the City staff presented a detailed report describing the deteriorating conditions on the properties.

The resolution initiates an Urban Renewal Project for the rehabilitation and redevelopment of the Rhode Island Area and it authorizes the acquisition of the properties in this area including, if necessary, taking these properties by the power of eminent domain.

I voted for the Resolution because I believe that the City has to do something to get things moving on Rhode Island. Landmark Atlantic (the group the City is partnering with) has not been able to purchase any of the properties, and Bob Holland (the person with the hotel/mixed use proposal) has also not been moving ahead with his proposal.

The City can now write the owners a letter threatening legal action if they do not sell the properties to Landmark so Landmark can develop the site. If they refuse to sell to Landmark the City can take legal action to condemn and purchase the properties at a fair market value. The City does not have the money for expensive legal proceedings and the millions of dollars necessary to purchase all the properties outright, and it is my understanding that Landmark Atlantic will foot the bill for the legal proceedings and purchases. I feel this will have to be spelled out before we take any legal action.

I proposed an amendment to the resolution that would have made the city hold another public hearing and have a formal vote before we initiate any legal action or attempts to purchase properties. My proposed amendment did not have any support and I voted for the bill anyway since I think it is time for us to all move forward to see what can be done about developing these two blocks of Rhode Island Avenue.

Update on Plans for Skate Park at Otis and Wells Avenues

The Council voted in March 2007 to authorize the building of a skate park at Otis and Wells Avenues. The County has \$175,000 budgeted for construction of this specific park.

A number of years ago there was a basketball court at the lower part of the park. The court was taken down because of a number of problems connected to some of the people hanging out at the court. The lower part of the park has remained abandoned since that time. (There is an upper part of the park, which faces 37th St, that has play equipment for small children, and there is a stairway that connects the two parts of the park.)

Margaret Boozer, an artist with a studio on Otis Avenue, has been working with a number of our young skateboard enthusiasts to come up with a plan for a skate park. The skate park would be on the lower part of the park on top of the remains of the basketball court. The stairway between the upper and lower parts of the park would be taken down.

An initial model was designed and a community meeting was held on February 21st for people in the neighborhood. On March 4th the Council listened to resident comments about the park.

A number of the residents who live in the immediate vicinity of the park spoke in opposition to the park because of concerns about the increased noise from the park, safety concerns for the children who might get hurt at the park, the possibility of the park attracting people engaged in criminal activity, and the effect on the values of the properties in the area. Other residents spoke in favor of the park, citing the need for recreational facilities in our town, the desirability of our skate boarders using a park instead of the street, and the need to move ahead with some plans for the abandoned park.

The Council listened to all the comments and decided to go ahead with the skate park. I support the skate park. Our town is in serious need of recreational facilities for our young people. Hopefully we can address some of the concerns of the people living close to the park as more detailed plans of the park are developed. Furthermore, the County will not keep the money in the budget forever and if we do not actually use the money, we could lose it.

The next step is that the County will be working with a community skate park committee to write up specifications for the park that will be sent out for bid to a design-build contractor. After the detailed designs are developed, the plans will go back to the Council for a final review.

MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL E. SCOTT, CHIEF OF POLICE



It's that time of year *again!* The Mt. 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:

- 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.

Please be safe, watch your children, and have a great springtime!

Selected Crimes – February 2008

February 2008 SELECTED Offenses
by Team Policing Area

Date	Offense	Location				TPA
03-Feb-08	Residential B & E	3200	BL	QUEENSTOWN	DR	1A
22-Feb-08	Stolen Vehicle		BL	BUCHANAN	ST	1A
11-Feb-08	Theft - From Auto	3200	BL	VARNUM	ST	1A
26-Feb-08	Theft - Vehicle Tags	4600	BL	25TH	ST	1A
23-Feb-08	Theft < 500		BL	WEBSTER	ST	1A
13-Feb-08	Theft < 500	3100	BL	QUEENS CHAPEL	RD	1A
25-Feb-08	Vandalism	3200	BL	QUEENSTOWN	DR	1A
10-Feb-08	Aggravated Assault	3600	BL	PERRY	ST	1B
06-Feb-08	Residential B & E	2500	BL	ARUNDEL	RD	1B
24-Feb-08	Robbery - Citizen	3600	BL	RHODE ISLAND	AV	1B
28-Feb-08	Theft - From Auto	4000	BL	BUNKER HILL	RD	1B
02-Feb-08	Theft - Vehicle Tags	3800	BL	37TH	ST	1B
04-Feb-08	Residential B & E	2700	BL	UPSHUR	ST	2A
04-Feb-08	Residential B & E	2700	BL	UPSHUR	ST	2A
13-Feb-08	Robbery - Citizen	4600	BL	27TH	ST	2A
12-Feb-08	Robbery - Citizen	2900	BL	ARUNDEL	RD	2A
24-Feb-08	Robbery - Commercial	2300	BL	VARNUM	ST	2A
17-Feb-08	Robbery - Carjacking	4300	BL	KAYWOOD	DR	2A
18-Feb-08	Stolen Vehicle	4300	BL	KAYWOOD	DR	2A
16-Feb-08	Stolen Vehicle	4200	BL	31ST	ST	2A
10-Feb-08	Stolen Vehicle	3100	BL	WEBSTER	ST	2A
23-Feb-08	Theft - From Auto	2700	BL	WEBSTER	ST	2A
21-Feb-08	Theft - From Auto	2300	BL	VARNUM	ST	2A
14-Feb-08	Theft - From Auto	2300	BL	VARNUM	ST	2A
13-Feb-08	Theft - From Auto	2700	BL	WEBSTER	ST	2A
13-Feb-08	Theft - From Auto	4300	BL	28TH	PL	2A
13-Feb-08	Theft - From Auto	2700	BL	WEBSTER	ST	2A
09-Feb-08	Theft < 500	4400	BL	28TH	PL	2A
03-Feb-08	Theft < 500	3100	BL	QUEENS CHAPEL	RD	2A
11-Feb-08	Vandalism to Auto	3700	BL	36TH	ST	2A
17-Feb-08	Aggravated Assault	3700	BL	EASTERN	AV	2B
16-Feb-08	Stolen Vehicle	3000	BL	UPSHUR	ST	2B
16-Feb-08	Stolen Vehicle	3100	BL	UPSHUR	ST	2B
15-Feb-08	Stolen Vehicle	4210	BL	31ST	ST	2B
28-Feb-08	Theft - From Auto	3200	BL	RHODE ISLAND	AV	2B
02-Feb-08	Theft - Vehicle Tags	3200	BL	PERRY	ST	2B
03-Feb-08	Vandalism to Auto	4200	BL	28TH	ST	2B

MOUNT RAINIER TELEVISION

MRTV

Comcast Channel 71 Verizon Channel 21

MRTV PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Monday – Friday, 4pm, (see MRTV Bulletin Program Schedule)
1st Tuesday of each month, 7pm Live telecast of City Council Meetings
3rd Tuesday of each, 7pm Live telecast of City Council Work Sessions
Program schedule and shows subject to change without notice

Watch for...MRTV News“ News You Can Use”. ...this month, host Sophia Thelusma brings you City Council highlights, announcements, and an interview with two representatives from ATHA, Anacostia Trails Heritage Area.

Watch for...CitiScape, hosted by City Manager Jeannelle Wallace. This month show features the Mount Rainier Police Department and City Hall updates including Mount Rainier Day plans.

Watch for...Time to Represent, X2REP second show, a high energy non-profit youth outreach program that is inviting area teens in Mount Rainier to join in as the show’s host and founder, “Method Man” Anthony Murrill, offers Speak Outs, a Talent Showcase, workshops and games.

MRTV needs volunteer producers, on-camera talent, and production crews for **On Air with the Mayor, MRTV News “News You Can Use”,** and **CitiScape.** We tape on selected Wednesdays and Saturdays. Call **MRTV** at **301-985-6585 ext. 28** or email us at mrtvchannel71@yahoo.com for details.

NOISE RESTRICTIONS

The City Code restricts the amount of noise that can be made during daytime and night-time hours. Owners or operators of residential multi-family dwellings may enforce more restrictive noise regulations on their own properties. Below is a short synopsis. Check the full text of the noise restrictions in the Code at Sec. 10-121 (available on the City website, www.mountrainiermd.org).

Nighttime Noise: During nighttime hours (8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. from Sunday through Friday and 10:00 p.m. on Saturday to 8:00 a.m. on Sunday), if the noise is audible more than 50 feet from the private property where such noise is occurring or more than 50 feet from the noise source on public property, then there is a presumption that the noise is unreasonable and that a public nuisance exists. Unreasonable night-time noises includes, noise from amplified sources like radios, the operation or use of any tool or equipment (including but not limited to construction equipment, lawnmowers, power tools, hammers, drills, and generators), yelling, and barking dogs.

Celebratory noise on New Year’s Eve (Dec 31) and from midnight to 2:00 a.m. on New Year’s Day (Jan 1) is exempted from the restrictions.

Daytime Noise: During daytime hours (8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. from Sunday through Friday and 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Saturday), the following noises are unreasonable if they can be heard more than 50 feet from the private property where such noise is occurring or more than 50 feet from the noise source on public property: amplified noise from speakers, radios, TVs, etc. (this includes sub audible frequencies and car radios).

Exceptions for daytime noise restrictions are made for any vendor or outdoor event with a city permit; the use of bells or chimes to signal religious activities; and noise that is not audible beyond 200 feet from its source on Mother's Day, Father's Day, Independence Day (July 4), Memorial Day, Labor Day; New Year’s Eve (Dec. 31), and New Year’s Day (Jan. 1).

The City Manager is authorized to issue a permit to exceed some of the noise provisions of the city law. Any resident, property owner, or business owner may secure for a specific address or location a maximum of 4 variances per year from these restrictions. No permit shall be granted for nighttime hours (that means that loud parties, construction work, etc. on Saturday nights must cease after 10 pm, and at 8 pm for all other nights). Permits are valid for a specified 5 hour period. Only one permit shall be issued to a property in a 30 day period.

A noise permit allows amplified noise to be heard up to 200 feet from its source. If the amplified noise can be heard further than 200 feet from the source, the noise permit is void. A Mount Rainier police officer or Code Enforcement Officer has the authority to revoke or impose restrictions on a noise permit if, in his or her judgment, the provisions of the City noise restrictions are being violated.

Permits for residential properties are \$5; nonresidential permits are \$25.

Violation of the noise ordinance may result in a \$75 fine for each 15 minutes the violation continues.

MT. RAINIER BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Greetings!

Please let me introduce myself to you. My name is Nisey Baylor. My family and I own and operate a small, eclectic, funky business in Mt. Rainier called Nisey's Boutique. I am proud to be a business owner in Mt. Rainier. I was a part of that change that began to take place years ago when I arrived on 34th street. I was elected President of the Mt. Rainier Business Association this past January. A task that I will be learning as I go, but I can assure you there is no need for concern because I put my best foot forward in anything I do☺ so look out for some good stuff from this association under my watch. We are working to help Mt. Rainier, the diamond in the rough, be all it can be. With that said, we are looking for all business owners, property owners, and even residents to get involved.

We can make our city even more inviting fun and safe just by paying attention more and getting involved; we can't turn our heads anymore. Being involved will make the difference. Mt. Rainier is that place where you can always find something going on,..., whether it is grabbing a bite to eat, attending a class, picking up a couple of gifts or maybe even groceries or flowers. Mt. Rainier has an array of enchanting places to entertain the entire family!

We want Mt. Rainier to be the place people want to come to for something different.

Just to name a few things that is happening with the business association:

*Look out for a new business directory 2008. Ads are being sold now!!

*Get ready for our meet and greet where we are going to have big fun getting to know each other again.

This is our community and each and every one of us must support each other in order to thrive.

Let's work for the change.

Sincerely,
Nisey Baylor
Mt. Rainier Business Association President 2008

MT. RAINIER BICYCLE CO-OP PEDALS INTO SPRING!!!

The sweet cycling weather is upon us! And if you would like to tune up, donate or learn to work on a bike, the Mount Rainier Bicycle Cooperative (mrbikecoop.com) may be just the place for you! Located in the alley behind the library, the garage door, as it were, opened in October 2005 the result of the combined efforts of local community activists, organizations and the City. MRBC (or "the bike co-op") is a city-funded program run entirely by volunteers that offers free mechanics classes, an earn-a-bike program and open hours for use of tools and assistance from our volunteer mechanics. Our hours vary depending on volunteer availability--and we have many awesome volunteers--let us know if you want to be one! Our most consistent shifts are Saturdays from 10:30am to 4:30pm, and Sundays from 2-5pm. Some weeknights we have volunteers, and soon we will have afterschool hours. Plans for summer camps are in the works. If you would like to join our listserve or find out other important info, please find the links at mrbikecoop.com.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Summer Camp 2008 at Joe's Movement Emporium, June 16th – August 15th

This year at Joe's Movement Emporium we are offering a wide variety of summer camps. To register for any of the camps listed below please feel free to visit www.joesmovement.org or you can contact us here at Joe's Movement Emporium at (301) 699-1819. There is a camp registration form that needs to fill out, along with a \$65 deposit fee due on the first day of each session. Financial assistance is available for those who qualify. Extended care is also available from 8:00am - 9:00am and from 3:00pm – 6:00pm at an additional fee. All campers should bring a lunch, snack and plenty of liquids. All campers are required to bring: sunscreen, change of clothes, towels, swimsuit, a bag for supplies and 1 painting outfit. All registered campers will receive an information packet in the mail. There will be no programs held on July 4th 2008 except for Woods Wise Camp. Camps include: Creativity Explored, Xtreme Movement, Dance Camp, Woods Wise and West African Dance & Drum.

Little Friends for Peace Summer Peace Camps 2008

Hop on Board The Peace Train: Answer the Violence with Skills for Peace

Dates: July 21-25, July 28-August 1, August 11-15
9am-1pm - with after care available, ages 4-12

Added week: August 18-22, 9am-3pm - with aftercare available.
Limited to 12 campers, ages 8-12
Theme: Peace Builders in Action

Scholarships are available!!

Themes: Children Protecting Mother Earth, Building an Earth Community
Discover Ways Nature brings us Peace, Explore Earth's Energies, Use Peace Train to Solve Problems,
Dig Deeper into Peace

Methods: interactive presentations, child-affirming art, music, cooperative games, drama, exploring nature and having fun in Peace. For more information call: MJ or Jerry Park, 240-838-4549

www.LFFP.org or mjpeace@gmail.com

Little Friends for Peace Is Also Looking for Camp Counselors, Junior counselors, and Counselors In Training (CIT's)

H&F Fine Arts Gallery

3311 Rhode Island Avenue, Mount Rainier, MD 20712

www.hffinearts.com 301.887.0080

Exhibition: April 2-19 Artist's Reception: April 12th 5-8PM

Michael Escoffery's current pieces reflect his experiences and the influences of his visits to different cultures. Following time-off in 1999, Escoffery traveled extensively across North America, Europe and Asia. His works now reflect more focus with less concern on style. His message is subliminal with sensitivity for his subjects. Escoffery, however, remains true to his favorite subject - the female form. He shows an understanding of the physical as well as the emotional and spiritual sides of women. Escoffery's recent bronze sculptures are studies in movement and forms, of a figure frozen in time and space.

Born in Kingston, Jamaica to parents who were also artists, Escoffery reminisces on receiving paintbrushes, paints and general art supplies as Christmas gifts. It was this early encouragement that Escoffery says convinced him at the early age of 10 that he wanted to pursue a career in art. Later, in his 20s, he migrated to the United States. Today, his work adds a touch of grace to the walls of congress and United States embassies in over 40 countries. He has won numerous awards for his work including several from the United States government.

SPRING MUSIC TOGETHER

*The spring semester of Let's Do Music Together begins on April 2, 2008.
This spring we are featuring the MARACAS song collection.*

Class Locations and Schedule (Please note new classes have been added on Wednesday mornings in Beltsville and Wednesday evenings and Friday afternoons at Joe's!):

Locations and Schedule:

Joe's Movement Emporium

3309 Bunker Hill Road in Mt. Rainier, MD

NEW! Wednesdays, 4/2 - 6/11/08:

5:30-6:15pm and 6:30-7:15pm

Thursdays, 4/3 - 6/12/08:

10-10:45am and 11-11:45am

NEW! Fridays, 4/4 - 6/13/08: 2-2:45pm

Eleanor Pernia Studio of Dance

10434 Baltimore Ave. in Beltsville, MD

NEW! Wednesdays, 4/2 - 6/11/08: 10:30-11:15am

Sundays, 4/6 - 6/22/08: 10-10:45am and 11-11:45am

FREE SAMPLE CLASSES: please call below number for details and registration.

For additional information, including tuition, program description, and to receive a free CD of songs, please or call (240) 988-7816 / email info@letsdomusictogether.com. Website is <http://www.letsdomusictogether.com>

DOWNTOWN HYATTSVILLE ARTS FESTIVAL

Saturday, April 19, 2008

Noon – 5PM

Join us as at the First Annual Downtown Hyattsville Arts Festival. This one-day event will showcase at least 25 visual and performing artists. Busboys and Poets, Franklin's and Ben & Jerry's will set up refreshments and concession stands to complete the atmosphere. The event is expected to draw DC and Maryland residents for this exciting day, which will be promoted through advertising and public relations.

We have filled four hours of entertainment to include cover bands, Indian dancers, a jazz band, and a Brazilian band - it promises to be a good time!

MOUNT RAINIER TOOL SHED

Did you know that Mount Rainier has a tool shed with lots of tools and other equipment for working on your yards and home?

Well, we used to have LOTS of tools, but it has been brought to my attention that many of the members have borrowed our tools and have not returned them! If you borrowed tools from the Tool Shed, PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE! return them. We will not penalize you or make you feel bad for having forgotten to do. This is called amnesty. This period of amnesty will NOT endure forever, so if you borrowed tools, please return them ASAP. Thank you.

The Tool Shed DESPERTELY needs volunteers. If you wish to volunteer, PLEASE contact City Hall 301-985-6585.

PART-TIME POSITION AT COLLEGE PARK AVIATION MUSEUM

Do you enjoy working with children and are you looking for something to do this summer or while your children are in school? We have a part-time position that involves taking children through the museum, talking to them about aviation & aircraft and doing educational crafts or projects. The information is interesting and easy to get across to the public. No experience needed, just an interest in working with kids in a fun & interactive museum. Average 20-25 hrs/wk, 8/hr. Call the Museum at 301-864-6029 or email us at jane.welsh@pgparks.com <<mailto:jane.welsh@pgparks.com>>

FY 2009 MOUNT RAINIER BUDGET CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT
Tuesday, April 1, 2008	Presentation and public comment, proposed FY 2009 budget for all City programs other than police, parking enforcement, public works, and code enforcement. (Summary available)

Tuesday, April 15, 2008	Special meeting before work session. Presentation and public comment, proposed FY 2009 budget for police department and parking enforcement.
Tuesday, May 6, 2008	Presentation and public comment, proposed FY 2008 budget for public works and code enforcement. (Summary available) Work session on budget; decide proposed tax rate
Tuesday, May 20, 2008	Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2009 Budget and Constant Yield Tax Rate; work session on budget
Tuesday, June 3, 2008	First Reading, Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Ordinance
Tuesday, June 17, 2008	Second Reading/Vote Fiscal year 2009 Budget

PUBLIC WORKS CALENDAR

Listed hereunder is the scheduled pick up dates for trash in the City of Mt. Rainier, for April and May 2008

DATE	PARTICULARS	DATE	PARTICULARS
April 2	Regular Trash Pick Up	May 2	Recyclables Pick Up
April 4	Recyclables Pick Up	May 5	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pickup
April 7	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pickup	May 7	Regular Trash Pick Up
April 9	Regular Trash Pick Up	May 9	Recyclables Pick Up
April 11	Recyclables Pick Up	May 12	Yard Waste Pick Up
April 14	Yard Waste Pick Up	May 14	Regular Trash Pick Up
April 16	Regular Trash Pick Up	May 16	Recyclables Pick Up
April 18	Recyclables Pick Up	May 19	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pickup
April 21	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pickup	May 21	Regular Trash Pick Up
April 23	Regular Trash Pick Up	May 23	Recyclables Pick Up
April 25	Recyclables Pick Up	May 26	Memorial Day Public Works and City Hall Closed
April 28	Yard Waste Pick Up	May 27	Yard Waste Pick Up
April 30	Regular Trash Pick Up	May 28	Regular Trash Pick Up
		May 30	Recyclables Pick Up

Please have all bulk trash and yard waste out by 7:00 am on the respective pick up day and all bulk trash and Yard Waste appointments made before 12 noon on the Friday preceding pick up day