



The Message

Issue 265

March 2009 Edition

Governor Martin O'Malley Announces Plan to Fully Fund Maryland Schools

ANNAPOLIS, MD (February 20, 2009) – Governor Martin O’Malley, joined by Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown, announced more than \$720 million of funding for Maryland public education resulting from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan. Under Governor O’Malley’s plan, every school district in Maryland will be made whole and the Geographic Cost of Education Index will be funded at 100 percent for the first time.

The plan includes full funding of GCEI, as well as a restoration of the proposed reductions in supplemental grant and non-public placement funding to local school systems, which will complement nearly \$400 million in direct aid that local systems will receive from the federal government as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan. These federal funds will also provide \$329 million towards the projected growth of teacher pension cost, continuing to protect local jurisdictions from this potentially prohibitive cost.

Governor O’Malley also announced today that these education dollars will go towards full funding of the Thornton Bridge to Excellence Plan, representing more than \$185 million in cost increases over the next 27 months.

Since the passage of the Thornton Bridge to Excellence Plan, State funding for local school systems has increased by \$1.97 billion dollars, a 76-percent increase. Governor O’Malley proposed a record \$5.4 billion funding level for FY2010 despite difficult economic times. In addition, for the first time ever, Maryland will have invested more than \$1 billion in school construction funding over a three year period, including over \$260 million proposed for FY2010 alone.

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CITY ELECTION MAY 4, 2009

The City of Mount Rainier is scheduled hold an election for the offices of Mayor and one councilmember for Ward 1 and one councilmember for Ward 2. In accordance with the City of Mount Rainier Charter, on the first Monday in May in every fourth year beginning with 1997 the registered voters of the City shall vote for one person to serve as Mayor of the City, and candidates to serve as Councilmembers for each ward.

For the upcoming election, the office of Mayor, and one council seat from Ward 1 and one council seat from Ward 2 will be on the official ballot. The polling place for casting your ballots will be The City of Mount Rainier Municipal Center, One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712. The polls will be open from 7:00 am until 8:00 pm on election-day. Citizens of Mount Rainier who have resided in the city for at least 30 days immediately preceding

the next city election and are registered with the Prince George's County Board of Elections are registered to vote in City elections.

City of Mount Rainier Charter, Article V, Section 505.

Nomination Procedures, it states that any person desiring to have his or her name placed upon the official ballot for Mayor or Councilmember at any city election shall present to the Supervisor of Elections a petition setting forth his or her name and residence, and the office sought, and such petition shall be signed by at least twenty (20) qualified

voters. In the case of a petitioner for councilmember only signatures of qualified voters residing within the ward from which the petitioner is running shall be counted.

Nomination petitions must be presented by the petitioner to the Supervisor of Elections at City Hall between the hours of 6pm and 8pm on the first Monday in April of every odd-numbered year, which for this election will be April 6, 2009.

The Mayor and Council will appoint members to the City Board of Elections on Tuesday; March 3, 2009. Anyone interested in serving on the Board of Elections should contact their council representative or the City Manager. Nomination Petitions may be picked up between 9:00am and 5:00pm Monday through Friday.

For additional information concerning City Elections, please go to www.mountrainiermd.org and click on the government tab and then proceed in the left hand column to reports and documents and click on City Charter or Elections Procedures.

From The Desk of The MAYOR!

(By Mayor Malinda Miles)



February 24, 2009

The long awaited inauguration has come and gone. The Stimulus package has been passed, and a few states are refusing to accept money from the stimulus package. Thank God, Maryland is not one of those States, and your City has been diligently meeting to determine ways that a portion of those funds could come to our City. In September of this past year, Senator David Harrington started a series of town house meetings to begin the discussion of the distribution of those funds and how municipalities should identify shovel ready projects.

In addition, to forming an Economic Commission to address this issue by identifying shovel ready projects, the Senator encouraged the eight municipalities in the 47th Legislative District work together as partners on various initiatives. Under this umbrella the following broad areas were identified and submitted to our Senators, Congressmen/Congresswomen, State Delegation, and County Council representatives:

Improvement in infrastructure-redeveloping walking green communities

Route 1-The first US highway and one of the longest US roads. It enters Prince George's County in the City of Mount Rainier and passes the esteemed University of Maryland. This section of Route 1 also features the Gateway Arts District, a 2.1 mile stretch from the City of Mount Rainier, the Towns of Brentwood and North Brentwood and a portion of the City of Hyattsville. The federal economic stimulus funds could be used for investment on Route 1 to repave the road, improve storm water management including constructing pervious concrete surfaces, standardize signage, lighting, street furniture and public art as well as green improvements to the median strips and sidewalks with enhanced tree canopies which would not only improve vehicular access but also create walkable communities.

Transportation-Reduce car reliance with improvement and connections to and from the West

Hyattsville, Landover and Cheverly metro stations and the Riverdale MARC station. These stations offer opportunities for higher density, mixed-use transit oriented developments that with federal investments would create green, live near you work jobs that will help reduce our over reliance on carbon based energy.

Furthermore, improving mass transit access will increase economic opportunity to the Gateway Arts District, the Port Towns of Bladensburg, Colmar Manor, Cottage City and Edmonston and the University of Maryland University Town Center in Hyattsville.

Environmental/Wellness with the focus on creating wellness communities and green jobs

Wellness and Health-We increasingly understand the linkages between community infrastructure and public health and wellness. If we are indeed to create economically and environmentally viable communities, the economic stimulus package must also invest in building communities that promote healthy places for healthy people. Research indicates that place matters "where children and families live, learn, work and play affects their health." In Prince George's County, the prevalence of preventable chronic disease is significant. Nearly 40% of African American children between ages 2 and 19 are overweight, compared with 20% of their white counterparts. And in the last 10 years, Type 2 diabetes among children has increased to between 8% and of that 45% of all new cases of childhood diabetes. We are taking ambitious, evidence-based steps to develop model thriving communities in the 47th Legislative District. The Port Towns of Bladensburg, Colmar Manor, Cottage City and Edmonston have devised in their zoning master plan a Wellness Opportunity Zone which requires that development and redevelopment include improved open space, parks and trails, walkability of sidewalks, fresh food options, accessible mass transits. Tax incentives and "smart growth" policy that encourage wellness zoning and development will reduce the health disparities associated with older working-class communities, such as the 47th Legislative District

Urban redevelopment and green refitting-Many of the 47th Legislative community are ambitiously engaging in urban redevelopment for addressing blight and advancing economic development. Aspects include that all new construction have energy efficient/green components in all projects (Mount Rainer Library, Brentwood Arts Center, African-American Museum, North Brentwood Municipal Center, and the Port Towns Peoples Harbor). Investing in these and other projects along with federal efforts through the Green Jobs Acts to create green employment will increase training and job opportunities in new cutting edge green jobs. Training in the areas of installing solar panels, weatherizing and retrofitting buildings, wind energy technology are just a few opportunities in redeveloping these communities.

Small Business Creation-Small business is the backbone of our community, and this could not be truer than in the 47th Legislative District. Due to historic disinvestment and the economic downturn causing a 50% drops in municipal revenue, large chains have been reluctant to opening enterprises here, leaving our job growth, economic vitality and tax base dependent on small entrepreneurs. Through tax incentives, affordable access to credit, façade and infrastructure improvements, and additional small business counseling support we can create a more dynamic environment that will allow for rapid and sustained economic growth.

Housing-The 47th Legislative District, like other older working class communities, is among the hardest hit areas for foreclosures. In part this is due to the housing boom where new residents bought housing in our municipalities and property values rose higher than income; hence, under-employed low to moderate income residents have been strapped to pay higher property tax and higher energy cost. To address this, the economic stimulus package should be used to increase federal housing program which include: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME. These increases should be dedicated for grants and technical assistance to non-profit housing groups (Community Housing Development Organizations-CHDOs) and Section 108 loan guarantees especially during this tight credit environment.

The City of Mount Rainier also identified numerous specific projects including repair of the bridges in our City -- estimated at more than \$150,000; development of our library which we proposed to be the community library for Brentwood and North Brentwood as well as Cottage City since it borders our City -- estimated cost \$5,000,000 based on RFPs. Other projects included the Bass property, streets, gutters, curbs, City Hall, Police Station and Public Works.

Since my last report, I have met with Governor O'Malley twice to discuss our concerns and need for inclusion in the stimulus package and for some of the funds to come directly to municipalities. As well as held discussions with mayors and state secretaries from across the state so that we could speak with one voice on this issue. Participated in a press conference with Congressman Steny Hoyer and municipal leaders from across the County on what the stimulus package means to Prince George's County. I have also attended

numerous meetings with other local leaders on other issues, such as Mount Rainier getting its fair share of CDBG funds in future years; partnering with other municipalities to expand our resources; and seeking ways to work together rather than in competition with each other for local, state, and federal funds.

As I prepare this report, the City of Mount Rainier has submitted more than four proposals to the Maryland Energy Administration requesting more than \$1.5 million in energy saving programs. These programs range from making City Hall more energy efficient to replacing the boiler in our Police Station to conducting energy efficient audit to providing energy efficient thermostats and light bulbs to all of our residents.

Discussions are also underway with University Park to partner in setting up a solar cooperative that could also apply for funding under this stimulus package. If there are funds available, Mount Rainier will be working very hard to make sure that we are included.

I have also attended a number of legislative/political receptions, workshops, and meetings to network, gather information, and promote the City of Mount Rainier. I continue to work toward partnerships with Brentwood and North Brentwood to move the Route One Corridor and promote the Gateway Arts District. As a sitting member of the Gateway Arts District Management Team, I am actively involved in the development of the branding (logo, website, and other items that would reach from Eastern Avenue in Mount Rainier to a portion of Hyattsville along Rhode Island Avenue/Route 1) discussions that are underway to identify the Gateway Arts District.

The City Council continues to be prudent with the City's finances. This past week, I met with the Director of Finance and the City Manager and discussed the City's financial condition. Although we are not experiencing some of the economic difficulties that other municipalities are experiencing, we must continue to be frugal in our spending. I also discussed with them some strategies for addressing any negative financial impacts, e.g., holding on all raises, holding on filling any current vacant positions, reducing our purchases of supplies, and as a very last measure, the possibility of work hour reductions and potential layoffs. None of this is on the table at this writing, but we are looking ahead. The City is NOT in financial trouble. Therefore, it is prudent to take the necessary steps now to make sure that our level of service continues and that we not spend our way into a financial deficit.

One of the grants that we are trying to get submitted under the Maryland Energy Administration would help the City to purchase energy efficient police cars. Based on preliminary research, the cost would be high at the time of purchase, but would be saved over a period of years in energy. I believe that this is the wave of the future, and Mount Rainier should be on the cutting edge -- more so, if the stimulus money can help get us there.

I have also worked on a number of State and County bills that I believe would either help residents in Mount Rainier or harm them. Some bills are: Speed Camera legislation; WSSC seeking 9% increase in our water bills; County Executive Jack Johnson seeking a 7% tax increase on our property tax bills; removal of municipal franchise fees from municipalities to the State; and minimal zoning authority for municipalities. If you wish more information on these, please contact our State Delegates, Jolene Ivey, Doyle Niemann, and Victor Ramirez as well as Councilman Will Campos.

Last month I shared the following goals with you for 2009. I will continue to include them each month with an update on their status starting in March.

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 month 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 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

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.

Message from Councilmember Tarlau

Council Approves Use of Red-light Camera: The Council approved the use of a mobile red-light camera system to be used throughout the City. The initial location will be at the traffic signal on Rhode Island Avenue immediately north of the traffic circle. The system is located in a mobile truck and can be moved to other locations where it is widely known that people go through lights and don't stop at stop signs. The system is operated by the company Optotraffic and the company will get a fee per violation. The system cannot be used for speeding violations. There still has to be legislation passed by the MD State Legislature before cameras can be used against speeders. Victor Ramirez has introduced legislation to legalize cameras to aid enforcement against speeders.

Yard Waste Pick-Up: Starting in March there will be yard waste pick-up every Monday. Before March, it will only be done by appointment.

Bass Building Status: The City is waiting for certification that the utilities in the Bass property have been disconnected. At that time the building will be razed. There will have to be some environmental studies done before the property can be paved into a parking lot.

Potholes: Public Works plans to start fixing the streets as soon as the weather warms up. If you know of a pothole that needs to be patched, please send me an e-mail or call Public Works at 301-985-6383.

Upholstered Furniture on Your Porch? Councilman Knedler has proposed an ordinance to prohibit “upholstered furniture manufactured exclusively for indoor use” to be placed outside of a building (i.e. on a porch or deck). The building that burned down on 34th St. (and is still an eyesore in our community) was the result of a lit cigarette that was dropped in an upholstered couch. There are no fire alarms on the outside of houses so these kinds of fires are hard to detect. What do you think: A good idea or too much regulation? Let us know. We plan to have a public hearing on the proposed ordinance.

Park and Planning Is Looking for Community Input: The County Park and Planning office is asking area residents to complete a survey on the facilities in our area. You can do it on-line by going to www.2010beyond.com. This is an opportunity to react to issues of trails, recreational facilities, green space, accessibility, etc.

No Surprise – Sales Price of Homes Purchased In Mount Rainier Are Down 20% - The Washington Post reported that the median purchase of a house in Mount Rainier was \$275,000 for the first 9 months of 2008, down from \$337,688 in the same period in 2007. Only 19 houses were sold in the 9 months of 2008, down from 42 houses in 2007. The median price in 2008 was the same as the first nine months of 2005 but 84 houses were sold in the 2005 period.

City Begins Budget Deliberations: The Council set its schedule for discussing next year’s budget. The key dates are Monday March 9 – Presentation of Budget by City Manager; Tuesday March 31 – Work Session to Go Over Budget; Tuesday April 21 – Public Hearing, Comment and First Reading on Budget; Tuesday May 5 – Final Vote on Budget. I will be discussing this more as it becomes a little clearer what the income projections are for next year.

Upcoming City Elections: Mount Rainier will be holding its municipal elections on Monday May 4th. There will be an election for Mayor and one Council member from Ward 1 and Ward 2. (My term and that of Councilman Bryan Knedler are not up until 2011.) Any registered voter who has lives in Mount Rainier can run for city office. You need to submit twenty names of registered voters on a nominating petition that can be obtained from City Hall. The petition must be handed in Monday evening April 6th

MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL E. SCOTT, CHIEF OF POLICE

Security Tips for Small Businesses

The following information is a compilation of information from various sources including material from the National Crime Prevention Council, the Memphis Police Department, and SecurityWorld.com.

Businesses can reduce their vulnerability to crime in many ways. Measures like locks, alarms, and good lighting make any establishment a less attractive target for criminals. The Mount Rainier Police Department is a major ally and our trained community policing officers can provide business owners with a free security survey and advice on alarm systems and other security devices. Community service and involvement, as well as being active in the Mount Rainier Business Association are important safeguards against crime. Customers and neighbors who view a business as a valued resource to the community will watch out for its property and employees.

Employees and Crime

Employees can help you to be profitable or hurt you through waste, inattention to customers, or theft. You must set the example for honesty and develop clear policies regarding security and theft.

- Develop and advise all employees of inventory control procedures. All merchandise entering and exiting your business should be accounted for.

- Screen employees carefully before hiring them. Check their backgrounds to be sure they have not been fired for behavior you find is dangerous or unacceptable. Consider drug testing job applicants prior to hire and randomly during their employment.
- Train employees in proper cash handling and security measures. Set policy regarding cash on hand and stick by it.
- Research shows that employees steal from businesses that are impersonal to them and lack clear policies. Show employees you care about them and their property.
- Provide a clean and orderly work environment with secure places for their personal belongings.
- Offer them personal child protection and home crime prevention information obtained from local law enforcement agencies and national organizations.
- Support their involvement in community organizations formed to prevent crime and help crime victims.

Robbery Prevention

Businesses are robbed ten times more often than individuals, but common sense can reduce the chance of becoming a victim as well as the amount of money lost if you're robbed. Take this quiz to assess your vulnerability to robbery.

CASH: Do you ...

- Keep only small amounts on hand and advertise this fact?
- Make frequent bank deposits?
- Have a drop safe or time delay safe?
- Vary your deposit time and route?
- Count cash only in a private area?
- Make bank deposits often and during business hours? Is your deposit pattern varied, and do you take different routes at different times during the day?

LIGHTS, LOCKS, ALARMS: Do you ...

- Have exterior and interior lighting that allows visibility into the store from the street?
- Have an emergency alarm system that works?
- Have a buddy system signal with a neighboring store in case suspicious persons enter?
- Keep seldom used doors and windows locked at all times?
- Use mirrors, cameras, or one way glass to observe all areas of the store?

EMPLOYEES: Is there ...

- More than one person to open and close?
- Careful screening before hiring?

- Care taken to ensure that employees notify police about loiterers who may be "casing" the store?
- Training on how to handle a robbery situation and effectively report it to the police?

HAVE YOU?

- Arranged your stock to allow clear visibility in the store?
- Set up a signal for the police patrol officer in case of problems?
- Marked all equipment, including computers and cash registers, with an identification number (tax ID or license)? Do you keep a record of all identification numbers off the premises with your other important records?
- Arranged for a risk analysis security survey with the Mount Rainier Police Department?

Where you answered "NO," take corrective action now!

If Confronted By A Robber....

- Stay as calm as possible. Try not to panic or show signs of anger or confusion.
- Consider your well-being and that of your employees as the highest priority. Don't escalate the incident into a violent confrontation in which someone may be injured or killed.
- Make a conscious effort to get an accurate description of the robber(s): age, race, complexion, body build, height, weight, type and color of clothing.
- After the robber leaves, call 911 immediately.

Burglary

Burglary is a property crime that occurs when a business is closed. The burglar may enter through any opening (door, window, air conditioning duct, skylight) or even create one through an interior shared wall or an outside wall. Reduce your risk as much as possible. Burglary is a crime of opportunity that can be prevented.

Surveillance and Security are Critical

Lighting: Install bright interior and exterior lighting to make all openings visible from both the outside and the inside of the store.

Locks and Safes: Purchase high quality door locks and use them. Grilles and storefront grates delay entry. Use an Underwriters Laboratory listed money safe, bolted to the floor and visible from the street.

Entry Control: Know who has a key and restrict access to the front door. Rekey the lock if once-trusted employee is discharged for cause. Re-key locks annually if you have high turnover of employees. Consider an access control system rather than keys.

Intrusion Alert: Install a good quality alarm system to detect unauthorized entry. Check with your Better Business Bureau, Chamber of Commerce, law enforcement, and other businesses before you make this investment.

Windows: Consider burglary resistant glass in accessible areas. Unbreakable polycarbonate may work even better, particularly if you have high value items in window displays.

Environment: Keep areas around the store clean to aid visibility. Display your most valuable articles near the center of the store to force a burglar to take the longest possible escape route. Keep merchandise displays organized to allow maximum visibility throughout the store. Check closets and restrooms before you lock up. You don't need an unwanted visitor staying inside your store after closing hours.

Take Action - Get Involved With Your Community

- Learn about crime in your neighborhood and what is being done about it. Offer to help. You can provide expert advice, funding, publicity and meeting places for citizen efforts.
- Try to hire employees from the neighborhood and make a special effort to give teens an opportunity to work.
- Include crime prevention information in your staff memos and newsletters, customer statements and notices.
- Role-play a robbery situation with your employees.
- If you use vehicles, teach your drivers to spot) suspicious behavior and how to notify the police. If you're radio dispatched, train your dispatcher to report information effectively.
- Learn about crime victim services in your area and help any employees who are victimized by a serious crime.
- Bring the problems of business security, shop-lifting, vandalism, etc. to the attention of community leaders. Start a Business Watch Program to prevent crime and play an active part in the Mount Rainier Business Association and in the community.

Remember ...

The best crime prevention tool is a good 'business' neighbor!

Selected Crimes – January 2009

**JANUARY 2009 SELECTED OFFENSES
BY TEAM POLICING AREA**

Date	Offense	Location				TPA
18-Jan-09	Assault - Aggravated	3300	BL	CHILLUM	RD	1A
05-Jan-09	B & E - Residential	3300	BL	BUCHANAN	ST	1A
26-Jan-09	Robbery - Citizen	3200	BL	CHILLUM	RD	1A
02-Jan-09	Robbery - Citizen		BL	RAINIER	AV	1A
25-Jan-09	Theft - From Auto	3200	BL	VARNUM	ST	1A
22-Jan-09	Theft - From Auto	3200	BL	BUCHANAN	ST	1A
04-Jan-09	Theft < 500	3300	BL	CHILLUM	RD	1A
24-Jan-09	Theft - From Auto	3800	BL	37TH	ST	1B

29-Jan-09	Vandalism to Auto	3400	BL	RHODE ISLAND	AV	1B
15-Jan-09	B & E - Residential	2700	BL	WEBSTER	ST	2A
26-Jan-09	Robbery - Citizen	4100	BL	RUSSELL	AV	2A
25-Jan-09	Robbery - Citizen	4100	BL	RUSSELL	AV	2A
11-Jan-09	Robbery - Citizen	4300	BL	RUSSELL	AV	2A
18-Jan-09	Stolen Vehicle	4600	BL	29TH	ST	2A
29-Jan-09	Theft - From Auto	3000	BL	ARUNDEL	RD	2A
28-Jan-09	Theft - From Auto	4300	BL	31ST	ST	2A
20-Jan-09	Theft - From Auto	4300	BL	KAYWOOD	DR	2A
04-Jan-09	Theft - From Auto	2400	BL	ARUNDEL	RD	2A
27-Jan-09	Theft - Identity	4100	BL	RUSSELL	AV	2A
08-Jan-09	Theft - Identity	4700	BL	27TH	ST	2A
08-Jan-09	Theft - Identity	4700	BL	27TH	ST	2A
22-Jan-09	Theft - Vehicle Tags	2700	BL	ARUNDEL	RD	2A
18-Jan-09	Theft < 500	2300	BL	VARNUM	ST	2A
10-Jan-09	Theft < 500	2300	BL	VARNUM	ST	2A
22-Jan-09	Vandalism to Auto	4200	BL	RUSSELL	AV	2A
22-Jan-09	Vandalism to Auto	4200	BL	RUSSELL	AV	2A
30-Jan-09	Robbery - Citizen	4000	BL	33RD	ST	2B
29-Jan-09	Robbery - Citizen	4100	BL	31ST	ST	2B
22-Jan-09	Robbery - Citizen		BL	BUNKER HILL	RD	2B
12-Jan-09	Theft - From Auto		BL	33RD	ST	2B
08-Jan-09	Theft - From Auto	4000	BL	29TH	ST	2B
27-Jan-09	Theft < 500	3300	BL	RHODE ISLAND	AV	2B
09-Jan-09	Theft < 500	3300	BL	RHODE ISLAND	AV	2B
04-Jan-09	Vandalism	3300	BL	RHODE ISLAND	AV	2B



MRTV

Mount Rainier Television

Comcast Channel 71 Verizon Channel 21

***MRTV* Program Schedule**

Monday – Friday, 4pm, (see *MRTV* Bulletin 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.

HOME IMPROVEMENT TAX CREDITS

On Feb. 17, 2009, President Obama signed a stimulus bill (The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009) that made some significant changes to the energy efficiency tax credits. Tax credits are available for windows, exterior doors, storm doors and windows, insulation, asphalt/metal roofs, biomass stoves (including corn stoves), etc. etc.

The highlights are:

The tax credits that was previously effective for 2009 have been extended to 2010 as well.

The tax credit has been raised from 10% to 30%.

The tax credits that were for a specific dollar amount (ex \$300 for a CAC), have been converted to 30% of the cost.

The maximum credit has been raised from \$500 to \$1500 for the two years (2009–2010). However, some improvements such as geothermal heat pumps, solar water heaters, and solar panels are not subject to the \$1,500 maximum.

The \$200 cap on windows has been removed.

Home Improvements

Tax credits are now available for home improvements:

must be "placed in service" from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2010

must be for taxpayers principal residence

maximum amount is \$1,500 in 2009 & 2010 for most home improvements (geothermal heat pumps, solar water heaters, solar panels, fuel cells, and windmills are not subject to this cap)

The ENERGY STAR website

(http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr_tax_credits)

has a complete summary of energy efficiency tax credits available to consumers.

Joe's Movement Emporium

CALENDAR LISTING

March 7 **Joe's Movement Emporium and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission present The Love 2 Dance Summit.** Come celebrate and share your love of dance with other teens. Enjoy a fun-filled and informative day of dance, workshops, performances and sessions about the great opportunities in the field of Dance. To participate in the summit, please come to Joe's Movement Emporium, 3309 Bunker Hill Road, and Mount Rainier MD 20712, 301.699.1819 at 9am – 5pm on March 7, 2009. Admission is \$10 for individuals and \$7 for groups of 5 or more. Cost covers participation in all workshops, box lunch and souvenir bag.

March 15 **Joe's Movement Emporium presents Community Potluck and free cycling.** Connect with community members while sharing good food and swapping lightly used items. Come to Joe's on Sunday, March 15, 2009 at 3:30pm with a dish in hand to share with several friends of Joe's. Also feel free to bring household items, clothing or anything that you might not need any more to exchange at the event. For large items please bring a photo and connect with friends to make pick up and/or drop off arrangements. To attend this event, please come to Joe's Movement Emporium, 3309 Bunker Hill Road, Mount Rainier, MD 20712 301.699.1819. For more information please contact Afi Zormelo at afi@joesmovement.org

March 28 **Joe's Movement Emporium presents an Indian Classical Dance Workshop: Intro to Kuchipudi with Chitra Kalyandurg.** Transport yourself to India! Explore the ancient and beautiful traditions of Indian dance through this fun and exciting introduction to *Kuchipudi*, a South Indian style of classical dance and drama. One of India's seven major classical dance styles,

Kuchipudi is a dramatic art form that combines fast rhythms, challenging footwork, expressive dance and characters to narrate Indian myths and legends. This workshop will introduce you to *Kuchipudi* dance posture and explore rhythm and footwork, hand gestures, expressions and dramatization. To participate in this workshop, please come to Joe's Movement Emporium, 3309 Bunker Hill Road, Mount Rainier, MD 20712 301.699.1819 on Saturday, March 28, 2009 at 4pm.

March 28 **Joe's Movement Emporium presents our new MONTHLY HOOP~JAM!** Get your spin on, every last Saturday of the month with **Noelle Powers**. Hoop Jams differ from hoop classes in that they are not focused on instruction from a teacher but, rather, it's a time for hoopers to come together, explore, & practice our own hooping movement amidst & alongside other hoopers, while at the same time cultivating and strengthening the overall hooping community. Joe's will provide hoops, but do bring your own if you have them! To participate in this Hoop Jam, come to Joe's Movement Emporium, 3309 Bunker Hill Road, Mount Rainier, MD 20712 301.699.1819 on March 28, 2009 at 5pm. The suggested donation is \$10.

SHABACH MINISTRIES in association with First Baptist Church of Glenarden (Upper Marlboro, MD) is sponsoring its 2009 Summer Youth Employment Program

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Applications due: February 16, 2009/ Interviews: March 31st, April 1st, April 8 – 9, 2009/
Orientation (Participants & Parents): May 16, 2009

Program Period: June 22 - August 7, 2009

Completion of an application does not guarantee job placement. Participation in orientation workshops is required for all participants who desire a job opportunity.

For additional information, contact the administrative office at 301-583-5327

The Prince George's County 2009 Summer Youth Employment is offering job opportunities to PG County youth ages 15-21. Interested youth can apply for a summer job on-line at:

<http://www.co.pg.md.us/Government/ExecutiveBranch/summeryouth.asp>

For questions please contact Prince George's County Youth Employment Services at **301-883-5993**.

Deadline is May 1, 2009.

The Prince George's County Youth Employment Services provides the youth with the opportunity for a structured, supervised, and quality work experience that builds skills and assists in career decision making. *At the end of the application process, youth will be able to choose the job Category areas of interest..*

Guidelines

1. Applications for the Summer Jobs Program will be accepted February 2, 2009 thru May 1, 2009.
2. Students must be in good standing with their schools.

3. Applications for the Summer Jobs Program received after May 1, 2009 will only be considered if additional jobs become available.
4. To be considered, applications must be accurately and fully completed.

News from Little Friends for Peace:

Peace is possible. Many people are working to promote peace within ourselves, our families, our communities and the world.

Little Friends for Peace proposed that the month of May be a "Month of Peace" and the City Council has given its approval.

We will be creating a May calendar of peace activities and events. We're contacting individuals, groups and town organizations for input and participation.

Some ideas that are in the planning stage are: Families Building Peace Event and a Peace Forum on building a safer, more compassionate world and an dedication at the Peace Garden at 30th and Arundel Road.

We are looking for additional ideas to fill the calendar. We hope you and your organization will step up to take part in this great community effort in Mr. Rainier for Peace.

Please contact me us with your suggestions and ideas.

MJ and Jerry Park
240-838-4549
www.lffp.org

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.

FY2010 Budget Calendar

DATE	EVENT
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

City of Mount Rainier Electronic Recycle Pick Up

April 25, 2009 9:00 Am to 1:00 Pm

Drop Off @ Public Works Department

3715 Wells Avenue, Mount Rainier MD 20712

Must show proof of Mount Rainier Residency

Acceptable Items

CPUs, laptop computers, keyboards, fax machines, telephone systems, printers, copiers, scanners, surge protectors, pagers, cell phones, cable wire, circuit boards, cd players radios/ stereos, Pc components and ink jet and toner cartridges.

Unacceptable Items

Software, Stereo speakers, Boxes and Appliances such as toasters and microwave ovens

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.

PUBLIC WORKS CALENDAR

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

DATE	PARTICULARS	DATE	PARTICULARS
March 2	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558)	April 1	Regular Trash Pick Up
March 4	Regular Trash Pick Up	April 3	Recyclables Pick Up
March 6	Recyclables Pick Up	April 6	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up
March 9	Yard Waste Pick Up	April 8	Regular Trash Pick Up
March 11	Regular Trash Pick Up	April 10	Recyclables Pick Up
March 13	Recyclables Pick Up	April 13	Yard Waste Pick Up
March 16	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558)	April 15	Regular Trash Pick Up
March 18	Regular Trash Pick Up	April 17	Recyclables Pick Up
March 20	Recyclables Pick Up	April 20	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up
March 23	Yard Waste Pick Up	April 22	Regular Trash Pick Up
March 25	Regular Trash Pick Up	April 24	Recyclables Pick Up
March 27	Recyclables Pick Up	April 25	Electronic Drop Off
March 30	Yard Waste Pick Up	April 27	Yard Waste Pick Up
		April 29	Regular Trash Pick Up

Please have all bulk trash and yard waste out by 7:00 am on the respective pick up day and all bulk trash appointments made before 12 noon on the Friday preceding pick up day

Yard Waste will be picked up every Monday, beginning March. No Appointments needed