



# The Message

Issue 259

July/August 2008 Edition



## National Night Out 2008

National Night Out was introduced by the National Association of Town Watch back in 1984, and was the brainchild of executive Director Matt A. Peskin. Director Peskin said, "It's a wonderful opportunity for communities nationwide to promote police-community partnerships, crime prevention, and neighborhood camaraderie. While one night is certainly not an answer to crime, drugs and violence, National Night Out does represent the kind of spirit, energy and determination that is helping to make many neighborhoods safer places throughout the year. It is a night to celebrate crime prevention successes – and to expand and strengthen programs for the next 364 days."

The traditional 'lights on' and front porch vigils continue to be a core part of National Night Out, and over the years activities have expanded to include block parties, cookouts, parades, festivals, neighborhood walks, safety fairs, rallies and neighborhood watch meetings. National Night out is designed to:

- Heighten awareness of drug and crime prevention efforts
- Generate support and participation in crime prevention efforts
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community relations
- Send a message to criminals to let them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back

Please come and join us on the grounds of Thomas Stone Elementary School for this year's *National Night Out Against Crime* on Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>. Plan to attend this annual celebration with your family and friends. This year we will again have live entertainment, plenty of food, and lots of fun things to do for the whole family. Please keep an eye on the City's web site, and on the police chief's Blog ([www.mrpdcchief.blogspot.com](http://www.mrpdcchief.blogspot.com)) for additional details and updates as plans for this exciting night evolve.

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### SEEKING BUSINESS OWNER FOR ZONING COMMITTEE

The City is currently seeking business representatives for the Town Center Design Review Committee. The Committee is composed of two resident members, two municipal members, and two business members. Business applicants must own/operate a business anywhere in Mount Rainier (including home-based businesses) and/or hold a management position in a business located in the town center zone. The City Council sends names of nominees to the county Planning Board which appoints the membership of the committee.

The members review all new development projects and exterior renovations in the town center zone. This zone extends along Rhode Island Avenue from the City limits into the 3400 block, and

Along 34<sup>th</sup> Street from the 3700 block into the 4000 block. The zone also includes part of Bunker Hill Road. Each Committee member receives a copy of the Mount Rainier Town Center Development Plan, which contains the design guidelines that the Committee uses to review applications, as well as a copy of the Committee Rules of Procedure and other relevant documents.

The City is looking for participants who have a sense of fairness in reviewing applications and who are of the downtown business area. Committee members should be willing to encourage appropriate building construction, alterations, and signage among business and property owners and to help educate rather than regulate applicants. To obtain an application to be on the committee, please call Assistant City Manager Michael Jackson at 301-985-6585. Applications should be accompanied by a resume and a brief cover letter stating your interest in joining the committee. Please mail or deliver all materials to Mr. Jackson at City Hall, 1 Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, MD 20712.

### **Who Needs to Consult the Committee?**

Anyone planning to make changes to the exterior of their building within the zone—regarding color, signage, awnings, shape or size of building, or other exterior changes—first needs to present those plans to the Town Center Design Review Committee to ensure that the proposed changes are within the guidelines of the Mount Rainier Town Center Development Plan. This plan establishes a framework for property owners, tenants, the local municipality, and Prince George’s County officials and staff to review proposed development or redevelopment of buildings in the Mount Rainier downtown area. The many citizens, businesspersons, and government officials who participated in the creation of the plan more than a decade ago intended that property owners and tenants use the Design Guidelines within the plan to make changes to their properties in order to further the revitalization of the city’s downtown commercial core.

## **From the Desk of the Mayor**

**By Malinda Miles**

July 01, 2008

### **MOUNT RAINIER DAY FESTIVAL 2010 Committee**

I know that April 2010 Mount Rainier will be 100 years old, and that is not something to sneeze at in this day and age. We are not the oldest City in Maryland, but over the years we have continued to be a City, and today we are a thriving City. As the current Mayor of Mount Rainier, I feel that it is my duty and responsibility to begin planning for our 100 years’ celebration, and would like to take this opportunity to invite residents of the community to join in this preparation.

If you live, work, or even pass through this great City and wish to be a part of this celebration, this is your invitation to sign on. To sign on to the Committee, simply email Ms. Janis Lomax [jlomax@mountrainiermd.org](mailto:jlomax@mountrainiermd.org). She will take your name, address, telephone number and email address and begin setting up the Committee. We will meet early and begin planning a grand celebration for 2010! Be a part of the action. Join this Committee today.



## **Historian/Writer NEEDED!**

In addition to searching for Committee members to begin planning the 2010 celebration, Mount Rainier needs a **historian** to step forward to begin writing our history from 1975 to present, and for becoming the depository for our history. This will be an awesome task for someone inclined to capture the history of our coming or age municipality. It will be well worth the time and energy to see our history come alive on paper. If you have the time and skills to take on this task or know someone who is, please contact Ms. Lomax or any member of the Mayor and Council with all necessary contact information so that we can discuss this project with you.

## **Community Volunteers STILL NEEDED!**

Skilled and unskilled basketball players to work with our youths in learning sportsmen conduct, basketball skills, and life skills. Still want to be a part of the solution to our gang and youth crisis? Here is your opportunity. Please call (301-985-6585) or email ([mayormiles@malindamiles.com](mailto:mayormiles@malindamiles.com)) me, if you are willing to commit 3 to six evening hours working with our youth.

## **Significant Highlights of the City Budget**

Without giving a play-by-play report of how hard the Mayor and Council and the Mount Rainier City employees are working for you, I frequently choose to just highlight some of the big items or new initiatives. It would be remiss of me, however, to not mention in this report the time and effort that has gone into developing this year's budget and to point out a few major developments.

1. The City although in the "black" is not financially well off. We are making the payroll, paying our bills in a timely manner, and actually have some money in reserve/contingency. As in the past two years, the City has not had to borrow on its \$400,000 line of credit to cover its expenses.
2. Although we have approximately \$1.5 million in the reserve/contingency fund, we have not made all of the adjustments necessary to cover expected indebtedness, e.g., increased cost in the employee pension plan; increased salaries and benefits for all employees; improved health benefits; and higher cost of just doing business. For example, the City is not immune to the high cost of gas, high cost of repairs and maintenance to cars, trucks, buildings and other equipment that is essential for the City to conduct good business.
3. Last year the City initiated a program to help seniors, dissimilarly-abled persons, and persons with incomes below \$60,000. This program resulted in the City distributing approximately \$10,000 to residents meeting the eligibility requirement. During the coming year, it is expected that this rebate will increase to approximately \$12,000. Those residents receiving funds last year have expressed their appreciation for the relief that came with the checks even though they were small checks.
4. The City has purchased and still needs to purchase another trash/garbage truck to meet the growing need for trash/yard waste/garbage collection in the City. This is a very expensive item, but a very necessary one.
5. During the past few years, the City has been seeking to replace its used and worn out police vehicles. Last year this resulted in the purchase of five new police cars that had to also be equipped for police use. This year, we are adding three new cars to our fleet.
6. Increased recreational activities for the youths of Mount Rainier continue to be a major concern of the Mayor and Council in each year's budget. This year we have added \$16,000 to help provide recreation. It is anticipated that as this program develops there will be increased cost associated with it.
7. As our population and demographics change, there will be an increased need for Mount Rainier to provide better communications to its residents. As part of our forward thinking, Mayor and Council are discussing higher level technology for meeting those needs, e.g., Polycom video conferencing.

8. Major thinking in this year's budget is the acquisition and development of properties (3409 Rhode Island Avenue, the Southside of Rhode Island Avenue, and other properties in the downtown area are under consideration) within the City that have hindered development of the downtown area. Although the City has sought to minimize its cash outlay to develop these properties by partnering with a major developing company, there are costs associated (e.g., legal fees, appraisals, environmental studies, etc.) with any development project within the City. In addition, as is frequently discussed, Mount Rainier was completely built out many years ago, and parking over the years has become a major issue. Therefore, Mayor and Council continue to discuss parking in the downtown area to support the current and growing development of our City.
9. Another goal is to provide longer hours for our police department to be open and available to the public. When our million plus police department was built, it was to be open 24-hours a day. That has never happened. In the proposed budget, the police department would be open during our current downtown business hours (7:00am until 12:00am approximately). This would provide for more effective police services during hours when crime is most likely to occur. I have personally checked our downtown area after the police station closed at 5:00pm and seen people trying to contact the police to report a crime or get information. For the dollars invested, the citizens of this City deserve a better return and Mayor and Council are seeking ways to increase the return. (NOTE: For the past 10 years, give or take a few, the City has paid almost a half million dollars for dispatch services, and this year those services are going up.)

With all of the increases and the capital improvements that are being proposed there no tax increase is being proposed. The City bit the bullet on increasing taxes about seven years ago, and because of that tax increase and the major rise in our property values, the City has been able to dig itself out of the red, and begin building a solid base for future growth. It is my honest opinion that this is not the time to cut our taxes or to change the way in which we have begun to do business. We have fought for, demanded and received sound financial management of our resources (fiscal and physical).

As other municipalities seek to increase their taxes, Mount Rainier can stand its ground, continue its services, and continue to build toward its future. I believe we (Mayor, Council, and staff) are doing a good job. We need to seek new revenue streams and to seek partnerships that will help to make us economically sound as we develop and redeveloped our City.

### **Basketball Court at 30<sup>th</sup> and Arundel**

Thanks to Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) the long awaited basketball court at 30<sup>th</sup> and Arundel is up and in use. It was good to watch the young boys and girls come out to play basketball. Parents please help us to keep the court up and open.

There are some rules that must be followed.

- 1) The basketball court is a shared space for the community.
- 2) The court is a part of the park and closes at dusk, no exceptions.
- 3) Consumption of alcoholic beverages or any kind is illegal and will be punished.
- 4) Everyone is expected to pitch in with keeping the park clean and available to others.
- 5) Profanity, fighting, and just plain bad behavior will not be tolerated and will be cause for the basketball hoops to once again be permanently remove.

These are very simple rules and easy enough to follow, so we are counting on our youths to be responsible, obey the rules, and enjoy the newly refurbished basketball court.

## **Report from Ward 1 – Jimmy Tarlau**

## **Corn Bin Update**

March 29, 2008 the County Planning Board approved the permit application for the Corn Bin. A number of members of the Co-op and Mt. Rainier residents travelled to Upper Marlboro to speak in favor of the co-op. One resident expressed concerns about appearance of the bin. The Corn Co-op folks were asked to update the plan to incorporate a new location of the bin where it is more easily accessible from the Fire Station parking a lot. In addition trees will be planted to help shield the bin. The corn bin folks will be working with the neighbor who had raised objections and are doing so. Once the updated plan is ok with all those involved, the plan has to be reviewed by the County Council. Getting things done is a long and difficult process, but I applaud Jodi-Beth McCain and the leaders of the Corn Co-op for volunteering to put in place in our community a new low-cost alternative to oil and gas.

## **Skate Board Park Update**

The County Park & Planning Department are now preparing an RFP (Request for Proposal) for a design of the skate board park at Otis and Wells Avenues. Once the RFP is developed, a design-build consultant will be selected and then prepare detailed designs that will be reviewed by the Council. The County is planning on having the park finished by September 2009.

**Crime Statistics Show A Decrease But Even One Killing is Too Much for Our Community** – The Police Chief's monthly report showed that incidents of crime in Mt. Rainier are down close to 15% from 2007. But those statistics do not mean much when we hear of another killing in our neighborhood. This shooting occurred on the 3700 block of 36<sup>th</sup> St. on Friday night June 6<sup>th</sup>.

This continued violence in our community is unacceptable. I do not have any answers but feel that we can't ignore what is going on in our community and we have to make it our top priority to see how it can be maintained.

**City is In Good Financial Shape** – I did a little research about how Mt. Rainier compared to other Cities on our cash reserves and debt levels.

**Reserves:** Our reserves are about \$1.5 million (averaged over the year) which is 30% of our annual revenue. One Federal Government Committee recommends that reserves should be no less than 5-15% of revenues. Hyattsville's reserves are between \$2.8 and \$3.5 million with an operating budget of about \$12 million which is about 25%.

**Debt Service:** Our total debt payments each year are \$180,000 which is about 4% of our annual expected revenue of \$4.5 million. (Hyattsville debt service is between 10-15%.)

The Institute for Government Service suggests that a municipality's level of debt should not exceed:

1) 10-15% of the assessed value of all real property (that would be \$30-45 million for Mt. Rainier)

- 2) Debt service should not be more than 25% of total operating revenues (\$1 million for Mt. Rainier)
- 3) Total debt should not exceed \$1,000 per capita (which would be \$9 million)

So according to the guidelines we should not have over \$9 million in debt (we have \$1.3 million in debt) and our debt payments should not be over \$1 million according to these guidelines (out debt payments are \$180,000).

The bottom line for me is that we have a good cushion in reserves and also have pretty low debt payments. I would like to commend City Treasurer Vijay Manjani for not only keeping the city in good financial shape but making very clear and understandable reports to the City.

## MESSAGE FROM COUNCILMEMBER KNEDLER

### OLD PHOTOS NEEDED OF CITY HOMES

The City is nearing its 100th anniversary of incorporation (1910). I continue to seek photos and records of Mount Rainier events and buildings for City Hall archives. The city has a file folder on every street address and I continue to place materials into those folders as they come to me. If you have old photographs of your house, garden, or people who lived in the home, please send them to me (Bryan Knedler, One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, 20712) and I will put them into the folder for your house address. If you are doing research on your home, you may find the files a useful resource.



## MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL E. SCOTT, CHIEF OF POLICE

### *Crime Prevention for Homeowners During Warm Weather Months*



Most of us like to use this time of year to relax, have a bit of vacation, and generally enjoy the warm sunny weather. Criminals however, are never on vacation, so please take the time to protect your property and valuables against warm weather scammers, con artists, and opportunity criminals.

- **Deception Burglaries:** Suspects, posing as legitimate workers, approach elderly homeowners with the intent of gaining entry to their home under a seemingly legitimate role: local gas company, water department, cable company, tree trimmers, pavers, government inspectors or officials. One suspect will distract the homeowner while a second suspect will enter the home and search inside for valuables and cash. Another ruse used to gain entry into the home is for a suspect to knock on the door and ask for a pen and piece of paper to leave the victim's neighbor a note. The suspect may appear to have difficulty writing the note, and will ask to come inside the house. Once inside the victim's house, the suspect will ask the victim to help write the note. As the suspect keeps the victim occupied, others enter the residence to remove money and valuables. Be particularly alert to anyone in your neighborhood looking to perform home repairs, or asking to gain entry into your home. Be sure to ask to see identification and let them know you are going to call and get authorization from their company before allowing them access. If they are legitimate, they

won't mind the wait. Remember, do not intervene, but call 911 immediately about suspicious activity.

- **Home Improvement Scams:** To prevent the chances of being victimized, residents are urged to observe the following precautions:
  - Keep doors (including patio doors) and windows locked - even if you will be out for only a short time.
  - Request identification from utility representatives - legitimate representatives carry it, and will gladly show it to you. Call their company for verification.
  - Only rarely will legitimate home improvement companies solicit door-to-door. They usually distribute fliers or make phone calls - it's more cost effective for them.
  - Never pay in cash. Using a check keeps a record of the transaction and often provides identification of the person cashing the check.
  - Beware of excuses such as "We just finished a job around the corner and had extra materials that we could offer you at a discounted price." Professional companies do not operate in that manner.
  - Call police immediately if you notice someone unfamiliar to the neighborhood or acting suspiciously.
  - Be aware of various ruses that have been used to gain entry, including posing as utility representatives, asking for a drink of water, looking for property that is for sale, or selling home improvement services.
  - When purchasing or installing a home alarm system, make sure that the company who installs the alarm, as well as the company that monitors the alarm, are licensed to do business in Prince George's County. If a sales person comes to your door he/she must have a solicitation permit from the City – ask to see it!
- **Lock your doors while working outside:** When out working in your yard or garden, carry a key with you and lock your front and back doors. Some criminals specialize in stealing from homes when people are outside doing yard work. When you finish with that yard work, remember to clean up and lock up behind you. When you put your rake and other tools in the shed, garage or basement, don't forget to lock the doors. Thieves see an open door as an invitation. Deny criminals the opportunity to steal by securing your home and property.

***The best crime prevention tool is a good neighbor!***

Take the time to reacquaint yourself with your old neighbors and meet the new ones. Why not organize a neighborhood watch to protect and watch out for one another's property? Let your neighbors know when a suspicious person has been spotted in your area. If residents see strangers sizing up their neighbors' home that could also be a sign something is wrong. In that case, a call to 301-985-6565 will get an officer to the scene to check things out. Residents can help their elderly neighbors by checking in on them, and keeping an eye on them. If, for example, a neighbor sees an elderly resident in conversation with a stranger, they could politely inquire about what is going on. Neighbors working together for each other's well being are the foundation of a healthy community. Caring and personal involvement builds stronger bonds between neighbors, and helps maintain safe neighborhoods.

### **A Word about Noise**

The Mt. Rainier City Code Section 10-121 defines noise, and basically boils down to this: If the noise emanating from your property is excessively or unusually loud, and annoys, disturbs, injures or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace or safety of others, and that noise can be heard more than 50 feet from your property, you are in violation of City Code and are subject

to a fine of \$75. Residents, property owners and business owners may obtain a special permit to exceed the noise restrictions as established in 10-121. This permit, obtainable from City Hall, will allow noise to be heard up to 200 feet from its source. Applicants may be granted a special noise permit up to a maximum of four times in a year. If you are planning an outdoor event, party or celebration it would be prudent for you to obtain the special noise permit.

A police officer or Code Enforcement Officer who responds for a noise complaint will ask the property owner, or another responsible party present, to reduce the offending noise level to a point where it complies with the Code and any special permit. He or she will extend this courtesy *only once*. If we receive a second complaint, someone will receive a City citation for \$75.

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

### **MAY 2008 SELECTED Offenses by Team Policing Area**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Offense</b>	<b>Location</b>				<b>TPA</b>
26-May-08	B & E - Residential	3300	BL	CHILLUM	RD	1A
13-May-08	B & E - Residential	3000	BL	QUEENS CHAPEL	RD	1A
08-May-08	B & E - Residential	3200	BL	QUEENSTOWN	DR	1A
05-May-08	B & E - Residential	3200	BL	CHILLUM	RD	1A
27-May-08	Robbery - Citizen	3300	BL	CHILLUM	RD	1A
29-May-08	Stolen Vehicle	2700	BL	QUEENS CHAPEL	RD	1A
24-May-08	Stolen Vehicle	4200	BL	RUSSELL	AV	1A
23-May-08	Stolen Vehicle	3300	BL	BUCHANAN	ST	1A
19-May-08	Stolen Vehicle	4300	BL	RUSSELL	AV	1A
16-May-08	Theft - From Auto	3300	BL	CHAUNCEY	PL	1A
08-May-08	Theft - From Auto	3200	BL	QUEENSTOWN	DR	1A
14-May-08	Theft - Identity	3200	BL	TAYLOR	ST	1A
26-May-08	Theft - Vehicle Tags	3000	BL	QUEENS CHAPEL	RD	1A
06-May-08	Theft < 500	3300	BL	CHAUNCEY	PL	1A
06-May-08	Theft < 500	3100	BL	QUEENS CHAPEL	RD	1A
03-May-08	Theft < 500	3300	BL	CHILLUM	RD	1A
26-May-08	Vandalism	3300	BL	CHILLUM	RD	1A
19-May-08	Vandalism	3300	BL	BUCHANAN	ST	1A
05-May-08	Vandalism	3300	BL	CHAUNCEY	PL	1A
30-May-08	Vandalism to Auto	3200	BL	CHILLUM	RD	1A
22-May-08	Vandalism to Auto	3100	BL	QUEENS CHAPEL	RD	1A
05-May-08	Vandalism to Auto	3200	BL	QUEENSTOWN	DR	1A
05-May-08	Vandalism to Auto	3100	BL	QUEENS CHAPEL	RD	1A
03-May-08	Vandalism to Auto	3300	BL	BUCHANAN	ST	1A
10-May-08	Vandalism to Auto	3100	BL	QUEENS CHAPEL	RD	1A
28-May-08	Assault - Aggravated	3400	BL	RHODE ISLAND	AV	1B

31-May-08	Homicide	3700	BL	36TH	ST	1B
18-May-08	Stolen Vehicle	3700	BL	34TH	ST	1B
08-May-08	Assault - Aggravated	2700	BL	ARUNDEL	RD	2A
04-May-08	Assault - Aggravated	4000	BL	29TH	ST	2A
24-May-08	B & E - Commercial	2300	BL	VARNUM	ST	2A
03-May-08	Robbery - Citizen	4600	BL	29TH	ST	2A
02-May-08	Robbery - Citizen		BL	29TH	ST	2A
24-May-08	Stolen Vehicle	2300	BL	VARNUM	ST	2A
24-May-08	Stolen Vehicle	4200	BL	RUSSELL	AV	2A
18-May-08	Stolen Vehicle	4200	BL	28TH	ST	2A
13-May-08	Stolen Vehicle	4600	BL	27TH	ST	2A
12-May-08	Stolen Vehicle	2300	BL	VARNUM	ST	2A
24-May-08	Theft - From Auto	4300	BL	28TH	PL	2A
07-May-08	Theft - From Auto	2300	BL	VARNUM	ST	2A
27-May-08	Theft - Vehicle Tags	4300	BL	KAYWOOD	DR	2A
23-May-08	Theft - Vehicle Tags	3000	BL	ARUNDEL	RD	2A
28-May-08	Theft < 500	4400	BL	29TH	ST	2A
01-May-08	Theft < 500	4200	BL	KAYWOOD	DR	2A
31-May-08	Vandalism to Auto	4700	BL	27TH	ST	2A
16-May-08	Vandalism to Auto	4400	BL	28TH	PL	2A
01-May-08	Vandalism to Auto	4200	BL	30TH	ST	2A
10-May-08	Destruction of Property	3200	BL	BUNKERHILL	RD	2B
31-May-08	Property Damage	4000	BL	32ND	ST	2B
24-May-08	Theft - From Auto	3800	BL	31ST	ST	2B
09-May-08	Theft - Vehicle Tags	3200	BL	RHODE ISLAND	AV	2B
08-May-08	Theft - Vehicle Tags	3500	BL	BUNKER HILL	RD	2B
16-May-08	Theft < 500	3300	BL	RHODE ISLAND	AV	2B

*MRTV*

Mount Rainier Television  
Comcast Channel 71 Verizon Channel 21

*MRTV* Program Schedule

Monday – Friday, 4pm, (see MRTV Bulletin for listing for shows)

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month, 7pm Live telecast of City Council Meetings

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, 7pm Live telecast of City Council Work Sessions

**Program schedule and shows subject to change without notice**

**Shows to Watch: On Air with the Mayor**

***MRTV*News "News You Can Use"**

**CitiScape and Time to Represent**

*MRTV* is still in need of volunteer producers, on-camera talent, and production crews for **On Air with the Mayor**, ***MRTV*News "News You Can Use"**, and **CitiScape**. If you have a show idea, let us know. We tape on selected Wednesdays and Saturdays. Call *MRTV* at 301-985-6585 ext 28 or email us at [mrtvchannel71@yahoo.com](mailto:mrtvchannel71@yahoo.com) for details.

## 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.

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS RECYCLE AND TRASH COLLECTION NOTICE

All recyclables (aluminum cans, bottles, paper and cardboard) can be put in the same yellow recycle bin which will be picked up Friday of each week. These items will be taken to the County recycle plant as they now have the capability to separate the items.

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

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

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT EACH AND EVERY RESIDENT ADHERE TO THE CITY'S TRASH CODE. RATS HAVE LITTERS OF 6-12 YOUNG, WHICH ARE BORN 21-23 DAYS AFTER MATING. YOUNG RATS REACH REPRODUCTIVE MATURITY IN ABOUT THREE (3) MONTHS. BREEDING IS MOST ACTIVE IN THE SPRING AND FALL. THE AVERAGE FEMALE HAS 4-6 LITTERS PER YEAR. RATS LIVE ABOUT 6 MONTHS IN THE WILD, BUT CAN LIVE FOR 12-18 MONTHS IN AN URBAN ENVIRONMENT WITH GOOD SHELTER AND ADEQUATE SOURCES OF FOOD AND WATER. PLEASE CONTAIN YOUR TRASH, PUT AWAY ALL BIRD FEED, AND PICK UP YOUR DOG POOP AS THIS PROVIDES A SOURCE OF FOOD FOR RATS AS WELL.

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

## PUBLIC WORKS CALENDAR

*Listed hereunder is the scheduled pick up dates for trash in the City of Mt. Rainier, for July, August and September 2008*

DATE	PARTICULARS	DATE	PARTICULARS
July 2	Regular Trash Pick Up	August 1	Recyclables Pick Up
July 4	Independence Day (Public Works and City Hall Closed)	August 4	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pickup
July 7	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pickup	August 6	Regular Trash Pick Up
July 9	Regular Trash Pick Up	August 8	Recyclables Pick Up
July 11	Recyclables Pick Up	August 11	Yard Waste Pick Up
July 14	Yard Waste Pick Up	August 13	Regular Trash Pick Up
July 16	Regular Trash Pick Up	August 15	Recyclables Pick Up
July 18	Recyclables Pick Up	August 18	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pickup
July 21	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pickup	August 20	Regular Trash Pick Up
July 23	Regular Trash Pick Up	August 22	Recyclables Pick Up
July 25	Recyclables Pick Up	August 25	Yard Waste Pick Up
July 28	Yard Waste Pick Up	August 27	Regular Trash Pick Up
July 30	Regular Trash Pick Up	August 29	Recyclables Pick Up

DATE	PARTICULARS	DATE	PARTICULARS
September 1	Labor Day (Public Works and City Hall Closed)	September 26	Recyclables Pick Up
September 2	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pickup	September 29	Yard Waste Pick Up
September 3	Regular Trash Pick Up		
September 5	Recyclables Pick Up		
September 8	Yard Waste Pick Up		
September 10	Regular Trash Pick Up		
September 12	Recyclables Pick Up		
September 15	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pickup		
September 17	Regular Trash Pick Up		
September 19	Recyclables Pick Up		
September 22	Yard Waste Pick Up		
September 24	Regular Trash 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***

