



The Message

Issue 291

September 2011

Mount Rainier 2011 House Tour Sunday October 23, 2011 1 to 5 PM

****SAVE THE DATE****



For more information call 301-335-0699

E-mail: Jimmy Tarlau (jtarlau@cwa-union.org) or Rhonda Dent (rdentguard-home@yahoo.com)

“City Seeks Business Member for Town Center Design Review Committee

The City is currently soliciting for one business member for the Town Center Design Review Committee. The Committee is composed of 2 business members, 2 resident members and 2 municipal members and reviews all new development projects and exterior renovations in the Mixed-Use Town Center Zone. This Zone extends along Rhode Island Avenue from the City limits into the 3400 block and along 34th Street from the 3700 block

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into the 4000 blocks and includes part of Bunker Hill. Each Committee member will be given a copy of the Mount Rainier Town Center Development Plan. This plan contains the design guidelines which the Committee uses to review applications.

Business and/or property owner members must own either a business or property within the Mixed-Use Town Center Zone or the City. The City would again be looking for members who have a sense of fairness in reviewing applications and who are interested in the on-going revitalization of the downtown business area. Committee members should be willing to help encourage appropriate building alterations and signage

among business and property owners and to help educate rather than regulate.

Applications to be on the Committee are due to City Hall by October 1, 2011. The final selection of committee members will be made by the Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission from the pool of applicants submitted by the City.

MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL E. SCOTT, CHIEF OF POLICE

Back to School

It's that time of year again and school is back in session. 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 *right away*. 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.

- ***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 an adult 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.

Call the Police ...

Not City Hall, not the Mayor, not your Councilmember!

Please remember folks, if you see a crime in progress, if you see a suspicious person, a suspicious vehicle, a trespasser on private property or any other situation that warrants police intervention – ***call the police!*** Calling (or e-mailing) anyone except MRPD Communications only delays an officer's response to the problem. That delay could give the bad guys all the time they need to commit a crime and get away. Criminals and suspicious persons do not play chicken with the police – they don't see how long they can hang around to just barely avoid getting caught. The sooner we get your information the sooner we are able to respond and take care of the situation.

MRPD Communications can be reached at 301-985-6565/6566. Program those numbers into your cell phone and have them on speed dial on your house phone.

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!
- Don't leave cash or loose change in your vehicle's center console or in other places that can be seen from outside.
- 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.
- When you lock your vehicle with a Remote Keyless Entry (RKE) fob make sure that all the doors and the trunk are locked before leaving your vehicle.
- 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 DC Metropolitan Police Department has produced an excellent video that gives several tips on how to avoid becoming a victim of a theft from auto or having your vehicle stolen while refueling at a gas or service station. You can view the video at the following link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_QNCJ97YYg&feature=player_embedded



Comcast Channel 71 Verizon Channel 21

MRTV provides 24/7 scheduled programming on your Comcast and Verizon cable channels. Watch City Council meetings, Work Sessions, City events and a host of MRTV produced programs and shows. Watch for the daily Program Guide for a list of shows and times.

MRTV invites you to continue to watch all the City Council meetings and **TOTAL INFO-** updates on local traffic, Mount Rainier weather, national news, sport scores and more!

You can now watch "On Demand" all **MRTV** programs, City Council Meetings and Work Sessions on the City's website: www.mountrainiermd.org Click on the MRTV banner and chose your program to watch!

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

What to Do During an Earthquake

Stay as safe as possible during an earthquake. Be aware that some earthquakes are actually foreshocks and a larger earthquake might occur. Minimize your movements to a few steps to a nearby safe place and if you are indoors, stay there until the shaking has stopped and you are sure exiting is safe.

If indoors

- **DROP** to the ground; take **COVER** by getting under a sturdy table or other piece of furniture; and **HOLD ON** until the shaking stops. If there isn't a table or desk near you, cover your face and head with your arms and crouch in an inside corner of the building.
- Stay away from glass, windows, outside doors and walls, and anything that could fall, such as lighting fixtures or furniture.
- Stay in bed if you are there when the earthquake strikes. Hold on and protect your head with a pillow, unless you are under a heavy light fixture that could fall. In that case, move to the nearest safe place.
- Use a doorway for shelter only if it is in close proximity to you and if you know it is a strongly supported, loadbearing doorway.
- Stay inside until the shaking stops and it is safe to go outside. Research has shown that most injuries occur when people inside buildings attempt to move to a different location inside the building or try to leave.
- Be aware that the electricity may go out or the sprinkler systems or fire alarms may turn on.
- **DO NOT** use the elevators.

If outdoors

- *Stay there.*
- *Move away from buildings, streetlights, and utility wires.*
- *Once in the open, stay there until the shaking stops. The greatest danger exists directly outside buildings, at exits and alongside exterior walls. Many of the 120 fatalities from the 1933 Long Beach earthquake occurred when people ran outside of buildings only to be killed by falling debris from collapsing walls. Ground movement during an earthquake is seldom the direct cause of death or injury. Most earthquake-related casualties result from collapsing walls, flying glass, and falling objects.*

If in a moving vehicle

- *Stop as quickly as safety permits and stay in the vehicle. Avoid stopping near or under buildings, trees, overpasses, and utility wires.*
- *Proceed cautiously once the earthquake has stopped. Avoid roads, bridges, or ramps that might have been damaged by the earthquake.*

If trapped under debris

- *Do not light a match.*
- *Do not move about or kick up dust.*
- *Cover your mouth with a handkerchief or clothing.*
- *Tap on a pipe or wall so rescuers can locate you. Use a whistle if one is available. Shout only as a last resort. Shouting can cause you to inhale dangerous amounts of dust.*

Joe's Movement Emporium is Proud to be Wind Powered... And Your Home Can Be Too!

Join us for a presentation from a Clean Currents representative to learn how EASY & AFFORDABLE it is to make the switch to clean energy at home!

Tuesday, September 13th at 6-8pm

**Where: Joe's Movement Emporium, 3309 Bunker Hill Rd., Mount Rainier, MD 20712,
www.joesmovement.org**

Refreshments Provided!

Visit: www.cleancurrents.com > Your Home

Call: 301-754-0430 ext.3

Email: gogreen@cleancurrents.com

Bring your utility bill to sign-up on the spot!

Mention "Sweeping the Avenue" when you switch & \$25 will be donated to support the 11th Annual Sweeping the Avenue!

PARKING AVAILABLE

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

PARKING PASSES CAN BE OBTAINED FROM CITY HALL.

Joe's Movement Emporium

Presents

Fall Focus on Wellness
Saturday, September 10, 2011
1:00 - 4:00 pm

Learn about naturopathy, acupuncture, herbology, Alexander technique, chakras, healthful eating. Get a free massage! Try reiki, yoga, ChiGong and more. Hands-on sessions with local practitioners.

No charge. No preregistration.
For more information, contact Monica Huber at
Joe's Movement Emporium
3309 Bunker Hill Road, Mount Rainier, MD
301-699-1819 / e-mail: monica@joesmovement.org

CODE ENFORCEMENT NEWS

Rat Management

If you think you have rats in your neighborhood, there are steps you can take to help getting rid of them. Rats need three things: food, water and harborage (shelter).

Poor sanitation and the presence of garbage allow rats to exist in residential areas. Good sanitation will effectively limit the number of rats that can survive in and around the home. This involves good housekeeping, proper storage and handling of food materials and refuse, and elimination of rodent harborage. Remove piles of wood and debris. Rats will find food and water from bird feeders, fountains and ponds, uncovered trash cans; food scraps dropped along the sidewalk, pet droppings, pet food dishes, open restaurant grease drums, and exposed plastic or paper garbage bags. The most successful form of rat control is to "build them out" by making their access to structures impossible. All places where food is stored, processed or used should be rodent-proof. Store bulk foods, bird seed, and dry pet foods in metal trash cans or similar containers. Seal any building openings larger than 1/4 inch to exclude both rats and mice.

Trapping is an effective method of control. It is the preferred method in homes, garages, and other structures where only a few rats are present. Poison baits can be used to treat major infestations. It is recommended that you hire a professional exterminator if you are planning to use rodenticides.

Please make every effort to ensure that your property is kept clear of all trash, animal defecation, and wood piles. This is a great home for rats. Rats will live within 100 feet of a food source, so if you remove their food source, they will move on.

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.

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.

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

Listed hereunder is the scheduled pick up dates for trash in the City of Mt. Rainier, for September and October, 2011.

DATE	PARTICULARS	DATE	PARTICULARS
September 2	Recyclables Pick Up	October 3	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up
September 5	Labor Day Holiday City Hall and Public Works Closed	October 5	Regular Trash Pick Up
September 6	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up	October 7	Recyclables Pick Up
September 7	Regular Trash Pick Up	October 10	Columbus Day Holiday City Hall and Public Works Closed
September 9	Recyclables Pick Up	October 11	Yard Waste Pick Up
September 12	Yard Waste Pick Up	October 12	Regular Trash Pick Up
September 14	Regular Trash Pick Up	October 14	Recyclables Pick Up
September 16	Recyclables Pick Up	October 17	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up
September 19	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up	October 19	Regular Trash Pick Up
September 21	Regular Trash Pick Up	October 21	Recyclables Pick Up
September 23	Recyclables Pick Up	October 24	Yard Waste Pick Up
September 26	Yard Waste Pick Up	October 26	Regular Trash Pick Up
September 28	Regular Trash Pick Up	October 28	Recyclables Pick Up
September 30	Recyclables Pick Up	October 31	Yard Waste Pick Up

All bulk appointments must be made before 12 noon on the Friday proceeding the pickup day. All bulk and Yard Waste must be set out before 7:00 AM on pick up

www.mountrainiermd.org

Mayor
Malinda Miles
301-699-1378

mayormiles@malindamiles.com

City Manager
Jeannelle B. Wallace
301-985-6585, ext. 22
fax: 301-985-6595

jwallace@mountrainiermd.org

Asst. City Manager
Michael D. Jackson
301-985-6585 ext.30

mjackson@mountrainiermd.org

City Treasurer
Vijay Manjani

vmanjani@mountrainiermd.org

Councilmembers

Ward 1

Jimmy Tarlau
301-335-6099

Jtarlau@cwa-union.org

Bill Updike
301-367-5649

updikew@yahoo.com

Ward 2

Ivy Thompson
friendsforivy@gmail.com

Brent Bolin
301-744-9465

brentbolin@gmail.com

Message

Michael D. Jackson

mjackson@mountrainiermd.org

Important Numbers

City Hall open: Mon.–Fri., 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Police Department admin. offices open 9:00 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Public Works open 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

47th District Reps
Victor Ramirez
301-858-3745

Del. Doyle Niemann
Del. Jolene Ivey
Del. Michael Summers
301-858-3326

Call-A-Bus 301-985-6586
(hours M–F, 9 am–2 pm)

City Code Enforcement Office
301-985-6551

Alex Brown
301-674-9175
Kevin Simpson
240-508-4187
Michael Warrick
240-882-9788

City Hall
301-985-6585; fax: 301-985-6595

City Police Department
Chief Michael E. Scott
Mscott@mountrainiermd.org
301-985-6565 (emergency calls)
301-985-6566 (nonemergency calls)
301-985-6590 (administrative)
City Public Works 301-985-6583,
Bulk Trash Appts. 301-985-6558

Child Abuse
and Neglect Hotline
301-699-8605

Congressman Chris Van Hollen's
Satellite Office:
6475 New Hampshire Ave, Suite C-201
Hyattsville MD 20783
301-891-6982 (voice)
301-891-6985 (fax)
Monday–Friday 9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Consumer Affairs
301-470-7534

County Animal Control
301-780-7200

County Building Permits
301-883-5784

County Executive
Rushern Baker
301-952-4131

County Councilman
Will Campos
301-952-4436

CSX railroad
1-877-Tell CSX

Energy Assistance
301-422-5110

Family Services
301-699-2680

Fire Department
301-985-5406 (non-emergency)
911 (emergency)

Gateway CDC
4102 Webster Street
301-864-3860

Gazette Circulation
301-670-7350

Health Department
301-386-0300

Library 301-864-8937
Hours: M–W 10-6:30 (closed 2-2:30)
Sat. 10-5

Landlord-Tenant Commission
800-487-6007

Mt. Rainier Nature/Rec Center
4701 31st Place
301-927-2163

M–National Capital
Park and Planning, Park Permit Office
301-699-2400

North Brentwood Comm. Ctr
4012 Webster St.
301-864-0756

Office of Handicapped Services
TDD 301-627-3352

Park Police
301-459-3232 (emergency)
301-459-9088 (non-emergency)

Parks and Recreation
301-699-2407

Pepco
Lights Out
1-877-737-2662
(you must give the 10-digit phone number
or 10-digit account number for location of outage)
Live Wire, Other Emergency
202-872-3432

P. G. Animal Control
3750 Brown Station Road
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
(301) 780-7201

Post Office
301-864-5168

Public Defender
301-699-2760

Public Schools
301-952-6000

State's Attorney
301-952-3500

Washington Gas Light
703-750-2500

WSSC
301-206-8000
301-206-4002 (emergency)

The City of Mount Rainier is an equal opportunity employer, without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, disability, political or union affiliation.

Postal Customer
Mount Rainier, MD 20712



September 2011 Message
City of Mount Rainier
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