

January
Enero
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

January 5, 2021 @ 7pm

Mayor and City Council Legislative Meeting
Location: Virtual

January 19, 2020 @ 7pm

Mayor and City Council Work Session
Location: Virtual

What are my trees up to in winter, and how can I care for them?

By Zachary Hennessee, Mount Rainier Tree Commissioner

Have you ever gazed out of a frost-bitten window and wondered if the trees in your yard get cold too? They do! But, it turns out they have lots of tricks to survive. Occasionally, though, they can use a little help from you to make it through to spring.

Trees begin preparing for winter late in late summer when the days begin to shorten. Most noticeably, deciduous trees, like oaks and elms, lose their leaves to conserve energy and prevent water loss during cold, dry winter days. Coniferous trees, like pine and hemlock, are better at retaining water in their slender, waxy leaves, which stay green throughout winter. But as anyone who has raked a pine-shaded yard can tell you, conifers still shed lots of older, damaged needles in autumn.

Another change you can see are buds. Trees form buds while the weather is still warm outside, and they stay on a tree all winter, waiting for spring's thaw. Each bud contains a tiny bundle of leaves or flowers (or both!), protected from the cold by scales, and waiting to expand and unfurl when the weather gets warm enough. Buds are trees' way of getting a jump on next year's growing season, and they are also an important source of food for wildlife during the winter.

Other changes are invisible, but equally important. A tree's metabolism slows in winter, in a process called dormancy. The tree's cell membranes become more elastic, allowing water to migrate from inside the cell into the spaces between the cell. That way, when water outside the cell freezes, the pliable cell walls stay intact and aren't punctured by the expanding ice crystals. Trees also convert their starches into sugars and concentrate those sugars inside their cell walls, which lowers the freezing point of the cells—a sort of natural antifreeze. These two processes trigger a third, where the liquid content of the cell becomes extremely viscous—almost like glass. This further protects the tree's living cells from freezing.

Though trees are very good at surviving winter, they can sometimes use your help. Here are some things you can do:

If it has been a dry fall, give your tree a hearty watering before the ground freezes. We had a wet fall this year, so this step isn't necessary for well-established trees.

Lay two to four inches of mulch around the base of the tree to help lock in moisture. Take care not to apply any mulch directly against the trunk.

Remove invasive vines. Vines can add weight to dormant limbs and can trap additional snow and ice, leading to limb breakage.

Prune your tree for a strong structure. Winter is a very good time for pruning most trees. But you should wait to prune early-spring flowering trees like dogwood and magnolia until right after they flower. Visit the Tree Commission's website for more advice about pruning trees on your property. <http://trees.20712.org/home/tree-pruning-guide>. Private citizens can't prune street trees, so if your street tree needs pruning, please contact the City's roadside tree care expert, Rocio Latorre, at rlatorre@mountrainiermd.org and 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 Mount Rainier and Thomas Stone Elementary Schools

PGCPS Parents and Families,

By now, many of you have heard that school for local students will be 100% virtual from August 31 through at least January 29. In December, PGCPS will re-assess the current health situation and determine plans for the Spring semester. We know this is not the school year many of us were hoping for, but both of our community elementary schools, our dedicated teachers and PTO groups are committed to providing local students and families with the best educational experience possible. We have prepared a summary of some key information that will help you in the upcoming year and encourage you to contact us with any additional questions or ways we can help. We also ask that you please continue to practice social distancing guidelines and wear your masks so that we can all move past this pandemic and one day return safely to school together.

Virtual classes will be held **Monday through Friday from 7:45 AM until 1:55 PM**. Classes will include a combination of live and recorded lessons.

All students are expected to participate in lessons and **attendance will be taken daily** at the beginning of the school day and immediately following lunch break. On days when your child is absent, parents must email your child's teacher with a reason for the absence.

Please make sure you have updated all information in your child's SchoolMax account (<https://www.pgcps.org/schoolmax-support>) to ensure you receive regular communication from your school.

Every PGCPS student will be issued a Chromebook or tablet. If you did not receive a computing device, please contact your school to make arrangements.

If you do not have Internet access in your home or apartment, or have questions about accessing other resources for PGCPS families, please contact the Community School Coordinator for your school:

Mount Rainier Elementary: Jasmine Washington,
jasmine.washington@pgcps.org

Thomas Stone Elementary: Celeste Valencia,
celeste.valencia@pgcps.org

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 de las escuelas primarias Mount Rainier y Thomas Stone

Padres y familias de las PGcps:

Muchos de ustedes ya habrán oído que, a partir del 31 de agosto y hasta por lo menos el 29 de enero, las clases para los estudiantes locales serán 100 % virtuales. En diciembre, las PGcps volverán a evaluar la situación sanitaria y definirán planes para el semestre de primavera. Sabemos que este no es el año escolar que esperábamos, pero las escuelas primarias de nuestra comunidad, nuestros dedicados docentes y los grupos de PTO están comprometidos a proporcionar la mejor experiencia educativa posible para los estudiantes y familias locales. Hemos preparado un resumen con información esencial para ayudarlos durante el próximo año. Los alentamos a que se pongan en contacto con nosotros si tienen más preguntas o si hay alguna otra forma en la que podamos ayudarlos. También les pedimos encarecidamente que sigan cumpliendo las normas de distanciamiento social y que usen mascarillas para que podamos superar esta pandemia y regresar juntos a la escuela sin peligro.

Las clases virtuales se llevarán a cabo de **lunes a viernes, entre las 7:45 a. m. y la 1:55 p. m.** Las clases consistirán en una combinación de lecciones en vivo y grabadas.

Se espera que todos los estudiantes participen en las lecciones. La **asistencia se tomará a diario**, al comienzo de la jornada escolar e inmediatamente después del almuerzo. Los días que su hijo/a no asista a clase, los padres deben enviar un correo electrónico al docente explicando el motivo de la ausencia.

Por favor, no olviden actualizar todos sus datos en la cuenta de SchoolMax de su hijo/a (<https://www.pgcps.org/school-max-support>) para asegurarse de recibir las notificaciones regulares de la escuela.

Cada estudiante de las PGcps recibirá una Chromebook o tableta. Si aún no recibió un dispositivo, póngase en contacto con su escuela para organizar la entrega del mismo.

Si no tiene acceso a Internet en su casa o apartamento, o si tiene preguntas referentes al acceso a otros recursos para las familias de las PGcps, póngase en contacto con la coordinadora de su escuela:

Escuela Primaria Mount Rainier: Jasmine Washington, jasmine.washington@pgcps.org

Escuela Primaria Thomas Stone: Celeste Valencia, celestev.valencia@pgcps.org

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 calificaciones 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/thomasstone>.

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: thomasstonees.pto@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

Finance Director/ Director de Finanzas

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

Chief of Police/ Jefe de la Policia

Anthony Morgan 301-985-6580
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 del Codigo

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

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

Raina Walker 301-985-6585
rwalker@mountrainiermd.org
mrtv@mountrainiermd.org

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Mount Rainier, MD 20712

The Message
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