

February
Febrero
2021

THE MESSAGE



The Newsletter of the City of Mount Rainier El boletín informativo de la Ciudad de Mount Rainier

City Council/ Consejo De La Ciudad
Contact Council 301-985-6585

Mayor/ Alcadesa
Mayor Malinda Miles
mayormiles@mountrainiermd.org

Ward 1 Councilmembers/ Concejales
Celina Benitez
cbenitez@mountrainiermd.org
Luke Chesek
lchesek@mountrainiermd.org

Ward 2 Councilmembers/ Concejales
Bryan Knedler
bknedler@mountrainiermd.org
Scott Cecil
scecil@mountrainiermd.org

State Legislative 47th District
Del. Diana Fennell 301-858-3478v
Del. Julian Ivey 301-858-3326
Sen. Malcolm Augustine 301-858-3745
County Council District 2
Deni Taveras 301-952-4436

U.S. Congress
Rep. Anthony Brown 202-225-8699
Sen. Chris Van Hollen 301-322-6560
Sen. Ben Cardin 301-860-0414

Event Calendar

February 2, 2021 @ 7pm
Mayor and City Council Legislative Meeting
Location: Virtual

February 16, 2020 @ 7pm
Mayor and City Council Work Session
Location: Virtual

Non-Native Vines on Trees: A Slow and Insidious Hazard

By the Mount Rainier Tree Commission

If you've been taking walks this winter, you may have noticed vines that are still green. At any time of year, vines dominate many of the forested landscapes in our region. At first glance, the greenery during the dull gray of winter may seem welcome. However, in most cases, the vines on the trees in our backyards are causing a slow and insidious hazard.

Non-native vines (vines introduced from somewhere else in the world) can grow aggressively, and steal nutrients and sunlight from trees. A non-native vine such as English ivy, porcelain berry, or oriental bittersweet can crowd tree branches, blocking the sunlight trees need for photosynthesis. These non-native vines rely on the same supply of water and nutrients as the tree. Vines can weigh the tree down, putting it at risk of breaking or falling in a storm. Over time, the stress on the tree can make it a target for unwanted pests.

There are native vines, meaning they co-evolved with the flora and fauna found in the Mid-Atlantic region. These vines, such as poison ivy, wild grape and Virginia creeper, are all valuable for wildlife because of the nectar, nutritious berries, and shelter they provide. They also climb trees in a way that does not damage the trees over time.

If you have a tree with vines in your backyard, the first step is to identify what kind it is. Fortunately, if you have access to the Internet, you can find good information from sources such as the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension, or you can download apps like iNaturalist to help with identification. Once you determine it is an invasive vine to remove, follow these key steps.

1. Use garden clippers to cut the vines at the bottom of the trunk. Make sure to cut all of the vines that connect to the ground. If the tree is heavily infested with vines thicker than an inch, you will need a saw. Care should be taken with a heavily infested tree to avoid cutting into the bark, as this can hurt the tree.
2. Pull the vines out of the ground around the base of the tree to help protect the tree from future infestation.
3. After you clear all the vines that connect to the ground, leave the vines on the trees. Don't pull the vines off the tree because it can damage the tree. The vines will eventually die and fall off.
4. Monitor the tree to make sure more vines do not reattach.

While poison ivy is a hazard to people, it is native and beneficial to birds, and not harmful to trees. If there is no risk to you or others, it can be left. If you do choose to remove it, much care must be taken to make sure the oils do not make contact with skin. The oil in the vine, roots, leaves, and berries can cause a severe allergic reaction at any time of year.

You can cut vines any season but winter is a great time because they are so visible. Taking some simple steps to remove invasive vines from our community trees can help keep them healthy, save money, and reduce hazards to property. If you need help figuring out what to do, you can contact the Tree Commission at trees@20712.org

Reminder: MRPD Emergency and Non-Emergency Phone Number

This is a reminder that the emergency and non-emergency number for the Mount Rainier Police Department is 301-985-6565. This call will go straight to the Hyattsville dispatch, and a MRPD officer will respond promptly to the call.

To reach the Administrative staff of the Mount Rainier Police Department, call 301-985-6580. This number will direct you to the administrative office which is only open during business hours. Call this number if you wish to pay/contest a parking ticket, need a copy of a police/accident report, wish to make a complaint, or simply wish to speak with a member of the administrative staff. Do not call this number if you are in need of an officer.

Volunteers Needed for Appointment to the City's Tree Commission

The Mount Rainier Tree Commission is a group of volunteers appointed by the Mayor and Council and charged with helping the city protect and develop its tree canopy. The Tree Commission advises city staff and city council on decisions regarding planting and maintenance of city-owned trees. In addition, the commission works to educate residents about trees and organizes public tree plantings and pruning workshops within the city. The Tree Commission consists of at least five and no more than seven city residents. This is an active city commission with several on-going projects. If you are interested in being considered for appointment to the Tree Commission, please contact City Clerk John Hoatson at either One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, MD 20712, or by email jhoatson@mountrainiermd.org. Please provide a short explanation of your interest.

The Tree Commission also has a page on the city website. <https://www.mountrainiermd.org/government/city-committees/tree-commission>. Interested residents may also contact the Tree Commission and join its virtual meetings to find out more about current projects. trees@20712.org.

A Message from Ward 1 Councilmember Luke Chesek

Hi Mounties,

I hope this finds you warm and in good health.

Over this past year, we bore witness to a level of suffering and public discord not seen in America in over a generation. And yet, through it all, many of you stood up to sacrifice, lend a hand, or join a march – embodying the hope that shone through the past year’s darkness.

This community’s spirit served to remind many of us why we live here in the first place – namely, our community values.

It is those values that helped design the strategic vision I laid out in 2019 to invest in our diversity, make our city more sustainable, and create a vibrant downtown core. And as I’ve mentioned in this space before, despite the headwinds we faced in 2020, we continue to deliver on the projects underlying that vision. In December, we moved forward on two more fronts.

First, we passed my legislation creating a Native Plant Network to educate residents on the importance of landscaping with native plants and encourage folks to join a growing network of residents committed to doing just that. The goal? Turn more of our yards into the native forest it once was and help reverse the decline in biodiversity imperiling our planet.

Second, I presented a plan to start implementing the city’s Bike Master Plan for Bunker Hill Road, connecting an existing D.C. bike lane at Eastern Avenue with our own bike co-op.

None of this would have been possible without contributions from so many of you in this community. Like I said when first running for office, when we focus our time on our shared interests, we can get a lot good work done. And as this past year reminded us, time is valuable. Let’s keep using it to invest in our shared goals.

Peace,

Luke

Lukeformountrainier.org

LChesek@mountrainiermd.org

A Message from Mount Rainier and Thomas Stone Elementary Schools

If you are not currently registered for school and have a school-aged child (age 5+ as of September 1), please contact your local school or register your child online at <https://www.pgcps.org/registration/>.

If you are not sure which school you are zoned for, visit <https://gis.pgcps.org/schoolfinder/> and search by your home address.

Both schools will distribute breakfast and lunch to students on Mondays and Thursday from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM. Please have your child’s student PIN#, school ID or a recent report card when picking up meals.

Reminder: even if you received Free and Reduced Meals in the past, you must re-apply to confirm your eligibility for this year. This can be completed online at <https://www.pgcps.org/food-and-nutrition/cards/Apply-For-Free-or-Reduced-Price-Meals/>.

For more details and information about the 2020-21 school year, please visit <https://www.pgcps.org/reopen>, <https://www1.pgcps.org/mountrainier> or <https://www1.pgcps.org/thomasstone>.

You can also contact both local elementary schools and PTOs at:

Mount Rainier Elementary School: (301) 985-1810

Thomas Stone Elementary School: (301) 985-1890

Mount Rainier Elementary PTO: mountrainierpto@gmail.com

Thomas Stone Elementary PTO: thomasstonees.pto@gmail.com

2020 Annual Community Report of the Mount Rainier Police

To view the full report, visit <https://www.mountrainiermd.org/departments/police/crime-statistics>

MRBA PRESENTS... "TAKE OUT TUESDAYS"



At The Following Restaurants in Mount Rainier

Aladdin Sizzler (301) 877-1010

3231 Rhode Island Avenue

Francis Carry-Out (301) 779-6155

3856 34th Street

Grand China Carryout (301) 699-1122

2300 Arundel Road

Joe's Carry Out (301) 699-6270

3185 Queens Chapel Road

Little Caesar's Pizza (240) 770-3816

3123 Queens Chapel Road

Medi Cafe' (301) 277-2500

3237 Rhode Island Avenue

Medi Mart & Kitchen (301) 276-9995

3233 Rhode Island Avenue

Pan Lourdes Bakery (301) 846-1700

3239 Rhode Island Avenue

Penny Royal Station (240) 770-8579

3310 Rhode Island Avenue

Potomac Fish House (301) 864-1151

3221 Rhode Island Avenue

Sweet & Natural (301) 277-9338

4009 34th Street

The Waterhole (301) 699-0030

4004 34th Street

ZZ Pizza and Kabob (301) 277-0001

4000 34th Street

LA MRBA PRESENTA... "MARTES PARA LLEVAR"



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Se necesitan voluntarios para formar parte de la Comisión de Árboles de la Ciudad

La Comisión de Árboles de Mount Rainier está conformada por un grupo de voluntarios designados por el alcalde y el Ayuntamiento, que se encargan de ayudar a la Ciudad a proteger y desarrollar su dosel arbóreo. La Comisión de Árboles asesora al personal de la ciudad y al Ayuntamiento sobre las decisiones relacionadas con la plantación y el mantenimiento de los árboles de la ciudad. Además, la comisión trabaja para brindar información sobre los árboles a los residentes, y organiza plantaciones públicas de árboles y talleres de poda en la ciudad. La Comisión de Árboles está integrada por al menos cinco y no más de siete residentes de la ciudad. Se trata de una comisión municipal activa que posee varios proyectos en marcha. Si está interesado/a en ser considerado/a para un puesto en la Comisión de Árboles, comuníquese con el secretario de la Ciudad, John Hoatson, en: One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, MD 20712, o por correo electrónico: jhoatson@mountrainiermd.org. Proporcione una breve explicación sobre su interés.

La Comisión de Árboles también tiene una página en el sitio web de la ciudad. <https://www.mountrainiermd.org/government/city-committees/tree-commission>. Aquellos residentes que estén interesados también pueden comunicarse con la Comisión de Árboles y participar en sus reuniones virtuales para obtener más información sobre los proyectos actualmente en marcha. trees@20712.org.

Recordatorio: Número de teléfono de emergencia y no emergencia del Departamento de Policía de Mount Rainier (MRPD)

Este es un recordatorio de que el número de emergencia y no emergencia del Departamento de Policía de Mount Rainier es 301-985-6565. Esta llamada se dirigirá directamente al despacho de Hyattsville y un oficial del MRPD responderá de inmediato.

Para comunicarse con el personal administrativo del Departamento de Policía de Mount Rainier, llame al 301-985-6580. Este número lo comunicará con la oficina administrativa que solo está abierta en horario laboral. Llame a este número si desea pagar o impugnar una multa de estacionamiento, necesita una copia de un informe policial o de accidente, desea presentar un reclamo o simplemente hablar con un miembro del personal administrativo. No llame a este número si lo que necesita es un oficial.

Un mensaje del miembro del consejo de la zona 1, Luke Chesek

Hola, Mounties:

Espero que esta carta los encuentre a gusto y con buena salud.

Durante el año pasado, fuimos testigos de un nivel de sufrimiento y discordia pública que no se había visto en Estados Unidos en más de una generación. Y sin embargo, a pesar de todo, muchos de ustedes se pusieron de pie para sacrificarse, tender una mano o unirse a una marcha, encarnando la esperanza que brilló a través de la oscuridad del año pasado.

El espíritu de nuestra comunidad sirvió para que muchos de nosotros recordemos la principal razón por la que vivimos aquí, es decir: nuestros valores comunitarios.

Son esos valores los que ayudaron a diseñar la visión estratégica que establecí en 2019 para invertir en nuestra diversidad, hacer que nuestra ciudad sea más sostenible y crear un centro vibrante para ella. Como he mencionado anteriormente en este espacio, a pesar de haber tenido que enfrentar vientos desfavorables en 2020, seguimos cumpliendo con los proyectos que forman la base de esa visión. En diciembre, hemos avanzado en dos frentes más.

Primero, aprobamos mi legislación para crear una Red de Plantas Nativas con el fin de educar a los residentes sobre la importancia de diseñar nuestros jardines con plantas autóctonas y para alentar a las personas a unirse a una red creciente de residentes comprometidos con esta labor. El objetivo es convertir una mayor parte de nuestros patios en el bosque autóctono que fue en su día y ayudar a revertir la pérdida de biodiversidad que pone en peligro a nuestro planeta.

En segundo lugar, presenté un plan para comenzar a implementar el Plan Maestro de Bicicletas de la ciudad para Bunker Hill Road, que conectará un carril para bicicletas del D. C. que se encuentra en Eastern Avenue con nuestra propia cooperativa de bicicletas.

Nada de esto hubiera sido posible sin las contribuciones de muchos de ustedes en esta comunidad. Como dije cuando me postulé por primera vez, si enfocamos nuestro tiempo en nuestros intereses comunes, podemos hacer un buen trabajo. El año pasado nos ha recordado que el tiempo es valioso. Sigamos usándolo para invertir en nuestros objetivos comunes.

Paz, Luke

Lukeformountrainier.org

LChesek@mountrainiermd.org

Un mensaje de las escuelas primarias Mount Rainier y Thomas Stone

Si actualmente no está registrado/a en la escuela y tiene un niño en edad escolar (más de 5 años a partir del 1 de septiembre), póngase en contacto con su escuela local o inscriba a su hijo/a en línea en: <https://www.pgcps.org/registration/>.

Si no sabe con certeza qué escuela le corresponde a su zona, visite: <https://gis.pgcps.org/schoolfinder/> y realice una búsqueda ingresando la dirección de su casa.

La Noche de Regreso a la Escuela Virtual será el 15 de septiembre para la Escuela Primaria Mount Rainier y el 17 de septiembre para la Escuela Primaria Thomas Stone. Póngase en contacto con su escuela para obtener detalles más específicos.

Ambas escuelas distribuirán desayunos y almuerzos para los estudiantes los días lunes y jueves, entre las 10:00 a. m. y la 1:00 p. m. Por favor, recuerde que al recoger las comidas debe tener el número de PIN, la identificación de la escuela o un boletín de calificación reciente de su hijo/a.

Recordatorio: aunque haya recibido comidas gratuitas o a precio reducido (Free and Reduced Meals) en el pasado, debe volver a solicitarlas para confirmar su elegibilidad para este año. Puede completar esta solicitud en línea, en: <https://www.pgcps.org/food-and-nutrition/cards/Apply-For-Free-or-Reduced-Price-Meals/>.

Si desea obtener más información sobre el año escolar 2020-21, visite: <https://www.pgcps.org/reopen>, <https://www.pgcps.org/mountrainier> o <https://www.pgcps.org/thom-asstone>.

También puede ponerse en contacto con las escuelas primarias locales y las PTO en:

Escuela Primaria Mount Rainier: (301) 985-1810

Escuela Primaria Thomas Stone: (301) 985-1890

PTO de la Escuela Primaria Mount Rainier: mountrainierpto@gmail.com

PTO de la Escuela Primaria Thomas Stone: thomasstones.ppto@gmail.com

Informe anual de la comunidad de 2020 de la policía de Mount Rainier

Para ver el informe completo, visite <https://www.mountrainiermd.org/departments/police/crime-statistics>

Community Contacts

City Staff

City Manager/Administrador de la Ciudad

Latasha Gatling 301-892-1162
lgatling@mountrainiermd.org

Finance Director/ Director de Finanzas

Raymond Rawlins 301-985-6585
rrawlins@mountrainiermd.org

Chief of Police/ Jefe de la Policia

Linwood Alston 301-832-1302
amorgan@mountrainierpd.org

Public Works/ Obras Publicas

Kourosch Kamali 301-614-9175
kkamali@mountrainiermd.org

Economic Development/ Desarrollo Economico

Ronald Hopkins 301-985-6585
rhopkins@mountrainiermd.org

Code Enforcement/ Cumplimiento delCodigo

Linwood Alston 301-458-5103
lalston@mountrainierpd.org

Communications and Community Events & MRTV/ Comunicaciones y Eventos Comuni-tarios Y MRTV

mrtv@mountrainiermd.org

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Mount Rainier, MD 20712

The Message
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