



Message

Issue 230
July/August 2005

Thank You	2
Public Hearing on Proposed Tax Rate	2
Welcome and Greetings from the Bunker Hill Fire Station	2
From the Police Chief	3
Youth Recreation Programs	4
Hazardous Waste and Bulk Trash	4
Spotlight Yards of the Week	4
Welcome to the Mount Rainier Community Board	4
Friends of the Library	5
New Mini-Bike Laws	6
Bulk Trash Reminder Notice	6
Gateway GLBT Social Group	6
Recyclable Pickup Reminder Notice	6
Queens Manor Garden Apartments Celebrates Grand Opening	7
Council Highlights	7
The Mount Rainier Beautification Committee	8
Most Improved Yard Contest	9
Yard Work	9
City Community Updates	10
Mount Rainier E.S. Celebrates Peace	10
Calendar	11

Deadline for the September Message is August 18.

www.mountrainiermd.org

Mayor's Report

by Malinda Miles

July 13, 2005

A lot has happened since my last Ward 2 report. The following are a few of the highlights:

- You have elected me as the Mayor of our City.
- Bryan Knedler is now representing Ward 2 on the City Council.
- Alta Morton is the new Ward 1 representative.
- Adopted a phrase for the City – “Mount Rainier, A City on the Move!”
- Chief Fred Keeney’s contract has been renewed for one year.
- Mr. David P. Powers has been sworn in as our newest police officer.
- Maryland Municipal League (MML) has held its annual convention in Ocean City where the City won its 4th Award for excellence (Community Tool Shed) to tie with Greenbelt for having this distinct honor.
- The City has passed its budget for fiscal year 2005/2006 with no increase in taxes.
- Joe’s Emporium has held its second major performance at the University of Maryland with some of the City’s most gifted artists.
- Artspace has become a reality with tenants occupying space on the upper levels, and Lt. Governor Steele making his second visit to Mount Rainier in as many months for the opening celebration.
- Bass Liquors is no more—boarded up.
- Mount Rainier Business Association has web presence and a host of new officers.
- Mount Rainier Day was a smashing success with Rhode Island Avenue north bound lanes closed to provide full exposure to all Mount Rainier Day activities.
- For the second year in a row the City participated in American In Bloom with the judges being wined and dined by Jack Engel and other members of the City’s Beautification Committee who have been doing a wonderful job with our Spotlight Yard of the week/ month awards.
- The City helped host the Auto Theft and Crime Prevention event with Prince George’s County Municipal Association and the County’s Auto Theft and Crime Prevention Task Force. Mayor George Denny and Council from Brentwood; Mayor Lillian Beverly from North Brentwood; Mayor Diana Finnell from Colmar Manor, Councilman Fred Smalls of Laurel, and Chief Commissioner Anna Angolia from Cottage City all came to Mount Rainier for this event.
- The City has been awarded \$122,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG); \$73,000 in Community Legacy Grant (CLG) with Lt. Governor Steele and representatives from other State Agencies visiting and touring the City of Mount Rainier; \$7,000 from County Councilman Will Campos in support of Mount Rainier Day; \$200,000 for the International Park to be built at the corner of Buchanan and 34th Street; Mount Rainier Business

Mayor, continued on page 2

Most Improved Yard Contest

This contest is sponsored jointly by the Tool Shed Committee and the Beautification Committee. We will offer prizes for first, second, and third place categories which will be awarded in Wards 1 and 2—a total of six prizes for “Most Improved Yards” in the City (three from ward 1 and three from Ward 2). If you add to your landscaping with additional flowers or other plants during the coming weeks, be advised that it will be necessary to water such late additions every day until the new plants become established. No need to water your entire yard if we continue having frequent rains. Just water by hand the recently planted items.

How do we evaluate the degree of improvement? You will provide us with photos of your yard of the areas where you hope to improve its beauty. Those will be your “before” photos. (You might consider using flowers, shrubs, and/or trees, and possibly a small pond, fountain, sculpture, or something whimsical which will bring a smile to everyone’s face.) When you have completed your project, take photos

of it from all angles. Those will be your “after” photos.

Finally, pick up an application at City Hall. On the application, you will provide the following (in addition to your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address, if you have one):

- 1) Brief description of your project to improve and beautify your yard/garden.
- 2) Tools which you borrowed from the Tool Shed in order to complete your project.
- 3) Tools which you needed for your project, but the Tool Shed does not yet have in its inventory.
- 4) Your own tools which you used during the project.

Attach (paper clip) your “before” and “after” photos, each dated, with your address, on the back. Put everything in an envelope marked “Most Improved Yard Contest – Ward 1 (or Ward 2)” and drop it off at City Hall no later than Monday, August 1. A distinguished panel of judges (who are not residents of Mount Rainier) will begin judging the following weekend. The winners from each ward will be announced by the Mayor later in the month.

Spotlight Yard of the Week

Each week, the Beautification Committee of Mount Rainier selects yards that meet the criteria for Spotlight Yard of the Week. Judges are assigned to evaluate yards in Ward 1 and Ward 2. The yards are judged weekly and one of the week’s winners in each Ward is nominated and selected as Yard of the Month for their respective Ward.

The list of winners for the months of May/June 2005 are:

Spotlight Yard of the Week Winners (weeks 7–12)

- Ward 1—4011 37th St., 4017 36th St., 4236 34th St., 4021 35th St., 3803 35th St., 3517 37th St.
- Ward 2—3005 Bunker Hill Rd., 3100 Perry St., 4407 30th St., 4100 30 th St., 4202 30th St., 3813 32nd St.

Spotlight Yard of the Month Winners (May/June)

- Ward 1—3504 Shepherd St., 4236 34th St.
- Ward 2—4222 30th St., 4202 30th St.

Spotlight Apartment Complex of the Month Winners (May/June)

- Kaywood Garden Apartments, Queens Manor Apartments
- Congratulations to all of our winners. Let’s Keep Mount Rainier Beautiful.

Mayor, continued from page 1

Association and the Community Development Corporation (CDC) have purchased the long awaited security cameras for Varnum and Rhode Island Avenue with installation complete on Varnum and in progress on Rhode Island Avenue; received an additional \$23,000 for phase two of the security cameras project; and received \$3,800 for our Neighborhood Watch Program.

CONTINUING ACTIVITIES. *The Mount Rainier Business Association’s (MRBA) Executive Board:* Kenric Walwyn, Finance Officer, Community Vision Consultants, 3808 34th Street, 301-209-1899; Adrienne Littlejohn, G and A, 3817-A 34th Street, 301-277-1137; Mr. Thomas Obeng-Anon, K-Food Mart, 3233 Rhode Island Avenue, 301-927-7796; Eboni Borden, Jackson Hewitt Tax Services, 3207 Rhode Island Avenue, 301-699-9050; Nick Daniels, Oldies Music, 3219 Rhode Island Avenue, 301-779-0569; Sam Reynolds, Jr. Reynolds’ Realty 240-393-2299; Robert Dickens, Party Time Liquors, 3307 Rhode Island Avenue, 301-927-3037; Larry Solomon, Thrifty Car Rental, 3210 Rhode Island Avenue, 301-927-0014; and Brooke Kidd, Joe’s Movement Emporium, 3802 34th Street, 301-699-1819 once the official vote has been cast.

Meetings are open so members and guests may remain for the Executive Board meeting. Executive Board meeting of the MRBA are held at 6:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at the Mount Rainier Police Department. Quarterly Membership meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. at the same location every three months.

Traffic Light on Queens Chapel Road—It’s up! Now they (State Highway Administration) is waiting to get us logged into the timer system for traffic lights in the area. We were slated for mid-June, but now we are into July. Don’t give up

Mayor, continued on page 9

From the Police Chief

HOW TO REACH US

For police service calls (24 hours a day)

301-985-6565/66

For information/admin offices (M-F, 9A-5P)

301-985-6580

<http://www.mountrainiermd.org/government/mrpd/index.html>

Please cut and place on your phone

Auto Theft

The crime of auto theft continues to be our number one problem in the City accounting for 40 percent of our reported part I crimes. Do not forget to lock your car! Please follow these steps.

- LOCK YOUR CAR AND TAKE THE KEYS, and
- Do not leave valuables in the car, or
- Packages in plain sight, and
- Park your car in a well lighted area, and
- Use an anti-theft device, and
- Use your trunk to conceal gifts.

To learn more about auto theft preventions go on line to www.mdautotheft.org or contact the Department at 301-985-6565/66 and ask an officer to visit you for further information.

Sex Offender Registry

The Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Service maintains a website of registered sex offenders in the State and our City. Anyone can obtain this information through their website at www.dpscs.state.md.us or if you do not have a computer you may call 410-585-3600.

Vacation Check for Your Home

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

Mark Your Calendars—National Night Out is August 2

This year's National Night Out (NNO) celebration is scheduled for Tuesday, August 2 from 6 until 9 p.m. The event is scheduled to take place in the 2200 block of Varnum Street at the Kaywood Shopping center parking lot. Music, food and a community walk are some of the planned events. Interested in volunteering or want additional information, contact Ms. Slade at 301-985-6580. Special thanks to our NNO Planning Committee; Ophelia Baxter; Robert Taylor, Mrs. Barnes, Monica Slade, Officer's Baxter and Flanigan.

Beware of Con Games

Be careful of contractors who "just happen to have" materials left over from a previous job. Be careful of contractors who pressure you for an immediate decision or ask you to pay for the entire job up front. Be careful in allowing contractors, utility company representatives, or inspectors into your home without verifying a photo identification card with their company. Contact the Better Business Bureau for information on a particular contractor before signing a contract. Report suspicious con activity immediately to 301-985-6565.

Illegal Off-Road Vehicles

If you own a minibike, go-cart, scooter, ATV, mini motorcycle, they are all illegal to operate on the City streets. Operation of such a vehicle will result in the impoundment of the vehicle. In addition, the City is considering legislation to increase the penalty to \$1,000 for operation of these vehicles on our City streets. For additional information please visit www.berwynheightspd.com/motor%20scooters.htm.

IMPORTANT

Public Hearing on the Future Uses of 3209 Rhode Island Avenue (Old Police Station and Library) on Thursday, July 28, 2005 at 7 p.m.. in the Council Chambers on the Upper Level.

City Manager Report

by Jeanelle Wallace

City staff has diligently worked on many areas of concern during the past month as follows:

- **Traffic Circle**—A letter was drafted on behalf of the Mayor and Council to the Secretary of Transportation concerning the numerous vehicular accidents and damage to the concrete. State Highway Administration (SHA) was asked to place stop signs or other traffic calming devices in the area. Management contacted SHA as a follow-up to these concerns. During the past two weeks, the concrete was repaired by SHA. While they do not intend to install stop signs, they are willing to place rumble strips at each entry point along the circle. This activity is to take place during the final two weeks of July. Other requests for SHA support include the removal of two dead elm trees in the public right of way next to Bunker Hill Fire Station, and the installation of a traffic signal on Queens Chapel Road and Buchannen Street. The light has been installed, however it is not serviceable until a timer is added. It is anticipated that this will occur by July 31, 2005.
- **New Police Station**—As many of you are aware, there were problems during construction of this facility. Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DER) issued correction orders that were never completed by the original contractor for this project. The City has received proposals for the corrective work, and these proposals have been submitted to Maryland Department of General Services for approval. It has taken more than two years for the City

to reach this point, after several months of research and dialogue with the former contractor, the architect of record, Prince George's County DER, the City Attorney, and City staff. We are in the final stages of getting this approved so that a permanent Use and Occupancy permit can be obtained.

- **New Legislation**—the Mayor and City Council passed two very important pieces of legislation pertaining to vacant building fees and vacant lots. The Vacant Building Ordinance was amended increasing the fees for commercial and residential properties. The ordinance requires fees to be paid to the City every six (6) months that a property remains vacant. Property Owners are also required to submit a vacant building plan to the Division of Code Enforcement which at minimum details plans for renovation and putting the property on the market for resale and or occupancy.
- **Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program**—The Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has new applications for those persons with limited financial means seeking financial assistance to rehabilitate their single family homes for the purpose of upgrading the quality of deteriorated dwellings to contemporary minimum property standards. In order to be eligible to participate in the program you must:
 - **Be a full time resident of Prince George's County continuously for at least nine**

months prior to the date of the application;

- **Be the owner of record of a single family home continuously for at least nine months prior to the date of the application;**
- **Have a total annual household income that does not exceed the income guidelines;**
- **Not possess substantial assets other than the subject house that would enable you to obtain the assistance from other sources; and**
- **Not be delinquent in the repayment of any mortgage on the property, real estate taxes, property insurance, and/or defaulted on a loan provided by the County.**

For more information on this program, please contact the DHCD office at 301-883-5870. Applications may be obtained at the Mount Rainier City Hall.

Kim Watson, Vice President of PEPCO has given all municipal officials pertinent information pertaining to a customer services contact for all municipalities. Please remember to contact the PEPCO emergency number listed on the back of each **Message** on 1-877-737-2662 to report light out, lines down, power outages, etc. Should you have any problems with getting responses, please contact your Council member or City Hall at 301-985-6585.

Ward 2 Report

by Councilmember Knedler

By now, the homeowners have seen the new tax bill. Your city taxes went up. This is because we retained the same tax rate (79 cents per \$100 of assessed value) while your assessed value increased on average about 10 percent. The rise in property values has given the City a financial boost. I also anticipate that our largest property owners, the apartment complexes, will need to increase rent rates. You will also see your county property tax bill go up since the county rate was also kept at last year's level while your property value went up. While you have that tax bill open, please notice the huge amount of money that you pay to Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

I supported keeping the city property tax rate at 79 cents because it was to generate about \$50,000 to go into our reserve fund. The money is desperately needed to replenish our cash reserve (the savings account) which we use to borrow against when we hit cash flow low points. Right now, we must borrow on the city's credit and pay interest on the loan.

We go through a cash flow low point in the late summer each year as we wait for the tax revenue to arrive from the state and county. Over the past several years we have struggled to pay the city employees in those months. We have had ZERO savings for several years now. We have in the past actually hit our limit on borrowing against our credit line (\$400,000) while we waited for the tax money to arrive in Sept. or Oct. This lack of a cash reserve also means we cannot expend money during those summer months on things like having vacant lots cleared, trees trimmed, or anything else done by contractors. We have even had to put freezes on hiring police officers and fixing police cars.

In an eleventh-hour amendment, the majority of the council voted to fund youth programming grants at the level of \$30,000. Most of these funds came out of the reserve, so that now we will be only putting about

\$30,000 into our savings account. This money will be used to help fund youth programs being offered by arts organizations and the various faith-based initiatives. While I support providing funds for recreation programs, I think we should have started at a lower amount for the initial funding cycle. And we already pay taxes to MNCPPC to provide recreation programs. The city's auditors have warned us that we should expect a \$100,000 deficit from the current fiscal year. For me, ignoring this warning and further decreasing the money needed to cover that deficit is not fiscally prudent. I was the lone vote against the FY 2006 budget.

At the very last hour, an attempt was made to eliminate the lieutenant's position in the police department in order to fund two new patrol officer positions and help fund a proposed part-time recreation director position. This proposal was put on the table minutes before we were to vote on the budget. No prior public discussion had occurred about eliminating the job. This would have given Lt. Scott less than a week's notice that his job was gone (fiscal year starts July 1). In addition, the Council had no facts before it regarding the consequences of this action. Assuming the goal was to put more staff on the street (and Lt. Scott does spend some time doing patrol), I agree with it. However, the administrative work that Lt. Scott currently handles would need to be done by the sergeants if he were eliminated—further removing staff from the street patrols. In fact, we have difficulty recruiting new officers and have had two unfilled patrol jobs on and off for months. Adding two more positions would probably mean we would still have empty positions. Even with better pay and benefits, the county has over 100 openings. It is not realistic to think we can fill jobs when at a competitive disadvantage. Without knowing all the ramifications of making such a drastic change, the attempt fortunately

failed (but barely: 2 against; 2 for; 1 abstention).

While I serve on the council, I will continue to shine the spotlight on such council actions and keep you informed. I do have a constituent email list and you are welcome to join. I send out weekly updates on city news and events, council meeting agendas, and notices. Contact me at bknedler@aol.com.

Tool Shed Committee

3601 Bunker Hill Road, Mount Rainier, MD 20712; Phone 301-779-0133; Saturdays; July hours 9-12; August hours 10-1

The Community Tool Shed has a collection of hand and power tools available for use by residents, and community groups. An application must be completed prior to borrowing. Call for information or download an application at the City's website, Tool Shed webpage.

The Maryland Municipal League presented the City of Mount Rainier The Award For Excellence which was accepted by Mayor Malinda Miles she wrote the proposal, funded by a Livable Community's Grant.

July-August Tips

- Mulching cuts your watering bill.
- The TS has wheel barrels and forks to make the job go faster.
- Lawn mowers—the TS has push, gas and electric
- Lawn edger for better drainage
- Hedge Trimmer—gas and electric
- Ladders for those tall places
- Chain saws and a wood chipper to chop it up
- Power washers to clean it up

Mosaic Class

The Tool Shed will offer a mosaic class taught by resident artist Valerie Theberge. Call 301-779-0133 for details. Also, Maryland master gardeners classes will be offered. Soil preparation and dividing perennials will be offered August 9, 11:00 a.m. at the Tool Shed
Pat & Sam

Council Highlights for June and July 2005

June 7, 2005—Mayor and Council Meeting

Resolution 9-2005 declares a vacancy on the Council in Ward 2. The Resolution introduced by Council member Briones. Bryan Knedler was presented to fill the remaining term of the Ward 2 seat. Chief Deputy Clerk of the Circuit Court Swore in Bryan Knedler.

Motion made and seconded/vote 4-0 in favor of the Resolution to appoint Bryan Knedler.

Ordinance 8-2005 – First Reading/Vote on FY 2006 Fiscal Year Budget.

Resolution 9-2005 – **Introduced by all members of the Mayor and Council supports Arbor Day. The Motion to adopt and seconded—Resolution passed unanimously.**

Ordinance 7-2005 – Requires the registration of vacant lots in the City. Council member Knedler drafted the legislation and gave a summary as follows:

- Legislation essentially amends Chapter 3B-103 of the Mount Rainier City Code of Ordinances adding Section 3B-106. Vacant Lot Registration.
- *Lot* means an area of land designated as a separate parcel or unit of land on a legally recorded subdivision plat or deed filed among the land records of Prince George's County and assigned a property tax account identification number.
- *Owner* means the record property owner of the vacant lot, but does not include a governmental entity or an instrumentality or unit of governmental entity.
- *Vacant lot* means a lot without a building or other improvement which has an assessed value as determined by the State of Maryland, Department of Assessments and Taxation.
- *Owner to register annually.* By July 1 of each year, beginning July 1,

2005, each owner of a vacant lot shall file a vacant lot registration statement with the City on a form provided by the City Manager or his/her designee.

- *Registration fee.* The annual registration fee is \$75.00 for each vacant lot, payable at the time of registration.
- *Purchaser required to register upon acquisition.* A new owner of a vacant lot must file a registration statement within 30 days of the acquisition and pay the annual registration fee unless that fee was already paid by the prior owner.
- *Municipal Infraction.* The failure of an owner of a vacant lot to file a registration statement **WHEN IT IS DUE**, to pay the registration fee, or to provide all information required with registration is a municipal infraction with a fine of \$200. **EACH ADDITIONAL 60 DAYS A VIOLATION EXISTS IS A SEPARATE VIOLATION SUBJECT TO AN ADDITIONAL \$200 FINE.**
- *Lien on real property.* All registration fees, when overdue, are a lien in favor of the City on the vacant lot and may be collected and enforced in the same manner as delinquent real property taxes.

For a complete version of the Ordinance, please contact City Hall at 301-985-6585.

Motion made and carried to go into Council work session.

Discussion items:

4004-29th Street—Owner requested Council approval for work being conducted on property. Council approved.

Check cashing booth on Queens Chapel Road—Council feels this is not good for the community. City to draft letter in opposition of applicant and submit to Permits Review Section of the Zoning Board. Straw vote was 5-0 in favor of sending letter.

FY 06 Budget Discussion—How much overtime in the police department can be charged to the CSAFE Grant.

Vehicle Auto Theft Summit to be held on June 18, 2005.

Council voted to go into closed session to discuss the City Attorney Contract.

June 9, 2005—Council work session on the Fiscal Year 2006 Budget

June 14, 2005 Public Hearing—Constant Yield Tax Rate

The initial advertisement on the proposed constant yield tax rate was incorrect, thus the City was required to hold another public hearing and re-advertise the proposed rate.

The proposed tax rate is \$0.79 for every \$100 of assessed property value; \$0.711 is the current Constant Yield rate. If the City were to adopt the Constant Yield Rate, the result would be \$191,000 reduction in revenue. The Public Hearing was advertised in the Sentinel Newspaper.

Motion was made and carried to close the public hearing and open the Council work session.

Discussion Items:

West Hyattsville Transit District Overlay Zone (TDOZ)—Bill Washburn, Presenter

The draft of this document is in its final states and will be presented to the Planning Board on July 21, 2005. The Planning Board will grant permission to print. Once the document is printed and presented, the Prince George's County Council will hold a joint hearing on September 21, 2005. The concept of the plan contains elements that include mixed uses, residential and non-residential uses which are close together so residents and others can travel easily between each use. The TDOZ plan also has design elements that deal

with environmental protection and transportation elements. It is estimated that the entire document should be available around the end of July.

The Washington Gas Company submitted an application to Maryland –National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M_NCPPC) pertaining to the liquefied gas containers proposed for the Washington Gas property on Chillum Road. Mr. Washburn detailed the history of this project as follows:

- A Special Exception was originally granted in 1933 to Washington Gas. At that time there was very little development on the current site.
- Liquefied gas is a different technology than what was originally contained in the storage tanks on the site several years ago.
- The communities of Hyattsville, Mount Rainier, and Avondale have complained about gas leakage for years which is the result of aging infrastructure.
- The status of the current application is on hold. Currently, this is not a permitted use in the zone. Washington Gas was hoping to be grandfathered in with this new use and according to Mr. Washburn, it is unlikely to happen. Anyone requesting more information should contact the Developmental Review Division of M-NCPPC.

Complaints against Police Officers—Council member Knedler requested that this request be rescinded. Council member Knedler also requested a vote on the following Tuesday meeting.

MUTC Appointees—It was recommended and agreed that Council member Knedler would be recommended to M-NCPPC as the municipal representative. Appointment to be made at the next council meeting.

June 21, 2005—Council Meeting—Fiscal-Year 2006 Budget

Public comment generated discussion about police complaints and services, problems at the Artist Loft Apartments,.

Council approved minutes of several past meetings with corrections submitted to the city manager.

Ordinance 7-2005 Vacant Lot Registration and Fees—second reading and vote was amended. Motion to approve was carried Vote 4-0.

MUTC Appointments—Motion to recommend Bryan Knedler as municipal representative was approved 4-0. (Knedler recused himself from the vote).

Ordinance 8-2005 Fiscal-Year 2006 Budget—Second reading/vote. Motion to approve was carried. Vote 5-0 to approve.

July 5, 2005—Council Meeting

Official Reports—City manager reported that that City had received \$30,000 in revenue for liens against personnel property for code violations. It was also reported that State Highway Administration was contacted as a follow-up concerning issues raised about the traffic circle. The concrete was replaced and the rumble strips are to be installed by the end of July 2005. The fiscal-year 2004 audit is expected to be completed within the next few weeks.

The Police Chief gave an update on activities and recent grant awards received by the Mount Rainier Police Department.

The Mayor and Council discussed rolling agenda updates.

July 8, 2005—Special Council Meeting Called by the Mayor

A quorum of the Council met in open session and voted 3-0 to go into closed session to discuss personnel issues.

July 12, 2005—Mayor and Council Work Session

Discussion Items:

3409 Rhode Island Avenue—Presentation by Jan Townshend of the Neighborhood Design Center concerning proposed uses of the current facility and architectural designs of proposed new facility were reviewed.

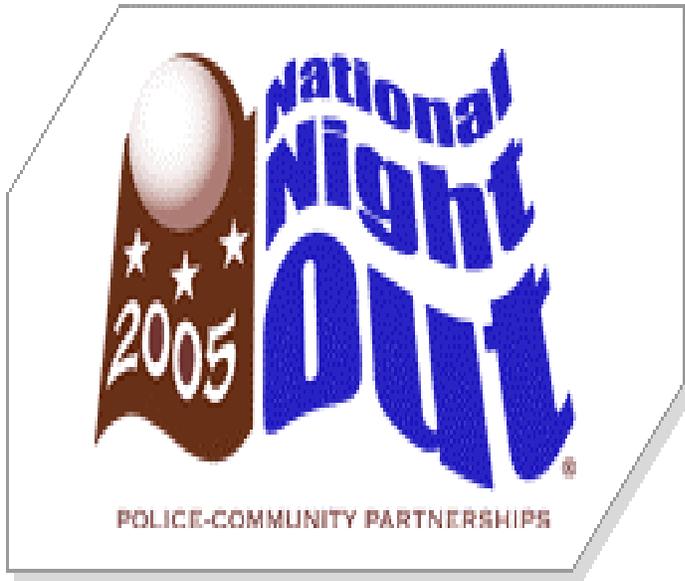
CSAFE Grant Guidelines—were discussed with presenter **John Tewey of the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention along with Chief Keeney and CSAFE Coordinator Monica Slade.**

Summer Youth Programs—It was decided by straw vote of the Council to utilize up to \$5,000 as stipend to youth to paint curbs identifying restricted parking areas in the City. Coordination is to be done with Pastor Grandison.

Council Committee Appointments—Council reviewed committees that they desired to represent and discussed the need for additional volunteers on various committees.

Council voted unanimously to go into closed session to discuss personnel contracts.

LEARN MORE ABOUT NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



Mount Rainier National Night Out

Volleyball Match

Queenstown vs. Kaywood

Face painting, bike rodeos, reptiles, and food

2300 block of Varnum Street

August 2, 2005

6 to 9 p.m.

Live Music by UNCUT

Noise Restrictions are Enforced

The City's noise ordinance aims to allow you to play the music you enjoy, but at the same time allow your neighbors to peacefully enjoy their homes. Below is a synopsis of our ordinance. The full ordinance is found in the Code of Ordinances at Sec. 10-121 (available on the City's website, www.mountrainiermd.org).

- At night (10 p.m. to 8 a.m.), no noise should be heard 50 feet from its source.
- During the day, amplified sound must not carry further than 50 feet from the property line (or 50 feet from source if in a public park or space).
- Excessive barking of dogs and honking of horns are included as noise?
- Exceptions to the restrictions exist for Father's Day, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, and New Years Eve/Day.
- A resident can obtain a permit to exceed the noise restrictions (for special events, parties, picnics, etc.)
- Apartment residents should contact the owner regarding noise restrictions on the property.
- In the downtown business district and other commercial zones, from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., noise is permitted as long as it cannot be heard more than 50 feet from the boundary of that district/zone.
- Trash hauler pickups cannot begin earlier than 7 a.m.

Noise complaints should be called in to the non-emergency police dispatch number, 301-985-6566.

Mayor, continued from page 2

hope. That light will be working SOON!

The Community Tool Shed won an award for excellence in the medium cities category and was invited to be on display at the MML Convention. Chairman Sam Meredith and Co-Chair Pat Surman attended the Convention and were responsible for displaying an exhibit that showed the Tool Shed, and answered questions from conventioners. Stop by City Hall and see our latest award for excellence. Also, please stop by the Community Tool Shed and thank Sam and Pat for the many hours that they put in at the Convention and at the Tool Shed. They represented us very well at the Convention.

Thanks to all of the volunteers that give countless hours of their time to the Community Tool Shed. Seventeen thousand (\$17,000) of the Community Legacy Grant is for improving the Community Tool Shed. So look for more changes at the Community Tool Shed. In addition, Little Friends of Peace and a few other projects are being considered for the upper level of the Community Tool Shed.

Regina Wardwell is still seeking volunteer residents to participate in *Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)* classes. A "CERT team" is a group of people that is organized under the leadership of a local jurisdiction and receives special training that enhances their ability to recognize, respond to, and recover from a major emergency or disaster situation. CERT training programs train citizens in areas that will help them take care of themselves and others before, during and after a major emergency.

This is a vital training need for our City to be prepared to deal with emergencies (natural or terrorist attacks). Volunteer physicians, nurses, drivers, medical personnel, administrative assistants and language interpreters are all needed in case of an emergency or disaster.

Training is free, however, there is a mandatory 20 hours of training that must be completed. For more information contact Regina Wardwell (rbbe@starpower.net), Carol Gandee or any other member of the Commission.

KUDOS to the **Mount Rainier Day Committee** who worked diligently to make **Saturday, May 21 a major success for our City**. If you have not done so already, PLEASE take a few minutes to personally thank the Committee for an outstanding job. Committee members are **Ophelia Baxter 240-393-1187, Barbara Goliday 301-537-6046, Robert Taylor 301-779-2172, Vicki Onderdonk** and other members of the Committee.

Luther Smith recently underwent eye surgery. He is back with us and working hard for the City. Luther is and has been a valuable member of the City's Public Works Department. I am sure he would like to hear from you. So give him a call and let him know how much he was missed.

Citizens are needed for committees. The City still needs your help in filling vacancies on its committees. To be appointed to one of the following committees, all you need do is call City Hall and let staff know the committee you would like to serve on. Below are a few of the City's committees and/or commissions that need you!

- Cable Commission (appointed by Mayor and Council)
- Tree Commission (appointed by Mayor and Council)
- Community Tool Shed Committee (appointed by Mayor and Council)
- Senior Emergency Preparedness Commission (appointed by Mayor and Council)
- Mount Rainier Day Committee volunteer group
- Parenting Committee—volunteer group*
- Personnel Review Board—(appointed by Mayor and Council)
- Town Center Design Review Committee
- Mixed Use Town Center Committee (recommended for appointment)

- Mount Rainier Board of Elections (appointed by Mayor and Council)
- Mount Rainier's Beautification Committee (Appointed by Mayor and Council)
- Mount Rainier Giving Project—volunteer group*
- Babysitting Coop—volunteer group*

These committees and commissions only meet once or twice a month or less. The time and service that you give to them would be invaluable, and would reduce the amount of time required by some of your very busy neighbors. I know we are all very busy, but this is our City, and it takes each of us, doing just a little to make it an even better place to live. Some of them may already have sufficient members, but it is not too early to become familiar with their functions or serve as an alternate or even get appointed. The City NEEDS YOU. To sign up for a committee or commission, please call 301-985-6585.

The City is moving full speed ahead with plans for best use of the old police station/City Hall/library building. To request planning money for this project, the Mayor and Council needs to reach an agreement on the "best possible use" of the space. Jan Townshend has presented three renderings for the space. You may view them at City Hall over the next few weeks. In addition, there will be a public forum to express your opinions, ideas, etc. Please mark your calendar and make plans to attend. We value your opinion.

There is a discussion going on regarding how information is disseminated by the City. As I am sure you are aware, news moves very slowly in the Mount Rainier Message. The City needs your help to generate ideas for speeding up the dissemination of information, and to help get our Message out on time. If you can help us with this, please e-mail me at ward2@malindamiles.com. I would like to see the City put **Mayor, continued on page 10**

Mayor, continued from page 9

together a newsletter team to 1) develop articles for the Newsletter, 2) speed up production, and 3) help ensure timely distribution of the Newsletter.

There is a Mount Rainier group that you are encouraged to join and participate in. For the moment, it may be the fastest way to get information out and about in Mount Rainier. Joe Robbins has helped to revise the following site:

Yahoo! Groups Links

To visit your group on the web, go to: groups.yahoo.com/group/MtRainier_MD/

To unsubscribe from this group, send an email to: MtRainier_MD-unsubscribe@yahooogroups.com

As always, I welcome your opinion and comments. If I omitted information, I will try to catch up on it in my next report. In the meantime, please actively participate in City activities. Get out and meet your neighbors, we are the best crime watch and crime prevention protection in the City. There are 8,500 of us, and our police department only has about 15 members. If you see something suspicious, call 301-985-6565. Your participation is crucial for our safety and for ensuring good government. Thank you.

The following web sites may be of interest to you.

Malinda Miles—www.malindamiles.com
Historic Mount Rainier Maryland—www.mountrainiermd.org
Mount Rainier Police Department—www.mountrainiermd.org/government/police/index.html
Bunker Hill Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company—www.mrvfd.org
Mount Rainier Elementary School—www.pgcps.org/~mrainier/
Thomas Stone Elementary School—www.pgcps.org/~tstone/index.htm
Hyattsville Middle School—www.pgcps.org/~hyattsms/
Northwestern High School—www.pgcps.pg.k12.md.us/~nwest
Prince George's County Municipal—
Association www.mdmunicipal.org/chapterweb/pgcma
Maryland Municipal League—
www.mdmunicipal.org
Friends of the Mount Rainier Library (FOL)—www.mtrainierfol.org/
Mount Rainier Business Association (MRBA)—<http://mrbassociation.org>

NEWS FLASH. If you smell gas and can't locate its source or feel unsafe about it, dial 911 and report it, and get out of the house. Washington Gas has developed and distributed new brochures to provide new information on how gas emergencies should be handled. Check your bills for this information.

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.pgparcs.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

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

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.worldartfocus.org/youth.html

Mount Rainier Nature Center

- 31st and Arundel Rd.
- 301-927-2163; TTY 301-699-2544
- www.pgparcs.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

Council Meetings

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

Town Center Design Review

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

Gateway Municipalities CDC—2nd

Thurs., 7:00–9:00 pm,
4102 Webster St.

Friends of Library

(mtrainierfol.org)—Monday,
7:30 pm, Community Vision, 34th St.

July–August 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.

July 1 Recyclables Pick Up

July 5 Bulk Trash (By Appointment Only 301-985-6558)
Yard Waste Pick Up

July 6 Regular Trash Pick Up

July 8 Recyclables Pick Up

July 11 Yard Waste Pick Up

July 15 Recyclables Pick Up

July 18 Bulk Trash (By Appointment Only 301-985-6558)
Yard Waste Pick Up

July 20 Regular Trash Pick Up

July 22 Recyclables Pick Up

July 25 Yard Waste Pick Up

July 27 Regular Trash Pick Up

July 29 Recyclables Pick Up

Aug. 1 Bulk Trash (by appointments only 301-985-6558)
Yard Waste Pick Up

Aug. 3 Regular Trash Pick Up

Aug. 5 Recyclable Pick Up

Aug. 8 Yard Waste Pick Up

Aug. 10 Regular Trash Pick Up

Aug. 12 Recyclables Pick Up

Aug. 15 Bulk trash (by appointment only 301-985-6558)
Yard Waste Pick Up

Aug. 17 Regular Trash Pick Up

Aug. 19 Recyclables Pick Up

Aug. 22 Yard Waste Pick Up

Aug. 24 Regular trash Pick Up

Aug. 26 Recyclables Pick Up

Aug. 29 Yard Waste Pick Up

Aug. 31 Regular Trash Pick Up

www.mountrainiermd.org

Mayor

Malinda Miles
301-699-1378

MMiles@mountrainiermd.org

City Manager

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

jwallace@mountrainiermd.org

Asst. City Manager

James Booth
301-985-6585

fax: 301-985-6595

jbooth@mountrainiermd.org

Councilmembers

Ward 1

Carol Gandee
301-277-6377

cgandee@mountrainiermd.org

Alta Mortin

202-309-5455

amorton@mountrainiermd.org

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)

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July/August 2005 Message

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