



Message

Issue 229
June 2005

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Deadline for the July Message is June 18.

www.mountrainiermd.org

Mount Rainier Day Is A Huge Success!

by City Manager Jeannelle Wallace

If you were not there, you missed a fantastic, wonderful event. There were vendors everywhere, performers, the Rain Forest Truck sponsored by Wacovia Bank. The WSSC water truck, the Friends of the Library book give-away, and lots more. Everyone who was in attendance felt that this was the best festival ever sponsored by the City of Mount Rainier. Businesses as well as artists and entrepreneurs from within the City and the surrounding metropolitan area provided great food and various wares from handmade jewelry to shirts and paintings.

Kudos to the committee: Ophelia Baxter, Chairperson, Barbara Goliday, Robert Taylor, Vickie Onderdonk, Pedro Briones, and Dale Dayton. They worked so hard, meeting every week for the past 8-10 months, every day the week of the festival, and virtually around the clock the day and night before the festival. They did everything from contacting the County, State and local officials for support of the event, to scheduling of the performers, set up and clean up, coordination of all of the activities, rental of equipment, planning for children activities, and sooooo much more! We cannot thank them enough for the hours of hard work and behind the scenes logistics that each of them handled. Each committee member went out of their way to make sure that this event went off without a hitch.

Prince George's County Councilman Will Campos. We cannot say enough about you. Councilman Campos

provided \$7,000 to this event from a supplemental budget. This support enabled the City to pay for equipment and other items that could not be obtained last year or the year before. We are eternally grateful for your support.

Thank you also goes out to the police department, especially to Officer Andre Williams, liaison to the committee from the Mount Rainier Police Department. To the entire police department and public works department, our hats are off to you for the 14-hour plus day you put into providing security, traffic control, street blocking, barricades, set up, clean up, etc., etc., This festival would not have run as smoothly as it did without your tenacious dedication and support. To City Hall staff, thank you for your hard work in keeping up with the applications, phone calls, payments, receipts, and questions pertaining to the event. Thank you to all City employees who participated in the event which added to the huge success.

Another thank you must be expressed to Graciela Carbonell, Director of the Cable Television for her usual tireless effort in providing transportation and video tape of the event which also took many hours.

All in all, I can't wait for next year's event, as this was truly a team effort with collaboration on all fronts. On behalf of the Mayor and Council, former council members and staff, thanks to all for a job well done!

Thank You

by Mayor Malinda Miles

Please accept my heartfelt thanks and gratitude for placing your trust in me as your Mayor. I promise to work diligently with the Council to put in place and concentrate on matters that are most important to the citizens of Mount Rainier. As the Council and I work toward a smooth transition, please be patient with us as we finalize the Fiscal Year 2006 Budget. As you are aware, much effort goes into the budget process. I assure you that the Council and I are dedicated to discuss fully issues brought before us. I will provide you with a detailed Mayor's Report for the month of July. Once again, thank you for your support.

Public Hearing on Proposed Tax Rate Tuesday, June 14th, 2005 at City Hall

CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER NOTICE OF PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

- The Mayor and City Council of the City of Mount Rainier, Maryland, proposes to increase real property taxes
1. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2005, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 11.04 %, from \$219,353,326 to \$243,578,903
 2. If the City of Mount Rainier maintains the current tax rate of \$.790 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 11.04 % resulting in \$191,382 of new real property tax revenues.
 3. In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax rate should be reduced to \$.711, the constant yield tax rate.
 4. The City is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The City proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$.790 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 11.1 % higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$191,382 in additional property tax revenues.
- A public hearing on the proposed real Property tax rate increase will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 14, 2005 in the City Council Chambers – Upper Level at Mount Rainier City Hall, One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, MD. The hearing is open to the public, and public testimony is encouraged. Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call 301-985 – 6585 for further information.

Welcome and Greetings from the Bunker Hill Fire Station!

We are the Bunker Hill Fire Station (Station 55), located at 3716 Rhode Island Avenue. Station 55 is a consolidation effort between three individual fire departments as well the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Career Staff (assigned to the station). The three fire departments working along side the career staff at the station are Cottage City/Colmar Manor Volunteer Fire Company, Bunker Hill Volunteer Fire and Rescue and Brentwood Volunteer Fire Department.

Our intent is to provide regular communication on a monthly basis regarding call runs from the previous month, highlights of those calls, events happening at the station and/or our surrounding communities.

First, we need to define what we do. Our "main" function is to protect lives and property. The calls we run are divided into two categories, Fire and Emergency Medical Service (EMS). Fire calls consist of a "report" of fire in residential or commercial buildings, resetting automatic fire alarms, automobile fires and brush fires. EMS calls are separated into medical and trauma. Trauma is a physical injury, i.e. broken leg and Medical is an illness whether of a long term nature or sudden onset.

Please feel free to call the station if you have any questions as well if you are interested in volunteering. We are always looking for firefighters, emergency medical technicians and administrative personnel. Training is FREE and volunteering is a great way to help your community! Please call 301-985-5400 the station and ask to speak with a Volunteer if you are interested in joining us!!!

Thank You,
Bunker Hill Fire Station

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

Free Community Based Training

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Community Policing Institute at Johns Hopkins University will be providing Community Conflict Resolution and Negotiation training to our staff and any resident that desires to attend on July 12. The training will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 4:00 p.m. Please contact Ms. Clack to register at 301-985-6580.

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 <http://www.mdautotheft.org> or contact the Department at 301-985-6565/66 and ask an officer to visit you for further information.

Auto Theft Summit

The Mayor and City Council, the Police Department, Prince George's County Municipal Association and Prince George's County will co-host a summit on auto theft on June 18 beginning at 10:00 a.m. The event

will take place at the Mount Rainier Nature Center and will feature registration of your car in the State's "Watch Your Car" program, etching of your vehicle's identification number on the windshield, children's activities, food and free anti-auto theft devices manufactured by the "CLUB". Come join your elected officials from the City, the County and members from the local police departments in this day of education and fun.

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.dpssc.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 with some festivities possibly occurring at the Mount Rainier Nature Center. Interested in volunteering or want additional information, contact Ms. Slade at 301-985-6580. The NNO Planning Committee will meet on Thursday, June 9 at the Police Station.

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 <http://www.berwynheightspd.com/motor%20scooters.htm>.

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

Hazardous Waste and Bulk Trash

Residents of Prince George's County can take items to the county landfill for free on Sundays from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. You can take car tires and batteries, household hazardous wastes, old paint, old air conditioners and refrigerators, and old electronics like computers. The city will pick up some of these items for a fee during bulk trash days. The county facility is located at 3500 Brown Station Rd., near Upper Marlboro. Landfill entrance is located on White House Road near intersection of MD 202.

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 month of May 2005 are:

Spotlight Yard of the Week Winners

- Ward 1—4518 32nd Street, and 3504 Shepherd Street
- Ward 2—4222 30th Street, and 4115 28th Street

Congratulations to all of our winners. Let's Keep Mount Rainier Beautiful.

Welcome to the Mount Rainier Community Board!

http://staff.cua.edu/robbins/MRCB_list.htm

Briefly, I am trying to revive the Mount Rainier listserv which was started back in 2002 but has not been in use much...until now! Please feel free to borrow text from the site above which explains a little about the use of a listserv and why it adds to our ability as citizens to create community, even if it is in "virtual space!"

Any questions please feel free to write me!

Thanks again, Joe Robbins, 4505 31st Street

Friends of the Library



Mount Rainier Day” Book Give-a-Way. For this 3rd annual event, Michelle Sust coordinated the effort to obtain about 3,000 books donated by Hearts of America Foundation, Library of Congress, and some community residents. At the festival, community residents, mostly children, picked up about 2,500 books. Nearly 100 teacher curriculum books were given to the Mount Rainier Elementary School ESL volunteers, some 30 home repair books were given to the M.R Tool Shed, and about 400 leftover books were given to the Mount Rainier Branch Library. In preparation, five teens (Luis Campos, Yesenia Campos, Louie Elkner, Osvaldo Elkner, Crysia Hernandez) guided by Michelle Sust sorted and tagged the books and created artful banners. Further, teens Nestor Hernandez and Antonio Lucas volunteered to help with Mount Rainier activities. Peter Seitel and Fred Sissine set up and maintained book display tables. Spanish language books were exhausted early, but FOL will try to get more next time. Anthony Hall and Gayle Cox (Prince George’s Literacy Council) provided information about library resources and literacy services. Librarian Deborah Davis, and staff Deborah Baxter and Frances Richardson, brought Sneaks-the-Cat to promote the Summer Reading Program. Ms. Davis reported that more than 150 people visited the library during the festival. Also, FOL’s book

activity was again coordinated with the “face-painting” activity led by senior artists Alex Morton, Parcy Suvanasai, and Irrin Suvanasai, along with apprentice artists David Friebele, and John McKindley-Ward. The face-painting lines were long, and more than 250 kids came away with a dramatic “new look.” Thanks to Steve Shaff, Jeff Elkner, and Roxana Alfaro for supporting the FOL activities. Also, many thanks from FOL to the Mount Rainier Day Committee, Mayor Miles and City Councilmembers, former Mayor Bryan Knedler, and the outstanding city staff for a great event! [More M.R. Day photos at http://mtrainierfol.org/community/folbookgive-away05/index_html]

New Library / Building. Public planning sessions have been held and the consensus was to redevelop the property at 3409 Rhode Island Avenue including a new library. The mayor and council have not approved any plans. Future discussion will be held to look into possible funding. After two planning sessions, the City Government has decided to keep the library on the ground floor. A new facility is critical to modernizing the library’s capacity and serving community needs. For information about future planning meetings, contact Jan Townshend at 301-779-6010 or jtowshend@mail.ndc-md.org. For more info and photos of the project concepts, go to the FOL web site at [<http://mtrainierfol.org/projectsOLD>].

Programs and Activities. (1) **Summer Reading Program.** Sign up children and teens for this wonderful free program beginning June 1, by contacting Librarian Deborah Davis at 301-864-8937. There is also a summer reading program for adults (Escape to Reading) and a weekly story time at the Library. (2) **Adult Literacy.** For free programs, call 301-699-9770, or go to www.literacycouncil.org/. (3) **ESL Support.** FOL has been assisting the English as a Second Language (ESL) volunteers at Mount Rainier Elementary School. Donations of introductory reading materials and computers are

appreciated. (4) **I-Net.** Jeff Elkner brought an expert to examine the unused I-Net link in the library. He said, “This fiber optic cable could power half of the Pentagon.” All other county branches, except Accokeek, have an operating I-net link. Librarian Deborah Davis says the county library system is in the process of making our link operational. (5) **Get Books Online.** You can order your favorite books online at <http://www.pgmls.info>, and then simply pick them up at the Mount Rainier Branch. This saves a car trip and builds circulation for our branch! Also online are licensed databases, including telephone directories, health, WashingtonPost {free}, genealogy, full-text magazines, business info on companies, encyclopedias in English and Spanish, “learnatest” {take practice tests of all kind from home or office}, and live, on-line homework help and 24/7 reference help (askusnow). (6) **Book Sale.** Get books, CDs, etc. on Sat. June 11 (9–5 p.m.) and Sun. June 12 (12–5 p.m.) at New Carrollton Branch Library. (7) **National Night Out.** This event will take place Tuesday evening August 2. As in past years, FOL expects to be there giving away books. Check with the Police Dept. for the exact time and place.



Photos by Michelle Sust

New Mini-Bike Laws

Prince George's County Executive Jack B. Johnson recently signed into effect amendments to the County Code that require the registration of Off-Road Vehicles.

The amendments to the Prince George's County Code, Subtitle 26, Vehicles and Traffic, Division 19, which took effect on April 1, 2005, require the following vehicles to be licensed and registered:

- a. All-Terrain Vehicles;
- b. Off-Road Vehicles;
- c. Miniature Scooters;
- d. Miniature Motorcycles (pocket bikes); and
- e. Off-Road Motorcycles (dirt bikes).

The amendments mandate a registration fee of \$30 for all Off-Road Vehicles upon the sale or transfer to any new owner. The registration must be in the name of the owner or, if the owner is under the age of 18 years, in the name of the parent or guardian. The registration will be valid for two years.

The new amendments also stipulate the following use for Off-Road Vehicles:

- a. An Off-Road Vehicle cannot be driven or operated on any public street or sidewalk in Prince George's County;
- b. An Off-Road Vehicle cannot be driven on any private or publicly

owned property, unless the driver has with him written permission from the owner;

- c. An Off-Road Vehicle may only be operated on private property between the hours of 7 a.m. and 8 p.m.;
- d. Any person under the age of 16 years must be supervised by a parent or guardian while operating an Off-Road Vehicle; and
- e. Helmets must be worn at all times by the driver and passenger while the vehicle is being operated.

Violations to the amendments will result in a fine of \$250 for the first violation, \$500 for the second violation and \$1,000 for any subsequent violations.

Licensing and registration information can be obtained by calling the Department of Environmental Resources' Business License Office at 301-731-7990 or by visiting their location at 6016 Princess Garden Parkway, Suite 370, New Carrollton, Maryland 20784. The hours of operation for the Business License Office are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

<http://www.berwynheightspd.com/motor%20scooters.htm>

Bulk Trash Reminder Notice

Bulk Trash Pick ups are every 1st and 3rd Monday of each month.

Pickups must be scheduled by calling 24-hour bulk trash line 301-985-6559 during the preceding week up to noon on Friday.

Each resident is allowed 3 cubic yards of material (3 cubic yards is the amount of space enclosed in a 9' width by 9' long by 9' high box or a 3' wide by 27' long by 9' tall box).

Any more trash than 3 cubic yards will not be picked up and must be taken back in or disposed of by the resident. Public Works will pick up furniture, wood scraps, clothes etc. Certain items however, have a charge for pick up as follows:

1. Tires without rims \$5.
2. Tires with rims \$6.
3. Refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners \$25. Per unit.

Special pickups of construction debris have a charge of \$50. for the first 3 cubic yards. More that 3 cubic yards will require a price quote from the Department of Public Works.

Note: Rocks and bricks should be taken to D.C Materials, 3334 Kenilworth Avenue.

Call 301-883-5045 for paints and hazardous materials.

Recyclable Pick up Reminder Notice

Recyclables still picked up on Fridays. Use reusable cardboard box or bag for paper recyclables, such as magazines, telephone books, junk mail, press board, cereal boxes, foil, and school and office paper of any color. Flatten cardboard boxed 2' x 4' 7 over.

Please place plastic, cans and bottle in yellow recyclable bucket. Call 301-985-6583 for recycle bucket replacement, for additional bucket a cost of \$7.75 applies.

Gateway GLBT Social Group

For the past eight years, Gays and Lesbians of Mount Rainier (GLMR) has organized potluck social brunches for residents of the Gateway area who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender (and their friends and families). The events occur on roughly a bimonthly basis in local homes. The next brunch will be on Saturday June 25, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. For details, contact the group at glmrmd@aol.com.

Queens Manor Gardens Apartments Celebrates Grand Opening

City Manager Jeannelle Wallace

On Thursday, June 2, 2005, the Queen Manor Gardens Apartments located at 4704 27th Street, Mount Rainier, Maryland celebrated its grand opening and tour of the recently renovated complex. The renovation is a 31 million dollar project which involved 350 apartment units converted to 331 one and two bedroom units, and 17 three bedroom units. \$24,730,000 of the project funds is being financed by Deutsche Bank Berkshire Mortgage and the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. Credit enhancement was through FHA and GNMA Securities. Property Management is handled by AHD/Equity Management Joint Venture.

The renovation is a major improvement of this housing development in this City offering affordable apartment housing to the City's residents. AHD accomplished to retain 90% of the residential population during the renovation during the last two years. This is phenomenal. Additionally, larger families now have the opportunity to enjoy affordable housing with the 17 additional three-bedroom units (all of which are currently occupied).

The renovation (which is considered major) includes mechanical improvements, new plumbing and wiring, full sprinkler system, refurbished windows, on-site security, pointed up bricks, new kitchen appliances and cabinetry in every unit, as well as new flooring. A police substation has been added to en-

hance on-site security. A community center and computer center has been added, as well as an arts center for artist studio use and children play center.

Gateway CDC and the Neighborhood Design Center were instrumental in bringing this project to fruition as well as the Mayor and City Council of Mount Rainier who adopted through legislation support of the project. The Neighborhood Design Center provided its expertise in elimination of crime through environmental design with its design of on site landscaping to create natural boundaries in a subtle way to effect crime control. A learning center was developed within an existing courtyard.

Mayor Malinda Miles, one of the events speakers, spoke to the importance of how such a project brings not only improvement but beauty to the City. Old fashioned lighting has been added to the "Boulevard" along the cull de sac and entryway off 27th and Queens Chapel Road. Other invited guests who spoke at the event included Will Campos, Prince George's County Councilman from the 2nd Councilmanic District, Eileen Neely, President, Gateway CDC, Nick Francis, Executive Director of Gateway CDC, Richard Tager, President of AHD, INC. and Donald E. Tucker, Executive Vice President, AHD, Inc.

If you get the chance, stop by and take a look at the beautiful restoration of the Queens Manor Apartments.

Council Highlights

by City Manager Jeannelle Wallace

April 5, 2005 Mayor and Council Meeting

- **Ordinance 6 -2005**—Amending Chapter 14, Animal Control 2nd Reading **Vote on Mr. Phillip's Dog Permit** (3407 Newton Street) (*Public Comment Limited to 1 minute per person on this subject matter*) Vote to go into closed session to evaluation City Attorney

April 19, 2005 Council Work Session

- BUDGET PRESENTATION—PUBLIC WORKS AND CODE ENFORCEMENT PUBLIC HEARING FENCE VARIANCE REQUEST 3215 PERRY STREET
- Council approval of City Resolution opposing liquid gas containers on Chillum Road (1st Reading/Vote)
- Council Approval of Entering an Agreement with Prince George's County re: CDBG Funds
- Council approval of SHA Letter concerning traffic circle
- I DRB Appointment—Vicki Onderdonk

April 26, 2005 Council Work Session

- Fiscal-Year 2006 Budget
- License Plate Camera - Mobile ALPR System
- Resolution 14-2005—Authorizing surplus vehicles for the Public Works Department

May 3, 2005 Mayor and Council Meeting

- Election Results for May 2, 2005 were presented by Election Judge Karl Jones.

New Business

- Decide Proposed Tax Rate for Fiscal-Year 2006
- Resolution 14-2005 to approve surplus vehicles for Public Works Department
- Resolution 15-2005 to approve a Tax Anticipation Line of Credit

May 10, 2005 Council Work Session

- Revised Election results were presented by Maxine Drakeford, Supervisor of Elections
- FY 2006 Budget and proposed Tax Rate Impact on Budget
- Beautification Committee Budget presented by Jack Engel
- Ordinance 7-2005—Requiring Registration of Vacant Lots

Highlights, continued on page 9

The Mount Rainier Beautification Committee

2005 CALENDAR OF EVENTS—In addition to continuing Mount Rainier's exciting Spotlight Yard of the Week/Month contest, the Beautification Committee has several other events lined up over the next few months. Please keep this calendar of events handy—you won't want to miss any of these community happenings!

Saturday, June 11

Cut Flower Show/Contest—

Municipal Plaza (Rain date Sunday, June 12)— 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Residents are encouraged to pick flowers from their personal gardens, display them in a vase, and bring them down to City Hall. We will hold a contest to see who has the nicest flowers. Judging will be solely on the contents of the vase (the flowers), not on flower arrangement skills. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. All cut flower displays will be photographed for inclusion in the city's American In Bloom (AIB) "brag book" that will be shown to the America in Bloom judges. (See below for more information about AIB.)

Saturday and Sunday, June 11 and 12 **Community Clean Up Saturday and Sunday**

In anticipation of the arrival of the American In Bloom judges, we will be putting the finishing touches on making Mount Rainier its "blooming best" for them. Here are five simple ways you can be a part of making Mount Rainier beautiful:

1. Mow all your lawns.
2. Trim back any overgrown foliage and weed all your flower beds.
3. Plant some annuals; hang a colorful basket on your porch; place potted plants on your porch/steps.

4. Pick up all litter you see around your residence and elsewhere in the city.
5. Refrain from posting notices on telephone poles.

Monday, June 13 through Tuesday, June 14

AIB Judges Visit Mount Rainier

Various locations throughout Mount Rainier. AIB is a national campaign and contest that promotes the enhancement of communities through beautification. In the friendly competition, communities are matched by population and evaluated on their efforts in floral displays, urban forestry, landscaped areas, turf and groundcover, tidiness, environmental awareness, heritage conservation, and community involvement.

We will escort our two judges throughout the city during their two-day visit. They are charged with reviewing the efforts of the entire community: city departments, the commercial sector, and residential areas. Their observations and recommendations from last year are still being gradually implemented. This year's popular Spotlight Yard of the Week/Month contest was one of many ideas which Chair Jack Engel picked up during the two days of Educational Symposia which he attended last October prior to AIB's closing award ceremony in Indianapolis.

Saturday, August 6

Market Day—City Hall Plaza— 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Is your garden producing more vegetables and fruits than you know what to do with? Bring them down to City Hall Plaza to share with your neighbors. This event will be a swap market, where residents bring their garden-grown wares to share with the rest of the community. Bring vegetables, fruits, herbs, and any-

thing else you have grown. Come give away some of your excess tomatoes, and take some of your neighbor's excess squash home with you.

Saturday, September 17

Cut Flower Show/Contest & Pepper Festival—Location To Be Announced—1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

You will probably have different types of flowers available for this cut flower contest than the ones you may have entered in the June contest. Again, arrangements will not be judged. Be sure to purchase some pepper plants as soon as possible and add them to your garden. Like the first Pepper Festival, this one is to celebrate our community's diversity. Peppers, like the residents of Mount Rainier, come in a wide variety of sizes, shapes, colors, *degrees of hot*, etc. We will be asking former Mayor Fred Sissine to provide us with guidance for a second successful Pepper Festival.

Be an active part of the festival — get your pepper plants into your garden now. If you do not have space or a garden at all, you can still grow pepper plants in containers. If you plant your pepper plants now, you will have a bountiful harvest by the time of the festival.

Saturday, October 15

Garden Tour—1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Consider entering the first annual Mount Rainier Garden Tour. Pick up an application from City Hall. Or, at least add this event to your calendar. The best gardens in the city, many of them Spotlight Yard winners, will be highlighted in this peek at side and back yards as well.

Most Improved Yard Contest

This contest is sponsored jointly by the Tool Shed Committee and the Beautification Committee. We are offering a \$300 First Prize, a \$200 Second Prize, and a \$100 Third Prize. Duplicate prizes will be awarded in Wards 1 and 2—a total of \$600 for the six “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.

Highlights, continued from page 7

- Gazette Newsracks request for reduced fees
- Auto Theft Summit
Special Mayor and Council Work Session
May 16, 2005
- FY 2006 Budget
May 17, 2005 Council Work Session
- FY 06 Budget Discussion and Council priorities
- Relocation of Street Lamp request at Circle Café—request withdrawn
- Receipt of Community Legacy Grant Funds
May 24, 2005 Public Hearing Proposed Tax Rate
May 24, 2005 Council Work Session
- Proposed Check-cashing business on Queens Chapel Road 34th Street—presentation by NOVA Investments
- Budget Work Session
- Slogan for the City “A City on the Move”
Works Session—May 31, 2005
- Recommendation of Council on check cashing booth proposed for Queens Chapel Road Shopping Mall Homeland Security Grant
- FY 06 Budget

Yard Work

The McKindley-Ward bro’s community yard work. Price range varies on job. \$15 and up. Normal lawn mowing job is \$20, but can go up or down depending. Call us for our high quality services at 301-927-1720.

City Community Updates

Tool Shed Committee www.mountrainiermd.org/communitytoolshed301-779-0133

Your Community Tool Shed has a collection of hand and power tools available at no charge for use by residents, businesses, and community groups of Mount Rainier. An application must be completed prior to borrowing. Call for information or download application at the tool shed webpage on the City's website.

Thanks to all who made the Plant Swap a success. We had more than 80 varieties of plants and we hope to beat that next year. We are hoping to have a swap of bulbs and other plants in the fall so if you are digging any bulbs in the mean time, please save some for the swap or call the tool shed and we will store them.

Bicycle Clinic June 18, 2005

Come to the Tool Shed to learn basic bike repair skills. After the session, you will know how to fix a flat tire, adjust your brakes, select a correct seat height and more. This clinic will be the first in a series learned at the Tool Shed. Mount Rainier youth will have the opportunity to repair a donated bicycle that will become their own set of wheels.

The Tool Shed is planning a class in Mosaics to make garden pavers, to be given by a Mount Rainier Artist. The class will be hands on and will take 2 days, first day to lay out and set the design and the 2nd day to grout the pavers. The only catch is that the pavers will not go home with the creators but will be used to mark paths in the medium strip on Rhode Island Avenue. Call to register before the class fills up.

Tool Shed Hours

Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. to 12 p.m.; other days by appointment. Stop by and have coffee, plenty of parking.

June Meeting: June 10, at 8:00 p.m. at City Hall. Volunteers needed to line up training classes.

June Tips

Stanley Prusch (former Mayor) said the only thing he knew about gardening was mulch, mulch, and more mulch. Mulch trees, shrubs and flower beds. We have wheel barrels and forks to make the work easier. The Tool Shed has a gas edger, three spreaders and a lawn roller for the perfect lawn. Add crown molding to your home. The Tool Shed has a power miter saw.

Plant Swap Photos



Mount Rainier E.S. Celebrates Peace

[Reprinted from the Gazette]

Mount Rainier Elementary School celebrated 153 days of peace today with its annual "peace parade." The school has kept track of its days without fights, serious arguments or other shows of disrespect for the last eight years. "We wanted to culminate our peace keeping again with the parade," said Principal Phillip Catania. Northwestern High School sent its Color Guard and band to march in the parade. *Washington Post* coverage at: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/05/18/AR2005051801493.html>.

The *Gazette* also reported that: Mount Rainier Elementary School recently hosted about 250 mothers, grandmothers, aunts and other female mentors impacting lives of its pupils at its annual breakfast. "We do this every year as a way to show our appreciation for the women that are involved with our kids," said Principal Phillip Catania. "It always falls on the weekend of Mother's Day so they get to celebrate that with us as well." School staff served approximately 250 women during the event.

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.

June–July 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.

- | | | | |
|---------|---|---------|---|
| June 1 | Regular Trash Pick Up | July 1 | Recyclables Pick Up |
| June 3 | Recyclables Pick Up | July 5 | Bulk Trash (By Appointment Only 301-985-6558)
Yard Waste Pick Up |
| June 6 | Bulk Trash (By Appointment Only 301-985-6558) | July 6 | Regular Trash Pick Up |
| June 8 | Regular Trash Pick Up | July 8 | Recyclables Pick Up |
| June 10 | Recyclables Pick Up | July 11 | Yard Waste Pick Up |
| June 13 | Yard Waste Pick Up | July 15 | Recyclables Pick Up |
| June 15 | Regular Trash Pick Up | July 18 | Bulk Trash (By Appointment Only 301-985-6558)
Yard Waste Pick Up |
| June 17 | Recyclables Pick Up | July 20 | Regular Trash Pick Up |
| June 18 | Auto Theft Summit
Mount Rainier Nature Recreational Center | July 22 | Recyclables Pick Up |
| June 20 | Bulk Trash (By Appointment Only)
Yard Waste Pick Up | July 25 | Yard Waste Pick Up |
| June 22 | Regular Trash Pick Up | July 27 | Regular Trash Pick Up |
| June 24 | Recyclables Pick Up | July 29 | Recyclables Pick Up |
| June 27 | Yard Waste Pick Up | | |
| June 29 | Regular Trash Pick up | | |

www.mountrainiermd.org

Mayor

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301-699-1378

MMiles@mountrainiermd.org

City Manager

Jeannelle B. Wallace
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Asst. City Manager

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Councilmembers

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Carol Gandee
301-277-6377

cgandee@mountrainiermd.org

Alta Mortin

202-309-5455

amortin@mountrainiermd.org

Ward 2

Pedro Briones
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Bryan Knedler
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bknedler@mountrainiermd.org

Message

Terry Kelly
301-779-7857

tkelly60@aol.com

Important Numbers

City Hall open: Mon.-Fri., 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Police Department admin. offices open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Public Works open 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

47th District Reps
301-858-3745

Sen. Gwendolyn Britt
301-858-3326

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

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

City Code Enforcement Office
301-985-6551

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

City Police Department
FKeeney@mountrainiermd.org
301-985-6565 (emergency calls)
301-985-6566 (nonemergency calls)
301-985-6590 (administrative)

City Public Works 301-985-6583,
Bulk Trash Appts. 301-985-6558

Child Abuse
and Neglect Hotline
301-699-8605

Congressman Chris Van Hollen's
Mount Rainier Office Information:
3409 Rhode Island Avenue
301-927-5223 (voice)
301-927-6122 (fax)

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

Consumer Affairs
301-470-7534

County Animal Control
301-499-8301

County Building Permits
301-883-5784

County Executive
Jack Johnson
301-952-4131

County Councilman
Will Campos
301-952-4436

Energy Assistance
301-422-5110

Family Services
301-699-2680

Fire Department
301-985-5406 (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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June 2005 Message
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