



The Message

Issue 273

December 2009

****Public Hearing****

Property Acquisition

**Thursday, December 03, 2009
Council Chambers, Upper Level
7:00 pm**

The Mayor and Council will take public comment on acquisition of property at 3200 Rhode Island Avenue (funeral home), 3701 Eastern Avenue and 3405 Rhode Island Avenue (Eastern Star bldg.)

2010 Census to Begin

WARNING: 2010 Census Cautions from the Better Business Bureau
Be Cautious About Giving Info to Census

With the U.S. Census process beginning, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) advises people to be cooperative, but cautious, so as not to become a victim of fraud or identity theft.

The first phase of the 2010 U.S. Census is under way as workers have begun verifying the addresses of households across the country. Eventually, more than 140,000 U.S. Census workers will count every person in the United States and will gather information about every person living at each address including name, age, gender, race, and other relevant data.

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The big question is - how do you tell the difference between a U.S. Census

****If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag, and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. However, you should never invite anyone you don't know into your home.**

**** Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information. Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U.S. Census.**

REMEMBER, NO MATTER WHAT THEY ASK, YOU REALLY ONLY NEED TO TELL THEM HOW MANY PEOPLE LIVE AT YOUR ADDRESS.

While the Census Bureau might ask for basic financial information, such as a salary range, **YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER ANYTHING AT ALL ABOUT YOUR FINANCIAL SITUATION.** The Census Bureau will not ask for Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers, nor will employees solicit donations. Any one asking for that information is NOT with the Census Bureau.

MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL E. SCOTT, CHIEF OF POLICE

Speed Cameras

Maryland law (Transportation Article, § 21-809) allows municipalities to enact speed monitoring system enforcement programs commonly referred to as “speed cameras.” Speeding is a major cause of accidents, deaths, and injuries. Studies show that speed cameras significantly reduce the number of speeding violations and crashes. Traditional speed enforcement forces police officers to follow and stop a violator in order to cite the violator, but traffic volume and safety considerations mean that police officers can only apprehend a fraction of the violators, thereby putting motorists and pedestrians at risk. Speed cameras provide safe and consistent enforcement at a reasonable cost, while allowing police officers to focus on other enforcement efforts. The City of Mount Rainier believes that use of speed cameras in school zones within the City will help prevent speeding, protect our children as they come and go from school, and benefit the public’s health, safety, and welfare.

The following school zone areas have been designated by the City for speed camera enforcement effective December 1, 2009:

Mount Rainier Elementary School

Thomas Stone Elementary School

Christian Family Montessori School

On or after December 2nd, 2009 a speed camera will be put in place in front of Thomas Stone Elementary School in the 4500 block of 34th Street. This camera will assist the police department in enforcing the 25 mph speed limit eastbound on 34th Street between Arundel Road and Varnum Street. The camera will be operational from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m. Monday through Friday. Until January 4th, 2010 violations recorded by this camera will result in the violator receiving a warning notice. Effective January 4th, 2010 violations recorded by this camera will result in the violator receiving a notice of violation.

On or after January 4th, 2010 a speed camera will be put in place in front of the Christian Family Montessori School (St. James Church) located 3628 Rhode Island Avenue. This camera will assist the police department in enforcing the 25 mph speed limit southbound on Rhode Island Avenue between 38th Street and 34th Street. The camera will be operational from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m. Monday through Friday. Effective January 4th, 2010 violations recorded by this camera will result in the violator receiving a notice of violation.

On or after January 4th, 2010 a speed camera will be put in place in the 3000 block of Queens Chapel Road. This camera will assist the police department in enforcing the 35 mph speed limit northbound on Queens Chapel Road between 25th Street and Buchanan Street. The camera will be in operation from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m. Monday through Friday. Effective January 4th, 2010 violations recorded by this camera will result in the violator receiving a notice of violation.

Safe Shopping Tips

Crime peaks during the holiday season, so it's important that you learn how to keep yourselves and your loved ones out of harm's way. Criminals look for the easiest opportunity when deciding where and when to commit a crime. Shoppers, particularly women, can be vulnerable to crimes such as theft, robbery and assault. The following crime prevention tips and recommendations will help you make your holiday shopping a safe and happy experience.

- Be alert and aware of your surroundings at all times. Knowing what is around you can keep you from being surprised, and it also allows you time to react if something appears suspicious.
- Display confidence. Criminals tend to choose a victim who looks like an easy target. That choice is partially based on their perception about your ability to react to an attack. If you walk with purpose, scan the area around you, and make casual eye contact with others around you, you are displaying confidence.
- Trust your instincts. Your body will tell you when someone or some thing is suspicious. If you have an intuitive feeling that something is wrong, do not second-guess yourself. React immediately and take action to reduce your risk.
- Keep a close eye on your children while shopping. Teach your children to go to a store clerk or security guard if they ever get separated from you in a store or mall. Make sure they know their first and last name so they can tell someone who they are. It's best to keep children under four in a stroller. Children in shopping carts should be properly belted and seated in the child carrier area at all times —never let your child stand in or push a shopping cart. If possible, leave your children with a baby-sitter while you are shopping. For holiday shopping, consider making arrangements with family or friends/neighbors, and take turns baby-sitting.
- Carry only what you need. Extra cash, credit cards, checks, jewelry and other items should be left at home. If it is necessary to carry a purse, keep it in front of you and close to your body. Men should keep wallets out of back pockets where they can be easily stolen. Carry wallets in a front coat or pants pocket, or use a money clip as an alternative.
- Don't be overburdened with packages. Carrying several shopping bags makes you look vulnerable. Request a store to hold your merchandise until you're finished shopping. If the store does not offer that service, put excess packages in the trunk of your car before you continue shopping.
- Shop with others. The chance of being victimized drops off dramatically when with you are with a companion. If there are three or more people together, the chance of being targeted for crime is 90% less than when you're alone.
- Ask for an escort. Most retailers and shopping malls have private security personnel on duty, especially during the holidays. Ask them for an escort to your vehicle if you are uncomfortable venturing into the parking lot alone.
- Be prepared. Have your keys in hand when walking to your vehicle. The keys can be used as a defensive weapon and you will not waste time trying to find them while standing outside your vehicle. Carry a whistle or a personal alarm. These devices can alert security personnel and other persons around you that something is wrong.
- Plan ahead. Choose parking areas where lighting is good and activity is high. Keep valuables inside your car out of view, preferably in the trunk or other secure compartment. Make sure you lock your car, and use a Club or other anti-theft device. Most thefts from auto occur on cars that are left unlocked.

Holiday Safety Tips

Christmas Trees

When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant." Although this label is not a guarantee that the tree won't catch fire, it does indicate that the tree will resist burning and should extinguish quickly.

When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green, needles are hard to pull from their branches and needles do not break when bent between your fingers. The cut base of the tree's trunk is sticky with resin, and when tapped on the ground, the fresh tree should not lose many needles. Wholesale Christmas tree growers generally harvest their mass-market trees in mid to late October. If you buy a tree from your local garden center (Lowe's, Home Depot), nursery store, high volume discount store or from a lot operated by a service club, you are most likely getting a tree that can be as much as two months old before it gets to your home. You should ask the seller when his/her trees were cut and shop around for the freshest cut tree possible. Older cut trees are dryer and are more susceptible to catching fire than a fresh cut tree. They will also leave fewer needles in your carpet to be vacuumed up after the holidays!

When setting up a tree at home, place it at least three feet away from fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, heating vents and other sources of heat. Be sure to select a tree stand that holds at least one gallon of water and keep the stand filled. As a general rule, tree stands should provide one quart of water per inch of stem diameter. The average 6-foot tree has a 4-inch diameter trunk and can consume as much as 4 quarts or 1 gallon of water a day. Clean water is all that is needed to keep the tree fresh. Do not use additives in the water, such as floral preservatives, molasses, sugar, bleach, soft drinks, or aspirin. When selecting a location for the tree, try to avoid heavy traffic areas and do not block doorways. *HINT:* before bringing the tree into the house, cut ½" to 1" off the bottom of the trunk before putting it in its stand, then use *hot* water when to fill the stand for the first time. The hot water will help dissolve any sealing pitch and open up restrictions so the tree can better "drink" water and transpire that water to its branches and leaves.

Decorative Lighting

Indoors or outdoors, use only those lights that have been tested for safety and are UL approved. Check each set of lights, old or new, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or loose connections, and throw out damaged sets.

Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord. Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights and a person could be electrocuted by touching a branch.

Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house walls, or other firm supports. Do not use staples or nails to hang strings of lights. Use hooks or clips designed for hanging light strings.

Turn off lights when you leave the house or go to bed.

For added electric shock protection, plug outdoor electric lights and decorations to a protected ground fault circuit (GFCI). Portable outdoor GFCIs can be purchased where electrical supplies are sold.

Never use lighted candles on a tree or near evergreens. Always place candles where they will not be knocked down or where small children can reach them.

Decorations

If you have small children, take special care to avoid decorations that are breakable. Keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of pets and small children to prevent them from swallowing or inhaling them. Avoid tree trimmings that resemble food that may tempt a child or your pets.

Use only non-combustible or flame resistant materials to trim a tree. Choose tinsel or artificial icicles of plastic or non-leaded metals. Leaded materials are hazardous if ingested.

Follow container directions carefully when using snow sprays to avoid lung irritation.

Wear gloves to avoid eye and skin irritation while decorating with spun glass.

Do not burn wrapping papers in the fireplace. A flash fire could result as wrapping paper burns suddenly and intensely. If you plan to hang stockings over your fireplace, do not use the fireplace for fires.

OCTOBER 2009 SELECTED OFFENSES BY TEAM POLICING AREA

Date	Offense	Location				TPA
13-Oct-09	B & E - Residential	4100	BL	RUSSELL	AV	2A
13-Oct-09	B & E - Residential	4100	BL	RUSSELL	AV	2A
13-Oct-09	B & E - Residential	4300	BL	28TH	PL	2A
13-Oct-09	B & E - Residential	4300	BL	28TH	PL	2A
13-Oct-09	B & E - Residential	4300	BL	28TH	PL	2A
15-Oct-09	B & E - Residential	4300	BL	EASTERN	AV	2A
19-Oct-09	B & E - Residential	4100	BL	RUSSELL	AV	2A
23-Oct-09	Robbery - Citizen	2700	BL	WEBSTER	ST	2A
29-Oct-09	Robbery - Commercial	3800	BL	34TH	ST	2B
02-Oct-09	Stolen Vehicle	3800	BL	33RD	ST	2B
02-Oct-09	Stolen Vehicle	4600	BL	30TH	ST	2A
14-Oct-09	Stolen Vehicle	4300	BL	RUSSELL	AV	2A
15-Oct-09	Stolen Vehicle	2900	BL	TAYLOR	ST	2B
15-Oct-09	Stolen Vehicle	3600	BL	36TH	ST	1B
20-Oct-09	Stolen Vehicle	3500	BL	NEWTON	PL	1B
25-Oct-09	Stolen Vehicle	4600	BL	25TH	ST	2A
26-Oct-09	Stolen Vehicle	3100	BL	QUEENS CHAPEL	RD	1A
27-Oct-09	Stolen Vehicle	4600	BL	29TH	ST	2A
03-Oct-09	Theft - From Auto	4500	BL	EASTERN	AV	2A
10-Oct-09	Theft - From Auto	4400	BL	30TH	ST	2A
16-Oct-09	Theft - From Auto	3100	BL	VARNUM	ST	2A
19-Oct-09	Theft - From Auto	3000	BL	TAYLOR	ST	2A
19-Oct-09	Theft - From Auto	4000	BL	31ST	ST	2B
22-Oct-09	Theft - From Auto	3200	BL	CHILLUM	RD	1A
30-Oct-09	Theft - From Auto	4500	BL	EASTERN	AV	2A
31-Oct-09	Theft - From Auto	3200	BL	QUEENSTOWN	DR	1A
27-Oct-09	Theft - Vehicle Tags	3300	BL	BUCHANAN	ST	1A
31-Oct-09	Theft - Vehicle Tags	3100	BL	QUEENS CHAPEL	RD	1A
01-Oct-09	Theft < 500	4000	BL	34TH	ST	1A
18-Oct-09	Theft < 500	3200	BL	SHEPHERD	ST	2B
23-Oct-09	Theft < 500	4300	BL	31ST	ST	1A
12-Oct-09	Vandalism	3800	BL	34TH	ST	2B
13-Oct-09	Vandalism		BL	OTIS	ST	1B
15-Oct-09	Vandalism	3200	BL	QUEENS CHAPEL	RD	1A
06-Oct-09	Vandalism to Auto	2300	BL	VARNUM	ST	2A
06-Oct-09	Vandalism to Auto	4700	BL	31ST	PL	1A

Differences Between a Cold, Swine Flu and Seasonal Flu

SYMPTOM	COLD	SWINE FLU	SEASONAL FLU
FEVER	Fever is rare with a cold.	Fever is usually present with H1N1 in up to 80% of all flue cases. A temperature of 101°	Fever is common with the seasonal flu.
COUGHING	A hacking, productive (mucus-producing) cough is often present with a cold.	A non-productive (non-mucus producing) cough is usually present with H1N1 (sometimes referred to as dry cough).	A dry and hacking cough is often present with the seasonal flu.
ACHES	Slight body aches and pains can be part of a cold.	Severe aches and pains are common with H1N1.	Moderate body aches are common with the seasonal flu.
STUFFY NOSE	Stuffy nose is commonly present with a cold and typically resolves spontaneously within a week.	Stuffy nose is not commonly present with H1N1.	A runny nose is commonly present with the seasonal flu.
CHILLS	Chills are uncommon with a cold.	60% of people who have H1N1 experience chills .	Chills are mild to moderate with the seasonal flu.
TIREDFNESS	Tiredness is fairly mild with a cold.	Tiredness is moderate to severe with H1N1.	Tiredness is moderate and more likely referred to as a lack of energy with the seasonal flu.
SNEEZING	Sneezing is commonly present with a cold	Sneezing is not common with H1N1.	Sneezing is commonly present with the seasonal flu.
SUDDEN SYMPTOMS	Cold symptoms tend to develop over a few days .	H1N1 has a rapid onset within 3-6 hours. H1N1 hits hard and includes sudden symptoms like high fever, aches and pains. Symptoms usually last 4-7 days, depending on the individual. Diarrhea is common.	Symptoms tend to develop over a few days and include flushed face, loss of appetite, dizziness and/or vomiting/nausea. Symptoms usually last 4-7 days, depending on the individual. Diarrhea is common.

HEADACHE	A headache is fairly uncommon with a cold.	A headache is very common with H1N1 and present in 80% of cases.	A headache is fairly common with the seasonal flu.
SORE THROAT	Sore throat is commonly present with a cold.	Sore throat is not commonly present with H1N1.	Sore throat is commonly present with the seasonal flu.
CHEST DISCOMFORT	Chest discomfort is mild to moderate with a cold.	Chest discomfort is often severe with H1N1.	Chest discomfort is moderate with the seasonal flu. <i>If it turns severe seek medical attention immediately!</i>
PREVENTION TIPS:			
✓Cough & sneeze into your elbow.			
✓Wash your hands with soap and warm water for a minimum of 15-20 seconds.			
✓Use hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.			
✓Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth without washing or using hand sanitizer first.			
✓Stay home if you are sick to avoid contaminating your co-workers.			

Tamiflu does not kill the H1N1 virus rather it prevents it from further proliferation until the virus limits itself in about 1-2 weeks (its natural cycle). H1N1, like other Influenza A viruses, only infects the upper respiratory tract and proliferates (only) there. The only portals of entry are the nostrils and mouth/throat. In a global epidemic of this nature, it's almost impossible not coming into contact with H1N1 in spite of all precautions. Contact with H1N1 is not so much of a problem as is proliferation.

While you are still healthy and not showing any symptoms of H1N1 infection, in order to prevent proliferation, aggravation of symptoms and development of secondary infections, some very simple steps - not fully highlighted in most official communications - can be practiced (instead of focusing on how to stock N95 or Tamiflu):

1. Frequent hand-washing (well highlighted in all official communications).
2. "Hands-off-the-face" approach. Resist all temptations to touch any part of face (unless you want to eat, bathe or slap).
3. Gargle twice a day with warm salt water (use Listerine if you don't trust salt). H1N1 takes 2-3 days after initial infection in the throat/nasal cavity to proliferate and show characteristic symptoms. Simple gargling prevents proliferation. In a way, gargling with salt water has the same effect on a healthy individual that Tamiflu has on an infected one. Don't underestimate this simple, inexpensive and powerful preventative method.
4. Similar to #3 above, clean your nostrils at least once every day with warm salt water. Blowing the nose hard once a day and swabbing both nostrils with cotton buds dipped in warm salt water is very effective in bringing down viral population.
5. Boost your natural immunity with foods that are rich in Vitamin C (Amla and other citrus fruits). If you have to supplement with Vitamin C tablets, make sure that it also has Zinc to boost absorption.
6. Drink as much of warm liquids as you can. Drinking warm liquids has the same effect as gargling, but in the reverse direction. They wash off proliferating viruses from the throat into the stomach where they cannot survive, proliferate or do any harm.



Mount Rainier Police Department



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MRTV

Mount Rainier Television
Comcast Channel 71 Verizon Channel 21

What you need to know...What you want to know... Watch **MRTV** for the latest in City News, Information, and Updates!

MRTV now provides a 24/7 programming schedule. Watch for the daily Program Guide for a list shows and times. This month watch for the following:

-  **On Air with the Mayor** - hosted by **Mayor Malinda Miles**. "2010 Census"
-  **CitiScape** – hosted by **City Manager Jeannelle Wallace**, City Department Updates from **City Hall, the Police Department, Public Works** and more.
-  **LIVE Programs** – 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month, **City Council Meetings** and **Work Sessions** – 7pm

MRTV is looking for video and media production college students to volunteer for credit or experience. We need producers, writers, researchers, reporters, Final Cut Pro editors, and studio personnel.

Monthly City Council Meetings and Work Sessions are available on the City's website:
www.mountrainiermd.org

MRTV comments, suggestions and show ideas: mrtvchannel71@yahoo.com or call 301-985-6585 ext. 28 voice mail, Graciela Carbonell, Department Director

Mount Rainier Community Craft Sale

Join us as we mark 15 years of our own creative energy and local economy!

When: Saturday December 5th, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Where: Joe's Movement Emporium
3309 Bunker Hill Road
Mount Rainier, MD 20712

Our beautifully decorated craft sale is unique, diverse and multi-generational. Catch up with old friends you haven't seen for awhile or meet new folks while eating great food at the Community Cafe. Relax and listen to live music!!

What's for sale?

Textiles, pottery, quilting, jewelry, handmade cards, books and soaps, photographs, hand painted ornaments, local artist's CDs and more.

Back by popular demand, Little Friends for Peace and the Girl Scouts!!!

As usual, bring your kids. There will be crafts for them to make for a small fee.
Cafe foods include home baked goods, soups, salads, lasagna and more.

Gateway Arts District Fine Art & Craft Holiday Sale

Saturday, December 12, 2009

2:00-6:00pm (and extended hours by select venues)

Multiple Locations along the Route 1/ Rhode Island Avenue Corridor

Maps available!

Mount Rainier, Brentwood, North Brentwood, Hyattsville

For more info contact Gateway CDC, 301-864-3860, info@gateway-cdc.org or visit www.mygatewayarts.org

The GAD Fine Art & Craft Holiday Sale is Gateway CDC arts event with support provided by the Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, Arts & Cultural Heritage Division



2009 LEAF SCHEDULE - 2nd Pick Up Schedule

Area 1

**Rake Leaves Out Nov 29
for Collection Dec 1 –10**

3800-4600 30th Street
3800-4500 31st Street
3700 34th Street
3700 35th Street
3700 36th Street
3500—3800 37th Street
3400—3600 Eastern Ave.
3500 37th Street
3400-3700 Perry Street
Wells Avenue
Newton Street
Oak Lane
4000—4200 28th Street
4000—4500 29th Street
3400-3700 Shepherd Street
3400 Taylor Street
4000 37th Street

3400-3700 Bunker Hill Road
3400 Tilden Street
2800—3300 Shepherd Street
2800-3200 Taylor Street

Area 2

**Rake Leaves Out Dec 13
for Collection Dec 15-24**

3800-4500 32nd Street
3800-4100 33rd Street
3100-3300 Perry Street
2900-3300 Bunker Hill Road
Rainier Avenue
2800-3200 Upshur Street
3100-3200 Varnum Street
3100 Webster Street
3100 Windom Road
3100-3200 Arundel Road
3800-4500 34th Street
3800-4000 35th Street
4000 36th Street

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.

PUBLIC WORKS CALENDAR

December 2009 and January 2010 Schedule

Listed hereunder is the scheduled pick up dates for trash in the City of Mt. Rainier, for December 2009 and January 2010

In Observance of Christmas on Friday December 25th, City Hall and Public Works will be CLOSED.....All recyclables will not be picked up until Monday, December 28, 2009.

In Observance of New Years on Friday January 1st, City Hall and Public Works will be CLOSED.....All recyclables will not be picked up until the following Friday, January 8, 2010.

DATE	PARTICULARS	DATE	PARTICULARS
December 2	Regular Trash Pick Up	January 1	New Years Day (Public Works and City Hall Closed)
December 4	Recyclables Pick Up	January 4	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558)
December 7	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558)	January 6	Regular Trash Pick Up
December 9	Regular Trash Pick Up	January 8	Recyclables Pick Up
December 11	Recyclables Pick Up	January 11	Yard Waste Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558)
December 14	Yard Waste Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558)	January 13	Regular Trash Pick Up
December 16	Regular Trash Pick Up	January 15	Recyclables Pick Up
December 18	Recyclables Pick Up	January 18	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Public Works and City Hall Closed)
December 21	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558)	January 19	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558)
December 23	Regular Trash Pick Up	January 20	Regular Trash Pick Up
December 25	Christmas Day (Public Works and City Hall Closed)	January 22	Recyclables Pick Up
December 28	Recyclables Pick Up	January 27	Regular Trash Pick Up
December 30	Regular Trash Pick Up	January 29	Recyclables Pick Up

During the months December - March yard waste will be collected 2nd Monday and by appointment only. All bulk trash appointments must be made before 12 noon on the Friday preceding bulk pick up day