



# The Message

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## FREE Fun Family-Friendly Flicks & Popcorn on Fridays in downtown Mount Rainier

The City of Mount Rainier will show a FREE movie outdoors at 33<sup>rd</sup> & Perry Streets on Fridays September 10<sup>th</sup> through October 8<sup>th</sup>. The movies are all family-friendly, but fun for all ages. They are shown on a large inflatable screen and popcorn is free while it lasts. Bring your blankets and chairs and enjoy a neighborhood party under the stars. The fun starts at 7 pm. Come out for a great time with your neighbors!

### Movie Schedule

- 9/10 The Spy Next Door
- 9/24 The Fantastic Mr. Fox
- 10/8 Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lighting Thief

### IN THIS ISSUE...

Mount Rainier Farmers Mkt	2
CSX Meeting	2
Message for Chief Scott	3
Green Home Initiative	8
MRTV Channel 21/71	9
Gateway CDC	10
Trash Collection Notice	11
Directory of Important Contacts	12

## City Council Vacancy

As a result of Alta Morton's death, there is now a vacancy in Ward 1. The City Charter sets out the following procedure to fill a Council vacancy.

First the Council declares the vacancy (which will be done at a September Council meeting).

Second, the other Ward 1 Council member, Jimmy Tarlau, submits recommendations of between 1 to 3 names to the Mayor and Council to fill the vacancy until the next bi-annual election (May 2011).

If there is not a majority for any of the candidates there will be a special election 30 to 60 days after the vacancy is declared to fill the vacancy until May 2011.

If you live in Ward 1 [East of 34<sup>th</sup> Street (including the East Side of the Street) from the railroad tracks to Shepherd Street, East of 31<sup>st</sup> Street north of Shepherd (including the East side of the street) and the North side of Shepherd Street from 31<sup>st</sup> Street to 34<sup>th</sup> Street] and are interested in serving as a Council

## **Mount Rainier Farmers Market Rhode Island & Eastern Avenue**



Growing Healthy Communities

<http://mountrainierfarmersmarket.com/default.aspx>

The Fall Harvest is coming and so are the fall flowers, fruits and vegetables. September is a great time to visit the Mount Rainier Farmers Market! Our market is a producer only market which offers farm grown fruits and vegetables from farms in Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia. Our vendors grow and/or make everything they sell during their natural season! Beginning September 11<sup>th</sup> we will have van service pick-up at Rainier Manor.

### **City of Mount Rainier Hosts Meeting with CSX Transportation**

At the request of Mayor Malinda Miles, the City of Mount Rainier hosted a meeting with CSX Transportation concerning a variety of issues related to noise levels of horns, trespassing, safety issues, hazardous materials, sound barriers, and idling. Attendees included City Manager Wallace, Mayor Xavier Montgomery-Wright (Town of Brentwood), Mayor Adam Ortiz (Town of Edmonston), Carleton Atkinson (Senator Ben Cardin's Office), Julius West (Congressman Chris Van Hollen's Office), Nichelle Schoultz (Senator Barbara Mikulski's Office), Jolene Ivey, Delegate 47<sup>th</sup> District, Andy Callahan (Delegate Ramirez's Office), Senator David Harrington, Hileen McChesney, Chair of Commissioners (Cottage City), and representatives from CSXT representatives Terry Ludban, Michael Austin, Sharon Daboin.

Of paramount concern was the issue around public safety, pedestrians crossing the tracks, noise levels of the trains when approaching the areas, idling of the trains while parked for several hours, hazardous materials, and the possibility of installing sound barriers and reinforced fencing.

The team from CSXT agreed to the following next steps:

1. The city manager will be the point of contact for receiving information/feedback. Sharon Daboin, Resident Vice President will send out data collected following her research and the municipalities will be consulted on the best approach to resolutions brought up at the meeting.
2. Training of community volunteers for the CSXT Lifesaver program

3. CSXT will need to see what is best for each community based on observatory analysis which will be addressed at the next meeting scheduled to occur in approximately 30-60 days
4. **Citizens who have concerns about loud/extensive use of horns, idling for long periods of time, pedestrian safety, and trash or other debris should call 1-877-Tell CSX**

For a copy of the full text of the meeting please contact City Hall at (301-985-6585) or download from the city's website at [www.mountrainiermd.org](http://www.mountrainiermd.org)

## **MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL E. SCOTT, CHIEF OF POLICE**

### **Back to School**

It's that time of year again and the beginning of school is upon us. Our summer routines are just about over and the fall semester beckons students, new young and old. It's time for parents and children to regroup, reorganize and be reminded of a few basic safety tips to make the transition back to school and work a little less hectic.

- ***Wait For School Buses***

The Mount Rainier Police Department reminds all drivers to stop when the lights on school buses are flashing. Maryland law provides that vehicles must come to a complete stop on both sides of the street if there is no physical divider or barrier. Drivers may not pass the bus until all lights have ceased flashing.

Drivers who pass school buses while the lights are flashing will be fined \$570 and receive 3 points on their driver's record. Drivers who stop but then proceed while the lights are flashing will be fined \$570 and receive 2 points. Mount Rainier police officers *will not* give warnings to drivers for passing a stopped school bus. Trust me, you *will* get a ticket!

Children are not always aware of their surroundings and assume that drivers will stop for them. Youngsters also dart into the road without looking first for traffic. Allow room for the frequent stops that happen during the morning pick up and the afternoon drop off.

Maryland's future rests with our children, so let's protect them.

- ***Load Up The Kids - And Lock Up The House***

All of us who are parents realize how hectic and confusing mornings can be trying to get the kids ready for school – lunches, clothes, homework – and trying to make sure we have ourselves together for our workday. Even stay at home Moms and Dads are not immune. But, no matter how harried the day starts, here's an important back-to-school reminder: Before you walk or load the kids up for the drive to the bus stop or school – *lock your doors*. Too often in our rush out the door, we fail to stop and take stock of where we are and what may have been forgotten. If you forget to secure your home, even if you are gone only for a short time, it can be the perfect morning stop for a burglar. It may seem overly cautious to lock windows and doors when leaving for even the short time it takes to get the kids to the bus stop or to school, but the time spent doing this can deter a burglar and prevent problems later.

The MRPD suggests that everyone establish a habit of basic security when leaving home in the morning. Parents should make the process a learning experience for their children. Many people have a checklist to make things simpler during that early morning rush hour. Why not include a security checklist in your morning routine? Depending on the age or ages of the children, let them help by giving them a task that relates to their security. Older children should check and lock the windows, while the younger ones can see if the doors are locked behind you when you leave.

When you are on the way to and from school, keep watch on what is going on in your neighborhood. Look for strangers who seem to be lurking on the sidewalk, with no real purpose. Watch for cars driving slowly through the neighborhood. They might be sizing up potential targets. If you see anything or anyone that rouses your suspicions, call the police department's communications center. Try to provide a basic description of the individual or car that worries you. Tags numbers are very important.

Do not think that burglars work only at night, in the dark. They are opportunists, and will look for likely targets at any time of the day. In fact, many burglars strike during the daylight hours when they believe all the occupants of the house may be at school or work. Make their life harder by taking the basic crime prevention measures mentioned above.

### ***Remember:***

### ***The best crime prevention tool is a good neighbor!***

- ***Educate Your Children About School Safety***

With the start of the new school year, it is a good idea to remind parents and children of some basic *personal* safety information. Although the police department and educators teach children in school about the dangers of strangers, learning about community helpers, and several other child safety topics, parents can also help. The following tips are just a few suggestions:

- Be aware of putting your child's name on anything that is readily visible. This might allow an abductor to get on a "first name" basis with your child and develop a sense of trust.
- Walk the route to and from school with your children, pointing out safe places to go if they are being followed or need help.
- Talk to your children about strangers approaching them and some of the ploys they might use. Stress to them that adults shouldn't need a child's help to find a puppy or get directions, they should ask another adult for that information.
- Teach your children that it is okay to say NO - tell them to trust their instincts.
- Remind your children to never give the impression they are home alone if strangers telephone or come to the door. Never open the door for a stranger, and teach them about dialing 911.

### ***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.*

**B**usinesses 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!***

## ***National Take Back Initiative***

On Saturday September 25, 2010 the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Mount Rainier Police Department and police departments throughout Prince George's County and the nation will engage in a collaborative effort focused on removing potentially dangerous controlled substances from our nation's medicine cabinets. This national take-back day will provide a unified opportunity for the public to surrender expired, unwanted, or unused pharmaceutical controlled substances and other medications locally to the MRPD for destruction. This one-day effort will bring national focus to the issue of pharmaceutical controlled substance abuse. The program provides an opportunity for law enforcement, prevention, treatment, and the business community to collaborate and establish a safe collection site for pharmaceutical controlled substances.

### ***Collection Day Protocols***

- Controlled, non-controlled, and over the counter substances will be collected at the Mount Rainier Police Department located at 3249 Rhode Island Avenue here in Mount Rainier.
- This program is anonymous and the anonymity of individuals disposing of medications will be protected. No questions or requests for identification will be made.
- Participants may dispose of medication in its original container or by removing the medication from its container and disposing of it directly into a disposal box. If an original container is submitted, individuals are encouraged to remove any identifying information from the prescription label.
- The Mount Rainier Police Department will not count, inventory, or log medications.
- All solid dosage pharmaceutical products and liquids in consumer containers will be accepted. Liquid products, such as cough syrup, should remain sealed in their original container. The depositor should ensure that the cap is tightly sealed to prevent leakage.
- Intra-venous solutions, injectibles, and syringes will not be accepted due to potential hazard posed by blood-borne pathogens.
- Illicit substances such as marijuana or methamphetamine are not a part of this initiative and should not be placed in collection containers. If an individual attempts to surrender an illicit controlled substance, law enforcement personnel will handle such material as abandoned property in accordance with department policy.
- All participants will retain possession of their own medication during the surrender process. MRPD personnel will not handle medications at any time.

Residents who would like to participate in this valuable program should bring their unwanted pharmaceuticals to the Mount Rainier Police Department between the hours of 9 am and 1 pm. Anyone having questions about the program and its protocols can contact MRPD program coordinator, PFC Tuk Carpenter, at 301-985-6580.



## **Green Home Initiative**

The City of Mount Rainier has partnered with the Neighborhood Revitalization Program through the Community Legacy Program and Washington Area Community Investment Fund (WAICF) to sponsor a Prince George's County Green Home Initiative to help low and moderate income homeowners to decrease their energy footprint by making free environmentally-sound home improvements up to \$5,000 that will enable them to decrease energy usage and realize significant energy cost savings.

Applications are available on line at the city's website [www.mountrainiermd.org](http://www.mountrainiermd.org) and at City Hall. Eligible projects include energy efficient improvements to appliances already existing in the home (i.e., refrigerators, stoves, microwave, dishwasher, water heater, windows, doors, water saving toilets, washer and dryer, attic insulations, and energy saving lighting). Copies of 2009 tax return, utility bills and a

Maryland Energy Assistance application (also available on line and at city hall) must be attached to the Green Home Initiative Application.

Household Annual Income Limits:

1 Person:	\$30,249	5 Persons:	\$67,479
2 Persons:	\$39,556	6 Persons:	\$76,786
3 Persons:	\$48,864	7 Persons:	\$86,093
4 Persons:	\$58,171	8 Persons:	\$95,400

Please note that the income limits above are in the **low income range**. Even if you do not fall within these guidelines, you may still qualify under the moderate income limits which are higher.

**Please forward all documents to the attention of the Assistant City Manager no later than September 21, 2010.**



**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:**

- MRTV* On Air with the Mayor** - hosted by **Mayor Malinda Miles**. "2010 Census"
- MRTV* CitiScape** – hosted by **City Manager Jeannelle Wallace**, City Department Updates from **City Hall, the Police Department, Public Works** and more.
- MRTV* 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](http://www.mountrainiermd.org)

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

### **News from Little Friends for Peace**

Summer Peace Camps: Trains Youth and Children to Be Peace Leaders and Build Model Cities of Peace

Little Friends for Peace held the Peace Leaders Camp at the Mt. Rainier Christian Church, Thanks to Pastor Brian for hosting at his church and joining the staff for the week. Youth ages 8 to 14 engaged in team activities building a mini United Nations. Each team created a flag for their country, a name, form of government and a way to build peace. We had many teens and youth learning and guiding the children along with MJ and Jerry.

The second camp was held at the Mt. Rainier Nature Center and the campers, along with many Junior Counselors In Training, CIT's, Jr. Counselors and Counselors helped to create a model of a City of Peace.

Campers learned co-operative games, did art, met peacemakers, and had lots of music including drummer from Ghana and his wife Kristine.

Highlight for both Camps is riding the PEACE TRAIN that helps everyone learn how to solve problems non-violently and build relationships and make deals where it is WIN/WIN.

At both camps we had children from Mt. Rainier, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Uganda, Cheverly, Takoma Park, Hyattsville and DC.

Little Friends For Peace is available to bring the Peace Train and other activities to your church, school, neighborhood group, home school group, scouts or family. Check out our web page for other activities and Peace Club announcements.

On September 18th, 11am: Little Friends for Peace will be celebrating UN's International Day of Peace with CHALK 4 PEACE at Peace Park, 30th and Arundel Road, Mt. Rainier, MD. Bring the children, youth, one and all - we will draw messages, symbols of peace with Chalk on the concrete and make a circle around the Peace Pole in the Peace Garden and share messages of Peace.

## **Gateway Community Development Corporation: Events and Information**

### **Calendar of Events:**

**39<sup>th</sup> Street Gallery Foyer  
Art Film Night  
September 2, 7-9pm**

["Beautiful Losers"](#) focuses on the telling of personal stories. It speaks to themes of what happens when the outside becomes "in" as it explores the creative ethos connecting artists and today's youth. In the 1990s a group of like-minded outsiders found common ground in the DIY (do-it-yourself) subcultures of skateboarding, surf, punk, hip hop & graffiti. They made art that reflected the lifestyles they led, developing their craft with almost no influence from the "establishment" art world. They have now become a movement that has been transforming pop culture.

Open to the public.

**39<sup>th</sup> Street Gallery  
"Tom Wolff Photography"  
September 8 – October 28**

**Tom Wolff studied painting at the Art Institute of Boston and Arts Students League in New York, studied photography at Geo. Washington University and Photoworks at Glen Echo Park. Published in Washington Post Magazine, House & Garden, Garden Design, Smithsonian, Audubon, New York Times Magazine.**

Artist Reception to be held Saturday, September 18, 4-6pm.

39<sup>th</sup> Street Gallery is open to the public September 9 – October 28 June 25 on Thursdays and Fridays, 7-9pm, Saturdays 12-4pm, and by appointment.

39<sup>th</sup> Street Gallery is operated by Gateway CDC and is located at the Gateway Arts Center at Brentwood, 3901 Rhode Island Avenue. The entrance for 39<sup>th</sup> Street Gallery is on 39<sup>th</sup> Street.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS RECYCLE AND  
TRASH COLLECTION NOTICE**

All recyclables (aluminum cans, bottles, paper and cardboard) can be put in the same yellow recycle bin which will be picked up Friday of each week. These items will be taken to the County recycle plant as they now have the capability to separate the items.

**PUBLIC WORKS CALENDAR**

**August and September 2010 Schedule**

*Listed hereunder is the scheduled pick up dates for trash in the City of Mt. Rainier, for August and September 2010.*

DATE	PARTICULARS	DATE	PARTICULARS
August 2	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) <b>Yard Waste Pick Up</b>	September 1	Regular Trash Pick Up
August 4	Regular Trash Pick Up	September 3	Recyclables Pick Up
August 6	Recyclables Pick Up	September 6	<b>Labor Day Celebration (City hall and Public Works closed)</b>
August 9	Yard Waste Pick Up	September 7	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) <b>Yard Waste Pick Up</b>
August 11	Regular Trash Pick Up	September 8	Regular Trash Pick Up
August 13	Recyclables Pick Up	September 10	Recyclables Pick Up
August 16	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) <b>Yard Waste Pick Up</b>	September 13	Yard Waste Pick Up
August 18	Regular Trash Pick Up	September 15	Regular Trash Pick Up
August 20	Recyclables Pick Up	September 17	Recyclables Pick Up
August 23	Yard Waste Pick Up	September 20	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) <b>Yard Waste Pick Up</b>
August 25	Regular Trash Pick Up	September 22	Regular Trash Pick Up
August 27	Recyclables Pick Up	September 24	Recyclables Pick Up
August 30	Yard Waste Pick Up	September 27	Yard Waste Pick Up
		September 29	Regular Trash Pick Up

*All bulk trash appointments must be made before 12 noon on the Friday preceding bulk pick up day.*

