



Message

Issue 209
July 2003

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National Night Out
Tuesday, August 5
See page 3 for details

www.mountrainiermd.org

Mount Rainier Day

The City of Mount Rainier is celebrating cultural diversity and community pride. Come join the festivities.

WHEN: Saturday, July 19, 2003
10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: One Municipal Place
(Metro Bus Terminal)
Mount Rainier, Maryland

WHAT: Fun, Food, and Entertainment for the
entire family.
Parade at 12 noon.

Prince George's County Chapter Health Department will provide free health screening. Prince George's Chapter of the American Red Cross will be there as well.

Mount Rainier Volunteer Fire Department will provide fire prevention information. We need Mount Rainier artists and entertainers to participate in the festivities, sharing their talent through sales (vending) or performances.

For more information, contact Committee Members:

Ophelia Baxter	240-393-1187
Barbara Goliday	301-537-6046
Terence Hill	301-484-7127

HIP Artists' Apartment Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

When: July 23, 2003, 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon

Where: In front of Apartments on 33rd and Perry Streets

Event includes a walking tour of the facility and roof top deck!!

Mayor's Report

by Mayor Bryan Knedler

33rd and 34th Streets Paving

The City received \$100,000 through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program (federal money funneled through the county). Most of the money will be used to repave 34th Street from Arundel Road to Bunker Hill. The rest is for repairing curbs around the Artists Apts. at 33rd and Perry.

FY04 Budget and Tax Rate

The FY04 property tax rate is 79 cents per hundred dollars of assessed value. This is a slight reduction from last year, but because your property value has gone up, you will pay about the same amount in actual property taxes as before. We continue to have one of the highest municipal rates in the state.

The state has reduced revenues and insurance costs have risen drastically. The Council was also very conservative this year in projecting expected revenues from all sources.

The Council and staff are to be congratulated for the hard work and many extra meetings. The staff in particular sacrificed many items from the "wish lists."

We are hopeful that the new state assessments of real property and various revitalization projects will bring more revenue to the city next fiscal year.

Budget highlights include new pickup truck and snow plow truck for public works, public work's administrative assistant becomes full-time (partially funded by grant funds last year), reduction of one officer position in police department, one new police car, treasurer will become full-time, and we will maintain the city operated recycling

program (we had explored having county take over the program so we could use saved staff time to do landscaping and other tasks).

Adopt A Spot

Maintaining the recycling program means the public works staff will not have the extra time needed to tend to all the public gardens. If you are interested in volunteering to adopt one of the city gardens (meaning you will pull weeds and deadhead the flowers), please let me know. Areas in need include Spring Park (33rd and Shepherd), Richardson Park, Bunker Hill/Eastern, Memorial Park (Rhode Island and Perry). Bknedler@aol.com or 301-699-3134.

Rental of Old City Building

I am happy to announce that the former council chambers at 3409 Rhode Island Ave. have been rented to the staff of Congressman Chris Van Hollen. The former police department on the upper level will become the offices for the 47th District delegation (Sen. Britt, and Dels. Niemann, Parker, and Ramirez). This will not only generate some needed revenue for the city, but will provide a central location for constituent services.

Homebuyer Programs

The state offers great financial incentives for first-time homebuyers. Interest rates below 5 percent and up to \$3,000 in closing cost help. Check it out: www.dhcd.state.md.us/buy.cfm.

Metro Bus Routes

Mount Rainier is a public transportation hub (bus depot at the roundabout and West Hyattsville metroraill station). Ever wonder what points are connected by Metrobus? A bus system map is available on the

WMATA Web site: www.wmata.com/metrobus/maps/metrobus_service_maps.cfm.

Northwestern H.S. Coach Seeks Help

Victor Roy, Northwestern High School football coach is seeking donations from organizations and businesses to assist in the purchase of new uniforms. For years the varsity and JV have shared uniforms that are now tattered and need to be replaced. In the wake of budget cuts, the team is trying to raise \$10,000 for uniforms, blocking and tackling equipment. Contact Roy, 301-985-1820.

Del. Ramirez

[State Del. Victor Ramirez was featured in the Washington Post in mid-June. Below is an excerpt, and a link to the article]

"Ramirez has tried to strike a balance between his role as a Latino leader and his duties as a representative of a majority black legislative district. A young defense attorney with minimal political experience, Ramirez, 29, did much of his campaigning last fall in Spanish. The Salvadoran native proudly acknowledged that his Hispanic roots played a key role in his election as the first Latino to represent Prince George's in the General Assembly, and one of the first two Hispanics to serve in the House of Delegates." But Ramirez has also worried about being viewed as solely focused on Latino issues. "This is more a story of local boy does good rather than just Hispanic boy does good," Ramirez, who moved to Mount Rainier at age 6, said "just after his election."

Mayor, continued on page 6

From the Police Chief

How to Reach Us

- For police service calls (24 hours a day)
301-985-6565 or 6566
- For information/admin offices (M–F, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.)
301-985-6580

National Night Out

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, August 5 at 6:00 p.m. The event will take place at City Hall Plaza. Join us for an evening of food, music and fun. Come see the Redskin Cheerleaders, clowns play on the moon-bounce. After the event, we will walk through our City (or at least a few blocks). Contact Officers Herriott, Ferencin or Williams for additional information.

Seat Belt Enforcement A Success

As part of a nationwide effort to increase seatbelt use awareness during the months of April and May, officers setup checkpoints at the intersections of City streets ensuring drivers and passengers are buckled up with their seatbelt. Drivers and passengers not wearing seatbelts received 119 citations. Our checkpoints also looked for child safety seat belt use. We will forward our information to the State to be included in the national campaign to heighten seat belt use. Remember CLICK IT or TICKET; it is your choice!

Officers of the Month

The below officers distinguished themselves and were recognized as “Officers of the Month” for making the most criminal arrests during the months noted.

- January—PFC Hosinski
- February—PFC Mark Ferencin and PFC John Hosinski
- March—PFC Hosinski

- April—Officer Christine Fekete and PFC John Hosinski
- May—PFC Hosinski

HOT SPOTS Funding

The Governors Office of Crime Control and Prevention recently notified us that our remaining funding from our current grant (expires June 30, 2003) will be applied to the new funding year. They have agreed to extend this lapse funding through December 31, 2003 while they review our FY 2004 application and determine the funding level they will award to us for January 1 through June 30, 2004. The following programs received an extension: Community Policing, Victims Assistance, Coordination and Youth Prevention (our after school program).

Town Hall Meeting

Join us on Monday, July 14 at 7 p.m. for a Town Hall style meeting with the Department. Bring your compliments and concerns with you. The meeting will take place at the Police Station, 3249 Rhode Island Avenue. Call 301-985-6580 for additional information.

May 2003 Crime Statistic’s Report

Assault (6)
2700 block of Queens Chapel Rd.
3700 block of Rhode Island Ave.
3500 block of Rhode Island Ave.
3500 block of Newton Place
3300 block of Chillum Road
3200 block of Otis Street
Breaking and Entering (4)
3200 block of Queenstown Drive(2)
4200 block of Russell Ave.
2700 block of Upshur Street
Robberies (4)
3600 block of Rhode Island Ave.
4500 block of Eastern Ave.

3200 block of Queenstown Drive
3100 block of Webster Street
Stolen Autos (14)
2900 block of Allison Street
4300 block of Kaywood Drive
3200 block of Queenstown Drive
4600 block of 25th Street
3100 block of Queens Chapel Road
4600 block of 30th Street
4200 block of 30th Street
4300 block of Russell Ave
3500 block of Newton Place
4200 block of Kaywood Drive
3100 block of Queens Chapel Road
3400 block of Perry Street
3100 block of Arundel Road
3200 block of Chillum Road
Sexual Assault (1)
2700 block of Arundel Road
Thefts (16)
3200 block of Queenstown Drive
4700 block of 25th Street
4000 block of 29th Street(2)
4100 block of Russell Ave
3100 block of Queens Chapel Road
3200 block of Otis Street
3400 block of Rhode Island Ave.
3300 block of Otis Street
2300 block of Varnum Street
4000 block of 35th Street
3700 block of Rhode Island Ave.
3300 block of Chillum Road
3200 block of Upshur Street(2)
3200 block of Rhode Island Ave
Vandalism (9)
3800 block of 34th Street
4200 block of 28th Street
3100 block of Queens Chapel Road (3)
3300 block of Chauncey Place
2700 block of Webster Street
3300 block of Rhode Island Ave
3500 block of Otis Street

Arrests—23

Mt. Rainier Budget Statement

Combined statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances

Budget and actual (budget basis)

General and special revenue funds for the year ended June 30, 2002

	Government Fund Types			Special Revenue Funds		
	Amended Budget	Actual	Variance- Favorable (Unfavorable)	Amended Budget	Actual	Variance- Favorable (Unfavorable)
Revenues:						
Taxes	\$1,407,834	\$1,369,018	\$(38,816)	\$-	\$-	\$-
Licenses and permits	116,958	83,639	(33,319)	12,000	9,113	(2,887)
Intergovernmental	525,733	499,924	(25,809)	543,641	421,983	(121,658)
Charges for services	145,090	134,753	(10,337)	-	-	-
Fines and forfeitures	81,648	54,703	(26,945)	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	19,500	9,531	(9,969)	-	-	-
Total	2,296,763	2,151,568	(145,195)	555,641	431,096	(124,545)
Expenditures:						
General government	333,503	378,412	(44,909)	213,000	239,452	(26,452)
Recreation and outreach	28,290	30,238	(1,948)	-	-	-
Public safety	975,855	875,142	100,713	204,641	177,059	27,582
Public works	726,063	702,277	23,786	138,000	1,383	136,617
Nondepartmental	210,252	203,879	6,373	-	-	-
Total	2,273,963	2,189,948	84,015	555,641	417,894	137,747
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures—budgetary and GAAP basis.	22,800	(38,380)	(61,180)	-	13,202	13,202
Fund balance (deficit) at beginning of year	(81,772)	(82,772)	-	104,447	104,447	-
Fund balance (deficit) at end of year	(58,972)	(120,152)	(61,180)	104,447	117,649	13,202

Mount Rainier Library

Hours of Operation

- Monday–Wednesday 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. (*Closed for lunch from 2–2:30 p.m.*)
- Library closed on Thursday and Friday
- Saturday 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Cora B. Wood Senior Center

3601 Taylor St. (just off 34th St), 301-699-1238, Spanish line: (301) 445-4509

Programs for seniors 60+

Dancing, billiards, exercise, table games, bingo, lunches, tax preparation help, and more!

Call-A-Bus

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.

Artists Needed

Local artists are needed for the Three Towns, One Community Summer Peace Camp 2003. The peace camp is a summer enrichment program that incorporates the arts to teach principles of peace and nonviolent communication to youth ages 5 to 11. The camp will be held at the Mount Rainier Nature/Recreation Center July 28 to Aug. 1 and Aug. 18 to 22.

For more information contact Angela Blocker, Arts District Coordinator at Gateway Communities Development Corp., 301-864-3860, ext. 2, or via e-mail at angela@gateway-cdc.org.

How to Deal with the Mosquito Population

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

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

Public Hearing

There will be a public hearing for comments regarding the transfer of monies between department accounts for the FY 2003 budget. This was done by emergency ordinance on June 17 per the city charter and requires a public hearing.

Tuesday, July 15, 7 p.m.
City Hall

Three Towns, One Community Summer Peace Camp 2003

A summer enrichment camp for children ages 5–11 living in the Gateway communities of Mount Rainier, Brentwood, and North Brentwood will be offered from July 28–August 1 at the Cora B. Woods Senior Center and August 18–22 at the Mount Rainier Nature/Recreation Center. Camp hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost is \$75 per week (scholarships are available). To register, contact Mary Park at 301-927-5474 or send an e-mail to jjpark@capaccess.org.

Artists' Housing Tenants Sought

- Apartment Address: 3801 33rd Street, Mount Rainier
- Mailing Address: HIP, 4310 Gallatin Street, 3rd Floor, Hyattsville, MD 20781

HIP's Artists' Housing has 12, exciting 1-bedroom apartments that are available for rent by very low-income artists. Located at 3801 33rd Street, this formerly derelict building located in the Mount Rainier National Historic District has been completely rehabilitated to provide an inviting, creative LIVING space for artists. In addition, the building incorporates several green design features making the building highly energy efficient and more environmentally-friendly with bioretension landscaping, tankless hotwater heaters, a green roof, and bathroom tile made of recycled windshields.

- AMENITIES: All units have 1 bedroom; 1 full bath; brand new kitchen w/ maple cabinets, refrigerator, and stove; utility sink; ample storage; 10 of 12 units have hard wood floors; units flooded with natural light; secure building with roof-top deck; convenient to shopping and public transportation.
- PARKING: On-Street
- RENT: \$425/month plus utilities
- PETS: No Pets Allowed
- LAUNDRY: Coin-operated washers and dryers located in the building
- SECURITY DEPOSIT: \$425
- MAXIMUM HOUSEHOLD SIZE: Maximum of 2 persons per apartment.
- INCOME REQUIREMENTS: Households must earn a minimum gross income of \$1,200/month or \$14,400 per year. Maximum household incomes are based on household size. A 1-person household can earn no more than \$23,550/year. A 2-person household can earn no more than \$26,900/year.

Household Size *	Min. Yearly Income *	Max. Yearly Income
1	\$14,400	\$23,550
2	\$14,400	\$26,900

*Household income includes all income earned by household members 18 years or older.

- TENANT RESPONSIBILITIES: Artists upon becoming a tenant must agree to: (1) annual income certification, and (2) providing 48 hours/year (4 hours/month) of community service. Community service can range from painting a mural in the community, providing a free concert, tutoring children in your art, putting on a free workshop, volunteering with local arts organizations, etc.

Mayor, continued from page 2

Rest of the article, go to:
www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A7581-2003Jun17.html

Del. Niemann's E-mail List

State Del. Doyle Niemann is interested in hearing from people who would be interested in getting periodic emails on what is going on in the legislature or the state. Send name, address, and e-mail address to Doyle_Niemann@house.state.md.us.

National Arboretum Evening Hours

The U.S. National Arboretum will be open this summer for the first time on Friday evenings through Aug. 15. 5:00-7:30 p.m.

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., 6:30 pm

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.

July–August calendar

July 7	Bulk Trash and Yard Waste	July 28	Yard Waste
July 9	Regular Trash Collection	July 30	Regular Trash Collection
	Town Center Design Review Committee Meeting, 6:15 pm	Aug. 1	Recycling Collection
July 11	Recycling Collection	Aug. 4	Bulk Trash and Yard Waste
July 14	Yard waste	Aug. 6	Regular Trash Collection
July 15	Council meeting	Aug. 8	NATIONAL NIGHT OUT, 6 p.m., City Hall
July 16	Regular Trash Collection		Recycling Collection
July 19	MOUNT RAINIER DAY, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	Aug. 11	Yard Waste
July 18	Recycling Collection	Aug. 13	Regular Trash Collection
July 21	Bulk Trash and Yard Waste		Town Center Design Review Committee Meeting, 6:15 pm
July 23	Regular Trash Collection	Aug. 15	Recycling Collection
	HIP Grand Opening	Aug. 18	Bulk Trash and Yard Waste
July 25	Recycling Collection	Aug. 20	Regular Trash Collection
July 26	Joe's 4th Annual Poolside Summer Musical presents: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader by C.S. Lewis, 7 pm, PG Community Pool, 34th and Buchanan Streets, \$5–\$10 suggested donation. 301-699-1819.	Aug. 22	Recycling Collection
July 27	Joe's 4th Annual Poolside Summer Musical presents: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader by C.S. Lewis, 10 am, PG Community Pool, 34th and Buchanan Streets, \$5–\$10 suggested donation. 301-699-1819.	Aug. 25	Yard Waste
		Aug. 27	Regular Trash Collection
		Aug. 29	Recycling Collection

www.mountrainiermd.org

Mayor

Bryan K. Knedler
301-699-3134

e-mail: bknedler@aol.com

City Manager

Jeannelle B. Wallace
301-985-6585, ext. 22

fax: 301-985-6595

e-mail:

mrcitymanager@msn.com

Councilmembers

Ward 1

Carol Gandee
301-277-6377

gandydncr@aol.com

Intisar Haamid

mrhaamid@msn.com
301-864-3418

Ward 2

Brooke Kidd
301-779-2995

bkidd@worldartsfocus.org

Malinda Miles

301-699-1378

ward2@malindamiles.com

Message

Terry Kelly

301-779-7857

e-mail: tkelly60@aol.com

**Deadline for the
August Message
is July 18.**

Important Numbers

City Hall open: Mon.-Fri., 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Police Department admin. offices open 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Public Works open 7:00 am to 3:00 pm. In December, January, and February, yard waste collections will occur on the SECOND MONDAY, by prior appointment only. Call 301-985-6558 to make an appt.

47th District Reps
301-858-3745

Sen. Gwendolyn Britt
301-858-3326

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

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

City Code Enforcement Office
985-6551

City Hall
985-6585; fax: 985-6595

County Animal Control
499-8301

County Building Permits
883-5784

County Council
952-3700

County Councilman
Peter Shapiro
952-4436

County Executive
Jack Johnson
952-4131

Energy Assistance
422-5110

Family Services
699-2680

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

Gazette Circulation
301-670-7350

Health Department
386-0300

Library 864-8937

Hours: M-W 10-7 (closed 2-3)
Sat. 10-5

Landlord-Tenant Commission
800-487-6007

Mt. Rainier Nature/Rec Center
4701 31st Place
927-2163

M-National Capital
Park and Planning,
Park Permit Office
918-8111

North Brentwood Comm. Ctr
4012 Webster St.
864-0756

Office of Handicapped Services
TDD 627-3352

Park Police
459-3232 (emergency)
459-9088 (non-emergency)

Parks and Recreation
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
864-5168

Public Defender
699-2760

Public Schools
952-6000

State's Attorney
952-3500

Washington Gas Light
703-750-2500

WSSC
206-8000

206-4002 (emergency)

City Police Department
Chief's e-mail:
MRPDChief@covad.net
985-6565 (emergency calls)
985-6566 (non-emergency calls)
985-6591 TIPS/COPS line
985-6590 (administrative)

City Public Works 985-6583,
Bulk Trash Appts. 985-6558

Child Abuse
and Neglect Hotline
699-8605

Consumer Affairs
470-7534



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July 2003 Message

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