

# The Message



Issue 300

July/August 2012

## Mount Rainier, Gateway Arts District Emerge Through *Art Lives Here* Campaign

Joe's Movement Emporium has been awarded \$50,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to help enliven the Mount Rainier town center and promote the Gateway Arts District.

Through *Art Lives Here*, an 18-month campaign, partners in the project will engage citizens through participatory public arts projects, pair artists with businesses and create pop-up installations, lease blighted commercial spaces and establish a Downtown Arts Season.

The NEA is investing almost \$5 million in small towns and arts organizations across the country to support creative placemaking. Joe's is one of 80 selected among 300 applicants.

"I am thrilled to have the support from the NEA's *Our Town* grant because it reaffirms how special the creative community is in Mount Rainier and the Gateway Arts District," said Brooke Kidd, Executive Director and Founder of Joe's. "This project, *Art Lives Here*, will continue to build on our community programming, support business-artist partnerships, and bring visibility to the wonderful artists and

programs that we have here."

Through *Our Town*, the NEA supports creative placemaking projects that help transform communities into lively and sustainable places with the arts at their core. The grantee projects are designed to improve quality of life, encourage creative activity, create community identity and a sense of place, and help revitalize local economies.

Mount Rainier is considered by many to be the cultural heart of the Gateway Arts District and through several initiatives community leaders have improved and increased its profile in recent years. "People who experience Mount Rainier tend to fall in love with the neighborhood," said Michelle Darden Lee, spokesperson for the project. "Our charge now is to serve as a bridge between the numerous creative efforts already established in the community and present that to the rest of the beltway area and beyond."

## Bus Competition Wrapping Up

The Route 1 Ride Collaborative, in an effort to make a bold statement about the Route 1 corridor, solicited artistic designs which would be used to wrap the buses that are used on the corridor.

There were over 38 submissions (from 27 artists) and a jury of 14 County, University, and municipal representatives reviewed and ranked the amazing array of artistic statements.

Now its your turn! We need your vote to choose the winner of our three finalists, local artists Jennifer Axner, Matt Gifford, and Boshwell Talavera. Our Bus wrap design semi-finalists' works can be found at <http://www.route1ride.org/bus-wrap-competition/> You can vote now or read more about the artists and their work. **Voting closes Sunday, September 9th, 2012.**

Cast your vote today! Help select the final bus wrap design by sending this link around to your friends and neighbors in and around the Route One Corridor community. You can also learn more about the wonderful Route 1 Ride at [www.route1ride.org](http://www.route1ride.org).



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# Green Team documents sustainability efforts

By Krista Schlyer

The Mount Rainier Green Team, a committee of residents, city staff and council members, has been working since the start of 2012 to further the livability and sustainability of our city.

The Green Team meets once each month to plan events and support ongoing initiatives, as well as to document city programs in order to be recognized as one of Maryland's first certified sustainable communities.

Through this program, Sustainable Maryland, run by the University of Maryland, we hope to gain increased access to grants and technical assistance to help us further our efforts on all sustainability fronts—from decreasing the city's energy use and costs, to increasing resident access to

great programs like the bike co-op and tool library.

In addition to our work toward recognition as a sustainable city, the Green Team is working on many new initiatives. Several of our members, led by Joe Robbins, are working to establish a community garden, so that those in Mount Rainier who don't have yards, or who only have shady lots, can grow some their own food locally.

We are also working on a plan to increase the safety of biking on city streets. Several of our members have been leading this effort, and will in the coming months be holding a community meeting to discuss the options.

Another of our team members organized an event at the corn co-op called Connect the Dots in collaboration with a nationwide effort to highlight alternative fuels and other solutions to the climate

warming crisis.

And finally, the Green Team facilitated a series of workshops on green living at the Better Block Day event in April. We had some fantastic speakers demonstrating how to make bread, how to make non-toxic cleaning products, how to propagate your own plants, change your own bike tires, do yoga, compost garbage, make pickles and kimchi, and buy goods in Mount Rainier with our local currency Anacostia Hours.

Stay in touch with Green Team happenings by joining our Facebook page--Mount Rainier Green Team!



## CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS AND SPECIAL DATES

Unless noted all city council meetings occur at 7 pm at City Hall, One Municipal Place

**September 4th & 18th**  
**October 2nd & 16th**  
**November 6th & 20th**  
**December 4th & 18th**



## MRTV Programs appear on Comcast 71, Verizon 21, and "On Demand" daily.

MRTV now provides a 24/7 programming schedule. Watch for the daily Program Guide for a list shows and times.

**LIVE Programs – City Council Meetings and Worksessions, 7 pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month.**

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

Questions, comments and submissions to the Mount Rainier *MESSAGE* should be sent to **Michael Jackson, Assistant City Manager**, via mail at **One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, MD 20712** or via e-mail at [mjackson@mountrainiermd.org](mailto:mjackson@mountrainiermd.org). All submissions for the April 2012 *MESSAGE* must be received by close of business on Wednesday, July 20, 2012. Submissions received after that time will be considered on a space available basis. The Mount Rainier Message is published monthly except for the combined July-August and December-January issues.

# Schools, Youth & Recreation



**Monday, August 20th** is the first day back to school for Mount Rainier children. What can you do as a neighbor to help our students have the best first day and school year? Volunteer with the local Mount Rainier Parent Teacher Organizations (PTO)! Our local schools are only as great as the people involved!

The **Thomas Stone Elementary PTO** meets every third Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Contact Thomas Stone PTO President Ms. Kristen Hayes at [k\\_hayes2008@hotmail.com](mailto:k_hayes2008@hotmail.com) and Vice-President Mr. Daniel Rivas at [dbr81@yahoo.com](mailto:dbr81@yahoo.com).

The **Mount Rainier Elementary PTO** meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the school library. Contact Ms. Yvette Barnes at [ysb527@gmail.com](mailto:ysb527@gmail.com).



As school begins, so comes the close of a Summer of Dreaming Big! The PGCMLS Summer Reading program ends on Friday, August 31st. There is still time to participate in special end of summer programs. Visit the **Mount Rainier Library, 3409 Rhode Island Avenue**, on Tuesday, August 21st at 11 a.m., to see **Turley the Magician**, Washington's best-known and most preferred family entertainer. Turley the Magician is renowned for his inimitable talent entertaining audiences of all ages. And don't forget to bring in your game boards or reading logs to claim your prizes! We hope to see you there!



Prince George's County Public Schools

## Back-to-School Fair

Saturday, August 18, 2012  
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The Show Place Arena  
14900 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland

SPECIALTY PROGRAM BOOTHS • SCHOOL DISPLAYS  
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES • ESOL PARENT WORKSHOPS  
VENDORS • HEALTH INFORMATION • FOOD • AND MORE!

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS | **PGCPS**  
[www.pgps.org](http://www.pgps.org)

# Community Happenings

**The Mount Rainier Book Club (MRBC) is hosting World Book Night, 6 pm—8pm, Saturday, August 18th, at Urban Eats, 3311 Rhode Island Avenue.** Celebrate the love and power of reading and meet neighbors! MRBC is reading and discussing the award-winning *The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Díaz. MRBC has **20 FREE COPIES AVAILABLE**, donated by World Book Night, to help spread the love of reading around the community. To participate register by emailing [mountrainierbooknight@gmail.com](mailto:mountrainierbooknight@gmail.com). Read *The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*. Join us at Urban Eats to discuss. Email [mountrainierbooknight@gmail.com](mailto:mountrainierbooknight@gmail.com) to reserve your free copy of *The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Díaz. Check out the MRBC on Facebook!

**Mount Rainier Nature Center, 4701 31st Place, Mount Rainier, MD 20712,** hosts a variety of ongoing programs for all ages. *Adventure Seekers*, Saturdays, August 4th and September 1st 10 am—5 pm, ages 8-12; Tuesdays, *Open Recreation*, 3 pm—6 pm, Ages 10-17; *Family Discovery Hike*, August 11, 10 am—noon, all ages; *Family Movie Nights* Friday, August 24; *Xtrene Teens /Pre-Teens Nights*, Fridays, 5 pm—9 pm; *Zumba*, Tuesday & Thursdays, August, 6:30 pm —7:30 pm; *Nature Club*, Tuesdays, 6:30 pm —7:30 pm, ages 5– 11, *Toddler Time*, Thursdays 11 am -Noon.

For more information call 301-927-2163.

**Art Works Studio School, 3711 Rhode Island Ave Mount Rainier, MD 20712.** Join us for Toddler Time from 10:00 am to Noon on Fridays, August 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31. Toddler Time is an drop-in open studio time for toddlers and their accompanying adults during which children can explore a variety of age-appropriate art materials in a safe, fun environment. Siblings, young and old, always welcome. For more information visit [artworksnow.org](http://artworksnow.org) or call 301-454-0808. Art Works Studio School is located on Rhode Island Avenue above the Mount Rainier Post Office. Street parking available.



**MOUNT RAINIER  
BOOK NIGHT  
SAT. AUGUST 18  
6PM-8PM AT URBAN EATS**

**Urban Eats**  
Arts & Music Café  
*where friends and neighbors meet*

**“The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao”**

Things have never been easy for Oscar, a sweet but disastrously overweight, lovesick Dominican ghetto nerd. Oscar dreams of becoming the Dominican J. R. R. Tolkien and, most of all, of finding love. But he may never get what he wants, thanks to the fuku—the curse that has haunted the Oscar’s family for generations, dooming them to prison, torture, tragic accidents, and, above all, ill-starred love.

**REGISTER**  
Email [mountrainierbooknight@gmail.com](mailto:mountrainierbooknight@gmail.com)

**READ**  
“The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao”

**DISCUSS**  
And meet new neighbors on Sat. Aug. 18 at Urban Eats

**20 FREE COPIES**  
Donated by World Book Night. First come, first serve. Email [mountrainierbooknight@gmail.com](mailto:mountrainierbooknight@gmail.com) to reserve your copy.

World Book Night  
[worldbooknight.org](http://worldbooknight.org)



Join the Mount Rainier Police Department, elected officials, Neighborhood Watch Groups and neighbors on Tuesday, August 7th National on the southern side of our City at Otis and Wells, the site of the skate board park.

The National Night Out is designed to generate support and participation in local anti-crime efforts through the Neighborhood Watch Program, while also strengthening neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships nationwide.

Local resident Rick Ruggles organizes monthly walks throughout the City. Tyrese Robinson organizes activities on the south side of Rhode Island Avenue. Contact Rick Ruggles at rick@rickruggles.com and Tyrese Robinson at tjkrobinson@yahoo.com for more information about how to participate.

You can also report non-violent crimes to the Mount Rainier Police Department directly by calling 301-985-6565. Reporting issues and crime improves how we all live in Mount Rainier. Let's keep working together!

### MARKET DAY@ the Market



located at the corner of  
Rhode Island & Eastern Avenues

Saturday,  
August  
25th  
9 a.m.  
To  
3 p.m.

## Department of Public Works RECYCLE, BULK TRASH AND YARD WASTE COLLECTION

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.

All BULK TRASH appointments must be made before 12 Noon on the Friday preceding the pick up day. All bulk trash items must be set out before 7:00 AM on pick up day. Call 301-985-6558, selection 2.

### PUBLIC WORKS CALENDAR

DATE	PARTICULARS
August 1	Regular Trash Pick Up
August 3	Recyclables Pick Up
August 6	<b>Bulk Trash Pick Up (by appointment only, call 301 985 6558)</b> Yard Waste Pick Up
August 8	Regular Trash Pick Up
August 10	Recyclables Pick Up
August 13	Yard Waste Pick Up
August 15	Regular Trash Pick Up
August 17	Recyclables Pick Up
August 20	<b>Bulk Trash Pick Up (by appointment only, call 301 985 6558)</b> Yard Waste Pick Up
August 22	Regular Trash Pick Up
August 24	Recyclables Pick Up
August 27	Yard Waste Pick Up
August 29	Regular Trash Pick Up
August 31	Recyclables Pick Up
September 3	<b>LABOR DAY HOLIDAY— Public Works CLOSED</b>
September 5	Regular Trash Pick Up
September 7	Recyclables Pick Up
September 10	Yard Waste Pick Up
September 12	Regular Trash Pick Up
September 14	Recyclables Pick Up
September 17	<b>Bulk Trash Pick Up (by appointment only, call 301 985 6558)</b> Yard Waste Pick Up
September 19	Regular Trash Pick Up

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