

# Message

Issue 232  
October 2005

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**The deadline for submissions for the Message is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.**

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

## Emergency Preparedness Month

September has been declared Emergency Preparedness Month – The State and the County are conducting programs on emergency preparedness during the month of September. Check your local newspaper for activities near and/or in Mount Rainier. You should make sure that you have on hand at your house a **FIRST AID KIT**.

### First Aid Kit

In any emergency a family member or you yourself may be cut, burned, or suffer other injuries. If you have these basic supplies you are better prepared to help your loved ones when they are hurt. Remember, many injuries are not life threatening and do not require immediate medical attention. Knowing how to treat minor injuries can make a difference in an emergency. Consider taking a first aid class, but simply having the following things can help you stop bleeding, prevent infection and assist in decontamination.

Things you should have:

- Two pairs of Latex, or other **sterile gloves** (if you are allergic to Latex).
- **Sterile dressings** to stop bleeding.
- **Cleansing agent/soap** and antibiotic towelettes to disinfect.
- **Antibiotic ointment** to prevent infection.
- **Burn ointment** to prevent infection.
- **Adhesive bandages** in a variety of sizes.
- **Eye wash solution** to flush the eyes or as general decontaminant.

### ■ Thermometer

■ **Prescription medications** you take every day such as insulin, heart medicine and asthma inhalers. You should periodically rotate medicines to account for expiration dates.

■ **Prescribed medical supplies** such as glucose and blood pressure monitoring equipment and supplies.

Things it may be good to have:

- Cell phone
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Tube of petroleum jelly or other lubricant

Non-prescription drugs:

- Potassium Iodide
- Aspirin or nonaspirin pain reliever
- Anti-diarrhea medication
- Antacid (for upset stomach)
- Syrup of Ipecac (use to induce vomiting if advised by the Poison Control Center)
- Laxative
- Activated charcoal (use if advised by the Poison Control Center)

The City of Mount Rainier is accepting applications for a residential representative to serve on the City's Mixed Use Town Center Design Review Committee. Term is for two years and the appointment recommendation must be approved by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Please contact James Booth at City Hall for application forms.

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## Mayor's Report

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September 23, 2005

Mayor and Council are back in session. Our first meeting was held on September 6, 2005. From all accounts it was a good meeting.

1. **G. S. Proctor and Associates** — At its meeting on September 13, the Mayor and Council agreed in concept to retain G. S. Proctor & Associates to lobby for the City at the county, state and federal level. Our attorneys reviewed their proposed contract and it is being considered for vote at the next meeting of the Mayor and Council. Mayor and Council and the City Manager are working on priorities for the City. In a five-hour meeting on Wednesday, September 21, G.S. Proctor & Associates met with the City to define and select two priorities for this year; and developed three major priorities for the next few years.
2. **BOOST – Basic Occupational Obtainment Skills Training**, as SEED's workforce development arm, a comprehensive job training and employment placement program prepares members of the community for entry into the workforce. With basic job seeking techniques, computer training, remedial literacy and financial training and support service referral, BOOST helps persons with varying skill levels attain the competencies and proficiencies needed to obtain employment.
3. **September Classes Basic Budgeting 101** — Basic budget will assist individuals in developing a financial plan while working to create a budget to meet their needs. Clients will learn to manage checking accounts, balance checkbooks, and write checks. Automated teller machines (ATM) and debit card usage will also be covered. *Free*

Date(s): Tuesday, September 6, 13, 20 & 27, Thursday, September 8, 15, 22 & 29  
Time(s): 12:00 p.m.-1:30, 6:30-8:00 p.m.  
Location: SEED Training Office 6201 Riverdale Rd. #201 Riverdale, MD 20737

Through academic achievement, youth development, workforce and literacy training, financial empowerment and community services, SEED will create environments where all individuals are empowered, all children are nurtured, families are strengthened, and communities are transformed. **For additional information or to register for classes call 301-458-9808.**

4. **Painted curbs can be seen throughout the City**, thanks to our youth, and the \$5,000 allocated by the Mayor and Council. If you are wondering why curbs are painted red in front of fire hydrants (they never were before), it is because we are complying with the curb painting standards in the County. By painting the curbs, our police department can now enforce rules with regards to where cars are supposed to be parked, and hopefully eliminate some of the parking hazards that have existed.
5. **City's finances are in the BLACK** — Just received a financial report from Mr. Manjani, and it shows that the City is in the black with its finances. Having reviewed the books myself, and looked at supporting documentation for expenditures and revenue, I believe the City can safely rely on the numbers. Copies of our financial status can be picked up from City Hall.

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## Peace Camp Involves Local Leaders & Teens

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This past summer, MJ and Jerry Park, founders of Little Friends for Peace, celebrated 25 years of directing Peace Camps. They rode the Peace Train into Brentwood, stopping at the Cora B. Woods Senior Care Center for an inter-generational week and then onto the Mount Rainier Nature Center for another week.

The Peace Camp had children ages 4-11 hearing about and dramatizing famous peace makers and meeting local peace builders of all ages. Peacemakers from Mount Rainier, especially the teens, led small groups: Luke and Liam Walsh-Mellet, David Mckindley-Ward, Danny McLaughlin, Elizabeth Welter, Evan Beard-Adams and Timmy Park. They were guided by adults Mimi McKindley-Ward, Elizabeth Shabani, Tommy Cooler and PJ Park.

Other peacemakers visited the Peace Camps to share their gifts and talents: Mary Parker led campers on a hike to remove kudzu vines that are choking trees. Sayuri Miyazaki shared how the people of Japan make peace. Jan Beard-Adams helped campers make Peace Necklaces. Seniors shared the ways they found peace and spread it. Kevin at the Mount Rainier Nature Center and Tia at the Cora B. Woods Center gave on the scene support. Financial support from Gateway Community Development Corporation again helped employ the teens and give camperships.

Little Friends For Peace is looking for a place to create an interactive, hands on Peace Museum and Peace Lab to learn and practice the art of making and being at Peace. It would have a roundhouse for the peace train and room for the peace library, classes and the Peace Table for resolving conflicts.

Parents, give yourself a break, and give your children some PEACE TIME at MJ's: 1-3 hours during or after school, evenings or weekends. Children ages 3-10 build Peace Skills through stories, songs, skits, art, musical instruments, cooperative games, and sharing in a Peace Circle or at the Peace Table. Contact MJ Park at 301-927-5474, [jjpark@capaccess.org](mailto:jjpark@capaccess.org), or [www.LFFP.org](http://www.LFFP.org).

### Budding Baker gives Door-to-Door Service

Timmy Park, whose helping hands have cut grass, walked dogs and cleaned houses, really loves to bake desserts and bread. His birthday presents were all baking equipment. So now he offers his "Pieces of Peace" to people with sweet teeth. 301-927-5474.

## Spotlight Yard of the Week Winners

Week	Ward	Address	Month
1	1	4216 Rainier Ave	April
1	2	4108 29th Street	April
2	1	4104 Webster Street	April
2	2	3301 Bunker Hill Road	April
3	1	4001 35th Street	April
3	2	3002 Bunker Hill Road	April
4	1	3703 35th Street	April
4	2	4009 31st Street	April
5	1	4518 32nd Street	May
5	2	4222 30th Street	May
6	1	3504 Shepherd Street	May
6	2	4115 28th Street	May
7	1	4011 37th Street	May
7	2	3005 Bunker Hill Road	May
8	1	4017 36th Street	May
8	2	3100 Perry Street	May
9	1	4236 34th Street	June
9	2	4407 30th Street	June
10	1	4021 35th Street	June
10	2	4100 30th Street	June
11	1	3803 35th Street	June
11	2	4202 30th Street	June
12	1	3517 37th Street	June
12	2	3813 32nd Street	June
13	1	4222 34th Street	July
13	2	3815 33rd Street	July
14	1	3510 Perry Street	July
14	2	3117 Perry Street	July
15	1	4005 37th Street	August
15	2	2802 Upshur Street	August
16	1	3104 Webster Street	August
16	2	3301 Shepherd Street	August
17	1	3711 36th Street	September
17	2	3004 Upshur Street	September

## Spotlight Yard of the Month Winners

Month	Ward	Address
April	1	4216 Rainier Ave
April	2	3703 35th Street
May	1	3504 Shepherd Street
May	2	4222 30th Street
June	1	4236 34th Street
June	2	4202 30th Street
July	1	3510 Perry Street
July	2	3117 Perry Street
August	1	no monthly winner
August	2	no monthly winner

## Youth Recreation Programs

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

The PG 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
- [www.pgcparks.com/things/pgcbgc/contacts.html](http://www.pgcparks.com/things/pgcbgc/contacts.html)

### Boys Scouts Troop 224

Meets in St. Jerome's Church, Hyattsville

- Thursday evenings, 7:30–9 p.m.
- 6th grade through high school
- [users.erols.com/wthomas/troop224.html](http://users.erols.com/wthomas/troop224.html)

### Cub Scouts Pack 224

Meets in St. Jerome's Church, Hyattsville

- Tuesday evenings, 7–8 p.m.
- 1st grade through 5th grade
- Ages 6th grade through high school
- [users.erols.com/wthomas/troop224.html](http://users.erols.com/wthomas/troop224.html)

### Girl Scouts

- Mount Rainier E.S., Tues., 2 p.m.
- Thomas Stone E.S., Tues., 2 p.m.
- Hyattsville Middle Sch., Fri., 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
- [www.worldartsfocus.org/youth.html](http://www.worldartsfocus.org/youth.html)

### Mount Rainier Nature Center

- 31st and Arundel Rd.
- 301-927-2163; TTY 301-699-2544
- [www.pgcparks.com/places/nature/rainier.html](http://www.pgcparks.com/places/nature/rainier.html)

The Nature/Recreation Center is a unique facility which operates as both a nature center and a recreation center.

### 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

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## October-December Leaf Schedule

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Full leaf vacuuming is scheduled to start Tuesday, October 25, 2005. The 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.
- 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.

The Public Works Department will make an effort to stay on schedule, and you can help us by following the reminders above.

LA LIMPIEZA DE LAS HOJAS EN OTONO COMENZARA EL LUNES 25, DE OCTUBRE. El plan por abajo se va a seguir dependiente an el tiempo, Para que se limpien sus hojas, sigan al plan y rastrillen las hojas al encintado 24 horas antes de la llegada de los trabajadores.

### Area 1

Nov. 15 & 17, Dec. 15 & 20  
3700 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
3700 35<sup>th</sup> Street  
3700 36<sup>th</sup> Street  
3700 – 3800 37<sup>th</sup> Street  
3400 – 3600 Eastern Avenue  
3500 37<sup>th</sup> Street  
3200 Varnum Street  
3400 – 3600 Perry Street  
Wells Avenue  
Newton Street  
Oak Lane

### Area 2

Nov. 8 & 10, Dec. 8 & 13  
4000 – 4200 28<sup>th</sup> Street  
4000 – 4500 29<sup>th</sup> Street  
2800 – 2900 Shepherd Street  
2800 – 2900 Taylor Street  
2800 – 2900 Upshur Street  
2800 Webster Street

### Area 3

Oct. 25, Dec. 29  
3800 – 4600 30<sup>th</sup> Street  
3800 – 4500 31<sup>st</sup> Street  
3000 – 3100 Perry Street  
2900 – 3100 Bunker Hill Road

### Area 4

Nov. 1 & 3, Dec. 1 & 6  
3800-4500 32<sup>nd</sup> Street  
3800-4100 33<sup>rd</sup> Street  
3200 – 3300 Perry Street  
3200 – 3300 Bunker Hill Road  
Rainier Avenue  
3100 – 3200 Arundel Road  
3100 – 3200 Varnum Street  
3100 – 3200 Upshur Street  
3100 Webster Street  
3100 Windom Road

### Area 5

Nov. 22 & 28, Dec. 22 & 27  
3800 – 4200 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
3800 – 4000 35<sup>th</sup> Street  
4000 36<sup>th</sup> Street  
4000 37<sup>th</sup> Street  
3400 – 3700 Bunker Hill Road  
3400 – 3700 Shepherd Street  
3400 Taylor Street  
3400 Tilden Street

3000 – 3100 Shepherd Street  
3000 – 3200 Taylor Street  
3000 Upshur Street

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## Ward Two Report

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*by Councilmember Knedler*

**Artspace Parking.** We are hearing the complaints. Parking for Artspace residents should be improved once the county gains possession of the small house directly behind the Artspace parking lot. The plan is to replace it with a parking lot. The city has also been promised federal grant money to purchase a municipal parking lot.

**Last Pawn Shop Gone.** The last pawn shop in our town center has been sold and will close. New zoning standards will keep out any new ones.

**Community List Service.** A new email list service has been created by residents. Among other things, the group has been sharing names of contractors and you could access that list of names if you sign up for the listserv. Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MountRainierMD/> and click on the “Join this group” button.

**GLBT Brunches.** Social potluck brunches are held regularly in the Gateway area for gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered persons, and their supportive friends. The next brunch will be hosted on Sun., Oct. 16. For details, contact [glmrmd@aol.com](mailto:glmrmd@aol.com), or give me a call, 301-699-3134.

**New Zoning Standards.** Please be aware that the new zoning standards for the Gateway Arts District are in effect. Booklets should be available soon. If you are planning to renovate your home with an addition, you must comply with these design guidelines. Contact City Hall for details. In the Town Center Zone, the standards remain the same, but I am seeing many illegal temporary signs going up. ALL exterior changes to properties in the town center—including signs—must be approved by the Town Center Design Review Committee. The City will issue stop work orders and possibly issue citations for violations. Design guidelines for the town center are available from City Hall.

**Building Permits.** If you need a county building permit, then you need a city permit as well. Be advised that the city does receive a listing of all county issued permits, so rather than see a city stop work order on your door, please visit City Hall once you have your county permit and take care of the city requirement.

**On Going Projects.** Right now I am working on legislation to create standards for issuance of a city demolition permit, to create a voluntary historic facade easement program, and put limits on noise permits.

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## Letter to the Editor

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To: Message, Terry KELLY  
The City of Mount Rainier

From: Mr. Ernest Wheeler  
3001 Queens Chapel Rd., #007  
Mt. Rainier, Md 20712

Re: Traffic Light

Dear Mayor Malinda Miles,

This is in reference to the crossing light located at Queens Chapel and Buchanan Street since the beginning operation of said crossing light I have noticed and it has been brought to my attention of the residence of Rainier Manor Apartments at 3100 Queens Chapel, Mt. Rainier, Maryland that motorists have fail to stop for the crossing light when it is on red. I myself have noticed motorists failing to stop, stop and proceed through the red light. Also I have witnessed pedestrians nearly being hit by motorists.

Drivers also ignore when vehicles in opposite beside them have stopped for the red light. I remember that it was said a traffic light would be placed at said location. From what I can see this is not a traffic light but a crossing light. A traffic light changes from green to yellow to red. This light is flashing yellow steadily on Queens Chapel when changing for pedestrians to cross. It flashes even faster on yellow for about ten seconds then pauses on yellow for about five seconds then changes to red. This causes drivers to jam on brakes or run thru the stop light. This soon or later is going to cause accidents causing possibly death and severe injuries to pedestrians and motorists. I am well aware that this crossing light has put a big decrease in speeding on Queens Chapel Road but why cause another problem when the problem can be solved all together by putting a traffic light as we requested instead of a crossing light. It would be wise if the city of Mt. Rainier would monitor not the traffic but the speeders and red light runners at said light on Queens Chapel Road.

Sincerely,  
Ernest L Wheeler  
President, Mount Rainier Tenants Association

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## Home Ownership and Home Improvement Workshop Series

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When: Thursday, October 13, 2005–  
6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Where: City Hall, Mount Rainier  
Light refreshments will be served.

*Sponsored by Washington Home Mutual*

The City of Mount Rainier, along with area-wide financial services institution, realtors, community development organizations, State and County Department of Housing and Community Development, City government and elected officials will host a series of monthly workshops related to home ownership, home improvement, property maintenance, home financing, and debt/wealth management topics.

For further information or to register for the workshop, please contact James Booth, Assistant City Manager, at City Hall 301-985-6585.

Please watch Cable Television Channel 71 or check the Mount Rainier website ([www.mountrainiermd.org](http://www.mountrainiermd.org)) for more information.

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## CERT (Community Emergency Response Training)

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Training has been scheduled and 25 of our neighbors have signed up for this valuable training. Training dates are Friday, September 30, 2005 (starts at 7:00 p.m.), Saturday October 1 (8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.) and Sunday, October 2 (8:00am until 9:30pm). Lunch is provided on Saturday and Sunday, and light refreshments/reception on Friday. Classes will be conducted at City Hall, One Municipal Place.

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## Council Highlights

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September 6, 2005

- Public Hearing – Fence Permit 4204-29<sup>th</sup> Street – variance requested due to combined height of retaining wall and fence which exceeds the height restrictions in city code. Neighbors supported the request and the owner presented a petition signed by the neighbors.

Mayor and Council meeting

- Delegate Doyle Niemann from the 4<sup>th</sup> District presented an award from the Maryland House of Delegates to Chief Fred Keeney for his distinguished service as President of the Maryland Chief's Association for the past year.
- Delegate Niemann also addressed the audience on a number of shelters available to private individuals who are willing to provide assistance to victims of Hurricane Katrina. The numbers are 1-800-435-7669 for American Red Cross or 1-800-257-7575 for those requiring Spanish translation, 1-703-549-1390 for Catholic Charities, and 301-559-8500 or 1-800-725-2769 for the Salvation Army.
- Gateway District Development Overlay Zone (DDOZ) – Dineen O'Connor, Senior Planner from the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) provided an explanation of these guidelines for the Gateway Arts District that includes the City of Mount Rainier. These guidelines replaces the former zoning ordinance for traditional neighborhoods. Citizens residing in these neighborhoods with input from the City and County Councilman Will Campos can modify the development standards as they pertain to lot coverage. Although M-NCPPC is ready to print the final version of the guidelines, the

City's modifications can be added later as a footnote for sections of the regulations that apply only to Mount Rainier. Any restrictions that do not apply to Mount Rainier will revert to R-55 for residential neighborhoods.

Committee Appointments

- Councilmember Morton will serve on the Gateway CDC
- Councilmember Gandee will serve on Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (ATHA)
- Former Councilmember Intisar Haamid will continue to serve on the Mixed Use Town Center Design Review Committee (MUTC) until Councilmember Knedler is formally appointed by M-NCPPC.
- 4407-29<sup>th</sup> Street. DRB recommended approval of request; Motion to approve was made, seconded by Gandee; Vote 3-0 approval.
- 3728 Wells Avenue. DRB recommended approval of addition; disapproval of deck. Item moved to work session.
- G. S. Proctor and Associates provided presentation to the council on their background and summary of lobbying activities for other cities including Glenarden, Seat Pleasant, and Capital Heights. Council is considering a contract with the firm to seek funding for priority projects.
- 48 Parking Rule. Citizen Sandra Joseph asked the council to reconsider this ordinance which requires residents to move their vehicles every 48 hours. Matter moved for further discussion at next work session.
- WMATA. has requested response to the City's expressed intent to purchase the bus lane that was used to build the municipal plaza. City attorney is to draft a response.

September 13, 2005

- Special Meeting called by the Mayor
- The Mayor and Council approved the fence variance for 4204 29<sup>th</sup> Street
- Council discussed priorities to submit to G.S. Proctor and Associates for consideration.
- Emergency Preparedness Commission. Gandee requested that this item be added to the agenda.
- Chairperson Regina Wardell gave presentation on the expenditure of Homeland Security Grant funds to date and requested that remaining funds for communication equipment be spent prior to the September 30, 2005 deadline. Twenty-five Mount Rainier residents signed up for the County emergency preparedness training (CERT).

Mayor and Council Work Session

- Committee Appointments
- Council finalized the committee appointments for the Mayor and Council. Resolution will be introduced at the next meeting approving the appointments.
- 3728 Wells Avenue discussion focused on approving the DRB recommendations – approval of the additional and disapproving the deck. Council decided to move this item to next meeting to allow notification to neighbors to give the an opportunity for input.
- Mount Rainier Business Association (MRBA) status and Commercial District Management Association CDMA fees
- All papers have been filed for the MRBA and the corporation is in good standing.
- CDMA fees- city has collected approximately 1/3 of the fees owed by property owners. According to city code, the association can request the City to lien properties that are

delinquent. Association President Sam Reynolds suggested that the association will contact owners one more time before requesting lien against the properties in violation.

- **Memorial Park.** Mayor Miles stated that the council has to decide what to do with the park as there are names that are missing from the plaque. City Manager was instructed to order additional name plates for Roy Callaway and Stanley Prusch.
- **Demolition Permits.** Councilmember Knedler stated that the council needs to review ordinances related to monitoring of how contractors raze buildings, e.g., how is lead and asbestos material handled? Councilmember Knedler will draft legislations for City attorney review.
- **Façade Easements.** Councilmember Knedler explained that a property owner could give an easement to the City for the front of their house which would be strictly voluntary and would be for those property owners who have done a lot of renovations to their property and want to protect the historical heritage in later years when they no longer own the property or are deceased.
- **Building permits** – we may want to look at requiring proof that contractors are licensed prior to issuance.

September 20, 2005

Mayor and Council Meeting

- **Award Announcement.** The Mount Rainier Police Department received an award as winner of the 2005 Chief's Challenge for Seat Belt safety.
- Officer Rob Caplan was sworn as police officer to the staff.
- **Award Announcement** – Citizen Jack Engel presented an award to the council from the America in Bloom contest – the City received a plaque in recognition of the City's pride in the community.

- 3728 Wells Avenue. After citizen input and council discussion the vote was to reject the Design Review Board (DRB) recommendations vote – 3-0.
- Resolution 8-2006 – (first reading) To approve contract with G.S. Proctor and Associates, Inc. as lobbyist for the City.
- Resolution 9-2006 – first reading/ vote – approving council committee appointments Vote – 3-0.

September 20, 2003

Mayor and Council Work Session

- **48 hour rule.** Mayor suggested that this matter be looked at more carefully and see what other cities are doing before the code is modified.
- **Parking Permits.** Chief and manager requested that council provide some clarification on how parking permits are issued. City Manager has suspended issuance at present. Council agreed to forward this matter to the Parking Task Force Committee for review and recommendation.
- **Portable Toilets.** This matter was discussed to initiate discussion around public urination problems at City hall and elsewhere in the City. City manager was directed to move forward on this matter with recommendations as to where to install. It was also agreed that this program would be tried as a pilot program for one year. M-NCPPC will be contacted to see if MUTC approval is required.
- Resolution 4-2006 first reading to appoint members to the City of Mount Rainier Cable Commission.
- Resolution 5-2006 first reading reestablishing the membership of the City Beautification Committee.
- Resolution 6-2006 – reestablishing the membership of the City of Mount Rainier Tool Shed Committee.

## Academy of Excellence Program

Mayor Malinda Miles and Director of Finance Vijay K. Manjani graduated from the Academy of Excellence Program sponsored by the Institute of Governmental Services at the University of Maryland – College Park and the Maryland Municipal League. The graduation ceremony was held at the University of Maryland on Sunday, September 18, 2005.

The Academy of Excellence in Local Governance is a collaborative effort involving University of Maryland's Institute for Governmental Service (IGS), Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT), Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) and the Maryland Municipal League (MML). The Academy's specific objectives are to increase the understanding of local government and how it functions; to promote high ethical standards in public service; to provide an informational base for more informed policy making; to develop the capacity of local officials to govern effectively; and to recognize local officials for their educational efforts.

Congratulations to Mayor Miles and Director of Finance Manjani on successfully completing the program.



## GANG AWARENESS & BULLYING SEMINAR



*COME LEARN HOW NOT TO GET INVOLVED OR BE A VICTIM*

Where: Mount Rainier Elementary School  
4011 32nd Street  
Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712

When: Oct 26<sup>th</sup>, 2005 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm



**OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS AGES 14 & OLDER**

**For additional information call 301-985-6580**

Co-sponsored by the Maryland Crime Prevention Institute

## Maryland Home Improvement Commission

The Maryland Home Improvement Commission licenses and regulates home improvement contractors, subcontractors and salespersons. Home improvement work includes alteration, remodeling, repair or replacement of a building or part of a building used as a residence. Home improvement also includes work done on individual condominium units. The Commission investigates complaints by homeowners, awards monetary damages against licensed contractors, and prosecutes violators of the home improvement law and regulations.

The Commission has a Guaranty Fund (the Fund) established by assessments to contractors. This Fund compensates homeowners for actual monetary losses due to poor workmanship or failure to perform a home improvement contract. The Fund applies only to work done by licensed contractors. Each licensed contractor is covered by the Fund for up to \$100,000 for all claims. For claims based on contracts after October 1, 2000, the amount which can be awarded per homeowner has increased from \$10,000 to \$15,000. Applicants who submit a surety bond to meet the financial solvency requirements, must submit a \$20,000 bond.

You may contact the Commission and find out whether complaints have been made against a licensed contractor.

500 North Calvert Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202-3651  
410-230-6309  
1-888-218-5925

Maryland Home Improvement Commission

[www.dllr.state.md.us/license/occp/occp/homeim.html](http://www.dllr.state.md.us/license/occp/occp/homeim.html)

## Volunteers Needed

The City is seeking volunteers and committee members for a proposed Youth and Recreation Committee. MNCPPC Parks and Recreation Department staff Joe O'Neill and Chris Colvin will make a brief presentation at the Tuesday, October 10, 2005 Mount Rainier Mayor and Council meeting at 7 p.m.

Please participate in the committee and attend the Mayor and Council meeting to learn more about the proposed recreation programs.

For further information, please contact City Manager Jeannelle Wallace at City Hall at 301-985-6585.

## Mount Rainier Community Watch Group Formed

As a result of a community meeting held between the Mount Rainier Police Department and concerned citizens on August 15, 2005, a neighborhood and block watch group was formed called the Mount Rainier Community Watch Group.

The "Mount Rainier Community Watch" group includes both neighborhood watch and block watch groups.

A Board was established with the following officers: Ophelia Baxter – President, Greg Welter – Vice President, Stephen Brundage – Treasurer, Kelly Moser – Co-Secretary, Jennifer Teel – Co-Secretary, and Joe Robbins – Asst. Secretary.

## Mount Rainier Tool Shed Garden Party

When: Saturday, October 1, 2005 from 3 to 6 p.m.

Where: Mount Rainier Tool Shed  
3601 Bunker Hill Road  
Mount Rainier, MD

### Tool Shed Landscaping Project Beautification Committee Garden Tour

Thursday, October 15, 2005

## Mount Rainier's Response To Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts

**Helping the Walker Family** — With one of the worst natural disasters in the history of our country, the Mayor and Council agreed unanimously to show our support by identifying and providing housing to Katrina Victims. An appeal is being made throughout the City of Mount Rainier for residents to open their doors to victims that are in need of housing. One of our businessmen, **Mr. Louis Walker** has more than 40 family members affected by this crisis. For the past two weeks, we have been working together to get his family members to the Washington metropolitan area. Several have arrived, but the greater majority should arrive over this weekend.

To date we have identified

- One house for a family of four (Patricia Fenn) – received long-term housing at Queenstown Apartment on 9/10
- Shared housing for a family of three (Mother is also pregnant) Nneka Barnes
- Housing for 6 family members (Malinda Miles)
- Day care for two family members (Gateway Child Development Center and Mount Rainier Learning Center)
- Assisted in job placement for several teachers and bus drivers
- Received a sofa and dresser (More furniture is needed. Furniture should be in good condition and immediately usable)
- Received \$100 in donations for food
- 25 boxes of clothes, diaper, baby clothes, blankets, and other supplies have been received and passed on to the Walker family

Discussions were held with all of our apartment complexes inviting them to join our housing effort by providing one apartment each to the families. Most had to consult with their corporate offices, but were hopeful that they would be able to help us with housing. Unfortunately or fortunately, HUD sent out an emergency request for all apartment owners with vacant apartments to file them with HUD for a coordinated housing assignment process. This resulted in Queenstown Apartment making 20 of its units available and so far two of our families have received housing in Queenstown.

Food and furniture are priority needs now. If you are unable to open up your home for housing these families, please provide a bag of food and/or furniture. Whatever contribution you make will be most appreciated.

To make a donation, house a family or family member, offer child care services, provide furniture, or whatever your heart leads you to make available, please contact Malinda Miles at 301-699-1378 or [mayormiles@malindamiles.com](mailto:mayormiles@malindamiles.com). No contribution is too small. What is most needed: Furniture, Food, Housing, Transportation, Emergency Supplies and Employment.

If you are worried about and interested in finding loved ones in the New Orleans/Mississippi area, please go to: [www.familylinks.icrc.org](http://www.familylinks.icrc.org). **There are other links, but this one has been kept fairly up-to-date.**

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## **Contractor Licenses Required**

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The Maryland Home Improvement Commission licenses and regulates home improvement contractors, subcontractors and salespersons. Home improvement work includes alteration, remodeling, repair or replacement of a building or part of a building used as a residence. Home improvement also includes work done on individual condominium units. Home improvement does not include work done on commonly owned areas of condominiums or buildings that contain four or more single family units. The Commission investigates complaints by homeowners, awards monetary damages against licensed contractors, and prosecutes violators of the home improvement law and regulations.

The Commission has a Guaranty Fund (the Fund) established by assessments to contractors. This Fund compensates homeowners for actual monetary losses due to poor workmanship or failure to perform a home improvement contract. The Fund applies only to work done by licensed contractors. Each licensed contractor is covered by the Fund for up to \$100,000 for all claims.

MHIC, 500 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21202-3651. 410-230-6309, 1-888-218-5925. <http://www.dllr.state.md.us/license/occpof/homeim.html>.

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## **Mount Rainier Police Receive Award**

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The Maryland Committee for Seat Belt Use named the Mount Rainier Police the winner of the 2005 Maryland Chief Challenge Award for police departments statewide with a staff of 15–26 police officers. The Chief's Challenge is an annual nationwide safety campaign designed to increase seat belt use.

“Our officers did a tremendous job of educating our motoring public on the need to wear a seat belt. They gave educational talks at our schools and churches and handed out literature during educational checkpoints. It is an honor for our staff to receive this recognition and it is a testament to their hard work to ensure the safety of vehicle operators in our City,” said Chief Fred Keeney.

In addition to the educational programs in the schools and churches, the Mount Rainier Police also issued 200 citations for seat belt non-compliance and passed out more than 1,000 driver brochures. Officer Andre Williams, alone issued 56 citations. A locally produced educational video also ran on the Mount Rainier Cable Channel 71. The City averaged a seat belt compliance use rate of between 88% and 92% during the calendar years of 2004 and 2005.

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## **Special Mention Award: America in Bloom**

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Once again, the City of Mount Rainier received acknowledgments from America In Bloom for the City's participation in the annual contest.

For Calendar Year 2005, the City received Special Mention for the Community Involvement criteria for the population category 5,001–10,000.

The City received a Bloom Rating of 2 Blooms for the Community Involvement criteria.

### **General Description of the Special Mention**

This community provides a unique opportunity for its residents, businesses, and community groups by maintaining a collection of hand and power tools for use at no charge. The “Tool Shed” is overseen by a committee of volunteers, led by Sam Meredith. It was initially funded by the Prince George's County Livable Communities Initiative grant. For a \$5 annual membership, residents can borrow tools used for the beautification of the community. The Tool Shed also maintains its own web site where an application for membership may be obtained and inquiries on types of tools can be made. On-going programs of instruction of use of tools are available and also incentive programs to reward individuals or groups for outstanding improvements to the city. The volunteers work with limited space and even start seeds through the winter months for spring plantings for local beautification projects.

### **Special Project or Initiative**

A bicycle workshop is being held to youngsters maintain their own bikes. America in Bloom...Planting Pride in Our Communities [www.americainbloom.org](http://www.americainbloom.org).

*Council Meetings*  
 1st and 3rd Tues., 7 p.m., City Hall lower level  
*Beautification Committee*—3rd Mon., 7:00 p.m., City Hall  
*Cable Commission*—2nd and 4th Fri., 7:00 p.m., City Hall

*Friends of Library* (mtrainierfol.org)—Mon., 7:30 p.m., Community Vision, 34th St.  
*Gateway Municipalities CDC*—2nd Thurs., 7:00–9:00 p.m., 4102 Webster St.  
*MRBA*—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.

## October–November calendar

Every Monday is yard waste day. No appointments necessary. Please have all bulk trash out by 7:00 a.m. on bulk trash day and all appointments made before 12 noon on the Friday preceding bulk trash day.

October 3	Bulk Trash (by appointment only) Yard Waste Pick Up
October 5	Regular Trash Pick Up
October 7	Recyclables Pick Up
October 11	Yard Waste Pick Up
October 12	Regular Trash Pick Up
October 15	The Mount Rainier Beautification Committee will host a Garden Tour--time and start location TBD. This tour will feature several of our ‘Spotlight Yard of the Month’ winners, along with other select Mount Rainier gardens.
October 14	Recyclables Pick Up
October 17	Bulk Trash (by appointment only) Yard Waste Pick Up
October 19	Regular Trash Pick Up
October 21	Recyclables Pick Up
October 24	Yard Waste Pick Up
October 26	Regular Trash Pick Up
October 28	Recyclables Pick Up
October 31	Yard Waste Pick Up

November 2	Regular Trash Pick Up
November 4	Recyclables Pick Up
November 7	Bulk Trash (By appointment only) Yard Waste Pick Up
November 9	Regular Trash Pick Up
November 14	Yard Waste Pick Up
November 16	Regular Trash Pick Up
November 18	Recyclables Pick Up
November 21	Bulk Trash (By appointment only) Yard Waste Pick Up
November 23	Regular Trash Pick Up
November 25	Recyclables Pick Up
November 28	Yard Waste Pick Up
November 30	Regular Trash Pick Up

Starting December, every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday will be Yard Waste Pick Up. Call (301 985-6558) to make an appointment. Please have all bulk trash out by 7:00 am on bulk trash day and all appointments for both bulk trash and yard waste made before 12 noon on the Friday preceding pick up day.

www.mountrainiermd.org

**Mayor**

**Malinda Miles**  
301-699-1378

mayormiles@malindamiles.com

**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

gandydncr@aol.com

**Alta Morton**

202-309-5455

altaward1@hotmail.com

**Ward 2**

**Pedro Briones**

301-277-1833

PBriones@mountrainiermd.org

**Bryan Knedler**

301-699-3134

bknedler@mountrainiermd.org

**Message**

**Terry Kelly**

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

301-985-5406 (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)

*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.*

Mount Rainier, MD 20712

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**October 2005 Message  
City of Mount Rainier  
One Municipal Place  
Mount Rainier, MD 20712**