



The Message

Issue 264

February 2009 Edition

A Message from the Governor

Our Fiscal Future

As we come together as a nation this week to renew America's promise, we did so with hope for a better and brighter tomorrow for our children and a keen awareness of the challenges that lie ahead. As Americans we have always progressed on the strength of our neighbors, and as our new President took his oath of office, we were reminded so vividly that we are all in this together.

Yesterday, we gathered to release the FY 2010 budget for the State of Maryland. The proposed budget closes a projected \$2 billion shortfall due the national recession and at the same time protects the progress we have made in improving public education, workforce investments, and making college more affordable.

These are not easy times, and here in Maryland we haven't been immune to the national recession. Our families are struggling. Our family-owned businesses are struggling. And just as our people have to find ways to do more with less, so too must those of us in government.

But at the same time we cannot abandon the important progress we've fought for over the last two years for our families, including the progress that led [Education Week](#) to rank our public school system #1 in America just a week ago. Nor are we willing to turn our back on our workforce and Maryland families who are struggling in this difficult economy to make ends meet.

While we were forced, by necessity, to craft a painfully lean budget, our proposal seeks to protect those priorities we share, containing modest increases in five key priority areas:

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- Fully funding of the Thornton Bridge to Excellence Plan, protecting our progress in **K-12 public education and school construction** by proposing a \$5.4 billion investment in K-12 education, and \$260.3 million for public school construction to get out children of temporary learning shacks and into state of the art classrooms.
- Providing a fourth straight year of zero percent increase for in-state college tuition, **making the dream of a college education affordable** for more Maryland families rather than fewer.
- Providing a **safety net for Maryland's working families** by including \$5 billion to support Medical Assistance benefits that ensure 700,000 Marylanders access to health care, increased funding and services at our One-Stop Career Centers, as well as a record \$90 million in available assistance to help low-income households pay their energy bills.

- Continuing our commitment to the **safety and security of Maryland's families** by including \$2.1 billion for public safety, contributing to a \$160 million increase over three years.
- Protecting our important progress made on **environmental protection** by including funding to protect our land, our water, and our air for future generations.

Throughout our great Revolutionary history, our greatest triumphs have always come at times when we've faced our greatest adversity. We are going to get through these tough times the way we always have: by working

together. We have made tremendous progress for Maryland families these past two years. Now, when our families need us most, we are united in our commitment to stand up and fight to protect our progress.

Mount Rainier Resident faces criminal indictment on illegal dumping

On January 7th a Mount Rainier resident who has been cited dozens of times in the past decade for having debris in his yard has been indicted under a state anti-dumping law, and is the first of its kind in Prince George's County.

At a news conference at Mount Rainier's municipal center, State's Attorney Glenn F. Ivey said officials decided to ratchet up the legal heat on because civil citations, which officials said sometimes led to fines, weren't working

Therefore, a grand jury has indicted the resident for illegal dumping, a misdemeanor that carries a maximum penalty of five years' incarceration and fines of up to \$30,000.



From The Desk of The MAYOR! (by Mayor Malinda Miles)

January 24, 2009

The year 2009 has already proven to be a awesome year. We have had extremely cold temperatures, the preparation and swearing in of the 44th President of the United States, Mr. Barack Obama just to mention two of the major events. Another awesome fact has gone unnoticed, but occurred right here at home, in the City of Mount Rainier is another full year of service from its Mayor and Council, staff, committees, and volunteers! Together they have made

a major difference in all aspects of life here in Mount Rainier. The Following is a review of some of the major changes here at home during 2008.

1. Our Police Department, under the leadership of Chief Michael Scott, stepped up its policing and public relations through more regular meetings, communications, and visibility in our community. The Police Department extended its hours of operation from 9:00am to 11:00pm to provide better access to our residents, and continued to provide full-time police coverage to our sister municipality, Brentwood. Through this partnership, the leadership of the Chief, and the improved finances of the City, our Police force has been at its highest -- 18 sworn officers, and a civilian force that continues to get high marks.
2. For the second time, property rebates were given out to residents with incomes of \$60,000 or less. Mount Rainier's lead in this has led other cities such as Hyattsville to implement the Mount Rainier model of giving back to its most needed residents.
3. Recreation for our youth became a true reality in Mount Rainier with the reinstatement of the basketball court at 30th and Arundel and drop-in basketball at Thomas Stone Elementary, youth bands and programs at Joe's Movement Emporium, after school programs at our schools, successful summer around the City in our churches, businesses, and schools. Mirna Mejia, a Mount Rainier resident brought organized soccer to Mount Rainier, and has now expanded it to 6th and 7th graders. It is called the Mount Rainier Community Soccer Club. Mount Rainier and Brentwood came together to form the Joint Mount Rainier Brentwood Recreation Council to work with Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC).

4. Mount Rainier Day was bigger than ever. We had more vendors, TWO Bands, and dignitaries from Maryland and DC. The major accomplishment announced during Mount Rainier Day was the partnership with the District of Columbia that is moving forward, and should continue to move as we take the Gateway Arts District across the DC line.
5. New Parking meters were installed, and their hours changed to reflect the change in usage and the new hours of our liquor stores and other businesses.
6. Little Friends for Peace continued to demonstrate how to meet and deal with violence while maintaining and keeping peace. Mount Rainier Elementary School once again held its annual Peace Parade to help our children focus on peaceful solutions to problems.
7. Began producing and distributing the Message in Spanish so that our Hispanic neighbors could participate in our City in an informed manner.
8. Mount Rainier Cable Television became a more visible part of our community with the addition of Verizon, and new programs such as "On Air With the Mayor," "News You Can Use," CitiScape," and pictures shown on MRTV during Council meetings and Work Sessions that related to the issue under discussion.
9. Mount Rainier Library received a make-over and eight new computers from the Bill Gates Foundation.
10. The Mount Rainier Bike Coop found a new home at 3601 Bunker Hill Road. This move was in direct response to the growth of the Bike Coop and the need to provide move use of 3601 Bunker Hill Road. The Bike Coop and its members continue to put Mount Rainier on the map with its innovations and youth participation.
11. The Call-A-Bus continues to bring many of our residents to and from their doctors' appointments, shopping, and to City events. It also continues to provide transportation for some of our students to recreation activities and after school care. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 9: am to 3:30 pm. For reservations and additional information, call 301-985-6586.
12. Foreclosures became a major concern for the County and the nation, but Mount Rainier was NOT hit as hard as some of its neighbors. Our housing prices went down, but did not hit rock bottom. Our City finances also took a hit, but we were able to come through the year relatively unscathed.
13. The City began using temporary speed humps to help calm traffic in and around our schools.
14. Senator David Harrington was sworn in as the new Senator for the 47th Legislative District, and hit the ground running with a number of visits to the City of Mount Rainier to introduce himself and to identify our needs. He has continued to make himself available and has taken the lead in working with the municipalities in District 47 to be included in the Federal stimulus package.
15. The City initiated its own program in electronic recycling. Added a new trash truck to its fleet, and grappled with tipping fees, regular recycling, the need to renovate our Public Works Department. Although the City did not increase staffing in this department, it is one of the first departments in the City to increase its staff size through the use of long
16. Mount Rainier once again partnered with Brentwood to observe National Night Out (NNO) at Thomas Stone Elementary School. This annual event had a huge and wonderful turnout, and was proclaimed by many as the largest and best NNO in the County.
17. Mount Rainier began to rebuild its relationship with the Gateway CDC (representing Mount Rainier, Brentwood and North Brentwood), after many years of mistrust and an inability to work together on projects that were beneficial (e.g., the facade program)to Mount Rainier. With the new director in place it appears that Mount Rainier and Gateway CDC will be working together to rebuild trust and partnerships throughout the Gateway Arts District with immediate attention to the facade program on 34th Street.
18. Jodi-Beth McCain led the City through the needed steps to approve a corn co-op at 3601 Bunker Hill Road. Although not yet in operation, the City is looking forward to making the Corn Bin a reality in 2009. This just one more step for the City in its efforts to go green and to save our environment.
19. The City Council voted unanimously in August to purchase the Bass properties in the 3200 block of Rhode Island Ave. for the negotiated price of \$953,000 (the appraised value). In December 2008, the Bass property was purchased by the City after the City received a 1.2 million bond from Sun Trust Bank. Currently the City is looking to raise the buildings on the property and convert the lot to parking until it can fine a developer.
20. Finally, Mount Rainier witnessed the largest voter turnout in its history on November 4, 2008. Lines were wrapped around the schools, and people waited patiently to cast their votes. This was a milestone in the City, and contributed to the overwhelming election of Senator Barack Obama as 44th President of the United States of America.

There is change in America, but there is change in Mount Rainier. Our City is growing in population, resources, the number of youth, and the number of seniors. With this growth comes the need for more services. Mayor and Council are beginning the budget process, and we already know that this year there will be major cuts in funds from the State and the County. We also know that there are projects underway that must be funded.

GOALS FOR 2009

1. Pass a balanced budget prior to June 30, 2009
2. Build the skate park prior to November 2009
3. Raise the buildings on the Bass property and build a public/commuter parking lot
4. Identify new sources of funding to supplement current funding stream
5. Install a regular traffic light on Queens Chapel Road, and replace the current walk light
6. Implement and complete the facade program on 34th Street
7. Identify programs that qualify the City for funding under the Federal Stimulus Package
8. Move forward with the development of new library for the citizens of Mount Rainier
9. Continue to build on partnerships with neighboring municipalities, and to collaborate with them on various funding projects
10. Continue to look for ways to expand the City's commercial base
11. Work more closely with the 47th Legislative Team in ensuring the sovereignty of Mount Rainier
12. Identify and bring to Mount Rainier a Federal, State, or County program that services residents in Mount Rainier and in the neighboring municipalities.
13. Continue working with the District of Columbia on the Rhode Island Avenue project that will expand the Gateway Arts District into the District.
14. Improve and the overall financial condition of the City without raising taxes; while increasing and/or improving services.
15. Continue to bring positive recognition to the City of Mount Rainier as we prepare to celebrate our 100th year anniversary.
16. Moving forward in the City's efforts to go green. This is an important movement for the City as we as a nation and part of the global community see the effects of global warming. Recycling is a major stride in the right direction, but we need to do more. For the past few months the Mayor and Council has discussed recycling bins. If you do not have one, select one of your trash cans and place your recyclables in it and set it on the curb on Fridays. Public Works will collect it. We are also discussing many other environmentally friendly projects that will help save our environment.

The Maryland General Assembly is back in session, and you are invited and encouraged to stay in touch with our representatives (Senator David Harrington; Delegates Doyle Neimann, Victor Ramirez, and Jolene Ivey; County Councilman Will Campos). The Governor and everyone else is predicting a very lean year for the State. Cuts will be made to critical programs, but we need to make sure that those who represent us remember that we are an older municipality with limited resources and income. Every dollar they take away from us has a major impact on our future growth and development.

The Limited Partnership with Landmark LLC. This has kind of fizzled. I am not sure where we are at this time. A few months ago, the City received a letter suggesting that the market is so bad that maybe it is a good time to end our contract with them and wait on the market. As noted earlier, the City has purchased the Bass property. Landmark continues to say that their ability to move is contingent on taking control of all of the properties (funeral home, Bass, and Thrifty's). This has been an ongoing dialogue, with no results. The Council is in agreement that we should begin dissolution of the partnership, and seeking other alternatives. More on this during the coming year

Crime Prevention an Crime Control. This continue to be a high priority, and our Police Department has done and continue to do an excellent job. As we move into the latter half of this fiscal year, we will receive a few additional police vehicles to replace the old ones, and continue to have good maintenance on the old ones. We will strive to maintain our contingency of police officers who are serving our residents at top quality. The station will continue to remain open until midnight to provide additional service to the community.

Planning for 2010 is under way. Mr. William Haskett, the father of one of our residents, has volunteered (pro bono) to write our history from 1985 to present. He is a retired professor from the University of the District of Columbia, and is quite well known in his field. We are honored to have him volunteer to write our history. Many of you will be called upon for your old pictures, news clippings, recollections, and documents. When called, please answer affirmatively so that we can capture the most accurate and up-to-date information about our wonderful City.

Elections are coming up the first Monday in May. Positions up for election are the Mayor, once Councilmember in Ward one and Ward two. Persons interested in running for these positions are encouraged to visit City Hall and obtain a copy of our current election guide. Also request a copy of recent changes voted in by the Mayor and Council at its January meeting. Nomination petitions must be picked up from City Hall and turned in to the Supervisor of Elections sitting at City Hall between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on the first Monday in April. The election will be held the first Monday in May, with those elected being sworn in the following week. Elections are held at the Mount Rainier City Hall from 7:00am until 8:00pm.

Senator David Harrington proposed the formation of an 47th Legislative District Economic Commission to come up with projects that could be implemented within 90 to 120 days after the economic stimulus package is released. The Commission has met several times since its formation and came up with a letter that was sent to President Barack Obama, Governor Martin O'Malley, County Executive Jack Johnson, Congressman Chris Van Hollen, Senators Ben Cardin and Barbara Mikulski as well as the Prince George's County Delegation. The City identified several projects that we believe are shovel ready, and simply in need of funds. More will be coming out on this over the next few months.

As part of its go green effort, the Mayor and Council approved two resolutions in support of green initiatives proposed by the Gateway CDC and Washington Area Community Investment Fund (WACIF). These green initiatives, if funded will provide grants to residents for energy audits, weatherization and rehabilitation for older homes in Mount Rainier, Brentwood and North Brentwood. Corn stoves, solar energy projects, and other similar home improvements would qualify for this program. Initially the program will select up to five homes in the three municipalities to receive the grants based on a specified formula with the goal being that the project would be successful and additional funding would be made available. WACIF has promised to commit up to \$200,000 to fund this Green Initiative. Mayor and Council are looking forward to working with the Gateway Community Development Corporation new executive Director Cheryl Derricotte who has attended a number of our Council meetings and the Economic Commission meetings held by Senator Harrington.

HAPPY NEW YEAR, may you prosper, and be blessed throughout this year.
VOLUNTEER. Your City Needs YOU!

RECENT LEGISLATION PASSED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Ordinance 2-2009 -An Ordinance Authorizing Red Light Enforcement Camera Program in the City.

Ordinance 1-2009 - An Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of City of Mount Rainier General Obligation Bond 1-2009 for the Purpose of Financing the Acquisition of Three Police Vehicles and One Trash Truck.

Ordinance 8-2008 - An Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of City of Mount Rainier General Obligation Bond 1-2008 for the Purpose of Funding the Purchase of the Bass Property, A Blighted Property in the City's Urban Renewal Area, and Redeveloping the Property for Use as a Public Parking Facility.



MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL E. SCOTT, CHIEF OF POLICE

Preventing Thefts from Auto

One of the most common types of theft is theft of valuables from your automobile. Theft from auto is strictly a crime of opportunity that can be prevented if you take away the opportunity. Thieves generally won't waste their time breaking into autos that don't have valuables in plain sight.

- The best way to prevent theft from your auto is to always keep valuables out of sight. Never leave cell phones, briefcases, suitcases, or small electronic devices (personal music devices, digital assistants, etc.) in your car in plain view. Take these items with you, or secure them — all the time, every time!
- If your car has a trunk, use it. Put valuables in there or in a locked glove compartment. Hiding items under seats is better than leaving them in plain view, but securing them inside the glove compartment or trunk is a far better deterrent.
- Any time you're shopping, place packages in the trunk, not on the passenger seats or floors.
- Look for car radios or other sound systems that can operate only in the vehicle in which it was originally installed. This reduces the risk of theft.
- If you can unfasten your sound system and take it with you, or lock it in your trunk, do so. And don't forget to do the same with your CDs and tapes.
- Always lock your doors even if you plan to be away from your vehicle for only a minute such as running in to pay for gas.
- If you don't have the luxury of parking your vehicle in a garage at night and have to leave it parked in the driveway or on the street in front of the house, make sure to remove the garage door opener. This is a key to your home!!
- The best advice is to not leave anything in your vehicle, or at least in plain sight, that you would not want taken. Even the smallest most insignificant items left in plain view could result in a window being smashed which causes a great deal of expense and mess. If you will eliminate the opportunity, you have a greater chance of eliminating the crime.

The best crime prevention tool is a good neighbor!

Selected Crimes – November 2008

NOVEMBER 2008 SELECTED OFFENSES BY TEAM POLICING AREA

Date	Offense	Location				TPA
11/28/2008	Robbery - Citizen	3200	BL	QUEENSTOWN	DR	1A
11/22/2008	Robbery - Citizen		BL	CHILLUM	RD	1A
11/5/2008	Robbery - Citizen	3300	BL	CHAUNCEY	PL	1A
11/3/2008	Stolen Vehicle	3100	BL	QUEENS CHAPEL	RD	1A
11/7/2008	Theft - From Auto	3200	BL	QUEENS CHAPEL	RD	1A
11/22/2008	Theft > 500	3200	BL	CHILLUM	RD	1A
11/12/2008	Vandalism	3100	BL	QUEENS CHAPEL	RD	1A
11/14/2008	Robbery - Citizen		BL	35TH	ST	1B

11/10/2008	Robbery - Citizen		BL	BUNKER HILL	RD	1B
11/4/2008	Stolen Vehicle	3700	BL	36TH	ST	1B
11/7/2008	Theft - From Auto	3700	BL	WELLS	AV	1B
11/7/2008	Theft - Identity	4000	BL	37TH	ST	1B
11/10/2008	Theft < 500	3500	BL	BUNKER HILL	RD	1B
11/24/2008	Robbery - Citizen	4600	BL	30TH	ST	2A
11/8/2008	Robbery - Citizen	2700	BL	ALLISON	ST	2A
11/2/2008	Robbery - Carjacking	2200	BL	VARNUM	ST	2A
11/15/2008	Stolen Vehicle	4400	BL	28TH	PL	2A
11/23/2008	Theft - From Auto	4500	BL	EASTERN	AV	2A
11/21/2008	Theft - From Auto	4200	BL	28TH	ST	2A
11/12/2008	Theft - From Auto	4100	BL	RUSSELL	AV	2A
11/18/2008	Theft - Vehicle Tags	2900	BL	ALLISON	ST	2A
11/30/2008	Vandalism to Auto	2700	BL	QUEENS CHAPEL	RD	2A
11/22/2008	Vandalism to Auto	2900	BL	ARUNDEL	RD	2A
11/14/2008	Vandalism to Auto	4400	BL	28TH	PL	2A
11/3/2008	Vandalism to Auto	2200	BL	VARNUM	ST	2A
11/10/2008	Burglary - Residential	3300	BL	OTIS	ST	2B
11/3/2008	Burglary - Residential	3300	BL	OTIS	ST	2B
11/8/2008	Theft < 500	3000	BL	BUNKER HILL	RD	2B
11/5/2008	Theft < 500		BL	SHEPHERD	ST	2B

Selected Crimes – December 2008

**DECEMBER 2008 SELECTED OFFENSES
BY TEAM POLICING AREA**

Date	Offense	Location				TPA
26-Dec-08	Assault - Aggravated	3300	BL	CHILLUM	RD	1A
17-Dec-08	B & E - Residential	4500	BL	32ND	ST	1A
20-Dec-08	Robbery - Carjacking	3200	BL	QUEENS CHAPEL	RD	1A
23-Dec-08	Robbery - Citizen	4200	BL	34TH	ST	1A
11-Dec-08	Robbery - Citizen	3200	BL	QUEENSTOWN	DR	1A
02-Dec-08	Robbery - Commercial	3800	BL	34TH	ST	1A
04-Dec-08	Stolen Vehicle	4000	BL	35TH	ST	1A
22-Dec-08	Theft < 500	3000	BL	QUEENS CHAPEL	RD	1A
04-Dec-08	Theft < 500	3300	BL	CHILLUM	RD	1A
02-Dec-08	Theft < 500	3200	BL	SHEPHERD	ST	1A
18-Dec-08	Theft > 500	2300	BL	VARNUM	ST	1A
05-Dec-08	Theft > 500	2300	BL	CHILLUM	RD	1A
29-Dec-08	Vandalism	4200	BL	34TH	ST	1A
03-Dec-08	Vandalism to Auto	3500	BL	37TH	ST	1A
21-Dec-08	Robbery - Carjacking	3400	BL	OTIS	ST	1B

21-Dec-08	Animal Bite			30TH	ST	2A
18-Dec-08	Animal Bite			UPSHUR	ST	2A
15-Dec-08	Assault - Aggravated	3700	BL	36TH	ST	2A
17-Dec-08	B & E - Residential	4200	BL	RUSSELL	AV	2A
21-Dec-08	B & E - Residential	2500	BL	ARUNDEL	RD	2A
21-Dec-08	Robbery - Citizen		BL	31ST	ST	2A
07-Dec-08	Robbery - Citizen	2900	BL	ALLISON	ST	2A
05-Dec-08	Robbery - Citizen	4300	BL	28TH	PL	2A
24-Dec-08	Stolen Vehicle	4200	BL	28TH	ST	2A
16-Dec-08	Stolen Vehicle	2500	BL	25TH	ST	2A
19-Dec-08	Theft - From Auto	4500	BL	29TH	ST	2A
11-Dec-08	Theft - From Auto	4300	BL	RUSSELL	AV	2A
10-Dec-08	Theft - From Auto	4400	BL	31ST	ST	2A
23-Dec-08	Theft - Tags Vehicle	4300	BL	28TH	PL	2A
15-Dec-08	Theft - Tags Vehicle	4400	BL	28TH	ST	2A
15-Dec-08	Theft - Tags Vehicle	2700	BL	ALLISON	ST	2A
28-Dec-08	Theft < 500	4300	BL	30TH	ST	2A
10-Dec-08	Vandalism	2900	BL	TAYLOR	ST	2A
15-Dec-08	Vandalism to Auto	2900	BL	ALLISON	ST	2A
14-Dec-08	Vandalism to Auto	2700	BL	UPSHUR	ST	2A
02-Dec-08	Vandalism to Auto	4600	BL	29TH	ST	2A
 						
15-Dec-08	B & E - Residential	3400	BL	EASTERN	AV	2B
12-Dec-08	Robbery - Citizen	3400	BL	RHODE ISLAND	AV	2B
16-Dec-08	Theft - From Auto	3400	BL	EASTERN	AV	2B
05-Dec-08	Theft - Tags Vehicle	3200	BL	RHODE ISLAND	AV	2B
30-Dec-08	Theft < 500	3300	BL	RHODE ISLAND	AV	2B
10-Dec-08	Theft < 500	3200	BL	RHODE ISLAND	AV	2B



MRTV

Mount Rainier Television

Comcast Channel 71 Verizon Channel 21

MRTV Program Schedule

Monday – Friday, 4pm, (see MRTV Bulletin Program Schedule)

1st Tuesday of each month, 7pm Live telecast of City Council Meetings

3rd Tuesday of each, 7pm Live telecast of City Council Work Sessions

Program schedule and shows subject to change without notice

MRTV needs volunteer producers, on-camera talent, digital editors and production crews for all MRTV productions. We tape on selected Wednesdays and Saturdays. Call MRTV at 301-985-6585 ext. 28, leave a message or email us at mrtvchannel71@yahoo.com for details.

BROADCAST DIGITAL TV (DTV)

On February 19, 2009, all broadcast TV stations will cease their analog broadcast transmissions and begin broadcasting exclusively in digital format. This change is known as the "Broadcast Digital TV (DTV) Transition." The FCC requires that all cable companies (Comcast and Verizon) inform their customers how the broadcast DTV transition will affect them. Customers should have received information in their monthly billing statement. Comcast has recently learned that customers in our jurisdiction did not initially receive the message in their statement and have taken corrective action by including the notices on each statement until March 2009. For those interested in DTV, information can be obtained by contacting Comcast or obtaining a copy at City Hall.

CITY SEEKS COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Our committees need you! Several of our committees are in need of members. I am sure that there is a committee in our City that maybe of interest to you and their meeting schedules are sure to fit your schedule. If you are interested in becoming a member of a committee in our city please feel free to contact Michael Jackson, assistant city manager at City Hall at 301-985-6585, to find out more information about the following committees:

- Election Board
- Tool Shed Committee
- Tree Commission
- Youth and Recreation Council
- Environmental Protection Board
- Design Review Board

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.

Code Enforcement NEWS!

Building Permits –In general, a building permit is required to erect, construct, enlarge, alter, move, improve, remove, connect, demolish or raze any building or structure in the City of Mount Rainier. In the last few months, many home owners have begun work without first obtaining County and/or City permits. Before you begin, please check with Code Enforcement Department at 301-985-6551 to see if your particular project requires a permit even if your contractor may have told you it is not.

Fence Permits – Fences are constructed for a variety of reasons. They are generally used to restrict the movement of people and animals in and out of a parcel of land. In some instances, they are placed to denote boundaries, delineate specific use areas, provide privacy or for aesthetic reasons. Common fence types are split rail, picket, board on board or chain link. However, fences may not be placed so as to encroach on easement of any kind or on any City right-of-way. If you are on a corner lot, you may not locate a fence within 25 feet of the point of intersection on your property lines that abut the street.

Permits are required to place a fence over four feet high on your lot; you must apply for a County building permit and City permit. In addition, you must submit site plans showing the proposed fence location (s) including well and/or septic (if applicable). **Structural plans may be required for fence erection.**

For additional information on permit requirements please contact City Hall at 301-985-6585 or request a copy of Homeowner's Guide to permits, please contact: Department of Environmental Recourses, 9400 Peppercorn Place, Suite 500, Largo, Maryland 20774 or 301-883-5810.

TRASH CAN REGULATIONS TO BE ENFORCED. *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.*

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.

FY2010 Budget Calendar

DATE	EVENT
Friday, January 16, 2009	Budget instructions issued to All City Departments and Community groups (including Bunker Hill Fire Department)
Friday, February 6, 2009	Deadline for all City Departments (including Bunker Hill Fire Department to submit FY 2010 budget request to City Manager.
Thursday, February 26, 2009	Deadline for Notice in <i>Port Towns Gazette</i> about FY 2010 Budget Presentation March 9, 2009
Thursday, March 5, 2009	Notice in <i>Port Towns Gazette</i> about March 9, 2009 FY 2010 Budget Presentation
Monday, March 9, 2009	Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council; City Manager submits and presents proposed FY 2010 Budget and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
Tuesday, March 31, 2009	FY 2010 Budget work session and proposed constant yield tax rate
Thursday, April 2, 2009	Deadline for submission of April 9, 2009 display ad on proposed Constant Yield Tax Rate and notice of public hearing on FY 2010 Budget
Thursday, April 9 2009	Notice in <i>Port Towns Gazette</i> about Public

	Hearing on proposed FY 2010 Budget and Constant Yield Tax Rate April 21, 2009
Tuesday, April 21, 2009	Public hearing and comment on proposed FY 2010 Budget and Constant Yield Tax Rate; Special Meeting for First Reading on FY 2010 Budget
Tuesday, May 5, 2009	Mayor and Council Meeting; Second Reading and Vote on FY 2010 Budget and Constant Yield Tax Rate

PUBLIC WORKS CALENDAR

Listed hereunder is the scheduled pick up dates for trash in the City of Mt. Rainier, for February and March 2009

DATE	PARTICULARS	DATE	PARTICULARS
February 2	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558)	March 2	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558)
February 4	Regular Trash Pick Up	March 4	Regular Trash Pick Up
February 6	Recyclables Pick Up	March 6	Recyclables Pick Up
February 9	Yard Waste Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558)	March 9	Yard Waste Pick Up
February 11	Regular Trash Pick Up	March 11	Regular Trash Pick Up
February 13	Recyclables Pick Up	March 13	Recyclables Pick Up
February 16	Presidents Day (City Hall and Public Works Closed)	March 16	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558)
February 17	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558)	March 18	Regular Trash Pick Up
February 18	Regular Trash Pick Up	March 20	Recyclables Pick Up
February 20	Recyclables Pick Up	March 23	Yard Waste Pick Up
February 25	Regular Trash Pick Up	March 25	Regular Trash Pick Up
February 27	Recyclables Pick Up	March 27	Recyclables Pick Up
		March 30	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

Yard Waste by appointments for January and February. Pick up on Second Monday ONLY