



The Message

Issue 284

December 2010 / January 2011

Happy Holidays



Speed Camera Relocation

On or after January 3rd, 2011 a speed camera will be put in place on Arundel Road between 32nd Street and 34th Street. This camera will assist the police department in enforcing the 25 mph speed limit east and westbound on Arundel Road. The camera will be operational from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m. Monday through Friday. Effective immediately violations recorded by this camera will result in the violator receiving a notice of violation.

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CITY ELECTION BOARD MEMBERS SOUGHT

The City seeks an election supervisor and judges for the upcoming city election on Monday May 2, 2011. The Mayor and Council appoint an elections board to manage the municipal elections. If you are interested in serving on this important board, please submit a letter stating your interest to the City Manager, Jeannelle Wallace, by February 15, 2011. The election supervisor receives \$300, Judges \$100 and election clerks \$75. The election supervisor is responsible for running the nomination process, as well as preparing for and supervising the election itself. The two election judges and two clerks assist the supervisor. All board members must be able to spend the entire day at the poll on May 2, as well as attend some training sessions. See City Charter Sec. 501 and Ordinance 1-116 for more details. An election process guidebook also is available from City Hall.

Mount Rainier's Centennial Year

We've had a great year celebrating our 100th anniversary and I think it is a good time to review all the activities of the year:

- January 18 New centennial banners hung throughout the City
- January 23 Kickoff celebration attended by Congressman Chris Van Hollen, Senator David Harrington, State Delegates Doyle Niemann and Jolene Ivey, Councilman Will Campos, Sheriff Michael Jackson and over 100 City residents
- February Historical web-site: www.historicalmountrainier.org
- March Centennial Souvenirs on Sale: bumper stickers, t-shirts, mugs, historical photographs, note card sets featuring pictures of Mount Rainier past and present [all still available at City Hall]
- April 9th Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the signing of the City Charter where we honored those residents who have lived in our City over 50 years
- April & May Historical Picture Exhibit at Fountain Framing
- May Suite Magazine featuring Mount Rainier
- May 1st Mount Rainier Historical Talk by Bryan Knedler
- May 10th Ceremonial meeting at Eastern Star Building commemorating 100th anniversary of first Council meeting and honoring former Council members and Mayors
- May 17th Publication of our 100th Anniversary History: Centennial of A Streetcar Suburb written by Councilman Bryan Knedler
- Jun – Oct Farmer's Market Comes Back!!
- Oct 17th Historical House Tour attended by over 150 people
- Dec 5th Mount Rainier Holiday Soiree
- Dec 13th Airing on cable TV the first of a series of interviews with long-time residents of Mount Rainier – The first interview featuring Jim Rice who has lived in our city over 75 years

It's been a very busy year. It's been fun to look back and next year we will refocus our energies on moving our city forward!

Council Highlights

November 3, 2010- Regular Meeting

Ordinance 5-2010 Amending Chapter 3B of the City Code to include a penalty for failure to register properties as vacant (Reconsideration of Adoption/ Final Adoption and Vote-approved 4-0)

Ordinance 6-2010 An ordinance establishing and approving a City Debt Policy (2nd Reading/Vote-approved 4-0)

Resoultion-13- 2010 – A resolution declaring that City owned property consisting of an inoperable tractor be disposed through public Auction (First Reading/Vote-approved 4-0)

November 19, 2010 – Work Session Meeting

Property located at 3411 Perry Street (First Reading/Vote-approved 5-0)

Public Hear and Comment on Civic Center (library/community center, Potts Hall, City Hall). Public Comment Purchase of 3411 Perry Street

Resolution- 15- 2010 A Resolution Approving the Civic Center Design for Library, Potts Hall and City Municipal Building (First Reading/Vote-approved 5-0)

Resolution 14-2010 A Resolution Authorizing the City of Mount Rainier to Purchase

Message from Chief Scott

New Law Changes Traffic Citation Trial Date Procedure

Maryland State Police are reminding motorists that if they receive a traffic citation on or after January 1, 2011, a new law requires the driver to request a trial date if they want one, instead of one being automatically assigned.

The new law gives drivers who receive a traffic citation three options:

- Pay the full amount of the preset fine;
- 2- Request a hearing regarding sentencing and disposition in lieu of a trial, (meaning you do not dispute the truth of the facts as alleged in the citation, but you wish to be heard regarding sentencing); or
- 3- Request a trial date at the date, time and place established by the District Court.

The law requires that a person who received a citation make one of these three choices and notify the District Court within 30 days. If not, the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration will be notified and may take action to suspend the person's driver's license.

Previously, persons issued a citation were automatically given a trial date. The law required them to either pay the fine by the trial date, or appear in court that day to answer to the charge. Often, people waited until the day before, or even the day of trial to pay the fine. This meant the police officer who issued the citation was already scheduled to appear in court and it was too late to notify him or her that they were not needed to appear. This created scheduling difficulties for police officers and often incurred overtime expenditures for police departments required to have police officers present in court, even though they were not needed.

House Bill 829 and Senate Bill 560 were passed in the 2010 Maryland General Assembly Session and will become law on January 1st. Supporters of the new law believe this will increase efficiency in both the courts and police departments across Maryland.

After You've Opened the Gifts

Burglars know that many households have new, and oftentimes expensive, items in their homes following the December holidays – especially items such as new computers and peripherals, stereo components, televisions, cameras and other electronic equipment. In too many cases, residents make it easy for

burglars to figure out which homes to target by putting boxes that identify their new gifts out with their other garbage or recyclables. Avoid becoming an easy target for post-holiday burglars by not leaving boxes for new electronics and other items out in plain view. Instead, break down any boxes you are throwing out, put them in garbage bags and place the bags inside a trash can. Most cardboard packing boxes can and should be recycled. They can be broken down, placed in garbage bags and set out for pick-up on recycling day (it is not a good idea to burn cardboard boxes in a fireplace or wood stove!). Styrofoam packing materials are not recyclable and should be disposed of with regular trash. In many cases, especially with computer equipment, you might consider keeping the boxes for storage, shipping or a future move. Some burglars like to look inside trash cans and recycle containers for evidence of holiday gifts, so if you see anyone suspicious please call Mount Rainier Police Communications at 301-985-6565/6566.

Winter Weather

It's that time of year when residents should be attuned to weather alerts that may affect where you park and how you travel, whether by car or by public transportation. It is important that when listening to weather reports and advisories you know the buzzwords and what they really mean.

- *Freezing rain* – rain that freezes when it hits the ground, creating a coating of ice on roads and walkways.
- *Hail* – rain that turns to ice while suspended and tossed in the air from violent updrafts in a thunderstorm.
- *Sleet* – rain that turns to ice pellets before reaching the ground.
- *Winter Weather Advisory* – cold, ice and snow are expected.
- *Winter Storm Watch* – severe winter weather such as heavy snow or ice is possible within a day or two.
- *Winter Storm Warning* – severe weather conditions have begun or are about to begin.
- *Blizzard Warning* – heavy snow and strong winds producing blinding snow (near zero visibility) and life threatening wind chills for three hours or longer.
- *Frost/freeze Warning* – below freezing temperatures are expected.

When weather conditions warrant the declaration of a snow emergency the City of Mount Rainier follows the District of Columbia, *not* Maryland or Prince George's County. Residents should be aware that when a winter weather advisory is announced the chances of a snow emergency being declared is a distinct possibility and you should tune in to news and weather reports for updated information. The Alert DC system is an excellent resource for obtaining emergency information including snow emergency declarations. By signing up for this service, you can receive emergency notifications in a variety of ways such as e-mail, cell phone text message, Blackberry or wireless PDA. You can sign up for the Alert DC service at the following web site: <https://textalert.ema.dc.gov/index.php?CCheck=1>.

The Mount Rainier Police Department will also notify residents of snow emergency declarations via our Nixle information network. Residents and business owners can sign up for Nixle notifications by visiting the Nixle web site at www.nixle.com, or by clicking the Nixle information box on the Chief's Blog at www.mrpdchief.blogspot.com.

The City has established the below listed streets as snow emergency routes. When a snow emergency is declared, parking along these streets is automatically prohibited for the duration of the snow emergency.

- 34th Street from Eastern Avenue to Arundel Road;

- Chillum Road from Arundel Road to the City boundary at Queens Chapel Road (MD Rt. 500);
- Rainier Avenue from 34th Street to Upshur Street;
- Upshur Street from Rainier Avenue to 28th Place;
- 28th Place from Upshur Street to Russell Avenue;
- Russell Avenue from 28th Place to Arundel Road;
- Varnum Street from Russell Avenue to Eastern Avenue;
- Arundel Road from Russell Avenue to 34th Street

Vehicles found parked on a snow emergency route after a snow emergency has been declared by the DC government are subject to a \$100 fine (City Code §13A-107) and to being impounded at the owner's risk and expense. Vehicles that become stalled on a snow emergency route, impede the flow of traffic, or interfere with snow removal operations are also subject to being impounded at the owner's risk and expense.



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**.
-  **CitiScope** – 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

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

For *MRTV* comments, suggestions and show ideas: mrtvchannel71@yahoo.com or call 301-985-6585

DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

The Mayor and Council are seeking applicants to appoint to the city's Design Review Board (DRB). The DRB was established in 1992 (by Resolution 14-92) to "(1) critique designs, develop designs, recommend guidelines, and propose legislation related to the existing built environment and construction projects that will enhance public safety and welfare or otherwise enhance the physical appearance of the community; (2) advise, upon request from the Mayor and Council or based on its own judgment, concerning design related issues including, but not limited to, fences, retaining walls, public plantings, construction proposals and regulations. The DRB, for instance, reviews requests for variances to the zoning standards and makes recommendations to the Mayor and Council on disposition of those requests. The DRB in the near future may also be asked to review existing zoning standards and make a proposal to the Mayor and Council on how to protect the historic architecture of our neighborhoods. The DRB consists of at least three but not more than five city residents, appointed by the Mayor and Council for a term of two years that is renewable. Please note that the DRB is a city board, and is separate from the Town Center Design Review Committee (TCDRC) which reviews

applications for exterior changes to properties in the downtown area of the city. If you are interested in serving on this board, please forward a resume to City Manager, Jeannelle Wallace, City Hall, One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, 20712. Or e-mail her at jwallace@mountrainiermd.org. There is currently one vacancy on the Design Review Board.

TREE COMMISSIONERS SOUGHT

Openings exist on the city's Tree Commission. The Commissioners review permits for trimming and removal of street trees and trees in the city-owned parks. They also help choose what trees to be planted in the available locations, plan Arbor Day events, and help raise money for tree purchases through grant writing. If you are interested in serving, please forward a resume to City Manager, Jeannelle Wallace, City Hall, One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, 20712. Or e-mail her at jwallace@mountrainiermd.org.

STATE INCOME TAX REMINDER

The City of Mount Rainier shares in the state income taxes paid by residents ONLY if you write in "Mount Rainier" as your municipality in the appropriate box on your state tax return. This does not increase your taxes; it assures that a share of your tax dollars will help fund city services like police, public works, etc. All of Kaywood and Queens Manor, as well as most of Queenstown are within the borders of Mount Rainier.

Free youth program

Beginning January 8, from 1-4PM at Mt. Rainier Christian Church, corner of 33rd St. and Bunker Hill Rd.

This yet-to-be-named program is for 12-17 year-olds, male and female, and will feature family-friendly video games, a pool table, foosball, and other activities. We will include tutoring, crafts, and a variety of positive, motivational, educational programming, including moral teaching that is inclusive to youth of all faiths. The first time they attend, youth must be accompanied by a parent or guardian to see our program and sign paperwork. Please be on the lookout on MRTV, information coming home from schools, and elsewhere for more about this program as time progresses. Please call Pastor Brian Adams at the church office at 301-864-3869 with questions or to let us know you are interested in attending. Hope to see you soon!

PARKING AVAILABLE

THE CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER HAS PARKING AVAILABLE ON THE BASS LOT LOCATED AT 3208 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE FOR \$25 PER MONTH FOR RESIDENTS, BUSINESS OWNERS AND THEIR EMPLOYEES.

PARKING PASSES CAN BE OBTAINED FROM CITY HALL.

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.

Christmas Tree Collection

Residents are asked to place all live Christmas trees curb side for pick up during the month of January on the following dates, 10th, 17th and 24th. Last day for live day pick up 1/31/11

PUBLIC WORKS CALENDAR

December 2010 and January 2011 Schedule

Listed hereunder is the scheduled pick up dates for trash in the City of Mt. Rainier, for December 2010 and January 2011.

| DATE | PARTICULARS | DATE | PARTICULARS |
|-------------|---|------------|--|
| December 1 | Regular Trash Pick Up | January 3 | Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) |
| December 3 | Recyclables Pick Up | January 5 | Regular Trash Pick Up |
| December 6 | Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) | January 7 | Recyclables Pick Up |
| December 8 | Regular Trash Pick Up | January 10 | Yard Waste Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) |
| December 10 | Recyclables Pick Up | January 12 | Regular Trash Pick Up |
| December 13 | Yard Waste Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) | January 14 | Recyclables Pick Up |
| December 15 | Regular Trash Pick Up | January 17 | Martin Luther King Jr. Day (City Hall and Public Works closed) |
| December 17 | Recyclables Pick Up | January 18 | Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) |
| December 20 | Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) | January 19 | Regular Trash Pick Up |
| December 22 | Regular Trash Pick Up | January 21 | Recyclables Pick Up |
| December 24 | (City Hall and Public Works closed) | January 26 | Regular Trash Pick Up |
| December 27 | Recyclables Pick Up | January 28 | Recyclables Pick Up |
| December 29 | Regular Trash Pick Up | | |
| December 31 | City Hall and Public Works closed Recycle collected 1/7/11 | | |

During the months December, January and February, yard waste will be collected on the 2nd Monday of every month and by appointments only. All bulk and yard waste appointments must be made before 12 noon on the Friday preceding the pickup day.

