



The Message

Issue 254

February 2008 Edition

City Seeks Members for Town Center Design Review Committee

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

Resident members should possess one of the following areas of interest: local history, architecture, real estate, education, law, finance, business or building trades. The City is looking for residents who have a sense of fairness in reviewing applications and who are interested in the on-going revitalization of the downtown business area. Committee members should be willing to help encourage appropriate building alterations and signage among business and property owners and to help educate rather than regulate.

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

Municipal members on the committee could be persons with expertise in planning, local history, architecture, real estate, education, law, finance, business or building trades or persons who presently serve on City boards or commissions, or others committed to town center revitalization as described in the development plan.

Applications to be on the Committee are due to City Hall by March 1, 2008. The final selection of committee members will be made by the Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission from

the pool of applicants submitted by the City. The City will then select candidate from the pool to fill the municipal representative position.

From the Desk of the Mayor January 23, 2008

Already this has been a year to remember and we are only on the 22nd day of the New Year!

Filling the Senate Vacancy in the 47th Legislative District

The late Senator Gwendolyn Britt was funeralized on Friday, January 15. Her passing caused feelings of deep sorrow and pain, but a vacancy in 47th District Legislative team. On January 30, 2008, the Democratic Central Committee will meet to select the next Senator to represent our District. You may not wish to run, but you might wish to contact our representative on the Central Committee to share your concerns or even make a recommendation for your next senator.

Public Hearing February 12, 2008 on Sanctuary for immigrants

On February 12, 2008, Mayor and Council will host a hearing to discuss proposed legislation introduced by Councilmember Pedro Briones. The legislation as presented seeks to make the City of Mount Rainier a sanctuary for immigrants whether legal or not. It proposes a don't ask don't tell policy for all immigrants, and purports that this will improve police relations in the City with our immigrant population.

Needless to say, this has generated a lot of debate on the internet and in the newspapers. As a way of getting an anonymous census on this issue, I have created a very brief survey on my blog (<http://themayorsspot.blogspot.com>). Please take a minute and cast your vote. If you do not have internet, take time and send me a brief letter with your opinion and vote either in support of the legislation or vote to oppose. Please, do not be derogatory. You have a right to your opinion and a right to be heard, and you can do this without being offensive. I want to hear from you.

I do NOT encourage the City becoming a refuge for illegal immigrants. I believe that residents should be legal. I believe that they should abide by the law. I also know that immigration is a federal issue and should be addressed at that level. I am also painfully aware of how slow our Federal government is in fixing this problem, and the cost it has on our economy. I am aware of the overcrowding in the Schools and the health care issue, but I am also aware of the lack of health care for our seniors who have worked all of their lives and are now faced with the choice of paying for health care or paying their rent.

Translating the Message

There is just no getting around it. Many of our neighbors are Spanish speaking. I believe that is good for the City, and that there is a need to reach out and invite them to become a part of our community. Translating our laws into Spanish is a good way to begin this process. I also believe that this should be a two-way street. I invite our Spanish-speaking neighbors to learn our language, to come out to meetings, to volunteer for committees, and to get involved in the community. I know there are barriers. I have faced barriers in Mount Rainier for more than forty (40) years. At every level, I was required to come up to the standard. Never was the standard lowered to make it easier for me or my family. I adapted. I adjusted. I got involved. I went to meetings and on at least one occasion was derogatorily referred to as a monkey.

Times have changed, and we are forced to make some very hard choices. We can choose to include, and work with our Spanish speaking neighbors or we can continue to spend money and resources

fighting the gangs, the overcrowding in some of our houses, the growing lack of parking space in our neighborhoods, and the list goes on.

These are not easy times. Times have never been easy for people of color in America, but we can make a difference in Mount Rainier by providing our laws in English and Spanish to improve our relationships. To this end, I support the Message being translated into Spanish for our Spanish-speaking neighbors within budgetary restraints.

Mount Rainier Library to Receive NEW Computers

The Mount Rainier Library will be receiving eight (8) new computers from the County. The Prince George's County Library System will be sprucing up our library and giving it a new look. As one of the branches of the County's Library System, Mount Rainier residents use our computers almost 80% of the time. This high use was noted and the decision was made to give us the new computers. Keep on use those computers. Speaking of the Library, an RFP (request for proposals) was issued late last year, and we have gotten really great response to the RFP. Mayor and Council are hoping that we will soon be hosting hearings on the proposals and issuing a contract for moving forward with the building of our multi-purpose building that will house our new library. Stay tuned.

Basketball is COMING to Mount Rainier!

Thanks to Prince George's County's Public Schools' CEO John Deasey and School Board member Amber Waller afternoon basketball is coming to Mount Rainier. The City of Mount Rainier and the Town of Brentwood are working together to host a youth basketball developmental program. The youth program is aimed at providing recreational activities for youth 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

This youth program will be year round and will focus on the fundamentals of the game of basketball and will educate youth on sportsmanship.

The City is partnering with Brentwood, Prince George's County Public Schools, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Greater Rock Creek Baptist Church, and local businesses in this endeavor. Local youth and high school coaches, basketball coaching staff and basketball student-athletes will also participate in this program throughout the year.

The clinic will be open to boys and girls free of charge. Participants must register to participate in this program, and must complete all phases of the registration.

Parents and other community adults are invited to attend the life skills sessions of the program which will be held a minimum of four times during the year.

Clinic participants and volunteer coaches who participate in the clinic will be invited to evaluate the program throughout the year. Evaluations will be used to improve the program and provide feedback to the sponsors. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** – coaches, teachers, mentors, etc. Financial donations are also needed. For more information send me an email (mayormiles@malindamiles.com).

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 student in the 47th Legislative District who plan to attend a two- or four-year college located in Maryland have them contact PGCMA and Delegates Doyle Niemann, 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>.

Mayor and Council Highlights for January 2008

Temporary Speed Humps: The Council decided to experiment with temporary rubber speed humps instead of permanent asphalt humps. The rubber humps are considerably cheaper (\$400 vs. anywhere from \$1500 to \$5000) and can be removed if they prove not to be workable. The first humps will be placed at the intersection of 32nd and Bunker Hill Road and 3809 31st St. in the next few weeks.

New Parking Meters: At long last two-hour parking meters have been installed on the 3300 Block of Rhode Island Ave. and the 3700 block of 34th Street. There will also be new meters placed on the 4000 block of 33rd St. and on Bunker Hill Road (across from Joe's).

Ordinance on Recreational Vehicles: There was a first reading on an ordinance that would amend the law regarding recreational vehicles. Over the past few months, there have been a number complaints about large recreational vehicles parked on city streets and in drive ways. Right now a recreational vehicle has to be 25 feet from the street line. Since the front of some people's houses is less than 25 feet from the street, a recreational vehicle could be parked in a driveway back from the front of the house and still be in violation of the current ordinance even though it is not an 'eye sore'. The new ordinance says that a recreational vehicle may be parked 'not nearer to the street line...than the front facade of the house...'. (It also allows the City Manager to issue a permit for a recreational vehicle to be parked on the street for no more than a two-week period once every six months.) The ordinance comes up for a vote on Tuesday February 5th.

Little Friends for Peace Help Protect Mother Earth and Answer the Violence with Skills for Peace

This year on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, children at Peace Club could be heard sharing their ideas and views on peace. On Tuesday's after school, children between ages 4 and 10 meet on 29th street in Mount Rainier for Peace Club. Musician Jodi-Beth McCain and co-directors of Little Friends for Peace MJ Park and Jerry Park aide children in the following peace activities:

- Reciting peace pledge and singing peace anthem
- Sharing what brings peace and what breaks peace
- Play 'win-win' games
- Hear stories of people transformed by acts of kindness
- Drawing pictures of beautiful things and courageous people
- Developing conflict resolution skills
- Report actions of peace
- Special Projects (example: murals and gift giving)
- Cultivating peace garden

Peace Club members can also build toy wind turbines; as well as, repair bikes with the assistance off energy conservationist PJ Park. Lastly, in warmer weather children can help remove invasive vines from trees with the naturalist MJ Park.

Peace Club also offers a variety of programs for families and children of all ages. If interested in becoming a Peace Club member or would like to start a Peace Circle in your school, church, community center, please contact MJ or Jerry Park. Please feel free to contact them at 240-838-4549, email mjpeace@gmail.com or visit Little Friends for Peace at www.LFFP.org

Message from Michael E. Scott, Chief of Police

Vehicle Warm-ups

Each year, 40% of the motor vehicles stolen in this country had the keys in the ignition when the thief drove off with it. Some cold weather thieves get an added bonus – a nice warm car!

Look down the block in the pre-rush hour dawn and you're likely to see the telltale smoke signals that let you know which of your neighbors doesn't like to drive a cold car. They either have the mistaken belief that you have to warm up the car's engine to avoid excessive wear or damage, or they just like to be warm and toasty as they drive off on their daily commute to work, drop the children at school, or run necessary errands.

Car thieves love these people; they drive the environmentally conscious nuts; and, police officers see a crime waiting to happen. They risk losing an expensive asset or getting a \$70 ticket so they don't have to shiver for the first five minutes of their ride. In fact, since December, two Mount Rainier residents have been victimized by car thieves who made off with their cars as they warmed up in their driveways. This winter, Mount Rainier police officers will be on the lookout for those telltale smoke signals in our neighborhoods; so, if your shiny new \$300-a-month dream car is idling away waiting to be stolen, wasting gas and polluting the atmosphere you're likely to have an officer at your door with a warning and some crime prevention advice. The stubborn may actually receive that \$70 ticket, but that's better than a thief getting your car!

Idling Myths:

- *Myth #1:* "I'll just let it warm up for a couple minutes. A thief can't get it that quick, especially if I lock the doors."

Reality: The thief that gets your car this morning is the same thief that probably watched you warm it up yesterday and possibly for a couple days in a row before that. Even an inexperienced car thief can be inside your locked car and gone with it in 30 seconds or less.

- *Myth #2:* "The engine should be warmed up for at least 5-10 minutes prior to driving."

Reality: Idling is not an effective way to warm up your engine, even in cold weather. The best way to do this is to drive the vehicle. With today's modern engines, you need no more than 30 seconds of idling on winter days before starting to drive. Driving your car actually cuts warm-up time in half, and things like wheel bearings, steering components, suspension, transmission and tires only warm up when your car is moving.

- *Myth #3:* "Idling is good for the engine."

Reality: Excessive idling can actually damage engine components, including cylinders, spark plugs, and the exhaust system.

- *Myth #4:* "Shutting off and restarting the vehicle when it's stopped is bad for the engine and uses more gasoline than if you leave it running."

Reality: Frequent restarting has little impact on engine components. Component wear caused by restarting the engine is estimated to add \$10 per year to the cost of driving, money that will likely be recovered several times over in fuel savings from reduced idling.

Idling Facts:

Fact #1: Idling wastes fuel and money. Idling a vehicle for 10 minutes a day uses an average of about 22 gallons of gas a year. If gas costs \$3.00 a gallon, you'll save \$66 per year, just by turning your key.

Fact #2: Idling contributes to global warming. Vehicle idling can have a powerful effect on the outdoor air quality at the local and community level. Keep in mind diesel and gasoline exhausts contain more than 40 hazardous pollutants and every gallon of gasoline produces 20 pounds of carbon dioxide.

Fact #3: Ten seconds of idling can use more fuel than turning off your engine and re-starting it. If you're going to be stopped for more than 30 seconds, except in stop and go traffic, turn off your engine. This includes things like fast food drive-thru lanes, car washes and waiting to drop off or pick someone up – especially children at school.

Selected Crimes – November 2007

Date	Time	Offense	Location				TPA
28-Nov-07	10:09	Stolen Vehicle	4500	BL	32ND	ST	1A
10-Nov-07	08:25	Stolen Vehicle	2700	BL	UPSHUR	ST	1A
09-Nov-07	13:35	Theft - From Auto	3300	BL	CHILLUM	RD	1A
14-Nov-07	15:00	Theft < 500	3300	BL	CHILLUM	RD	1A
21-Nov-07	20:14	Theft < 500	3300	BL	CHILLUM	RD	1A
09-Nov-07	05:42	Vandalism to Auto	4600	BL	30TH	ST	1A
27-Nov-07	6:11	Robbery - Commercial	3400	BL	RHODE ISLAND	AV	1B
28-Nov-07	05:31	Stolen Vehicle	3500	BL	NEWTON	PL	1B
05-Nov-07	21:10	Stolen Vehicle		BL	35TH	ST	1B
19-Nov-07	14:27	Theft - From Auto	4000	BL	35TH	ST	1B
16-Nov-07	09:05	Assault - Aggravated	4500	BL	29TH	ST	2A
18-Nov-07	23:29	Assault - Simple	2700	BL	QUEENS CHAPEL	RD	2A
08-Nov-07	18:36	Assault - Simple	2700	BL	QUEENS CHAPEL	RD	2A
20-Nov-07	08:31	B & E - Commercial	2300	BL	VARNUM	ST	2A
20-Nov-07	14:57	B & E - Residential	4000	BL	30TH	ST	2A
24-Nov-07	00:00	Robbery - Citizen	4600	BL	RUSSELL	AV	2A
09-Nov-07	19:06	Robbery - Citizen	2700	BL	UPSHUR	ST	2A
09-Nov-07	19:59	Robbery - Citizen	2700	BL	UPSHUR	ST	2A
29-Nov-07	08:22	Stolen Vehicle	4600	BL	27TH	ST	2A
11-Nov-07	12:58	Stolen Vehicle	4300	BL	28TH	PL	2A
28-Nov-07	19:56	Theft - Vehicle Tags	4600	BL	30TH	ST	2A
12-Nov-07	22:45	Theft - Vehicle Tags	4200	BL	32ND	ST	2A
17-Nov-07	02:21	Vandalism	4500	BL	29TH	ST	2A
03-Nov-07	08:05	Vandalism to Auto	4300	BL	KAYWOOD	DR	2A
17-Nov-07	15:40	Robbery - Citizen		BL	32ND	ST	2B
21-Nov-07	23:25	Stolen Vehicle	4000	BL	32ND	ST	2B

29-Nov-07	20:30	Theft - Vehicle Tags	3200	BL	SHEPHERD	ST	2B
29-Nov-07	22:43	Theft - Vehicle Tags	3000	BL	BUNKER HILL	RD	2B
28-Nov-07	07:59	Theft - Vehicle Tags	3200	BL	RHODE ISLAND	AV	2B
25-Nov-07	18:36	Theft < 500	3200	BL	RHODE ISLAND	AV	2B
06-Nov-07	17:00	Theft < 500	4500	BL	31ST	ST	2B
25-Nov-07	12:36	Theft < 500	4500	BL	EASTERN	AV	2B
11-Nov-07	16:20	Theft < 500	4500	BL	EASTERN	AV	2B
23-Nov-07	10:30	Theft > 500	4000	BL	34TH	ST	2B
02-Nov-07	13:40	Theft > 500	2700	BL	QUEENS CHAPEL	RD	2B
03-Nov-07	21:45	Vandalism to Auto	2700	BL	UPSHUR	ST	2B
08-Nov-07	12:30	Vandalism to Auto	3200	BL	RHODE ISLAND	AV	2B

Selected Crimes – December 2007

Date	Time	Offense	Location				TPA
12/9/2007	17:45	Assault - Aggravated	4500	BL	29TH	ST	1A
12/26/2007	22:52	Robbery - Citizen	3600	BL	EASTERN	AV	1A
12/20/2007	22:38	Robbery - Citizen	3200	BL	CHILLUM	RD	1A
12/31/2007	11:30	Stolen Vehicle	2900	BL	ALLISON	ST	1A
12/29/2007	20:28	Stolen Vehicle	3300	BL	BUCHANAN	ST	1A
12/25/2007	21:54	Stolen Vehicle			RAINIER	AV	1A
12/24/2007	04:30	Stolen Vehicle	3200	BL	QUEENS CHAPEL	RD	1A
12/21/2007	12:12	Stolen Vehicle	3300	BL	BUCHANAN	ST	1A
12/20/2007	23:00	Stolen Vehicle	3300	BL	CHILLUM	RD	1A
12/8/2007	10:05	Stolen Vehicle	3100	BL	QUEENS CHAPEL	RD	1A
12/7/2007	07:22	Stolen Vehicle	3110	BL	WINDOM	ST	1A
12/7/2007	07:37	Stolen Vehicle	2700	BL	WEBSTER	ST	1A
12/5/2007	07:46	Stolen Vehicle	3800	BL	34TH	ST	1A
12/4/2007	10:18	Stolen Vehicle	3200	BL	QUEENSTOWN	DR	1A
12/12/2007	07:12	Theft - From Auto	4200	BL	RUSSELL	AV	1A
12/13/2007	12:47	Theft - Vehicle Tags	3100	BL	QUEENS CHAPEL	RD	1A
12/23/2007	11:40	Theft < 500	4500	BL	29TH	ST	1A
12/11/2007	14:22	Theft < 500	3100	BL	QUEENS CHAPEL	RD	1A
12/13/2007	15:39	Theft > 500	3200	BL	PERRY	ST	1A
12/21/2007	10:07	Vandalism to Auto	3300	BL	BUCHANAN	ST	1A
12/8/2007	09:45	Vandalism to Auto	3000	BL	QUEENS CHAPEL	RD	1A
12/21/2007	12:37	Stolen Vehicle	3300	BL	RHODE ISLAND	AV	1B
12/14/2007	16:00	Stolen Vehicle	3500	BL	37TH	ST	1B
12/28/2007	09:14	Theft - From Auto	3200	BL	PERRY	ST	1B
12/12/2007	09:47	Vandalism to Auto	3600	BL	OAK	LN	1B
12/6/2007	17:56	Vandalism to Auto	3300	BL	OTIS	ST	1B
12/27/2007	19:00	B & E - Residential	2700	BL	ARUNDEL	RD	2A
12/29/2007	18:49	Robbery - Citizen			29TH	ST	2A
12/28/2007	05:35	Stolen Vehicle	2500	BL	ARUNDEL	RD	2A
12/6/2007	09:40	Stolen Vehicle	4200	BL	KAYWOOD	DR	2A
12/3/2007	19:00	Theft - Vehicle Tags	2900	BL	ALLISON	ST	2A
12/19/2007	23:04	Vandalism	4300	BL	29TH	ST	2A
12/16/2007	20:34	Vandalism to Auto			ARUNDEL	RD	2A

12/12/2007	01:13	Vandalism to Auto	4300	BL	KAYWOOD	DR	2A
12/24/2007	08:46	Stolen Vehicle	4210	BL	31ST	ST	2B
12/11/2007	19:31	Theft - Vehicle Tags	4100	BL	29TH	ST	2B
12/27/2007	12:45	Theft < 500	3800	BL	33RD	ST	2B
12/26/2007	23:50	Vandalism	2700	BL	WEBSTER	ST	2B
12/1/2007	00:38	Vandalism			EASTERN	AV	2B
12/24/2007	21:20	Vandalism to Auto	3200	BL	SHEPHERD	ST	2B
12/21/2007	06:00	Vandalism to Auto	3200	BL	QUEENS CHAPEL	RD	2B
12/20/2007	20:00	Vandalism to Auto	3300	BL	RHODE ISLAND	AV	2B
12/9/2007	12:20	Vandalism to Auto	3300	BL	BUNKER HILL	RD	2B

Mount Rainier Cable Television *MRTV Channel 71*

"CitiScape", a new show from *MRTV* has been created! **CitiScape** will feature updates from City Departments and services. **CitiScape** will also bring you highlights, interviews, and updates from city committees and youth groups. The first edition of **CitiScape** hosted by City Manager Jeannelle Wallace features the Department of Public Works with Director Luther Smith, and Administrative Assistant Ruth Sandy. Watch Channel 71 Bulletin for air times and dates.

Be sure to watch **On Air with the Mayor** (now aired live and you can call in question and comments during the show), **MRTV News "News You Can Use"**, **CitiScape**, in addition to the **City Council Meetings** and **Work Sessions**.

MRTV needs residents to be volunteer producers, on-camera talent, digital video editors, broadcast audio/video technical advisors and production crews for the above shows. Call *MRTV* at **301-985-6585 ext. 28** or email us at gcarbonell@mountrainiermd.org for details.

MRTV Program Schedule

Monday – Friday, 4pm, (see Channel 71 Bulletin Program Schedule Guide)
 1st Tuesday of each month, 7pm Live cablecast of City Council Meetings
 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7pm-Live cablecast of City Council Work Sessions
 Program schedule and shows subject to change without notice

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.

When: Saturday, February 23 from 12 noon to 2 pm
Where: Joe's Movement Emporium
3309 Bunker Hill Road
Mt. Rainier, MD 20712

Grant Opportunity for Museums, Historic Attractions, Businesses and non-profit organizations

Looking for an opportunity to increase the cultural heritage tourism potential in your area? Are you looking for funds to do an oral history project, offer arts program? Or are you trying to save an old building in your area; looking to start a business that would attract visitors? Do you need funds to help start a new program or sustain existing programs at your museum, cultural center, historic or natural site? If so, please read the following:

Applications for funding from the **Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) FY 2009** are now available on line for all qualified applicants. MHAA funding supports both capital and non-capital programs/projects that enhances/supports/promotes heritage and cultural tourism activities in ATHA's 14 member communities. Eligible applicants include non-profit organizations, community groups, businesses and government agencies. Applicants can apply for up to \$50, 000 for non-capital project grants and up to \$100,000 for capital project grants. FYI, in order to be eligible for a Capital Grant the project must be located in a Target Investment Zone (Laurel, Gateway Arts District, Berwyn Heights, College Park, Greenbelt, and Riverdale Park).

The MHAA grants are for projects slated to begin in FY 2009 (begins July 1, 2008). **Applicants wishing to apply for an MHAA grant must file an "Intent to Apply" form with ATHA by February 27, with the full application due on March 14, 2008. Please note that a 1:1 match is required for all grants. All applications will be reviewed by a committee representing the preservation, tourism and business sectors. The Intent to Apply form is attached.**

The full application for the project grants can be found on MHAA's website at www.marylandhistoricaltrust.net under "Forms and Documents." Please note that all applications must be submitted to ATHA, Inc for approval before submission to MHAA. MHAA will not accept independent applications. The completed application packages for those who have filed the "Intent to Apply" form will be due to the ATHA on March 15th. The MHAA awards for fiscal year 2009 will be announced in May 2008.

We look forward to receiving proposals. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us by email www.anacostiatrails.org or at 301. 887.0777.

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

We're open, and we're operating - Ready, willing and able to get your bike ready for another season of cycling!

After a winter's worth of sitting, your wheels are likely looking for a little maintenance: Some air in the tires, a squirt or two of lubricant on the chain, or maybe an adjustment on the brakes. Whatever gets you going, we're here to, well... get you GOING!

The MRBC is located in the alley right behind City Hall. You can enter the alley from Perry Street, or right off of Rhode Island Avenue between the terminal building and the library. As of this writing, our hours are Saturdays, 1030a-4pm; Sundays, 2-5pm; Mondays, 630-9pm; and Wednesdays, 6-9pm. More weekday/night hours will be available, and will be posted on our NEW and REVISED web site coming soon to a browser near you. In the meantime, point said browser to our Yahoo Groups list, [<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mrbikecoop/>], and sign up to receive messages and updates. Our phone is 301-779-1748, and if no one answers you can contact volunteer board member John Campanile, 240-461-4560, with your questions.

Energy Assistance Program

The Prince George's County Department of Social Services will hold 3 (three) energy assistance programs at county libraries. The informational sessions will feature:

- A. Information about qualification for Energy Assistance Programs as well as receive application forms.
- B. Information on how to save on energy costs.
- C. Free energy efficient light bulbs will be distributed.

Programs are as follows:

Monday, January 28, 2008
Glenarden Library - 5:30 to 7:00 PM
8724 Glenarden Pkwy, Glenarden, MD 20706

Wednesday, January 30, 2008
Hillcrest Heights Library - 5:30 to 7:00 PM
2398 Iverson St., Temple Hills, MD 20748

Tuesday, February 5, 2008
Oxon Hill Library --6:00 to 7:30 PM
6200 Oxon Hill Rd.
Oxon Hill, MD 20745

Churches and non-profits are asked to please post this information in your bulletins and in your newsletters. Please help spread the word.

For more information contact Ginny Beauchamp and Latonya Brown, Co-Chairs Prince George's County Department of Social Services Faith Based Community Outreach Initiative VBeauchamp@dh.state.md.us or LBrown7@dh.state.md.us. Or you may call 301-909-6320 or 301-909-6363

Maryland's Presidential Primary

Make a difference! Actively participate in the February 12 primary! Your vote has always counted even when you did not show up at the polls to cast it! Parents all schools are closed February 12 for the primary election. This is a good opportunity for your child to get in some of his/her community service hours. You can bring them to the school with you when you come to vote. Polls are opened from 7:00am until 8:00pm. If you have never worked a poll during an election, here is your opportunity, and an opportunity to show your child how to exercise his/her right to vote. Also remember ONLY Democrats and Republicans are allowed to vote in the primary. Wish to verify that you are registered to vote? Go to this website:

http://mdelections.umbc.edu/voter_registration/v2/vote_prod.php.

FY 2009 Mount Rainier Budget Calendar

DATE	EVENT
Tuesday, February 27, 2008	Notification of any proposed changes to Variable Tax Rate due to State ** FY 08 budget amendments discussion
Monday, March 10, 2008	City Manager submits proposed FY 2009 budget to Mayor and Council and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for FY 2009, 2010, and 2011
Tuesday, March 18, 2008	Work Session on FY 2009 Budget and Capital Improvement Plans
Thursday, March 20, 2008	Notice in <i>Port Towns Gazette</i> about budget presentations, April 1, April 15 and May 6.
Tuesday, April 1, 2008	Presentation and public comment, proposed FY 2008 budget for all City programs other than police, parking enforcement, public works, and code enforcement. (Summary available)

Thursday, April 3, 2008	Notice in <i>Port Towns Gazette</i> about budget presentations April 15, May 6.
Tuesday, April 15, 2008	Special meeting before work session. Presentation and public comment, proposed FY 2008 budget for police department and parking enforcement.
Thursday, April 24, 2008	Deadline for May 1, notice to <i>Port Towns Gazette</i> about constant yield tax rate and public hearing May 20, 2008
Thursday, May 1, 2008	Notice in <i>Port Towns Gazette</i> about budget presentations, May 6, 2008 and display ad on constant yield tax rate, and variable tax rate; public hearing on entire budget, Tuesday, May 20, 2008.
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

Yard Waste Removal Reminder

Yard waste will be collected on the 2nd Monday of every month and it will be by appointments only, this will continue for January and February. Please call 301 985 6558 and select option 2 to be placed on the list.

*Listed hereunder is the scheduled pick up dates for trash in the City of Mt. Rainier,
For February and March 2008*

DATE	PARTICULARS	DATE	PARTICULARS
February 1	Recyclables Pick Up	March 3	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up
February 4	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558)	March 5	Regular Trash Pick Up
February 6	Regular Trash Pick Up	March 7	Recyclables Pick Up
February 8	Recyclables Pick Up	March 10	Yard Waste Pick Up
February 11	Yard Waste Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558)	March 12	Regular Trash Pick Up
February 13	Regular Trash Pick Up	March 14	Recyclables Pick Up
February 15	Recyclables Pick Up	March 17	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pickup
February 18	<i>Presidents Day (City Hall and Public Works Closed)</i>	March 19	Regular Trash Pick Up
February 19	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558)	March 21	Recyclables Pick Up
February 20	Regular Trash Pick Up	March 24	Yard Waste Pick Up
February 22	Recyclables Pick Up	March 26	Regular Trash Pick Up
February 27	Regular Trash Pick Up	March 28	Recyclables Pick Up
February 29	Recyclables Pick Up	March 31	Yard Waste 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

