



The Message

Issue 289

June 2011

Mount Rainier Goes All Out! ***MOUNT RAINIER DAY 2011***

The Mount Rainier Day Festival for 2011 was once again absolutely fabulous thanks to the hard work of City Hall Staff, the Mount Rainier Police Department, and the Public Works Department. The basketball tournament and many performances were the highlight this year, as were the numerous performances of other local artists and bands. Throughout the City music echoed as adults, teens and children danced along Rhode Island Avenue celebrating this annual event.

Each year, the goal of Mount Rainier Day is promote a sense of community and cultural diversity. Over the last two decades, Mount Rainier has transformed from a small community outside of DC to a sprawling destination spot for working class families of various races and ideological backgrounds.

The City would like to particularly thank Northwestern High School, and Largo High School for their grand performance during the parade, Thrifty Car Rental for use of three beautiful cars, County Councilman Will Campos for his huge donation and contribution, and the many other organizations that helped make this day a huge success.

The City would also like to thank everyone that assisted with Mount Rainier Day, Janis Lomax- City Clerk for her dedication and Hands on Barber Shop for coordinating the basketball teams again this year.

There were over 3,500 persons who attended the event throughout the day according to crowd estimates and the numbers of programs that were handed out.

IN THIS ISSUE...

Ethics Commission	2
Message From Chief Scott	2
MRTV Channel 21/71	4
Mount Rainier 2011 House Tour	5
Public Works Calendar	7
Directory of Important Contacts	8

Kudos to City staff, volunteers and for all others who offered their support to this year's event. Without all of you, the festival would not have been the success that it was.

Members of the 47th Delegation attended this year's event including Delegates Doyle Niemann Jolene Ivey and Senator Victor Ramirez and Congressional representatives from Barbara Mikulski and Chris Van Hollen's office.

Mount Rainier is truly a City on the move and the progress of the City was highlighted during the day. We would also like to thank the many Mount Rainier businesses that showcased their culinary skills and artistic talents. We look forward to even greater participation next year!

ETHICS COMMISSION MEMBERS SOUGHT TO OVERSEE CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER ETHICS REGULATIONS

The Maryland General Assembly enacted legislation requiring local governments to adopt Ethics Ordinances that are substantially similar to the Maryland ethics law applicable to State officials and employees. Due to this requirement, local governments are required to adopt ethics ordinances that are in compliance with this legislation.

On Tuesday, May 3, 2011, at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Council a first reading of Ordinance 5-2011 was made that, when adopted, will amend the current Chapter 1D Ethics of the *Mount Rainier Code*. The purpose of the Ethics Ordinance is to guard against improper influence and to ensure that the impartiality and independent judgment of public officials and employees will be maintained.

Further, the Ordinance requires City elected officials and candidates to disclose their financial affairs, and requires certain City employees and individuals appointed to boards and commissions to disclose gifts received from persons doing business with the City. The Ordinance also sets standards for the conduct of local government business.

The Ethics Commission will be responsible for enforcement of the Ethics Chapter adopted via Ordinance 5-2011. Upon finding a violation of any provision of Chapter 1D Ethics, the Commission may issue an order of compliance directing the respondent to cease and desist from the violation, issue a reprimand or recommend to the appropriate authority other appropriate discipline of the respondent, including censure or removal if that discipline is authorized by law.

Service on the Ethics Commission provides an excellent opportunity for citizens to promote integrity and efficiency in the City government. Persons interested in serving on the City of Mount Rainier Ethics Commission should submit resumes and letters of interest to the attention of the City Manager, One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712. Ordinance 5-2011 may be reviewed on the city's website at www.mountrainiermd.org. Click on the government tab on the home page and then click on "Reports and Documents."

MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL E. SCOTT, CHIEF OF POLICE



National Night Out 2011

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for this year's *National Night Out Against Crime* on Tuesday, August 2nd starting at 6 pm on the grounds of the Mount Rainier Nature Center (31st Street & Arundel Road). Bring your family and friends and enjoy an evening of live entertainment, plenty of food, and lots of fun things to do for the whole family. Please keep an eye on the City's web site, and on the police chief's Blog (www.mrpchief.blogspot.com) for details and updates as plans for this exciting night evolve.

Crime Prevention for Homeowners during the Warm Weather Months

Most of us like to use this time of year to relax, have a bit of vacation, and generally enjoy the warm sunny weather. Criminals however, are *never* on vacation. Please take the time to protect your property and valuables against warm weather scammers, con artists, thieves and opportunity criminals.

- **Deception Burglaries:** Suspects, posing as legitimate workers, approach elderly homeowners with the intent of gaining entry to their home under a seemingly legitimate role: local gas company, water department, Cable Company, tree trimmers, pavers, government inspectors or officials. One suspect will distract the homeowner while a second suspect will enter the home and search inside for valuables and cash. Another ruse used to gain entry into the home is for a suspect to knock on the door and ask for a pen and piece of paper to leave the victim's neighbor a note. The suspect may appear to have difficulty writing the note, and will ask to come inside the house. Once inside the victim's house, the suspect will ask the victim to help write the note. As the suspect keeps the victim occupied, others enter the residence to remove money and valuables. Be particularly alert to anyone in your neighborhood looking to perform home repairs, or asking to gain entry into your home. Be sure to ask to see identification and let them know you are going to call and get authorization from their company before allowing them access. If they are legitimate, they won't mind the wait. Remember, do not intervene, but call police immediately and report suspicious activity.
- **Home Improvement Scams:** To prevent the chances of being victimized, residents are urged to observe the following precautions:
 - Keep doors (including patio doors) and windows locked - even if you will be out for only a short time.
 - Request identification from utility representatives. Legitimate representatives carry it, and will gladly show it to you. Call their company for verification.
 - Only rarely will legitimate home improvement companies solicit door-to-door. They usually distribute fliers or make phone calls - it's more cost effective for them.
 - Never pay in cash. Using a check keeps a record of the transaction and often provides identification of the person cashing the check.
 - Beware of excuses such as "We just finished a job around the corner and had extra materials that we could offer you at a discounted price." Professional companies do not operate in that manner.
 - Call police immediately if you notice someone unfamiliar to the neighborhood or acting suspiciously.
 - Be aware of various ruses that have been used to gain entry, including posing as utility representatives, asking for a drink of water, looking for property that is for sale, or selling home improvement services.
 - When purchasing or installing a home alarm system, make sure that the company who installs the alarm, as well as the company that monitors the alarm, are licensed to do business in Prince George's County. If a sales person comes to your door he/she must have a solicitation permit from the City – ask to see it! Also, the police department recommends that homeowners who have residential alarms call their alarm monitoring company and request that the Mount Rainier Police Department be notified first when the alarm is activated. Many alarm companies will hesitate to do this because they want to reduce the number of false alarms, especially where false alarms may result in fines to the homeowner. This is especially true with newly installed systems. However, if you are comfortable operating your system, a first notification to the police will get us there quicker in the event that a real burglary is in progress.
- **Lock your doors while working outside:** When out working in your yard or garden, carry a key with you and lock your front and back doors. Some criminals specialize in stealing from homes when people are outside doing yard work. When you finish with that yard work, remember to clean up and lock up behind you. When you put your rake and other tools in the shed, garage or basement, don't forget to lock the doors. Thieves see an open door as an invitation. Deny criminals the opportunity to steal by securing your home and property.

The best crime prevention tool is a good neighbor!

Take the time to reacquaint yourself with your old neighbors and meet new ones. Why not organize or participate in a neighborhood watch program to protect and watch out for one another's property? Let your neighbors know when a suspicious person has been spotted in your area. If residents see strangers sizing up their neighbors' home that could also be a sign something is wrong. In that case, a call to 301-985-6565 will get an officer to the scene to check things out. Residents can help their elderly neighbors by regularly checking in on them, and keeping an eye on them. If, for example, a neighbor sees an elderly resident in conversation with a stranger, they could politely inquire about what is going on. Neighbors working together for each other's well being are the foundation of a healthy community. Caring and personal involvement builds stronger bonds between neighbors, and helps maintain safe neighborhoods.

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." - Dr. Seuss



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

News from Little Friends for Peace

Thank you to all who participated in the month of peace with DANCE, SONG, PRAYER and CARE.

SUMMER PEACE CAMPS ARE COMING UP.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL MJ AND JERRY PARK at 240-838-4549 or mjpeace@gmail.com , www.lffp.org

Mt. 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)**

CODE ENFORCEMENT NEWS

Rat Management

If you think you have rats in your neighborhood, there are steps you can take to help get 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.

How to Deal with the Mosquito Population

With summer here so is the all too familiar nuisance of mosquitos. Mosquito's can be transmitters of encephalitis, malaria, and yellow fever to humans, and heartworm to pets. Please clear your property of any potential breeding sites for mosquitoes. You can take steps to reduce this menace right at home, since many generations of mosquitoes can breed right in your own yard.

- Get rid of old tires, tin cans, buckets, drums, bottles, or and water holding containers.
- Fill in or drain any low places (puddles, ruts) in yard
- Keep drains, ditches, and culverts clean of weeds and trash so water will drain properly
- Cover trash containers to keep out rain water
- Repair leaky pipes and outside faucets
- Empty plastic wading pool at least once a week and store it indoors when not in use
- Make sure your backyard pool is properly cared for while on vacation
- Fill in tree rot holes and hollow stumps that hold water with sand or concrete
- Change the water in bird baths and plant pots or drip trays at least once a week
- Keep grass cut short and shrubbery well trimmed around the house so adult mosquitoes will not hide there

NOISE RESTRICTIONS

The City Code restricts the amount of noise that can be made during daytime and night-time hours. Owners or operators of residential multi-family dwellings may enforce more restrictive noise regulations on their own properties. Below is a short synopsis. Check the full text of the noise restrictions in the Code at Sec. 10-121 (available on the City website, www.mountrainiermd.org).

Nighttime Noise: During nighttime hours (8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. from Sunday through Friday and 10:00 p.m. on Saturday to 8:00 a.m. on Sunday), if the noise is audible more than 50 feet from the private property where such noise is occurring or more than 50 feet from the noise source on public property, then there is a presumption that the noise is unreasonable and that a public nuisance exists. Unreasonable night-time noises includes, noise from amplified sources like radios, the operation or use of any tool or equipment (including but not limited to construction equipment, lawnmowers, power tools, hammers, drills, and generators), yelling, and barking dogs.

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

June and July 2011 Schedule

Listed hereunder is the scheduled pick up dates for trash in the City of Mount Rainier for June and July 2011.

DATE	PARTICULARS	DATE	PARTICULARS
June 1	Regular Trash Pick Up	July 1	Recyclables Pick Up
June 3	Recyclables Pick Up	July 4	4 th of July Holiday (City Hall and Public Works Closed)
June 6	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up	July 5	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up
June 8	Regular Trash Pick Up	July 6	Regular Trash Pick Up
June 10	Recyclables Pick Up	July 8	Recyclables Pick Up
June 13	Yard Waste Pick Up	July 11	Yard Waste Pick Up
June 15	Regular Trash Pick Up	July 13	Regular Trash Pick Up
June 17	Recyclables Pick Up	July 15	Recyclables Pick Up
June 20	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up	July 18	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up
June 22	Regular Trash Pick Up	July 20	Regular Trash Pick Up
June 24	Recyclables Pick Up	July 22	Recyclables Pick Up
June 27	Yard Waste Pick Up	July 25	Yard Waste Pick Up
June 29	Regular Trash Pick Up	July 27	Regular Trash Pick Up
		July 29	Recyclables 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

Jeannelle B. Wallace

jwallace@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
301-918-8111

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

Pre-sorted
Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 171

June 2011 Message
City of Mount Rainier
One Municipal Place
Mount Rainier, MD 20712