



# Message

## Issue 224

December 2004/January 2005

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Deadline for the February Message is January 18.

[www.mountrainiermd.org](http://www.mountrainiermd.org)

## Public Input Sought on Future of Building

Join with the Neighborhood Design Center to discuss future uses for the library and old police station at 3409 Rhode Island Avenue. The City council wants to hear your opinions on what to do with this property.

- When: Weds., December 15 at 7 p.m.
- Where: Mount Rainier City Hall, One Municipal Place

For further information, please contact: Jan Townshend, Neighborhood Design Center at 3010-779-6010 or send an e-mail to [jtownshend@ndc-md.org](mailto:jtownshend@ndc-md.org) or James Booth, Assistant City Manager at 301-985-6585 or send an e-mail to [JBooth@mountrainiermd.org](mailto:JBooth@mountrainiermd.org).

## Artspace Now Leasing

Mount Rainier Artist Lofts is located at 3301 Rhode Island Ave. Units range in size from 800-1,400sf; rents range from \$600-\$800/month. Contact Theresa Hammonds at Edgewood Property Management for an application at 301-927-3586, or Angela Blocker at Gateway CDC 301-864-3860 ([angela@gateway-cdc.org](mailto:angela@gateway-cdc.org)) for information about commercial leasing.

## Preparing for Snow Removal

Now that we are into the fall season and winter is fast approaching, Public Works attention is now turned to making preparations for snow removal, in the event of a snowstorm.

The Mount Rainier Police Department has an active role during a snowstorm. For example, when an impending snowstorm is predicted for the region, the Police will check the snow emergency routes in Mount Rainier to make sure that all vehicles have been removed. The snow emergency routes in Mount Rainier are currently as follows:

1. 34<sup>th</sup> Street from Rhode Island Avenue to Arundel Road
2. Chillum Road from Arundel Road to the City boundary at Queens Chapel Road
3. Rainier Avenue from 34<sup>th</sup> Street to Upshur Street
4. Upshur Street from Rainier Avenue to 28<sup>th</sup> Place
5. 28<sup>th</sup> Place from Upshur Street to Russell Avenue

Snow Removal, continues on page 5

Recycling pickups will occur on the Mondays following Christmas and New Years since the City will be closed on the regular Friday pickup days. Put out your bins on Monday, December 27 and Monday, January 3.

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## Mayor's Report

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by Mayor Bryan Knedler

### GIANT BONUS BUCKS PROGRAM.

Please sign up for A+ Bonus Bucks program with Giant if you use a Giant card. You can go to the Bonus Bucks web site and designate schools to receive money each time you buy groceries. Go to: [www.giantfood.com/bonuscard\\_aplus\\_faq.htm](http://www.giantfood.com/bonuscard_aplus_faq.htm). Please take a moment to sign up to help the local schools. The following totals are reported as of Nov. 25: Northwestern H.S. \$84.39; Hyattsville Middle School. \$241.36; Mount Rainier E.S. \$35.69; Thomas Stone E.S. \$46.00; Christian Family Montessori \$72.06; Concordia Lutheran \$108.16. Come on folks, we can do better than that! Sign up today.

### WHAT TO DO WITH AN OLD CITY BUILDING?

On Dec. 15, at 7 p.m. at City Hall, a forum will be held to hear opinions on what to do with 3409 Rhode Island Ave. (the library and old city hall/police dept.). Survey forms are available at City Hall if you want to give an opinion that way. The results of the session will be presented to the City Council and the next step would be for the Council to choose several ideas for feasibility studies to be conducted. The Dec. 15 session will be led by Jan Townshend of the Neighborhood Design Center.

SNOW SEASON is upon us and as we do annually, we ask that if you are willing to help less able neighbors shovel walks, that you leave your name and contact info at City Hall. Also, if you are in need of assistance, please also let City Hall, or your council members know.

### COUNTY BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS.

The County Beautification Committee has announced the 2004 award winners. We had several winners here in Mount Rainier. Congrats to all and a big thankyou to them for their hard work in beautifying our city! For "Superior

Sustained Maintenance": Kathy Shollenberger, 30th St.; Joanna Viudez, 29th St.; Thomas Stone Elementary; Johann Klodzen, 34th St.; Bonnie Abigail/Ken Thammavongsay, 34th St. (4th year to win); and for an "Individual Business Property": C.K. McConkey & Sons, 3300 block Perry St.

### PROPOSAL TO LIMIT LIQUOR SALE HOURS.

The Port Towns Gazette (article by Jeffrey Lyles) reported that Del. Doyle Niemann has put forward a bill that would require beer and liquor stores that sell off-site beer and liquor to close at 11 p.m. on weekdays and at midnight during weekends. Del. Victor Ramirez said the delegates are trying to be mindful of how amenable the bill is to business owners. "It's got to be a compromise as to what the hours should be," he said. "If there's evidence that the later the stores stay open the greater the chances that something bad happens, then we have to address that." Ramirez and Niemann are also introducing another bill that would tighten the definition of a restaurant for stores such as Bass Liquors in Mount Rainier. "The bill would make at least 50 percent of the store's proceeds come from its restaurant. I know at Bass' it's a very small portion," Niemann said. Under the current restaurant definition, a kitchen is simply an area where food can be heated and served, so a microwave is all that is necessary, Ramirez said.

K-FOOD MART HOURS OPPOSED. The Council opposed extension of the K-Food Mart hours in a letter sent to the Board of License Commissioners. The Board conditionally extended the hours to 10 p.m. 7-days/week. The store sells beer. The owners did not appear at the work session to which they were invited. The store has a high-volume of sales of "singles" according to residents in the area.

BASS UPDATE. Global Financial Services which operates the check cashing at Bass Liquors has asked the circuit court to allow it to intervene in the attempts to overturn the Liquor Board's decision not to renew the liquor license for Bass. Global is likely a major creditor of the reportedly bankrupt Borak and Gould corporation that owns the liquor license. Global has retained its own lawyers to defend the license. The Liquor Board and the City oppose such an intervention and the delays this will likely cause in the hearing of the case (scheduled for hearing on Jan. 14, 2005).

TOOL SHED GRAND OPENING. The official opening of the Mount Rainier Tool Shed occurred on Nov. 20. I commend the committee of volunteers led by resident Peter McGahey for a well-orchestrated event. Al Cornish, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Governmental Operations and Environmental Services, represented County Executive Jack Johnson who was unable to attend. The Tool Shed was made possible with a grant from the Livable Communities Initiative. Councilmember Miles wrote the grant and has been working with the committee. The Tool Shed is located at 3601 Bunker Hill Rd. Look for articles in the *Message* and on the city web site that will explain how to become a member and what tools are available. Also on Nov. 20, Jan Townshend of the Neighborhood Design Center led a group of about a dozen volunteers from the Alpha Kappa Lambda sorority at Roosevelt H.S. in cleaning up Gazebo Park. Thankyou all for your work. They used tools from the Tool Shed.

### GAS STATION HISTORY SOUGHT.

Anyone with memories of when the gas station at 3210 Rhode Island Ave. was in operation should contact James Booth at

Mayor, continued on page 8

## From the Police Chief

### HOW TO REACH US

For police service calls (24 hours a day) 301-985-6565/66  
 For information/admin offices (M-F, 9A-5P) 301-985-6580  
<http://www.mountrainiermd.org/government/mrpd/index.html>  
*Please cut and place on your phone*

### Vacation House Checks

When you go on vacation are you concerned with leaving your home unattended? Why not notify us so we may check on it from time-to-time? If you plan on leaving on a short or long vacation and would like us to check your property, please call 301-985-6566 or 6580 to be placed on our house checklist. We will need your address, length of visit and a number to contact you at in case the need arises.

### Holiday Crime Prevention Tips

The Holiday Season is upon us, and with that comes the possibility of increased crime and increased stress. The following prevention tips will help you have a safer holiday season.

#### Protect Your Home:

- Lock all your doors and windows when you leave, even if it is just for a few hours
- Keep lights and a radio or TV on, giving the appearance that someone is inside
- Don't leave valuables and gifts where they can be seen from the outside; though gifts look nice under a tree or on display, they send a signal to would be burglars
- If you are leaving town, ask a neighbor to watch your home, stop mail & newspaper delivery or ask a neighbor to collect them; call 301-985-6565 or 6580 for a **vacant housecheck by our officers**

- Take a holiday and home inventory of your home; video or photograph all your valuable items, write down serial numbers; place identifying marks on them

#### Protect Your Vehicle

- Park inside a garage whenever possible and make sure to close and secure the garage door
- Take all of your valuable out of the vehicle
- Lock the doors and close the windows of the vehicle
- Try to park in well-lit areas when shopping or going out
- Use an anti-theft device to further secure your car

#### Protect Yourself and Your Family

- Stay alert and be aware of your surroundings and the people around you
- Be vigilant when shopping, especially when walking through parking lots
- Be cautious of your purse/wallet. Carry a purse close to your body; do not place a purse in a shopping cart; if you carry your wallet in a back pocket, consider moving it to a front pocket
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash
- Collect all credit card receipts and ATM receipts and keep them in a pocket; do not leave in bags or ask a merchant to throw away for you
- Do not share your ATM PIN or password with anyone including the bank

#### Leaving Mount Rainier for an Extended Period of Time

- If you leave for an extended period of time, follow all of the rules under protect your home
- If you can secure your valuables somewhere other than your house, do so—take them with you or rent a safe deposit box

- Call for a VACANT HOUSE CHECK BY OUR STAFF
- Make sure the last person to leave the house knows to secure all doors and windows

### HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

#### October Crime Statistics

##### Assaults (3)

3200 Block of Queenstown Dr.

3100 Block of Chillum Rd.

3200 Block of Chillum Rd.

##### Breaking and Entering (6)

4600 Block of 30<sup>th</sup> St.

3500 Block of Perry St.

3400 Block of Rhode Island Ave.

4000 Block of 35<sup>th</sup> St.

4500 Block of Eastern Ave.

3300 Block of Perry St.

##### Robberies (2)

3200 Block of Chillum Rd.

3400 Block of Rhode Island Ave.

##### Stolen Autos (10)

3600 Block of 29<sup>th</sup> St.

3300 Block of Chauncey Pl.

4600 Block of 27<sup>th</sup> St. (2)

4200 Block of Russell Ave.

2900 Block of Queens Chapel Rd.

2700 Block of Russell Ave.

3200 Block of Queens Chapel Rd.

3300 Block of Buchanan St.

3000 Block of Arundel Rd.

##### Theft (23)

3100 Block of Queens Chapel Rd. (2)

3700 Block of Wells Ave.

3200 Block of Rhode Island Ave.

3100 Block of Varnum St.

3700 Block of 36<sup>th</sup> St.

4600 Block of 27<sup>th</sup> St.

3200 Block of Chillum Rd. (2)

2300 Block of Varnum St. (3)

3300 Block of Chillum Rd. (2)

3200 Block of Queenstown Dr. (2)

4400 Block of 32<sup>nd</sup> St.

4000 Block of 30<sup>th</sup> St.

4000 Block of 33<sup>rd</sup> St.

Chief, continued on page 6

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## City Manager Priorities

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by City Manager Jeannelle Wallace

City Manager Objectives established during a Priority/Goal Setting meeting held on October 16, 2004 with the Mayor and Council.

Meeting began at approximately 9:25 a.m. It was agreed by Council consensus that the completion date for the goals established will be May 2005.

Mayor gave the City Manager credit for tasks already completed including the Personnel Manual and Collective Bargaining Agreement.

The City Manager stated that her priorities included the following:

- Development of a 5-year capital improvement plan
- Build the City's reserve capital
- Stay within budget
- Complete the FY 2005 Audit on schedule

The Mayor and Council established the following general priorities:

- Timely finance department reports
- Timely reports from all departments including police and public works by close of business Friday prior to each Tuesday Council meeting
- Keeping competent reliable staff, particularly for the public works department
- Follow-up on supervision of public works staff
- Prioritize street cleaning
- Specifically address the department of public works; Council would like to see the same level of competence in this department as with the Assistant City Manager and Director of Finance

**Public Works.** Mayor Knedler addressed the landscaped areas as needing attention from the department of public works as the areas were beginning to look neglected.

Council member Miles specifically requested formalized training for the code enforcement and all other personnel required to enter private property. Council member Miles also requested written procedures focusing on sexual

harassment as well as Policy and Procedures Manuals for each department.

Council member Briones recommended a Mount Rainier resident to volunteer to oversee landscaping to ensure that only weeds and grasses were cut as opposed to flowering plants and shrubs. Council by consensus agreed to establish a Beautification Committee.

Another consensus by the entire Council was better enforcement and follow-up of vacant properties within the City. Of particular concern was the property located at 4117 34th street that may need to be condemned.

### Finance

- Advise council of current spending and revenue stream with accurate monthly financial reports
- Complete FY 04 audit process on time or no later than September 28, 2005
- Budget process could be improved with editing typographical errors
- Budget presentations should receive clearance/approval of the City Manager.

*Note:* It was agreed that a Council goal is to schedule budget work sessions as a one agenda item.

**Personnel.** All personnel files shall be kept in one centralized place under security at City Hall.

**Website.** Council acknowledged that the website looks fine, but requests that items are placed on the site in a more timely fashion, particularly minutes. Council member Briones indicated that he had to ask for the approved budget to be placed on the site several times.

**Council Meetings.** Council member Briones stated that staff should be better prepared for meetings, be on time. As an example, he indicated that the tape recorder should be ready in the event of a closed meeting. Council member Briones

also stated that he waited for more than a month for his business cards.

Council requested the manager to establish a Vision Statement which the Council can then amend; it was agreed that the City Manager should offer direction from other cities in this regard.

ANNEXATION—Management needs to move forward with this project. The area is very defined (shopping center on Queens Chapel Road) and should be brought to conclusion. Question was raised as to whether it is feasible to annex.

### Police Department

- More networking with the Chief concerning the department's relationship with the Council;
- Help improve relations between the Council and the Chief

The discussion focused on protocol, apparent feelings of hostility among some police officers; officers don't know or recognize Council members. It was recommended that a team building exercise be developed with an external facilitator.

**Management.** Some general goals for management were addressed as follows:

- Begin to take over the task of maintaining the rolling agenda
- Review the policies and procedures for each department and address areas where deficiencies exist and more controls should be put in place
- Develop goals for the finance department
- Establish a calendar of important events for the Council
- Review and become familiar with all City contracts of employees
- Continue to maintain closed meeting tapes and minutes

*Note:* Council goal is to keep pressure on the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners to give the City timely information pertaining to Bass Liquors. Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:45 a.m.

**Snow Removal, continued from page 1****6. Russell Avenue from 28<sup>th</sup> Place to Arundel Road**

During a snowstorm, the first streets to be cleared are the snow emergency routes. In Mount Rainier snow emergency routes are clearly identified by signs. Snow emergency rules are in effect when the District of Columbia declares a snow emergency. It is illegal to park on snow emergency routes during a storm. The Mount Rainier Police will enforce the City Code as it relates to clearing of snow emergency routes before the snow begins to fall.

Residents of Mount Rainier can do their part to help City snow removal crews. During a snowstorm the best policy for residents is to keep off the roads so the snow removal crews can operate unimpeded. If at all possible, residents should wait until the storm has passed and roads are passable. Abandoned vehicles prevent snow plows from clearing streets.

Also, when removing snow from around a parked vehicle, it is better to deposit the snow on tree boxes or

grassy areas instead of throwing it out on the street or on the sidewalk.

Finally, residents and business owners are required by City Code to clear the sidewalks of snow directly in front of their property. In that way, most sidewalks in the City will be safely passable and pedestrians will not have to walk in the street.

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## **Eleanor Roosevelt's High School Sorority Sisters Help Clean Up Mount Rainier's Gazebo**

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On Saturday, November 20, 2004 at 10 a.m., approximately one dozen volunteers from the Alpha Kappa Lambda Sorority of Eleanor Roosevelt High School cleaned up the Gazebo Park. Tools were borrowed from the Community Tool Shed and were used for this event. Jan Townshend of the Neighborhood Design Center led the group effort.



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## Remaining Leaf Vacuuming Schedule

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Full leaf vacuuming began as scheduled on Tuesday, October 26, 2004. The remaining schedule below will be followed weather permitting. In order to have your leaves vacuumed, please follow the schedule and rake your leaves to the curb. Here are a few reminders:

- Rake your leaves at least 24 hours before the crew is expected to begin on your block

### AREA 1

Dec. 14 & 16  
3700 34th St.  
3700 35th St.  
3700 36th St.  
3700-3800 37th St.  
3400-3600 Eastern  
3500 37th St.  
3200 Varnum St.  
3400-3600 Perry St.  
Wells Ave.  
Newton St.  
Oak Lane

### AREA 2

Dec. 7 & 9  
4000-4200 28th St.  
4000-4500 29th St.  
2800-2900 Shepherd St.  
2800-2900 Taylor St.  
2800-2900 Upshur  
2800 Webster St.

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## Cora B. Wood Senior Center

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### Game Show Bingo

Wed. Dec. 29, 12:30-2 p.m.  
Play game show Bingo and try to win a prize. Light refreshments will be served. Reservations required by Dec. 22. Ages 60 and up; FREE

3601 Taylor St., Brentwood  
301-699-1238; TTY 301-445-4512

- Rake your leaves to the curb without blocking the roadway
- Please keep rocks, bricks, branches, brush, metal, or any other objects away from raked leaves
- If leaves are in bags, they will not be vacuumed

### AREA 4

Dec. 21 & 23  
3800-4500 32nd St.  
3800-4100 33rd St.  
3200-3300 Perry St.  
3200-3300 Bunker Hill Rd.  
Rainier Ave.  
3100-3200 Upshur St.  
3100-3200 Varnum St.  
3100 Webster St.  
3100 Windom Rd.  
3100-3200 Arundel Rd.

### AREA 5

Dec. 28 & 30  
3800-4200 34th St.  
3800-4000 35th St.  
4000 36th St.  
4000 37th St.  
3400-3700 Bunker Hill Rd.  
3400-3700 Shepherd St.  
3400 Taylor St.  
3400 Tilden St.

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## Call-A-Bus

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Mount Rainier Call-A-Bus offers curb to curb bus service to medical appointments, shopping centers, recreations centers, libraries, 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 a.m.-2:00 p.m. For reservations and additional information, call 301-985-6586.

Chief, *continued from page 3*

3300 Block of Queenstown Dr.  
3400 Block of Newton St.  
3100 Block of Arundel Rd.  
3200 Block of Perry St.  
*Vandalism (8)*  
2200 Block of Varnum St.  
4200 Block of 30<sup>th</sup> St.  
2700 Block of Upshur St.  
4000 Block of 33<sup>rd</sup> St.  
3600 Block of Oak La.  
3300 Block of Chillum Rd.  
3000 Block of Arundel Rd.  
4600 Block of 30<sup>th</sup> St.  
*Arrests (13)*  
Adults - 12  
Juveniles - 1

## Homeland Security Web Links

- [www.mema.state.md.us/](http://www.mema.state.md.us/)
- [www.ready.gov/](http://www.ready.gov/)
- [www.co.pg.md.us/](http://www.co.pg.md.us/) Click on Government then Homeland Security
- [www.fema.gov/](http://www.fema.gov/)
- [www.redcross.org/](http://www.redcross.org/)
- [www.gov.state.md.us/homelandsecurity.html](http://www.gov.state.md.us/homelandsecurity.html)
- [www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/](http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/)

Joe's Movement Emporium is seeking artists, arts organizations, and nonprofit organizations interested in leasing space at their forthcoming NEW facility. AVAILABLE SUMMER 2005. Located at: 3309 Bunker Hill Road, Mount Rainier, MD. THE SPACE: units of 200 to 1500 square feet, includes utilities, ideal for artist studios, office and storage, shared use of performance studios and theatre available. RATES: Starting at \$250 per month, based on size of space leased. To learn more about this project visit [www.worldartfocus.org/news.html](http://www.worldartfocus.org/news.html), or contact Brooke Kidd at 301-699-1819.

## Senior Emergency Preparedness Commission

Regina Wardwell, Chairperson; Liza Stein, John Hines, Council Members Haamid and Gandee, have continued to meet regularly and move forward the Senior Emergency Preparedness Commission (SEPC).

The plan involves participation by citizens, churches, schools, and municipal government, to collectively provide supplemental emergency response to our Police and Fire Departments in the event of a disaster or terrorist attack. If in a crisis there were overwhelming needs in the community that could not be attended to by Police and Fire; this plan would be activated to provide manpower, vehicles, food, water, medicines and emergency care.

Currently, the Commission is asking for the names and contact information of individuals with medical, fire and police backgrounds to give us contact information. We are also looking for people who are contractors, have SUV's and trucks who could help with rescue and repair, transporting people, medications, and supplies such as food and water.

We are also asking for contact information for individuals who are housebound or have special needs so volunteers can check on people in the event of a disaster.

Below please note the medical history card. We encourage you to cut this out of the paper and make copies of this for each family member and fill in the pertinent information. Place these cards with a magnet on your refrigerator door where emergency personnel can easily locate

them. This information can be invaluable to administering proper medical treatment during an emergency.

Contact information should be sent to:

- Council Member Gandee 301-277-6377

e-mail:

[cgandee@mountrainiermd.org](mailto:cgandee@mountrainiermd.org)

- Council Member Haamid 301-864-3418

e-mail: [ihaamid@mountrainiermd.org](mailto:ihaamid@mountrainiermd.org)

- Regina Wardwell 301-864-7895

e-mail: [rbbe@starpower.net](mailto:rbbe@starpower.net)

- Liza Stein

e-mail: [lizadirect@hotmail.com](mailto:lizadirect@hotmail.com)

Please indicate if you are a volunteer, and what services you can provide, or if you are an individual with special needs.

### Medical History Card (Place on your refrigerator door)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Medical Problems \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are you wheelchair bound?  Yes  No

Do you require oxygen?  Yes  No

Medications \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact

(Name, address and phone number)  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Applicants Sought for City of Mount Rainier Personnel Appeals Board

*City Manager Jeannelle B. Wallace*

The Mayor and City Council on Oct. 5, 2004 passed the City of Mount Rainier Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual (Ordinance 7-2004). Chapter 11, of the manual sets forth the procedures for the establishment of a Personnel Appeals Board to hear employee appeals on personnel grievances. The Personnel Appeals Board shall be composed of five (5) members who are residents of the City.

The board members shall be appointed by the Mayor and Council for terms of 3 years with the exception of the initial appointments.

Chapter 11, section 11.1 B. states, "Initially, the Mayor and Council shall appoint one member for a term of one year, two members for a term of two years, and two members for a term of three years. The terms shall begin on October 1 and end on September 30. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of a term shall be appointed only for the remainder of the term."

Section 11.2 Meetings. states, "The Board shall meet in October or as soon as possible thereafter for the purpose of electing a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for the ensuing year."

All non-probationary classified employees may file a grievance. Bargaining unit employees may file a grievance over a matter unless the employee is required to or has elected to pursue the matter under procedures provided in the applicable collective bargaining agreement.

Bargaining unit employees who file a grievance pursuant to [Chapter 10, Grievance Procedures, Section 10-102. Employees Eligible of File a Grievance] may not grieve the same matter pursuant to the procedures established in the collective bargaining agreement.

The Personnel Appeals Board may hear grievances pertaining to an alleged:

1. Violation, misinterpretation or improper application of established

**Applicants, continued on page 9**

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## Youth Recreation Programs

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Compiled by Mayor Bryan Knedler

Below are opportunities for young residents who are looking for recreation and after-school programs. If you know of other programs, please let me know and I will add them to the listing next month.

### Hyattsville-Mount Rainier-Brentwood Boys & Girls Club

The Prince George's County Boys & Girls Club offers boys & girls ages 5-18 opportunities to participate in baseball, basketball, cheerleading, football, soccer, softball, and track.

- 301-864-1112
- Carrol McLaurin, 301-422-3141
- Basketball: Jeffrey Lindsey, 301- 559-0602
- <http://www.pgpc.org/things/pgcbgc/contacts.html>

### Boys Scouts Troop 224

Meets in St. Jerome's Church, Hyattsville

- Tuesday evenings, 7 p.m.
- <http://users.erols.com/wthomas/troop224.html>

### Girl Scouts

- Mt. Rainier E.S., Tuesdays, 2 p.m.
- Thomas Stone E.S., Tuesdays, 2 p.m.
- Hyattsville Middle Sch., Fridays, 6 p.m.
- Tiffany Lathan, 301-449-5690

### Boys and Girls Club, Northwestern H.S.

- 301-985-1423
- M-F, 3:30 to 8 p.m.

### Joe's Movement Emporium

- After-School Programs
- 3802 34th St.
- 301-699-1819
- <http://www.worldartfocus.org/youth.html>

### Mount Rainier Nature Center

- 31st and Arundel Rd.
- 301-927-2163; TTY 301-699-2544
- <http://www.pgpc.org/places/nature/rainier.html>

Located inside the Capital Beltway, the Nature/Recreation Center is a unique facility which operates as both a nature center and a recreation center. The facility hosts a variety of nature-related, interpretive programs for visitors of all ages.

["Non-resident" means not a resident of Prince George's County.]

### Latino, Africano, Caribeano Dance Workout

- Saturdays, 10-11:15 a.m.
  - Ages 16 & up
  - Join us for a workout to keep the heart pumping.
  - Reservations required.
  - Fee: \$40/8-week session; Non-Resident \$45/8-week session
- ### Gettysburg Battlefield Trip
- Weds., Dec. 8, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
  - Ages 18 and up
  - Join us for a bus tour of this historic Civil War battlefield and town. Lunch on your own.
  - Reservations required. Fee: \$26; Non-Resident \$27

### Breakfast with Santa

- Sat., Dec. 11, 10 a.m.-12 noon
- Enjoy breakfast with Santa. Reservations are required for this popular, annual program.
- All ages welcome.
- Fee: \$3; Non-Resident \$4

### Craft Fair

- Sat., Dec. 11, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Shop for holiday gifts or rent a table to display and sell your creations.
- Reservations required.
- All ages welcome.
- Fee for table: \$10; Non-Resident \$11

### Birding Bonanza—Clifton, VA

- Sat., Dec. 11, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Bring your binoculars to view birds in Webb Sanctuary.
- Reservations required.
- Age 18 and up.
- Fee: \$10; Non-Resident \$11

### Adventure Seekers: Patuxent Wildlife Refuge

- Sat., Dec. 11, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Hike through Patuxent W.R.
- Reservations required.
- Age 10-14.
- Fee: \$2; Non-Resident \$3

### Nature Discovery: Animals in Winter

- Thurs., Dec. 16, 1-2 p.m.
- Brings the tots to learn how animals survive winter.
- Reservations required.
- Ages 3-5.
- Fee: \$1; Non-Resident \$2

### Craft-a-Rama

- Sat., Dec. 18, 2-4 p.m.
- Brings the tots to learn how animals survive winter.
- Reservations required.
- All ages welcome.
- Fee: \$6; Non-Resident \$7

### Nature Club for Kids

Bladensburg Waterfront Park, 4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg. Kids, learn about nature and ecology through games, crafts, stories, and other nature-themed activities. The club meets the first Sat. of each month.

- 301-779-0371; TTY 301-699-2544
- Ages 6-12
- Fee: \$1, Non-Resident \$2

### Mayor, continued from page 2

City Hall. We are collecting information about the station for a grant proposal to fund renovation of the structure. Anyone recall what petroleum company operated there? Anyone have photos?

CONDOLENCES. BOB ROGERS passed away on Nov. 14. He was well known for sitting on his front porch on 34th St. near Tilden and keeping an eye on things. I will miss waving and yelling hello to him.

QUEENS CHAPEL ROAD TRAFFIC LIGHT. State Highway Administration has informed us that a new traffic signal will be installed at Buchanan and Queens Chapel before the end of Dec.

ART DISTRICT ZONING PLAN. County Councilman Campos has informed us that the Gateway Arts District Sector Plan (the rezoning plan) was approved by the County Council in early December. More details will appear in upcoming issues of the MESSAGE. Copies of the plan are available at City Hall and a link to it can be found on the city Web site.

CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER  
**RESOLUTION 29-2004**  
 (Drafted by City Manager)  
 Introduced by Mayor Knedler

A Resolution setting the calendar of events for preparation of the Fiscal Year 2006 budget.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council are responsible for adopting a FY 2006 budget for City revenues and expenditures; and

WHEREAS, there are many competing demands upon the City's budget and priorities must be set; and

WHEREAS the deadline for final adoption of the City budget is June 30, 2006, but the County's administrative deadline for preparing tax bills is approximately June 13; and

WHEREAS the budget process is a lengthy one; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to inform the public about the proposed budget and allow for citizen review and comment before the deadline.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL that the following calendar of events is adopted for the preparation and adoption of the FY 2006 budget.

**Friday, January 14, 2005.** Budget instructions issued to City Departments and Community groups (including Bunker Hill Fire Department)

**January 2005.** Occasional planning work sessions, as necessary

**Friday, January 28, 2005.** Deadline for Mount Rainier Volunteer Fire Department to submit FY 2006 budget request to City Manager

**Friday, February 11, 2005.** Deadline for City departments and community groups to submit FY 2006 budget requests to City Manager

**Monday, March 14, 2005.** City Manager submits proposed FY 2006 budget to Mayor and Council

**Tuesday, March 22, 2005.** Work Session on budget

**Thursday, March 24, 2005.** Notice in Port Towns Gazette about budget presentations, April 5, April 12, April 19.

**Tuesday, April 5, 2005.** Presentation and public comment, proposed FY 2006 budget for all City programs other than police, parking enforcement, public works, and code enforcement. (Summary available)

**Thursday, April 7, 2005.** Notice in Port Towns Gazette about budget presentations April 12, April 19.

**Tuesday, April 12, 2005.** Special meeting before work session. Presentation and public comment, proposed FY 2006 budget for police department and parking enforcement (Summary available) Thursday, April 14, 2005. Notice in Port Towns Gazette about budget presentations, April 19.

**Tuesday, April 19, 2005.** Presentation and public comment, proposed FY 2006 budget for public works and code enforcement. (Summary available)

**Tuesday, April 26, 2005.** Work session on budget

**Tuesday, May 3, 2005.** Work session on budget; decide proposed tax rate

**Friday, May 6, 2005.** Port Towns Gazette deadline for submission of May 14 display ad on constant yield tax rate, public hearing Tuesday, May 24.

**Tuesday, May 24, 2005.** Public hearing on constant yield tax rate and on budget (revised summaries available). First reading of FY 2006 Budget Ordinance

**Tuesday, June 7, 2005.** Second reading and vote, FY 2006 Budget Ordinance

**Applicants, continued from page 7**

- statutes, regulations, procedures or policies;
2. Improper or unfair act by a supervisor other other employee, which may include coercion, restraint, reprisal, harassment or intimidation;
  3. Improper, inequitable or unfair act in the administration of employees which may include promotional opportunities, selection of or training, duty assignments, work schedules, transfers and reductions in force;
  4. Improper, inequitable or unfair application of compensation policies and employee benefits, which may include salary, pay differentials, awards, overtime pay, leave, insurance, retirement and holidays; or
  5. Improper or unfair application of a disciplinary action [described in Chapter 9, Progressive Disciplinary Actions].

The following issues are not grievable and will not be heard by the Personnel Appeals Board:

1. Position descriptions, classifications, or pay grade;
2. Performance evaluations rating an employee's performance as satisfactory or higher, unless the performance evaluation violates the City's policies or procedures;
3. Termination of probationary employees;
4. Termination of contract employee at the end of term of employment or the completion of work the employee was hired to perform;
5. An employee award or bonus;
6. Any counseling or oral admonishment;
7. Lateral transfers, work assignments, and schedules;
8. Any other matter clearly identified as not grievable by ordinance, regulation or court or administrative decision.

The Mayor and Council will accept letters of interest and resumes from persons with a background in Personnel and/or Human Resource Management who are willing to serve. Please forward correspondence to the attention of Mayor and City Council, City of Mount Rainier, One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712 as soon as possible.

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# Mount Rainier Public Forum

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## On Future Uses of 3409 Rhode Island Avenue

A Public Forum is planned for Wednesday December 15, 7-8 p.m. to conduct an initial discussion about possible uses for the old police station/ library building. We would like to explore the views of the Community ahead of the forum.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Will you attend the Forum? \_\_\_\_\_

The following are some issues around redevelopment of the Old Police Station/ Library

- The site is very constrained
- Second floor rooms are small
- The building is handicapped accessible on the ground floor but not the second floor
- The City does not own the alley adjacent to the building
- There is little parking available

What would you like to see happen with this site?

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Are there options that have been discussed before which in your view are not appropriate? Explain.

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Do you think the City should knock through from the library to the old police station to allow an extension to the library?

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Do you think it makes more sense to demolish the two buildings and rebuild? Explain

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Please return this form to City Hall by December 13 if you want your views to be considered ahead of the Forum

**Council Meetings**

1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 7 pm  
City Hall lower level

**Town Center Design Review**

Committee—2nd Weds., 6:15 pm  
MRBA—2nd Weds., 8:30 am

**Gateway Municipalities CDC—2nd**  
Thurs., 7:00–9:00 pm,  
4102 Webster St.

**Friends of Library**  
(mtrainierfol.org)—Monday,  
7:30 pm, Community Vision, 34th St.  
**Yard Waste**

In Dec., Jan., and Feb., yard waste  
collections will occur on the second  
Mon., by prior appointment only. Call  
301-985-6558 to make an appt.

# November–December calendar

Dec. 1	Regular Trash Pick Up	Jan. 3	Recyclables Pick Up
Dec. 3	Recyclables Pick Up	Jan. 4	Bulk Trash Pick Up BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
Dec. 6	Bulk Trash Pick Up BY APPOINTMENT ONLY	Jan. 5	Regular Trash Pick Up
Dec. 7	Mayor and Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. City Hall	Jan. 7	Recyclables Pick Up
Dec. 8	Regular Trash Pick Up	Jan. 10	Yard Waste BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
Dec. 10	Recyclables Pick Up	Jan. 12	Regular Trash Pick-up  MUTC Town Center Design Review Committee Meeting, 6:15 p.m.
Dec. 13	Yard Waste BY APPOINTMENT ONLY	Jan. 14	Recyclables Pick Up
Dec. 14	Mayor and Council Work Session 7:00 pm City Hall	Jan. 17	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day CITY HALL CLOSED
Dec. 15	Regular Trash Pick-up  Planning Charette 3409 Rhode Island Avenue 7:00 p.m. City Hall	Jan. 18	Bulk Trash Pick Up BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
Dec. 17	Recyclables Pick Up	Jan. 19	Regular Trash Pick Up  Parking Task Force Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.
Dec. 20	Bulk Trash Pick Up BY APPOINTMENT ONLY	Jan. 21	Recyclables Pick Up
Dec. 22	Regular Trash Pick Up	Jan. 26	Regular Trash Pick Up
Dec. 24	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY—City Government Closed NO RECYCLABLES PICK UP	Jan. 28	Recyclables Pick Up
Dec. 29	Regular Trash Pick Up		
Dec. 31	NEW YEAR'S DAY HOLIDAY—City Government Closed NO RECYCLABLES PICK UP		

**Bulk Trash Policy.** Bulk trash may be picked up by appointment only on the first and third Monday of each month. Appointments are made by calling 301-985-6558 and leaving your address and telephone number any time up until **12:00 noon** on the Friday before the Monday bulk trash collection. Only three cubic yards of trash are allowed per resident. Demolition spoils from building renovation and hazardous materials or chemical are not allowed.

www.mountrainiermd.org

**Mayor**

**Bryan K. Knedler**  
301-699-3134

bknedler@mountrainiermd.org

**City Manager**

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

jwallace@mountrainiermd.org

**Asst. City Manager**

**James Booth**  
301-985-6585

fax: 301-985-6595

jbooth@mountrainiermd.org

**Councilmembers**

**Ward 1**

**Carol Gandee**  
301-277-6377

cgandee@mountrainiermd.org

**Intisar Haamid**

301-864-3418

IHaamid@mountrainiermd.org

**Ward 2**

**Malinda Miles**  
301-699-1378

MMiles@mountrainiermd.org

**Pedro Briones**

301-277-1833

PBriones@mountrainiermd.org

**Message**

**Terry Kelly**  
301-779-7857

tkelly60@aol.com

## 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 5:00 p.m. Public Works open 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

47th District Reps  
301-858-3745

Sen. Gwendolyn Britt  
301-858-3326

Del. Doyle Niemann  
Del. Rosetta Parker  
Del. Victor Ramirez

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

City Code Enforcement Office  
301-985-6551

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

**City Police Department**  
FKeeney@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  
Mount Rainier Office Information:

3409 Rhode Island Avenue  
301-927-5223 (voice)  
301-927-6122 (fax)

Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Consumer Affairs  
301-470-7534

County Animal Control  
301-499-8301

County Building Permits  
301-883-5784

County Executive  
Jack Johnson  
301-952-4131

County Councilman  
Will Campos  
301-952-4436

Energy Assistance  
301-422-5110

Family Services  
301-699-2680

Fire Department  
301-927-8657 (non-emergency)  
911 (emergency)

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

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.*

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December 2004/January 2005 Message  
City of Mount Rainier  
One Municipal Place  
Mount Rainier, MD 20712