



Message

Issue 241
September 2006

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The deadline for submissions for the Message is the 20th of each month.

www.mountrainiermd.org

Maryland Announces Winners of Awards for Excellence

by Alice Walkup

The Maryland Municipal League announced the winners of its Awards for Excellence at its annual convention, held in Ocean City, Md., June 25-28. The league also announced the winners in its May/June 2006 issue of Municipal Maryland magazine.

Medium City Winner. Mount Rainier won the Medium City award for its Bicycle Cooperative, which engages youth by teaching them how to repair bicycles as well as leading them on bike rides.

There is no cost for the city to run the program, and residents pay a \$5 fee for a six-month membership. Residents, business owners and nonprofit groups donate tools and equipment and volunteer their time and teaching skills.

The Mount Rainier Police Department gives unclaimed bikes to the cooperative, and the city council has allowed the cooperative to use a once vacant garage behind City Hall for bicycle and equipment storage. The cooperative led to the creation of a youth and recreational program committee to address the need for other programs for young people in the city.

The City of Mount Rainier also received recognition from the National League of Cities for the Bicycle Cooperative with a certificate honoring the City for receiving the Award for Excellence in the medium city category.

Details: For more information about these programs, contact Karen Liskey, assistant executive director, Maryland

Municipal League, at karenl@mdmunicipal.org or (410) 268-5514.

National League of Cities
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info@nlc.org · www.nlc.org

Activities for the New Joe's OPENING FALL 2006

Joe's will be moving to 3309 Bunker Hill Road sometime in September (once construction is completed). Until then, we will continue operations at our 34th street studios. We anticipate several grand opening events that will provide many free activities for the community to meet our artists and tour the new facility. Several special events planned (dates subject to change):

- Registration for Club Joe's, arts education after school will begin with the start of the school – forms are available on line
- Sweeping the Avenue 2006 is scheduled for Oct. 7 – 14, join us for a city-wide community clean-up and arts event, including a gardening party on Oct. 14, from 9am – 1pm
- Registration Open House for Fall programs, Sept. 30, 10am – 3pm, meet the arts education instructors in dance, music, tumbling, and more

For more information, please contact us at 301-699-1819, or www.worldartfocus.org. Thank you to all the generous support from the council, county, state and neighbors to help build a new community performing arts center for Mount Rainier!

Artmosphere Community Digital Café

By Krissah Williams

The Washington Post Company,
Sunday, July 23, 2006; Page
M05

The starving artist cliché doesn't hold true at Artmosphere Community Digital Café (3311 Rhode Island Ave., Mount Rainier, 301-927-2233, <http://www.artmospherecafe.com/>). After what seems like forever, Artmosphere Café is finally open for business marking a new era...a coffee shop in Mount Rainier offering specialty coffee, herbal teas, healthy fare, Wi Fi, live entertainment, beer & Wine, digital art and good company.

The café is owned by husband-and-wife team Dyrell Madison and Andaiye Scott. When they're not working behind the counter, both are artists: Madison paints and plays drums for the Proverbs reggae band, while Scott is a painter, choreographer and singer who performs traditional African music and jazz. They live in the Mount Rainier Artist Lofts, a 44-unit apartment dwelling with subsidized rent for creative types.

Artmosphere is attached to the lofts, where some residents' works -- from stained glass windows to purses made out of books -- are displayed for sale. In the café, digital images of artists' efforts will rotate in a slide-show format on flat-screen TVs.

"The community has been begging for a hub -- a place for the artists to come and mix and mingle," Madison says.

Sure, the "for artists, by artists" concept may feel overwrought -- how many painters, sculptors and musicians do you know who subsist on imported teas and veggie wraps, rather than ramen noodles? But the plans for independent film screenings, live music, poetry and free Wi-Fi more than make up for it.

Hours of Operation

6:30am - 2pm and 5:30pm - 9:30pm
Monday-Friday; 9am - 11pm Saturday;
Closed Sunday (Until they can work out
the kinks)

National Child Identification Program Fact Sheet

The National Child Identification Program was created in 1997 by the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) as a community service initiative to help protect America's youth and change the statistics related to missing children. The program's inkless fingerprint I.D. Kit provides parents and guardians with a clean, convenient way to record their child's fingerprints and physical characteristics on a card they can keep at home.

A missing child is a parent's worst nightmare, especially considering that cases of abducted and runaway children occur at an alarming rate every year. Each year, approximately:

- 450,000 children run away
- 300,000 children are abducted by a family member
- 50,000 children are abducted by strangers

That's more than 800,000 children missing each year -- one child every 40 seconds. Yet, when the National Child Identification Program began, less than two percent of parents had a copy of their child's fingerprints at home in case of an emergency.

The benefits of the National Child Identification Program are clear:

- The fingerprinting process is inkless, with no messy black ink to clean.
- The parent or guardian fingerprints his or her own child and keeps the identification card at home, decentralizing the process for law enforcement.
- At times of stress, parents can immediately provide authorities with the identification card, which includes vital information about their missing child.
- Fingerprints can be scanned into the National Crime Information

Center database to help locate an abducted or runaway child.

While the program's initial effort focused on I.D. Kit distribution at college football stadiums, the program has expanded to include state-by-state efforts at schools across the country, as well as through strategic partnerships with prominent organizations such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), 18,000 law enforcement agencies across the country and numerous corporate partnerships. Since 1997, more than 14 million I.D. Kits have been distributed. This growing figure makes the National Child Identification Program the largest child identification effort ever conducted, with a goal of fingerprinting all 60 million children in the United States.

For more information about the National Child Identification Program, please contact National Child Identification Program P.O. Box 560606 Dallas, Texas 75356; Telephone: 214-630-5895; www.childidprogram.com.

Notice from the Department of Public Works – City of Mount Rainier

Posting Signs

Residents who post signs advertising an event (i.e., a yard sale) are required by the City Code to remove these signs no later than three (3) days after the event. Please make every effort to have these signs removed or you will be issued a municipal citation which carries a fine of \$75.00.

Mount Rainier Bike Coop Receives Another Donation

Trips for Kids (TFK) Metro DC, a non-profit children's health organization, presented a new bicycle repair tool set to Mount Rainier Mayor Malinda Miles on August 1 at the Mount Rainier's National Night Out event at Thomas Stone Elementary School. The presentation was held at 7pm at the booth of the Mount Rainier Bicycle Coop, who ultimately received the tools. TFK was pivotal in the formation of the

Mount Rainier Bicycle Coop back in the fall of 2005, and has been supporting the organization all along. The organization takes at-risk youth on mountain bike rides through the nature areas within the DC metropolitan area, teaching them to "overcome the obstacles on the trail and in life." Children ages 10-17 are taught the value of nutrition, exercise, safety, and the environment.

The Mount Rainier Bike Coop, a joint project between the City of Mount Rainier and TFK, organizes TFK rides in northern Prince Georges County, and also provides a community bike repair shop for residents to repair, maintain, or build bikes from parts. The newly formed organization opened its doors (literally, its garage door; which is housed in a garage formerly used by the old police station behind the City Hall) in October 2005, and has already won the city a Maryland Municipal League Award of Excellence at the MML Conference in 2006. Its mission is to promote bicycling as a common, accessible means of transportation and recreation, as well as bicycle safety. For more information, email pauljosephpark@gmail.com.

Peace Camp Offers Teens Leadership Skills in Peacemaking

MJ & Jerry Park, Little Friends For Peace

Thanks to support from the Mount Rainier Youth Council and Gateway CDC, Little Friends for Peace trained and employed nearly 50 teenage youth this summer. The organization's title may sound like it is for little children, but in fact it is for all ages because it trains the youth and adults to lead small groups of children. The program helps all the participants answer four questions:

- What are my experiences of Peace?
- Who are Peacemakers and how do they make peace?
- How can I settle a conflict to make both sides win?
- How can we go out into lots of

Violence and spread Peace?

To see children and teens playing cooperative games, making banners with peace messages and putting on skits about Peacemakers such as Rosa Parks and Gandhi - warms our hearts and builds our hope.

The 'Peace Train' comes to help solve struggles with the 'win-win weapons' of Nonviolence. If you can help or need help on this journey, contact us and 'hop on board'! 301 927-5474, mjpeace@gmail.com, 4405 29th Street, Mt. Rainier, MD 20712, www.lffp.org, 240-838-4549.

Call for Artists & Food Vendors - October 7th, 2006 GAD Fest - 2nd Annual Gateway Arts District

Discover the Arts Festival Saturday, October 7, 2006 12 noon-5 PM

Join us on the lawn of the County Service Building (Route 1 & Farragut Street, Hyattsville) surrounding the "Hyattsville Horns" sculpture, where Gateway CDC hosts its second annual arts festival to entertain and engage the community by showcasing artists, craftspersons and performing artists populating the four towns of the Gateway Arts District-Hyattsville, North Brentwood, Brentwood and Mount Rainier, Maryland. Prince George's County resident artists and cultural organizations are welcome too!

The 40-50 selected vendors will be a mixture of arts and crafts artists, whose original and uniquely hand-crafted works will represent a variety of mediums. Mass produced, copy written work not permitted (i.e. cartoon characters, celebrity images on t-shirts, sports & designer logos etc...).

There will food and beverage vending area and a children's tent offering arts and crafts activities to complete this family-oriented event.

See attached flier & application. Application deadline is August 31, 2006.

For more information, contact Tonya Jordan at the Gateway CDC office at 301-864-3860, ext. 1 or email tonya@gateway-cdc.org.

The Xtreme Teen Center is Now Open

Mount Rainier now has a year-round neighborhood recreational teen center. Located in the lower level of the Mount Rainier Christian Church on 33rd St. and Bunker Hill Road, the new center offers a range of activities, including four Playstation 2 stations complete with games, an entertainment center with movies, a pool table, a ping-pong table, chess, checkers, and other board games. There are plans for live music and other activities. Light snacks and drinks are provided for the teens, and gourmet goodies will be on sale to the public as a fundraiser for the Center. Currently the Center is open every Friday and Saturday, noon to 7 PM, with hopes to expand to other days and times. Membership is free to all Mount Rainier teens, 13 to 18. Registration forms are available at the Center or from Ms. Haamid.

The facility was provided with the help of Pastor Sean Boyd and the Mount Rainier Christian Church. The space is comfortable, spacious, and well-maintained. The idea of the center, says Intisar Haamid, its founder and director, is to provide a haven that truly belongs to the neighborhood youth community. Teens are encouraged to let her know what other entertainment and facilities they would like to have. For questions, call Ms. Haamid at (301) 864 3418.

National Night Out A Big Success

I would like to publicly thank all those who helped to make our 2006 National Night Out a success. At the risk of leaving someone out, I would especially like to recognize the following individuals and organizations that braved the heat and humidity on the

hottest day of the year to make the City and the police department shine:

- Principal Ruth Hodges of Thomas Stone Elementary School for graciously allowing us to use the school's indoor and outdoor facilities.
- Our dedicated Public Works staff for setting up and tearing down all the tents, tables and chairs in what can only be described as seriously adverse conditions!
- Luther Smith of our Public Works Department for serving as our master chef for the event, and braving the oppressive heat from his fancy new grill to cook up hundreds of hamburgers and hot dogs for our visitors.
- Mayor Miles along with Councilmembers Bryan Knedler and Carol Gandee for their support and attendance.
- City Manager Jeannelle Wallace and her staff including James Booth and Janis Lomax.
- Ophelia Baxter and Robert Taylor of the Mount Rainier Day Committee. The Committee graciously donated all the food, condiments and assorted fixins'. Ophelia stayed for the entire event and served all the food that Luther grilled up.
- P.J. Park and officers from the Maryland-National Capital Park Police Bike Patrol for putting on a very successful bike rodeo.
- Michelle Sust and the Friends of the Library.
- Sheriff Michael Jackson of the Prince George's County Sheriff's Department, Captain Mike Craddock of the Greenbelt Police Department, Officer Harvey Hyatt of the Metropolitan Police Department, and Captains Scott Dau and Darien Manley of the Maryland-National Capital Park Police.
- The Bank of America for providing banking information for our immigrant residents.
- Target Stores, Giant Food, Shopper's Food Warehouse, Apollo Ice, Everfresh, and Bon Ton

for their corporate support and donations.

- CPL Vic Kenworthy for his radical idea of having a chili cook off in 110° heat! CPL Kenworthy ran unopposed in his quest for the "Chili Cup," but his recipe was outstanding and he didn't have to take any home with him!
- And last, but certainly not least, SGT Steve Malley and Officer Chris Backhaus for planning and coordinating this year's activities. They, along with the rest of the staff of the Mount Rainier Police Department are to be commended for their support, hard work and professionalism.

"Cool Days to School Days"

It's hard to believe but it's true, the beginning of school is upon us. We say that every year as if somehow it crept up on us while we weren't looking.

Boloney! Parents and kids watch the calendars, and know exactly what day it is and how many vacation days remain until they're either paroled or sentenced! Regardless of which way you look at it, the fact remains that our routines are about to change and parents and children need to regroup, reorganize and be reminded of a few basic safety tips to make the transition from "cool days to school days."

Wait For School Buses

- The Mount Rainier Police Department reminds all drivers to stop when the lights on school buses are flashing. Maryland law provides that vehicles must come to a complete stop on both sides of the street if there is no physical divider or barrier. Drivers may not pass the bus until all lights have ceased flashing.
- Drivers who pass school buses while the lights are flashing will be fined \$555 and receive 3 points record. Drivers who stop but then proceed while the lights are flashing will be fined \$555 and receive 2 points. Mount Rainier police officers *will not* give warnings to

drivers for passing a stopped school bus. Trust me, you *will* get a ticket!

- Children are not always aware of their surroundings and assume that drivers will stop for them. Youngsters also dart into the road without looking first for traffic. Allow room for the frequent stops that happen during the morning pick up and the afternoon drop off.
Maryland's future is its children, so let's protect them.

Load Up The Kids - And Lock Up The House

- All of us who are parents realize how hectic and confusing mornings can be trying to get the kids ready for school – lunches, clothes, homework – and trying to make sure we have ourselves together for our workday. Even stay at home Moms and Dads are not immune. But, no matter how harried the day starts, here's an important back-to-school reminder: Before you walk or load the kids up for the drive to the bus stop or school – *lock your doors*. Too often in our rush out the door, we fail to stop and take stock of where we are and what may have been forgotten. If you forget to secure your home, even if you are gone only for a short time, it can be the perfect morning stop for a burglar. It may seem overly cautious to lock windows and doors when leaving for even the short time it takes to get the kids to the bus stop or to school, but the time spent doing this can deter a burglar and prevent problems later.
- The Mount Rainier Police Department suggests that everyone establish a habit of basic security when leaving home in the morning. Parents should make the process a learning experience for their children. Many people have a checklist to make things simpler during that early morning rush hour. Why not include a security

checklist in your morning routine? Depending on the age or ages of the children, let them help by giving them a task that relates to their security. Older children should check and lock the windows, while the younger ones can see if the doors are locked behind you when you leave.

- When you are on the way to and from school, keep watch on what is going on in your neighborhood. Look for strangers who seem to be lurking on the sidewalk, with no real purpose. Watch for cars driving slowly through the neighborhood. They might be sizing up potential targets. If you see anything or anyone that rouses your suspicions, call the police department's communications center. Try to provide a basic description of the individual or car

above.

Remember: The best crime prevention tool is a good neighbor!

Educate Your Children About School Safety

With the start of the new school year, it is a good idea to remind parents and children of some basic *personal* safety information. Although the police department and educators teach children in school about the dangers of strangers, learning about community helpers, and several other child safety topics, parents can also help. The following tips are just a few suggestions:

- Be aware of putting your child's name on anything that is readily

need a child's help to find a puppy or get directions, they should ask another adult for that information.

- Teach your children that it is okay to say NO - tell them to trust their instincts.
- Remind your children never to give the impression they are home alone if strangers telephone or come to the door. Never open the door for a stranger, and teach them about dialing 911.

Brentwood Community Policing Project

By CPL Vic Kenworthy

Since the beginning of July 2006, I have been learning about the Town of Brentwood and the concerns of its residents, Mayor and Council. What I have discovered is that the problems and concerns experienced by Brentwood residents are very similar to those we encounter here in Mount Rainier; which makes sense since we are neighbors. My first order of business upon starting this program was to work with local businesses to establish a business watch program. I am pleased to report that the foundation for the project has been completed and approved by Brentwood's Town Council. Some of the major goals of the business watch program are:

- To improve interaction and organization among area businesses;
- To improve individual business security, and
- To improve relations between area business people and the Brentwood Community Police Officer.

On my regularly scheduled workdays I patrol those areas of the town where we have received complaints from citizens of criminal or suspicious activity, and where traffic concerns have been identified. These patrols increase the overall police presence in Brentwood, who continues to contract with the Prince George's County Police



MRBC repairing bicycles during National Night Out

that worries you. Tags numbers are very important.

- Do not think that burglars work only at night, in the dark. They are opportunists, and will look for likely targets at any time of the day. In fact, many burglars strike during the daylight hours when they believe all the occupants of the house may be at school or work. Make their life harder by taking the basic crime prevention measures mentioned

visible. This might allow an abductor to get on a "first name" basis with your child and develop a sense of trust.

- Walk the route to and from school with your children, pointing out safe places to go if they are being followed or need help.
- Talk to your children about strangers approaching them and some of the ploys they might use. Stress to them that adults shouldn't

for primary police services.

Similar to Mount Rainier, one of the major complaints from residents is people not stopping at stop signs, so I make a concerted effort each work day to conduct traffic enforcement in problem areas. I have also begun to write Brentwood parking citations to assist with complaints of illegally parked cars.

Some of my future plans include an auto theft prevention display, expanding our existing C-SAFE program in Brentwood, youth crime prevention initiatives, and increased traffic enforcement with the use of laser speed measuring devices.

Mt. Rainier Bicycle Co-op at the National Night Out

-- Bicycle Rodeo and Donations from Trip for Kids/Metro DC Highlight a Successful Event for MRBC, AND the Mt. Rainier Community--

"THANK YOU for coming out for National Night Out (NNO) and for the wonderful presentation to the [Mt. Rainier] Bicycle Coop! It was my pleasure meeting you and watching you work so successfully with PJ [Park] and the kids. Your pledge of an additional \$1,000 to the Bike Coop is an absolute blessing for the children of Mount Rainier! THANK YOU so much."

Those were the words of Mt Rainier Mayor Malinda Miles to Trip for Kids/Metro DC (TFK) for their donation of a new Park bicycle repair tool kit (retail value: \$250), as well as a collection of lubes and additional tools, for the Mt. Rainier Bicycle Co-op (MRBC) during the August 1st National Night Out at Thomas Stone Elementary School.

The presentation took place at the Mount Rainier Bicycle Co-op booth, where, in addition to answering questions from residents, volunteer members conducted a very successful bicycle safety rodeo for children, which appeared to be a resounding success judging by the number of children who came by the MRBC booth. So successful was the rodeo that many of

the kids wanted to take "one more lap" of the safety circuit - some five or six times over! Even so, MRBC's participation in National Night Out had its serious side: Prior to participating in the rodeo, children were required to watch a short bicycle safety video, which was then followed by the selection and fitting of a bicycle helmet (keepsakes for the children as the helmets were donated to MRBC by Trip for Kids). A lesson in safety followed by a whole lotta fun!

As readers of this column already know, **Trips for Kids (TFK) Metro DC** was pivotal in the formation of the Mount Rainier Bicycle Coop back in the fall of 2005, and has been supporting the organization all along. The organization takes at-risk youth on mountain bike rides through the nature areas within the DC metropolitan area, teaching them to "overcome the obstacles on the trail and in life". Founded in October 2005, **The Mount Rainier Bike Coop** is a joint project between the City of Mount Rainier and Trips for Kids. MRBC organizes TFK rides in northern Prince Georges County, and also provides a community bike shop for residents, young and old, to repair, maintain or build bikes from parts. Its mission is to promote bicycling as a universal, accessible and safe means of transportation and recreation. MRBC has already won the city a **Maryland Municipal League Award of Excellence** at the MML Conference in June 2006. Quite an accomplishment for an organization barely eight months old!

Come and see for yourself! The Co-op is housed in a garage directly behind City Hall, formerly used by the Mt. Rainier police. We're open for business Saturdays, 1030a - 2pm (As with most volunteer organizations, times can vary - but give it a try! It's right off the Circle, a few spins of the pedals from anywhere in Mt. Rainier!)

Register Your Bike at MRBC!

Since bicycle thefts are an ongoing problem in Mt. Rainier, MRBC has set up a serial number database for

residents to register their bikes, thereby increasing the chances of re-uniting you and your wheels in the event it's ever stolen. We'll enter your bike's serial number, make and model, and any other identifiable details (color, accessories, et al) along with your name, address, phone and e-mail. If your bike is registered with Prince Georges Police, we can add that info to your database.

Remember - Always lock your bike - and add it to the MRBC database.

Hope for the best, prepare for the worst.

For more information on the MRBC, email pauljosephpark@gmail.com or jbelltower@yahoo.com, or visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mrbikecoop/>; Trip for Kids/DC: <http://www.tfkmetrodc.org/default.htm>.

Music Together Comes to Prince George's County

Music education can never start too early! Music Together is an internationally recognized early childhood music program for families with infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and kindergarteners. In September, the Let's Do Music Together Center is opening its first locations in Prince George's County at the Nature Center in Mt. Rainier and the Eleanor Pernia Studio of Dance in Beltsville. The centers offer 45 minute weekly classes which include singing, movement, and instrument play. Students receive CDs and songbooks with class material.

The Music Together program is based on the recognition that all children are musical. All children can learn to sing in tune, keep a beat, and participate with confidence in the music of their culture, provided that their early environment supports such learning. By emphasizing actual music experiences rather than concepts about music, Music Together introduces children to the pleasures of making music instead of passively receiving it from CDs or TV.

Currently, there is space available at the Mt. Rainier location in the ten consecutive weekly classes starting on

September 12th (Tuesdays) at 10am.

Please contact Jaime Fuller, Director of Let's Do Music Together to reserve space or for further information, including free demo classes. She can be reached at 240-638-2341 or via email at info@letsdomusictogether.com. For general Music Together information, please visit the national website at <http://www.musictogether.com> or call 1-800-728-2692.

Summer Youth Program 2006: A Success for the City and for Our Youth

By James Booth, Assistant City Manager

The City of Mount Rainier participated in the Prince George's County Summer Youth Initiative Program. The Program was funded by the County through various partnerships such as the Economic Development Corporation, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Public Schools, and the Prince George's County Chamber of Commerce.

Approximately 19 youth participated in the six week program. The program was a learning experience for all involved. Overall, our youth were provided with the opportunity to gain valuable experience and learn new skills in a variety of areas:

- Curb painting
- Clerical
- Computers
- Accounting
- Starting and operating a new business
- Office and Administrative support
- Landscaping
- And more...

Several youth worked with local Mount Rainier businesses: Atmosphere Café, Thrifty Car Rental, Nisey's Boutique, and Queens Manor Rental Office. The majority of the youth worked with the Mount Rainier Public Works Department and City Hall.

The Mount Rainier Business Association co-sponsored t-shirts and

two Mount Rainier churches (Greater Rock Creek Baptist Church and New Ways Ministry) sponsored lunches. The Summer Youth created a great opportunity for the City to develop new partnerships and to strengthen existing partnerships. The program culminated with a final lunch at the Pre-Opening of the City's XTreme Teen Center which is located on the lower level of Mount Rainier Christian Church (4001 33rd Street, 33rd Street and Bunker Hill Road).

The City would like to thank the youth that participated in the program:

Alexis	Kennard
Andre	Monea
Angela	Omar
Anthony	Romoy
Brittany	Shaquan
DeLorin	Shennell
Deonte	Stephanie
Dwayne	Terrell
Gregory	Vincent
Jereme	

Best wishes to our youth during the Fall 2006 and Spring 2007 school year and with their future endeavors.

For the summer of 2006, applications were due by April 14, 2006. The City will include information about the 2007 Summer Youth Program when it becomes available. Please stay tuned to Mount

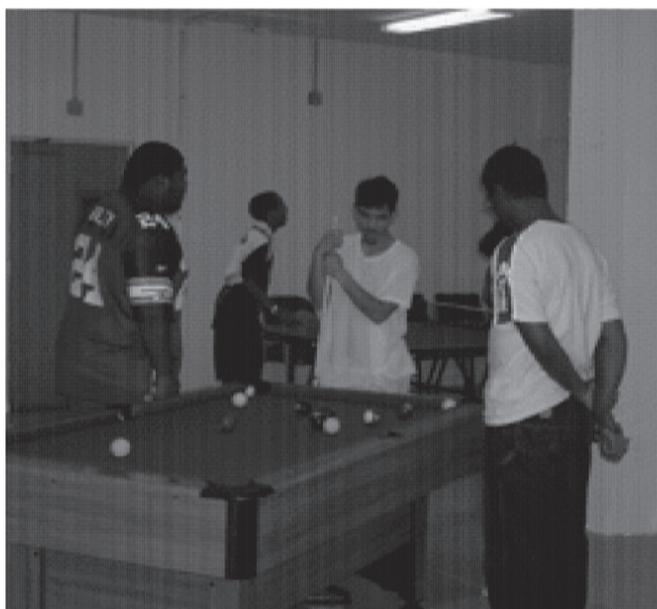
Rainier Cable TV (Channel 71), and check the monthly "Message" for details about the 2007 Summer Youth Program. For information posted on the County's website, go to: <http://www.co.pg.md.us/>

**Are you a jogger or runner?
Would you like to run with other people?**

**JOIN THE MOUNT RAINIER
RUNNERS CLUB!**

**ALL RUNNERS AT ALL
LEVELS ARE WELCOME TO
JOIN**

Send an e-mail to:
MountRainierRunners@yahoo.com
or to Jimmy Tarlau at
jtarlau@cwa-union.org.



Summer Youth Program participants enjoy a game of pool at the new Xtreme Teen Center

The Rap and Act Group...

...Learns about a Community Issue

...Aprende sobre un Problema Local

Our neighbor, Ms. Imani Kazana, told us how neighbors and city officials in Mt. Rainier and neighboring communities are working to keep the Washington Gas Company from building a liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant on Chillum Road. The company says this plant is the most economical and safest option, but opponents say locating the gas plant in this densely populated area is dangerous. Recently, the County Council voted to prohibit fuel storage near the metro.

Allison, A'Shanti, Cristian, Fatima, Jennifer, Kierra, Lamarr, Mabel, Raul, Rodnika, and others wrote about this issue.

The gas company wants to build a plant in our neighborhood because they are building many homes, and gas is needed to provide heat when it is winter. People refrigerate the gas and turn it into liquid, at a temperature of more than 200 degrees below zero. To change the liquid back into gas you have to heat it up, but slowly. If there is a hole in the tanks, the vapor can form a cloud and the wind will blow it to other places and the people won't like it. Other people won't want to live there because they will feel unsafe. When the gas is close to flame this could cause an explosion. In Cleveland, Ohio, in 1944, there was a big explosion and it killed over 100 people. They should put LNG tanks in far away places from homes.

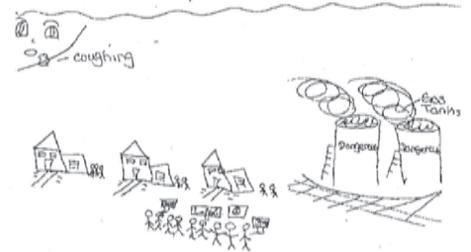


You should be like the people in this picture. The person on the left is talking to the government. The person on the right is the supervisor, and the person in the middle is counting the money they raised. So help out!

In Maryland citizens are helping for our safety. In this area there are many homes. So we don't want them to blow up. We want Washington Gas to find a safer place. We're asking the government to say no so we can be safe for our citizens. Say no, Stop, because we want to keep everybody safe.



We don't have good laws, like Connecticut and Massachusetts, so we have to fight.



We should not have L.N.G. close to our Community. Mother Nature Can also get destroyed.

Everyone should help and make the government give a law, ask us do we want the gas pipe. So everyone in the neighborhood should help out!



Por falta de espacio, lamentamos no poder incluir todo el material de este número en forma bilingüe, como hemos hecho con los números pasados. Pronto haremos nuestra propia publicación bilingüe—ver el cuadro en la página siguiente.

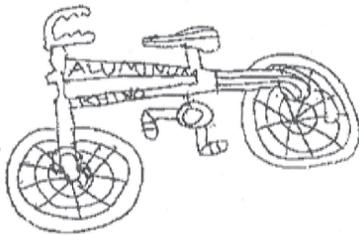
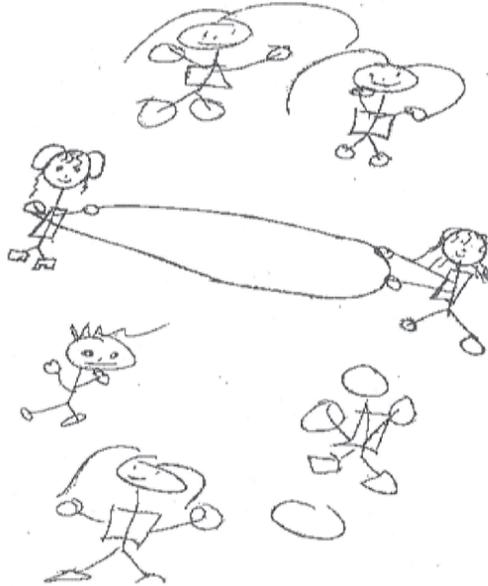
...Write and Draw what they See

...Escriben y Dibujan lo que Ven

What I see outside is people in front of me. And this day is like normal because sometimes it rains, sometimes it is sunny and sometimes it is just scalding hot. But this day is just perfect to me.
—Allison

When we went to the park we saw jump ropes and we saw buildings and people played monkey in the middle. I live in Queenstown apartments. It's peaceful and quiet and has a lot of trees.

Cuando fuimos al parque vimos que estaban brincando la cuerda, vimos edificios y los niños jugaban "monito en medio." Vivo en Queenstown Apartments. Es tranquilo y tiene muchos árboles.
—Cristian



I like riding my new bike that my dad bought, every hot day. Cada día caluroso me gusta montar en mi nueva bicicleta que me compró mi papá.

I love sweeping. Sweeping is great because I love to sweep in the house. So that means I can love sweeping on the street. It can be the best because it is helping the neighborhood. I love sweeping.
—A'Shanti.



Queenstown: We have pools and parks. My brother used to work for the pool. At Queenstown Apartments we have fights and sometimes we have a great day.
—Amina

Participate in our New Bilingual Publication!
A voice for youth to build unity in our community!!
For more information, please call 301-277-8466

¡Participa en nuestra nueva publicación bilingüe!
Una voz de la juventud para hacer
¡Unidad en nuestra Comunidad!
Para mas información, llamar a 301-277-8466

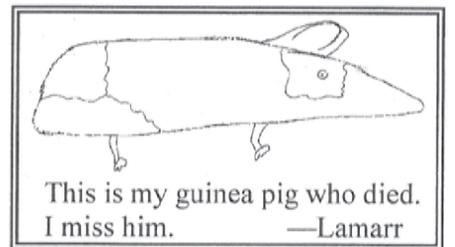
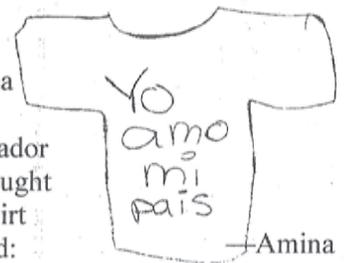
This is what I see outside: five beautiful girls by three cars, talking about everything and playing double dutch. And one girl and a couple of boys and Ms. Julie playing basketball. I'm with Ms. Francisca and Ms. Ann, in Ms. Julie's class, outside in the cool breeze.
—Rodnika

Lo que a mí me gusta en mi comunidad es que mis amigos viven cerca de mí y yo vivo cerca del parque. Y siempre veo los niños que están jugando aquí. He tenido mis mejores amigos y he pasado momentos maravillosos en mi comunidad. Hay muchos árboles, grama, apartamentos, carros y en el parque hay un lugar que se llama Nature Center y eso es lo que me gusta de mi comunidad.
—Jennifer



The trees remind me of my house, the way it's shaped. My friends remind me of my old friends. The stores remind me of my country. Los arboles me recuerdan a mi casa, por su forma. Mis amistades me recuerdan a mis viejas amistades. Las tiendas me recuerdan a mi tierra.
—Kierra

My grandma went to El Salvador and brought me a shirt that said:



This is my guinea pig who died. I miss him.
—Lamarr

Below, Summer Youth Program participants using the computers and playing chess at the new Xtreme Teen Center located on the lower level of Mount Rainier Christian Church (4001 33rd Street, 33rd Street and Bunker Hill Road).



See you next issue!



Mount Rainier Committees Meetings

Council Meetings

1st and 3rd Tues., 7 p.m., City Hall
lower level

Beautification Committee

1st Mon., 7:00 p.m., City Hall

Cable Commission

2nd Mon., 6:00 p.m., City Hall

Friends of Library (mtrainierfol.org)

Mon., 7:30 p.m., Community Vision,
34th Street

Gateway Municipalities CDC

2nd Thurs., 7:00–9:00 p.m.
4102 Webster Street

Mount Rainier Business Association

2nd Weds., 6:30 p.m., Mount
Rainier Police Station

Tool Shed Committee

2nd Mon., 7:00 p.m., City Hall

MUTC Town Center Design Review Committee

2nd Weds., 6:15 p.m., City Hall

Design Review Board

3rd Weds., 7:00 p.m., City Hall

Tree Commission

2nd Thurs., 7:00 p.m., City Hall

Note: The above Committees are scheduled to meet according to the above schedule. Please check the City's website or contact City Hall to verify if a meeting is being held on a particular date. Meeting notices are posted at City Hall prior to the scheduled meeting.

Calendar

September - October

September 1	Recyclables Pick Up	October 2	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up
September 4	Labor Day (Public Works and City Hall Closed)	October 4	Regular Trash Pick Up
September 5	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up	October 6	Recyclables Pick Up
September 6	Regular Trash Pick Up	October 9	Yard Waste Pick Up
September 8	Recyclables Pick Up	October 11	Regular Trash Pick Up
September 11	Yard Waste Pick Up	October 13	Recyclables Pick Up
September 13	Regular Trash Pick Up	October 16	Columbus day (City Hall and Public Works Closed)
September 15	Recyclables Pick Up	October 17	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up
September 18	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up	October 18	Regular Trash Pick Up
September 20	Regular Trash Pick Up	October 20	Recyclables Pick Up
September 22	Recyclables Pick Up	October 23	Yard Waste Pick Up
September 25	Yard Waste Pick Up	October 25	Regular Trash Pick Up
September 27	Regular Trash Pick Up	October 27	Recyclables Pick Up
September 29	Recyclables Pick Up	October 30	Yard Waste Pick Up

Starting December 2006, every 2nd Monday will be Yard Waste Pick Up by appointments only. Please have all bulk trash and yard waste out by 7:00 am on the pick up day and all appointments made before 12 noon on the Friday preceding pick up day.

There is a 3 cubic yards limit per household for bulk trash pick up and a total of 6 pick up in a 12 month period, after which any other pick up will be a special bulk pick up for which there is a charge.

www.mountrainiermd.org

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301-699-1378

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Asst. City Manager

James Booth

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Councilmembers

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Bryan Knedler

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bknedler@aol.com

Message

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tumkho@yahoo.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

Acting Chief Lieutenant Michael Scott
Mscott@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
301-985-5406 (non-emergency)
911 (emergency)

Gateway CDC
4102 Webster Street
301-864-3860

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)

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