



Message

Issue 228
May 2005

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FY 2006 Proposed Tax Rate Public Hearing

Tuesday, May 24, 2005 at 7 p.m., City Hall, Mount Rainier. See page 2 for details.

Election Results

The City of Mount Rainier held elections for the seats of Mayor, Ward 1 Councilmember, and Ward 2 Councilmember. The voter turnout was excellent. More than 500 Mount Rainier residents voted. Here are the official election results provided by Maxine Drakeford, Supervisor of Elections.

Candidates for Mayor

| | Ballots | Absentee Ballots | Total |
|----------------------|------------|------------------|------------|
| Malinda Miles | 396 | 21 | 417 |
| Bonnie Abigail | 81 | 1 | 82 |

Candidates for City Council Ward 1

| | Ballots | Absentee Ballots | Total |
|--------------------|------------|------------------|------------|
| Alta Morton | 154 | 4 | 158 |
| Intisar Haamid | 95 | 9 | 104 |

Candidates for City Council Ward 2

| | Ballots | Absentee Ballots | Total |
|----------------------|------------|------------------|------------|
| Pedro Briones | 150 | 3 | 153 |
| Dawn Caple | 81 | 7 | 88 |

Note: Winners' names are bolded.

2005 Mount Rainier Day Festival—Saturday, May 21

| | |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10:00 a.m. | Festival Welcome by Mount Rainier Day Committee & Mayor Miles |
| 10:30 | Artist Loft Grand Office Opening & Ribbon Cutting Ceremony |
| 11:30 | Festival Parade |
| 1:00 p.m. | Tree City Award Presentation by Maryland State Forester |
| 2:00 | Joe's Movement Emporium Sweeping the Avenue Awards, followed by performances |
| 3:30 | Spotlight Yard Awards by Beautification & Tool Shed Committees |

Deadline for the June Message is May 18.

www.mountrainiermd.org

Public Hearing on Proposed Tax Rate

Tuesday, May 24, 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 14.5%, from \$215,760,301 to \$247,152,048
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 14.5% resulting in \$192,427 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 14.5% higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$192,427 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, May 24, 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.

Ward 2 Report

bu Malinda Miles

This article is to thank each and everyone of you for the vote of confidence you placed in me with your vote on May 2, 2005.

As your Mayor-Elect, I pledge to do my best to take the strides necessary to move our City to a new level of economic development and revitalization. I pledge to work diligently for the growth and development of the City, and to grow our businesses. I further pledge to always remember that whatever I do reflects on you the citizens of Mount Rainier, and that you have elected me to represent you.

I will speak out on issues that affect us negatively, and I will work hard to support those that make us better. I will hold our staff accountable, while working closely with them to make sure that they have the tools, education, training, and resources necessary to do their best for our City, while recognizing that our budget is limited, and our needs are great.

I'd like to remind all of us, however, that the election is over! The City has a new Mayor and Council. Now, it is time to move forward on our agenda for making this the City of True Diversity, and Economic Triumph. It is also time to take a giant step in our economic development and revitalization process on Rhode Island Avenue and Varnum Street!

We live in a City where people are paying hundreds of thousands of dollars to come to live. So, **we the current residents** must be able to continue to be able to afford to live here!

As your new Mayor and Council take office on May 8, 2005, **please** reach out to help us, and support us in our efforts to keep Mount Rainier livable and affordable for all of us. We deserve to be able to live in a safe and livable community of our choice in "Gorgeous Prince George's."

Again, thank you for your vote, and I look forward to working with many of you on various City commissions, board, and committees.

Together, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Ward 2 Report

Friends & Neighbors,

Thank you all very much for reelecting me as your Council Member. We won on May 2 by nearly a 2 to 1 margin, both in Ward 2 and in Ward 1 by electing Alta Morton. Thanks to everyone who hosted lawn signs, talked to your neighbors, helped us with mailings and came out to vote. Congratulations, Alta, and thank you, Bryan, for your many years of dedicated service to our City. We're a better City for having had you as Mayor. Congratulations, too, to our new Mayor, Malinda Miles.

I know the Council will continue to steer Mount Rainier in the right direction. In the past few years our City has turned a crack-infested building with no running water into homes for creative people; we've driven away a nuisance, crime-ridden business and attracted a new furniture store.

When you walk down Rhode Island Avenue today you're less likely to see open prostitution and illicit drug sales, and more likely to smell fresh baked Salvadoran sweet bread. Your vote this month confirms that Mount Rainier is squarely on the right path to becoming the Gateway's shining jewel.

My goals during my new term include:

1) Traffic Calming—One of the major safety issues challenging our small City is to reduce the speed of commuters who use our residential streets to bypass larger thoroughfares. The Council needs to address, and secure funding for, traffic calming devices. Along with aggressive police enforcement, elevated crosswalks, speed humps and/or rumble strips will greatly improve the safety of our public spaces (especially around our Route 1 circle, Arundel and Bunker Hill Roads and 34th Street).

2) Land Trust—Our property values continue to rise, dramatically. While there is little we can do to stem this increase, we can, and must, ensure adequate, affordable housing for our public servants, teachers, law enforcement and modest to middle-income families.

We must ensure that we retain our socioeconomic diversity, and that folks on fixed or modest income can continue to call Mount Rainier home. An important step towards guaranteeing affordable housing is setting up a land trust, taking the nearly two dozen vacant, derelict properties scattered around town and turning them over to a land trust to manage as affordable housing. Turning these eyesores into affordable housing is a win/win for our City: surrounding neighbors will appreciate the improved properties, while we set aside a permanent stock of integrated, affordable homes for residents.

3) Economic Development—We are on the right path toward revitalizing the Varnum, 34th Street and Rhode Island Avenue business districts. The Council must continue to encourage dialogue between area businesses, local developers and entrepreneurs to continue filling vacant retail spaces, creating more local jobs and expanding our commercial tax base. In the past few months alone we've witnessed an ice cream parlor, furniture store and bakery open up in our City—Mount Rainier is open for business!

I look forward to working with my colleagues to achieve these goals. Please feel free to stop by Dale and my new home at 4014 31st Street (corner of Shephard & 31st) to share your thoughts, suggestions, concerns, constructive criticism or just a cup of coffee. Our door is always open. Again, thank you electing me as your Council Member.

Pedro

Ward 1 Report

A Letter of Thanks. To my constituents and loyal supporters, I want to say, I truly enjoyed working to make things better for you in this City. You have stated to me that you feel safe and see the improvements made over the past four years. Our City is cleaner, our Government is more accountable to you, our business district is beginning to thrive, *and for me—a very great accomplishment—Bass Liquors is no more.*

I feel very comfortable with the many, many progresses made—identifying and solving the problems in our Finance Department, we have greater control over spending, although more can be done in this area. There should be better use of public buildings to lighten the tax burden on citizens and bring in new revenue. We definitely have too much under-utilized space. I am sure the new Mayor and Council will address these issues.

Whenever you called me with a problem, I immediately took action to find a solution. I came to the Council to help improve your quality of life, not to meet the standards of those judging my methods, creeds, etc. As I remarked at Tuesday's meeting, I will remain active in the shape of things to come in our City. I encourage all of you to regularly attend the Council meetings. Keep a finger on the pulse of your Government to ensure that the changes taking place in Mount Rainier benefit, first and foremost, those living in this City. Special kudos to Council Member Carol Gandee who has been a great person to work beside, and who works very hard on behalf of all the Citizens of Mount Rainier. Special thanks also to Joan Cook and Paul Schmidt for being so giving and encouraging during my campaign efforts. When one door closes, another one opens.

I have met some terrific friends. Mount Rainier is a great place to live, and I thank you all!!!

To The Residents of Mount Rainier. The question came up in the political forum

Ward 1 Report, continued on page 10

Ward 1 Report

Yesterday we held our city election, in the style and enthusiasm that is truly Mt. Rainier. I would like to thank everyone who participated in this process, the candidates, campaign supporters, election judges, city staff, and most of all our residents who took the time to vote.

We have a new Mayor, and I would like to publicly congratulate Mayor Elect Miles on her successful campaign. During the past 2 years, I have had the privilege of working with Malinda, and the one thing that stands out for me is her tireless efforts to try and maintain decorum, even on the most difficult issues. I am very glad that she will lead this new Council, and know she will be a great Mayor. Malinda has been a mentor, colleague, and while I have known Malinda for many years, along the way these past 2 years she is my very dear friend. I respect her style of leadership, to try to bring people together, and work toward compromise, all the time, keeping in mind what is best for our City. So, congratulations Mayor Elect Miles, you can count on me to continue to work with you for a better future for our City.

Mayor Knedler and I have served 6 years together on this Council, and although there were some things we did not agree on, I believe we agreed more often than not. I want to thank Bryan for his hard work on this Council, and I think we can say that since 1997, we made a difference.

I would like to also congratulate Mr. Briones for his successful reelection; however, I would qualify that statement with this: I would hope

that in his next term he would move forward with his colleagues and show a willingness to work together rather than rehashing the past. I hope that he will see that this type of behavior is only destructive to the Council, and never serves the people.

Congratulations to Alta Morton who will be working with me in Ward One. I look forward to meeting with her to talk about her vision for Mt. Rainier. It is my hope that she will take sometime to get to know me before she makes any assumptions about me.

And lastly, I want to thank my colleague and dear friend, Council Member Haamid for her hard work on this Council over the past 4 years. She along with her colleagues has moved Mt. Rainier forward. Intisar and I spoke to each other nearly everyday over the past 2 years. We worked together on many issues, and I will miss your honesty, your feistiness, and your common sense approach to the issues, but I am very glad that while you will no longer be sitting in your Council Seat, you are still my friend, and nothing will change that.

As for me, I will continue to be your Council Member in Ward One for the next 2 years. I have no agenda except to do what is right for the citizens of this City. All of you who have supported me know that I spend many hours trying to solve problems, talking with many of you about issues, or things I might be able to help with. And, that will not change. So, thank you for allowing me to be your Council Member.

Carol Gandee

2005 Mount Rainier Day Festival

Mount Rainier City Hall, One Municipal Place

Saturday, May 21, 2005, 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

At 10:00 a.m. on May 21, 2005 the 2005 Mount Rainier Day Festival committee will officially kick off another Mount Rainier Day. Around the same time there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony by Prince George's County Gateway CDC for the new Artists Loft building on Rhode Island Avenue at the 34th Street Circle. It's also our Arbor Day celebration with a tree planting ceremony on 35th Street. As you can imagine Mount Rainier is the place to be! This year we are putting the Festival in the streets!! We are closing off the north bound lanes of Rhode Island Ave. and having our party in the street. There will be nonstop entertainment from the stage and of course we will have a parade.

The Festival Parade will wind its way through Mount Rainier at beginning at 11:30 am. The route will start at the new Fire Station on Rhode Island Avenue, travel up Bunker Hill Rd. to 34th Street, turn left on 34th to the Circle. It will continue around the Circle on Perry Street to 37th Street and march up 37th

Street to the Fire Station. Mt. Rainier's own Girl Scout Troop #5864 will lead the procession proudly carrying the 2005 Mount Rainier Day Festival banner!

This year's entertainment has lined up to be one of the best with a return engagement of the children's group, Jubilee Band providing professional sounds. Joe's Movement Emporium plans to honor the Sweeping the Avenue super sweepers along with Brazilian Dance performance featuring Camila Karam, as well as demonstrations of Ashtanga Yoga and Aikido-Jujitsu. The entertainment stage will also feature performances by Preacher Mike, R&B singer Bernard 'Tha Key, hip-hop band Jigaboo, a dance troop and a male gospel choir.

Wachovia Bank has graciously sponsored the Discovery Creek Children's Museum of Washington Rolling Rainforest. Discovery Creek Children's Museum of Washington is a unique and interactive children's museum dedicated to teaching children about the wonders of nature

and the environment. The Rolling Rainforest, a 53-foot trailer that houses a fully immersive rainforest exhibition. The Mt. Rainier Day Festival will be the first showing in Prince George's County, outside of a school setting, for this wonderful exhibit. Please don't miss it!

Vendors will include crafts, food, and informational. If you want to become a vendor, it's not too late. Contact Ophelia Baxter at 240-393-1187 or stop by City Hall between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. and pick up the necessary applications and forms.

Invited Guests include Mount Rainier's own Mayor and distinguished city council members, Montgomery County Executive Doug Duncan, Prince George's County Executive Jack Johnson, and other State and County government officials.

Please join your neighbors, and us, in celebrating our wonderful community.

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10:00 a.m. | Festival Welcome by Mount Rainier Day Committee & Mayor Miles |
| 10:30 | Artist Loft Grand Office Opening & Ribbon Cutting Ceremony |
| 11:30 | Festival Parade |
| 1:00 p.m. | Tree City Award Presentation by Maryland State Forester |
| 2:00 | Joe's Movement Emporium Sweeping the Avenue Awards, followed by performances |
| 3:30 | Spotlight Yard Awards by Beautification & Tool Shed Committees |

(times are subject to slight changes; the final program will be available on May 21 at the Festival Information Booth)

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

MRPD AT A GLANCE

Sworn Officers = 15
 Civilian Employees = 2
 Parking Enforcement Full-Time = 1
 Parking Enforcement Part-time = 2
 Grant Employed = 6
 2003 Calls = 9,500
 2004 Calls = 11,628

In 2004, our calls for service increased by 21 percent and our arrests by 93 percent. Our response time (in minutes) for our calls compared to Prince George's County Police are listed below:

| | MRPD average * | | PGPD | |
|----------------------|----------------|------|------|-------------------------|
| | 2003 | 2004 | 2003 | 2004 |
| Emergency | 1:36 | 1:18 | NA | 10 minutes or less ** |
| Non-emergency | 6:07 | 6:23 | NA | 45 minutes or greater** |

* Includes all calls for service

** Required by County Ordinance

DEPARTMENT WORKLOAD

All Calls for Service:
 1999 – 4,486 / 2000 – 5,472 +22% / 2001 – 5,624 + 3%
 2002 - 8,372 + 18% / 2003 – 9,599 =15% / 2004 – 11,628 = **21% increase over 2003**

Officer Staffing History by Fiscal Year:

| 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 2000 | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 |
|----|----|----|----|----|------|----|----|------|----|----|
| 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 14 | 12 | 15.5 | 15 | 15 |

DIVERSITY MAKES ITS MARK. In the past five years, the Department has become more diverse and reflective of our community. When needed, we employ interpreters to communicate with our non-English speaking residents. If you speak a second language and would like to assist us please let us know. As background, our workforce (full-time and part-time) diversity is as follows:

| Year | Caucasian | African-American | Hispanic | Female | Total |
|------|-----------|------------------|----------|---------|-------|
| 2000 | 10 (59%) | 2 (12%) | 2 (12%) | 3 (18%) | 17 |
| 2002 | 8 (42%) | 7 (36%) | 2 (11%) | 2 (11%) | 19 |
| 2005 | 9 (37%) | 12 (46%) | 3 (12%) | 8 (31%) | 26* |

*Includes all employees part-time and grant

We are actively recruiting for police officers and parking enforcement employees. We encourage our residents to apply. If you're interested in a position, please e-mail your resume to mrpdjobs@mountrainiermd.org.

AUTO THEFT SUMMIT. The Mayor and City Council, the Police Department, Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA), and Prince George's County will co-host a summit on auto theft on June 18 beginning June 18, 2005. 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-theft devices manufactured by the "Club."

Come join elected officials from the City, County and members from the local police departments in this day of education and fun.

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.

SEAT BELT ENFORCEMENT. As part of a nationwide effort to increase seatbelt use awareness during the months of April and May, officers' will setup checkpoints at the intersections of City streets insuring drivers and passengers are buckled up with their seatbelt. Warning signs will provide notice to drivers of the checkpoints. Drivers and passengers not wearing seatbelts may receive a ticket and be fined. Our checkpoints will also be looking at child safety seat use. Our goal is to gain 90 percent seatbelt usage compliance of our drivers and passengers. Our officers are also partnering with the local schools to educate our children on the importance of buckling up. Remember **CLICK IT or TICKET**; it is your choice!

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.pgsparks.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.pgsparks.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

Artspace Now Leasing

Mount Rainier Artists Lofts is located at 3301 Rhode Island Avenue. Units range in size from 800–1,400 sf; rents range from \$600–\$800/month. Contact Theresa Hammonds at Edgewood Property Management for an application at 301-927-3586, or Angela Blocker at Gateway CDC at 301-864-3860 (angela@gateway-cdc.org) for information about commercial leasing space.

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.

Calendar Events for Preparation of the FY 2006 City Budget

Tuesday, May 3, 2005. Work session on budget; decide proposed tax rate

Tuesday, May 24, 2005. Public hearing on constant yield tax rate and on budget (revised summaries available). First reading of FY 2006 Budget Ordinance

Tuesday, June 7, 2005. Second reading and vote, FY 2006 Budget Ordinance

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.

Sweep the Avenue—Call for Volunteers

The 5th Annual Sweeping the Avenue Community Clean-Up and Arts Festival is fast approaching! Events are scheduled for May 11–20. We need committed people who want to be involved to make it happen!!! The volunteer needs include:

- Being a team leader for one day of clean-up in the community
- Being part of a crew of cleaners
- Helping with Alley Art to transform an underused space with creativity
- Help stage/manage outdoor performances
- Donate money to buy supplies.

GET INVOLVED! BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS!

For more info or to sign-up, call 301-699-1819.

Tool Shed Committee

3601 Bunker Hill Road
Mount Rainier, MD 20712
301-779-0133

The 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 an application at the Tool Shed webpage on the City's website.

Hours: Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 12 noon; other days by appointment only.

May Tips

- Mulch trees, shrubs and flower beds with wheel barrels and forks to make work easier.
- The last frost date for our area is early April. When you start spring outdoor planting and lawn seeding, remember the Tool Shed has shovels, rakes, trowels, wheel barrows, and a variety of other tools to help with the jobs
- Spring is a good time to paint fences and the exterior of your home now that day time temperatures are above 50 degrees. Wood decks should also be sealed. Stop by the Tool Shed for power washers to prep the job and power painters to speed your work.
- Refinish that piece of furniture; we have a palm sander!
- Tile your bathroom; we have tile cutters, wet and dry!
- Fertilize, lime or reseed your yard; we have three spreaders and a lawn roller!

Plant Swap: The Tool Shed Committee held a plant swap on Saturday, May 7, 2005. A list of the types of plants and other items swapped during the event will be provided in the June 2005 *Message*. The event was very well attended.

Little Friends for Peace

Peace Education Program

Welcomes youth, young adults, and adults. . .

For positions as:

- Counselors-in-Training (ages 12–14)
- Junior Counselors (ages 15–17)
- Counselors (ages 18–up)
- Guest Presentors

Forms of payment:

- Money
- Community Service Hours
- Internship Credit
- Tuition Reduction for Child Camper
- Teacher Continuing Education Credit

For more information, call 301-927-5474 or send an e-mail to jpark@capaccess.org.

Artists' Studio Crawl

First Annual Artists' Studio Crawl—Discover the Artful Life

When: Saturday, May 21, 2005

Time: 12 noon to 5 p.m.

- Why:
- Come explore the art studios and new work/live spaces
 - View the works in progress, participate in technique demonstrations and more. . .
 - Admission is Free!!!

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 April 2005 are:

Spotlight Yard of the Month Winners

Ward 1—4009 31st Street

Ward 2—3703 35th Street

Spotlight Yard of the Week Winners

| | Ward 1 | Ward 2 |
|--------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Week 1 | 4216 Rainier Avenue | 4108 29th Street |
| Week 2 | 3104 Webster Street | 3301 Bunker Hill Road |
| Week 3 | 4001 35th Street | 3002 Bunker Hill |
| Week 4 | 3703 35th Street | 4009 31st Street |

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

Mount Rainier Business Association (MRBA)

The MRBA has a new Board of Directors and officers, which are listed below. Please take the time to welcome them to their new positions. Mount Rainier businesses are encouraged to become active with the business association. In addition to a new Board of Directors and Officers, the MRBA has also created several committees:

- ValPak/ Marketing Committee
- Newsletter Committee
- Website Committee

Additional information regarding these and other committees will be forwarded to all Mount Rainier businesses in the near future.

Board of Directors 2005

| Name | Mount Rainier Business/ Affiliation |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Kenric Walwyn | Community Visions Consultants |
| Adrienne Littlejohn | G and A Discount |
| Thomas Obeng-Anon | K-Food Mart |
| Eboni Borden | Jackson Hewitt Tax Services |
| Nick Daniels | Oldies Music |
| Sam Reynolds, Jr. | Reynolds Realty |
| Debbie Tobias | Down The Aisle |
| Larry Solomon | Thrifty Cars |
| Brooke Kidd | Joe's Movement Emporium |
| Louis Walker | Future Investments, Inc. |
| Tina Morton | Shear Creations |

Officers

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| President | Sam Reynolds, Jr. | Reynolds Company |
| President, Emeritus | Larry Solomon | Thrifty Rental |
| Executive Director | Vacant | |
| Vice President | Tina Morton | Shear Creations |
| Treasurer | Eboni Borden | Jackson Hewitt Tax Services |
| Secretary | Adrienne Littlejohn | G & A Discount |

Liaisons, City Staff, and Community Reps

| | | |
|--------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| City Liaison | Mayor Malinda Miles | Mayor |
| City Staff | James Booth | Assistant City Manager / Director of Economic Development |
| Gateway CDC | Nick Francis | Gateway CDC |
| | Shirl Hendley | |

Benefit Concert with Emma's Revolution/Pat Humphries & Sandy O

Called "the epitome of great, contemporary political music," nationally touring, Mt. Rainier-based musicians, emma's revolution, will perform to benefit EarthRights International, Friday, May 20, 6-9 p.m. at the Wonderland Ballroom, 1101 Kenyon St., NW, Washington, DC. This new duo of award-winning, activist songwriters, Pat Humphries & Sandy O, has been featured on NPR's "All Things Considered" and Pacifica's "Democracy Now!" Winners of the John Lennon Songwriting Contest Grand Prize, their songs are sung at vigils and demonstrations around the world. On May 20, emma's revolution will be joined by percussionist, Robin Burdulis, and the concert will celebrate EarthRights International's just-finalized, historic settlement with the U.S. oil company, Unocal, for human rights abuses along the Yadana gas pipeline through Burma. In this groundbreaking advance for universal human rights, Unocal has compensated Burmese villagers for abuses suffered at the hands of Unocal's business partner, the Burmese military. Tickets are \$20 and are available online at <http://www.earthrights.org/index.html>. For more information, call EarthRights International at 202-466-5188 or visit <http://www.emmasrevolution.com>.

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.

Ward 1 Report, continued from page 4

last week, and it has been raised by certain individuals, as to whether I salute the U.S. flag. While I consider this a pertinent and improper question, I have never refrained from answering it truthfully. The question is improper and impertinent because it questions my religious beliefs and practices and has no place in a political or public setting. Just as questions to do with one's creed, ethnicity, cultural background, origin, or sexual preferences. It has long been established that these types of questions are illegal if not bordering on illegal and they infringe on an individual's privacy. Not withstanding this, in an effort to be forthright with my constituents, I have answered the question truthfully. To be certain, there are a number of religions that forbid their followers to salute anything but God. If you are unaware of this, as it appears some of you are, then you need to educate yourselves so that you will no longer be ignorant to this fact. I am sure you know that some religions forbid divorce, the use of birth control, homosexuality, the eating of pork and a whole host of other matters that impact one's personal life. However, these forbidden practices do not have an effect on one's ability to serve the public; if they did, Congress and the Senate would have no Senator's of Congressman. Since we are aware of these other practices in other religions we know that they are personal matters and that they have nothing to do with one's ability to serve in public office. Again, I ask whoever is not aware of these facts, take the time to educate yourself so that you will no longer operate in ignorance. I would hate to think that certain individuals are singling me out because of my religious practices. I prefer to think that these individuals are operating in ignorance. My family and I have paid, and are still paying dues to this country. As free people, we have the right to our personal preferences, just as you do. I think my explanation is full and complete, and should serve to set the record straight on my rights.

Thank you.

Intisar Haamid

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.

May–June calendar

| | | | |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 2 | Bulk Trash (by appointment only) Yard Waste Pick Up CITY ELECTION, 7 a.m.–8 p.m., City Hall | June 1 | Regular Trash Pick Up |
| May 4 | Regular Trash Pick Up | June 3 | Recyclables Pick Up |
| May 5 | Neighborhood Design Center (NDC) 2005 Annual Meeting 6–7:30 p.m., City Hall, RSVP to Jan Townshend at 301-779-6010 | June 6 | Bulk Trash (By Appointment Only) |
| May 6 | Recyclables Pick Up | June 8 | Regular Trash Pick Up |
| May 9 | Yard Waste Pick Up | June 10 | Recyclables Pick Up |
| May 11 | Regular Trash Pick Up | June 13 | Yard Waste Pick Up |
| May 13 | Recyclables Pick Up | June 15 | Regular Trash Pick Up |
| May 16 | Bulk Trash (by appointment only) Yard Waste Pick Up | June 17 | Recyclables Pick Up |
| May 18 | Regular Trash Pick Up | June 18 | Auto Theft Summit Mount Rainier Nature Recreational Center |
| May 20 | Recyclables Pick Up | June 20 | Bulk Trash (By Appointment Only) Yard Waste Pick Up |
| May 21 | MOUNT RAINIER DAY! | June 22 | Regular Trash Pick Up |
| May 23 | Yard Waste Pick Up | June 24 | Recyclables Pick Up |
| May 25 | Regular Trash Pick Up | June 27 | Yard Waste Pick Up |
| May 27 | Recyclables Pick Up | June 29 | Regular Trash Pick up |
| May 30 | MEMORIAL DAY, CITY OFFICES CLOSED | | |
| May 31 | Yard Waste Pick Up | | |

Starting March every Monday will be 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.

www.mountrainiermd.org

Mayor

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City Manager

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Asst. City Manager

James Booth
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Councilmembers

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Intisar Haamid

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Ward 2

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Pedro Briones

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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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May 2005 Message
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