



# Message

**Issue 227**  
**April 2005**

Mayor's Report	2
From the Police Chief	3
Election Candidates	4
Council Highlights	6
Bazaar San Antonio. . .	6
Mount Rainier Emergency Preparedness Commission	7
Sweep the Avenue—Call for Volunteers	7
Youth Recreation Programs	7
Historic Tax Credit Program: Important Notice	8
Hazardous Waste and Bulk Trash	8
Traffic Calming Task Force Proposed	8
Artspace Now Leasing	8
Library Planning Update	9
Calendar Events for Preparation of the FY 2006 City Budget	9
Mount Rainier Day Festival	9
Welcome New Mount Rainier Businesses	10
Community Tool Shed	10
Fiscal Year 2006 Budget Summary	12
Ward 2 Report	13
Little Friends for Peace	14
Calendar	15

**Deadline for the May Message is April 18.**

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

## Municipal Election Set for May 2, 2005

City election day is Monday, May 2, 2005. The poll will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. and located at the Mount Rainier City Hall, One Municipal Place. All election procedures are governed by state law, the Mount Rainier City Charter, the Mount Rainier Code of Ordinances, and the city's Elections Procedures Manual.

The city's Call-a-Bus will be available to pickup and bring citizens to the poll to cast a vote. Candidates are not allowed to campaign in the Call-a-Bus.

Write-in candidates are permitted in city elections.

Ballots will be counted at the close of the polls and unofficial results posted on the door of City Hall that evening. Provisional ballots (to be verified the following business day by the supervisor of elections) and absentee ballots will be included in the official election results announced by the supervisor of elections thereafter. If you wish to observe the counting of the ballots, you must notify the supervisor of that desire and fill out a poll watchers form prior to close of the polls at 8 p.m.

### Absentee Ballot Procedures

Absentee ballot applications will be furnished upon request to registered voters of Mount Rainier who will be unable to physically come to the poll on election day. Applications are available at Mount Rainier City Hall, or can be mailed upon request. Applications will not be hand delivered by the Board of Elections. Completed absentee ballot applications must be received by the City Board of Elections no later than the Monday prior to the election, April 25, 2005.

Absentee ballots must be received by the close of the poll at 8 p.m. on May 2, 2005, or if delivered by mail, postmarked no later than May 2, 2005, and delivered no later than close of business on the day following election day.

### Candidate Forum

The Candidate Forum is scheduled for Wednesday, April 20, 2005 at the Nature Center, located at 4701 31st Place, (31st and Arundel Road) Mount Rainier, Maryland. The forum will be held from 7–9 p.m. The League of Women Voters will moderate this event.

## Election Coverage

*Per Resolution 2 - 1992, Section 7 (c) Policies for the City Newsletter:*

As an effort to inform registered voters and encourage them to vote in City elections, the newsletter that precedes a City election may contain a section of brief statements from all the candidates. This section is intended as a service to voters and not as an endorsement of any candidates.

*Disclaimer—“The following statements from candidates are provided as a service to voters in the upcoming City election. No endorsement of any candidate is intended. Each candidate was asked to submit a statement of up to 150 words, which is reprinted here as submitted. Every effort has been made by the newsletter to provide equal access to all the candidates.”*

**See pages 4 and 5 for Candidates.**

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## Mayor's Report

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by Mayor Bryan Knedler

In my final Mayor's Report, I want to make a few comments about big-picture issues on the horizon. Change is happening rapidly in Mount Rainier. With change comes opportunity but also fear.

The Mayor and Council, as good policymakers, need to think about the long-term. Sometimes there will be a short-term cost that will reap a long-term gain. Elected officials need a vision for where the city is headed and the policies that will get to that goal. Communication about the goals and benefits is also essential. Not everyone in the city is feeling included in the rapid changes.

Your local policymakers must be clear about the economic strategy of the arts-focused redevelopment. The Gateway Community Development Corporation has done a fantastic job of shepherding the arts district but it is also the responsibility of the local governments to assist in this and also to communicate with constituents. Not all of our residents are connecting the dots. I understand the skepticism of some who feel all the attention is going to the arts at the cost of neglecting other social and economic needs. Some of the older businesses feel neglected as money is pumped into the arts projects. This is where the long-term goal must be explained. The redevelopment based on the arts projects will have a positive impact on the entire city in the future. The audiences who come for performances will spend money in our shops and restaurants.

Jobs will be created by the new businesses. Parking meter revenue will increase. This increased revenue will allow the city to provide more and better services. A rising tide lifts all ships. Yes, the arts district is going to generate some problems too. There may come a time when visitors will park their cars on your residential

street or performances may create noise. I know we have the creativity and patience to resolve those issues as they come to us. I know we can be forward thinking not to let fears sidetrack us. The arts district may not be everyone's idea of the best way to revitalize, but I have yet to hear a better proposal.

Property values are soaring (along with your tax bill). Even if the so-called real estate "bubble" bursts, I do not think home values will fall in zip code 20712. We were undervalued to begin with. Our location is perfect for families seeking a shorter commute into DC but also looking for historic houses on tree-lined streets.

Lower-income homebuyers including some artists and non-profit-sector workers, however, are already being priced out. Qualifying for a mortgage when you do not have a steady income is a big hurdle. Since only about a third of our residents are in owner-occupied houses, we should be looking at what renters are being charged for leases. It is very possible that we will see a bigger divide between the income of homeowners and renters. Is there a goal to preserve socio-economic diversity? The Council will need to decide whether to institute controls on rent-rate increases to preserve affordable rental housing, or to let the market take its course. The idea of a "community land trust" has been debated as a way to preserve affordable houses, but I suspect that the quick inflation in sale prices may make the land trust idea very difficult to implement.

The historic homes and large trees make our city special and give it curb-appeal. As the value of land increases, some developers may buy small homes to raze them and try to

build bigger houses on the lots. Is there a goal to preserve our historic district? Should steps be taken to prevent destruction of houses or exterior alterations that ruin the historic character?

A prime example of the need for a long-term view, is what to do with 3409 Rhode Island Ave. (the old city hall and library). Looking out 5 to 10 years, we will incur major expenses to keep the building operational. The Council needs to decide whether to sell the building, keep partial ownership with a private developer-partner, continue to patch the problems, or rebuild. Does the Council desire to maintain a library space in a new building? Can such a space be designed so that IF the county were to close the library branch in the future, the city could reprogram the space for other uses? Would the leases on new office space on the upper floors of a new building be enough to defray the costs of construction? Key to this debate—beyond funding of course—is the value of the library itself. To my way of thinking, this is a resource for the children of our community.

Political candidates often talk about the need for programs aimed at children and teens. The library is one such program. Elected officials need to remind the naysayers about the importance of the public library to less advantaged families. Not every family can easily transport children to the Hyattsville branch—especially when both parents are working or there is only one parent in the home. The library would also provide internet access to those who cannot afford it at home.

Mount Rainier is the densest populated municipality in the state and has the worst ratio of commercial tax base to population. In other

*Mayor, continued on page 10*

## From the Police Chief

**TOWN HALL MEETING.** The next "Town Hall" meeting with the Department is scheduled for April 13, 7:00 p.m. at the Department training room. Please plan to attend.

### 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
<b>Emergency</b>	1:36	1:18	NA	10 minutes or less **
<b>Non-emergency</b>	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](mailto:mrpdjobs@mountrainiermd.org).

### CULTURAL PROFESSIONALISM

**TRAINING.** In order to better address the multicultural needs of our City and Department, we are hosting Cultural Professionalism training on April 19 and 21. The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Relations will be instructing. The classes run from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. on these dates. The community is invited to attend these classes, however, class size is limited. Please contact Mrs. Clack at 301-985-6580 to register.

**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](http://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

**Police Chief, continued on page 11**

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## Mayor

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*Bonnie Abigail*

**A Mayor with strong leadership and management skills, policy development, displays honesty and integrity. One that celebrates diversity, has vision and the ability to translate vision into results. That is what I would want in a Mayor and that is what I am offering to you, my friends and neighbors.**

Mt. Rainier was my choice for its affordability, diversity, and access to local government.

My current goals are to encourage continued support of the Arts, unwavering focus on the urgent need for additional parking in the downtown area, increase funding for Public Works for cleaner streets and sidewalks. Eliminate abandoned properties. A more cohesive Council. A balanced budget.

Experience: International City/County Management Assn., Csafe Coordinator, After School Program, Victim Outreach—Mt. Rainier Police Department, committee volunteer. Three time Council candidate for Ward One. City's Judge of Elections and later-PG County Election Judge, and business owner.

It would be an honor to serve you, the great citizens of Mount Rainier.



*Malinda Miles*

I am seeking the office of Mayor of Mount Rainier because I have the qualifications, experience, and commitment necessary to continue Mount Rainier's economic development and revitalization efforts. I have good working relationships with all levels of government, and know how to work with them to get things done.

I am a successful business executive with the experience and knowledge to effectively oversee the economic, personnel, financial, affairs of this City. I have strong ties to the community and support citizens' involvement in local government. Planning and revitalization are essential for Mount Rainier's continued growth and development.

Skills I will bring to the position:

- Mediation
- Financial
- Economic Development
- Expertise in Local government
- Excellent communications
- Knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order

Recent Accomplishments:

- Wrote personnel policy and election procedures manuals
- Revitalized Mount Rainier's Business Association (MRBA)
- Completed Academy of Excellence Municipal training
- Wrote grant for Community Tool Shed

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## Ward 1

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*Intisar Haamid*

I am seeking your support in my efforts for re-election to Ward One Council Seat. I have been a resident and home owner in Mount Rainier for nine years.

The following are some of my accomplishments and visions for our City.

I supported---HIP Artist Apartments, The \$1.7 million dollar Police Station, Repaving of 34th Street, Organizing of City's financial department, Urban Renewal Plan, \$23 million dollar Queen's Manor renovation among many other quality of life improvements.

My visions---Cleaner streets, continue to attract viable new businesses, Revitalization of the entire City, exciting social programs and activities

For our children and senior citizens.

I now have the experience to further enhance the quality of living in our Great City.

Re-elect me to Ward One Council Seat

Thank you!

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## Ward 1

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*Alta Morton*

Dear Ward One Neighbors,

My name is Alta Morton, and I want to become your councilmember to provide:

- Positive and informed leadership;
- Awareness of community issues such as safety and youth;
- Energy and enthusiasm!

I am a resident of Perry Street. I myself struggled to buy my own home here in the city. As an African American single mother raising a teenage daughter, I chose Mount Rainier for its multiculturalism, historic homes, and wonderful sense of neighborhood.

My work and professional background are in home-buying, community banking, and new business development. I want to bring these skills to the council table and help move this city in the right direction. Now is the time to make the decisions on how our business district will look in the next decade. I worked on the city's Urban Renewal Plan committee and hope to help implement it as your councilwoman.

I will be coming to your door very soon and hope to hear about issues that are important to you, as well as share my ideas about the future of Mount Rainier.

VOTE ALTA FOR CHANGE!

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## Ward 2

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*Pedro Briones*

Friends & Neighbors,

I am pleased to seek reelection as your Ward 2 Councilman. We've accomplished much during my tenure, and I want to continue the important work of representing our wonderfully diverse City.

To move the city forward and strengthen our commercial tax base, I voted for our Urban Renewal Plan and recently hosted a successful Economic Development Forum. I also drafted the resolutions involving our City Attorney in challenging Bass' Liquors. Our recent success in closing that problem establishment means less crime and improved quality of life for our residents. I continue to support a local library for our children and families and proposed and voted to include money in our 2004 budget for the library.

A member of the Maryland Bar, I practice appropriations law at the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), the federal watchdog agency and Congress' investigative branch. I am pleased to continue putting my legal experience at your service, drafting ordinances that have improved Council accountability and transparency in our City government.

To learn more about my accomplishments, please visit [www.pedrobriones.com](http://www.pedrobriones.com) or contact me at [pedroeb@aol.com](mailto:pedroeb@aol.com) or 301-277-1833.

Thank you, and **please** vote Pedro Briones for Ward 2 on May 2!

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## Ward 2

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*Dawn Caple*

I've lived in Mount Rainier for 4 years. I'm originally from Brooklyn, New York. I am married with three children. Attended NYU and presently attend UMUC in Adelphi.

Self employed Realtor, involved in helping to create a sense of community in neighborhoods throughout the county, state, and DC. My strong sense of commitment to community has prompted me to run for City Council.

Concerns

- Rhode Island Avenue and Varnum Street revitalization
- Growth for city to include residents, not just new comers.
- Traffic flow and safe streets.

Support

- Library remaining in the city.
- City funding to broaden youth activities and programs.
- Tax abatements/ rehab programs for seniors and low income residents.

Vote for me on May 2, 2005 for City Council Ward 2.

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## Council Highlights

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The following is a summary of legislation introduced and/or passed and discussion items addressed by the Mayor and Council during the months of February and March 2005.

February 1, 2005

- Ordinance 2-2005—Amended the compensation for the Mayor and Council. 2nd Reading/Vote. Legislation passed 4-0, 1 abstention.
- Ordinance 3-2005—amending Chapter 11 of the Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual and Appointing members to the City of Mount Rainier Personnel Appeals Board (First Reading)
- Ordinance 4-2005—amending Chapter 3 of the City of Mount Rainier Code of Ordinances to require a City building permit for exterior alterations to buildings in the Mixed-Use Town Center Zone and to provide for the issuance of a stop work order if the exterior alterations are performed without a valid City building permit. (First Reading)
- Resolution 4-2005 Declared a police vehicle as surplus. Adopted 5-0
- Resolution 5-2005 Authorized the City's participation in the America In Bloom contest and established the Beautification Committee. Legislation was adopted 5-0.

February 8, 2005

- NZI Construction and their recommendation for re-stripping of 34<sup>th</sup> Street
- Towing of Vehicles from private property

February 15, 2005

- Presentation on proposed redevelopment of Bass Liquor Store and Restaurant
- Public Hearing on whether to challenge the application of the Liquor License of Borak & Gould, Inc., and motion and vote on whether the City of Mount Rainier would challenge the renewal of the liquor license of Borak & Gould, Inc., T/A Bass" Restaurant and Liquors for license year 2005-2006. Council passed this motion.
- Resolution 6-2005 – Stating the position of the City of Mount Rainier in regards to the application for renewal, if any shall be filed for the liquor license of Borak & Gould T/A Bass Restaurant and Liquors, located at 3208 Rhode Island Avenue for the 2005/6 license year. (First Reading)

February 22, 2005 – Special Meeting Called By the Mayor

- Vote to go into closed session to discuss a potential real estate acquisition and to obtain legal advice from the City Attorney.

March 1, 2005

- Ordinance 3-2005 amended the Personnel Policy and appointed members to Personnel Board (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)) Legislation passed 5-0

- Ordinance 4-2005 – amended Chapter 3 of the City Code of Ordinances requiring a building permit in the MUTC. (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading) Legislation passed 5-0
- Proclamation 1-2005 Adopted Earth Day. Legislation passed 5-0
- Resolution 6-2005 – (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading) Legislation passed 5-0
- Resolution 7-2005 - Appointed Members to the City of Mount Rainier Board of Elections for 2-year terms commencing March 11-2005 and expiring on February 28, 2007. (First Reading) Legislation passed 5-0
- Resolution 8-2005 – Adopting Arbor Day. Resolution tabled.
- Resolution 9-2005 (Originally tabled and re-introduced as a proclamation)
- Resolution 10-2005 Adopted the month of April as Maryland Municipal League Municipal Government Works month. Legislation passed 5-0

March 8, 2005

- Ordinance 5-2005 – Establishing an Emergency Preparedness Commission (First Reading)

Discussion items

- Town Center Design Review Committee Appointments
- Animal Control Permits Council reviewed draft ordinance on amending the City's code on number of animals allowed
- Church Use and Occupancy Permits and County Text Amendments
- Police Interoperability Communications
- Vacant Lots - City currently fees for vacant building registration but does not charge fees for vacant lots; lots next to residential property currently exempted.
- City Attorney Evaluation – Council set due date for evaluation from City's legal firm as April 1, 2005. City Manager evaluation comments also due on April 1, 2005.

March 22, 2005

- Public Hearing 34<sup>th</sup> Street Parking recommendations- Citizen Letters read into the record
- Budget Work Session
- Code Enforcement Rules and Regulations
- Special Meeting called by the Mayor
- Ordinance 5-2005 Established an Emergency Preparedness Commission (EPC) 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Legislation passed 5-0
- Ordinance 6-2005 – Animal Control Ordinance amending City Code (First reading)
- Election Plan – Presented by Karl Jones – Election Judge
- Resolution 11-2005 appointed members to the City of Mount Rainier Cable Commission (First Reading/Vote) Legislation passed 5-0
- Council approved Arbor Day as May 21, 2005, which is also Mount Rainier Day.

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## Bazaar San Antonio. . . Did You Know?

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*By City Manager Jeannelle Wallace*

Bazaar San Antonio—does anyone know what this is? For those of you who are not familiar with the name, it is a business located at 4010 34<sup>th</sup> Street, Mount Rainier, Maryland.

I had the distinct pleasure to meet Aura Adams, proprietor of the business that is similar to an antique thrift shop. Ms. Adams sells everything from Avon products, to jewelry, to oil paintings, antique crystal, stuffed animals, and more. Many of the items are for only \$1.00. This store can truly be a paradise for a shopper, but it depends on what you are looking for. There are decanters, used clothing, key chains, gift sets, and linen napkins.

If you have ever been on 34<sup>th</sup> Street, you know that this is a busy place. Many consumers are engaged with the food cooperative or the nearby boutique that is located across the street. This business is at the very end of the shops on the northwest side of 34<sup>th</sup> Street going towards Arundel Road.

Many of the City's businesses are struggling to survive. They are not well known and customers do not regularly frequent the establishment. As the City's growth spurt and revitalization continues, let's not forget to patronize the smaller as well as the larger businesses in the community. Let us all work towards spending our dollars in Mount Rainier before we go elsewhere in the County to shop.

This is the first in a series of articles about great businesses in the City of Mount Rainier.

## Mount Rainier Emergency Preparedness Commission

The purpose of the **Mount Rainier Emergency Preparedness Commission** is to develop a comprehensive response to potential disaster situations in our city. These disasters could be the result of a naturally occurring or terrorist activity, resulting in potential power outages, loss of communication or loss of shelter.

It is the goal of the commission to ensure that each resident is informed and properly prepared to care for members of their household should a disaster occur. In addition we have made provisions for prompt communication via police and fire departments as well as the county emergency response teams. Plans are underway to secure shelter, food, water and medical supplies at a central location if the need for a community response arises.

We are organizing the following:

**Training:** In an effort to train as many of our residents as possible in emergency response, the **Prince George's Office of Emergency Preparedness** is providing a training program, Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT). The program provides 22 hours of instruction on topics including traffic management and medical responder. The course will be offered here in Mount Rainier.

Please contact Regina Wardwell if you would like to participate. Also indicate if you would like to meet once a week for a few weeks or over a weekend.

Support Personnel/Volunteers/Block Captains: **to provide assistance with setting up shelter, medical care, distribution, interpreters, drivers and other necessary staff.**

**Database:** For those individuals that may need an urgent medical response because of illness or other limitation, we ask that you contact Regina Wardwell to have your name added to our database. You must also complete a medical information card, which will be provided and kept, in your home.

**The American Red Cross** has free brochures on emergency preparedness. Call Linda Frasier at 301-559-8500 X 108

Please contact Regina Wardwell if you would like to be part of the CERT Training, be a member of our support personnel or would like to have your name added to our database.

Regina Wardwell  
Mount Rainier EPC Chair  
301-864-7895  
rbbe@starpower.net

## 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 April 16 and 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.

## 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](http://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](http://users.erols.com/wthomas/troop224.html)

### Cub Scouts Pack 224

Meets in St. Jerome's Church, Hyattsville

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

### Girl Scouts

- Mount Rainier E.S., Tues., 2 p.m.
- Thomas Stone E.S., Tues., 2 p.m.
- Hyattsville Middle Sch., Fri., 6 p.m.
- Tiffany Lathan, 301-449-5690

### Boys and Girls Club, Northwestern H.S.

- 301-985-1423
- M-F, 3:30 to 8 p.m.

### Joe's Movement Emporium

- After-School Programs
- 3802 34th St., 301-699-1819
- [www.worldartfocus.org/youth.html](http://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](http://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

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## Historic Tax Credit Program: Important Notice

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The Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Program, administered by the Maryland Historical Trust, provides state income tax credits equal to 20 percent of the qualified capital costs expended in the rehabilitation of a "certified heritage structure." Most city homes built prior to 1945 qualify as "contributing" to the Mount Rainier Historic District. Each home in the historic district has been evaluated and plotted on a map that is available at City Hall.

The credit is available for owner-occupied residential property as well as income-producing property. The rehabilitation expenditure in a 24-month period must exceed \$5,000 for owner-occupied residential property. For other property, the greater of the adjusted basis of the structure (generally the purchase price, minus the value of the land, minus any depreciation taken) or \$5,000. The rehabilitation must conform to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and must be certified by the Maryland Historical Trust. If the credit exceeds the taxpayer's tax liability, a refund may be claimed in the amount of the excess.

Two important notices:

The MHT has been lenient in allowing homeowners to apply for the tax credit after a project has been completed. However, after July 1, 2005, applications for plan approval or for tax credit certification for rehabilitation of owner-occupied

residential projects that have been substantially completed prior to review and approval by the Director will be returned to the applicant without review.

The MHT has also been lenient in including work on kitchens and bathrooms that might actually be "remodeling" rather than rehabilitation. After July 1, 2005, the MHT will not approve remodeling projects for the credit. An example of projects that the MHT considers to be primarily remodeling is the replacement of non-historic bathrooms or kitchens or both. In these cases, existing bathrooms and kitchens are in good repair and utility and are replaced for purely aesthetic or personal reasons (e.g., replacement of marble countertops with granite, oak cabinets with cherry). Projects that include appropriate reconstruction of severely deteriorated or inoperable spaces, including kitchens and bathrooms, will continue to be considered rehabilitation work and eligible for tax credits.

Copies of the Heritage Preservation Certification Application and Instructions may be obtained from the MHT website via the link (link is available on the city's website) or from the Maryland Historical Trust's Office of Preservation Services at 410-514-7639. For more information about the program, contact Daniel Sams, Administrator, at 410-514-7620 or Collin Ingraham, Preservation Officer, at 410-514-7671.

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## Hazardous Waste and Bulk Trash

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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.

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## Traffic Calming Task Force Proposed

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The City Council has agreed to Mayor Knedler's suggestion to set up a task force to evaluate the entire city for traffic calming measures. This acknowledges that when one street's traffic flow is changed, it impacts streets all around it. The proposed task force would likely be asked by the Council to determine the extent of speeding and stop sign running, traffic volumes on various streets, and which residential streets are used as commuter cut-throughs. The task force would study various traffic calming methods and make recommendations to the Mayor and Council. The committee would be advised by the Chief of Police and the fire department.

If you are interested in serving on such a task force, please send a letter requesting appointment to Mr. James Booth at Mount Rainier City Hall, One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, MD, 20712.

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## Artspace Now Leasing

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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](mailto:angela@gateway-cdc.org)) for information about commercial leasing space.

## Library Planning Update

A second public forum was held on March 10 to discuss ideas for a new building at 3409 Rhode Island Ave. to replace the current library and old city hall (currently leased to Congressman Van Hollen). About 25 people attended to see proposals from architect Peter Cook of KGP Design Studio. Jan Townshend of the Neighborhood Design Center recruited Cook to volunteer his expertise. The group looked at three proposals with a new library in the lower level, ground floor, and top floor of a new building. Pros and cons were discussed for each. The Friends of the Library group subsequently sent a letter to the Mayor and Council advocating for the library to remain on the street level. Cook's designs envision a library of about 3,000 s.f. and two or three floors of leasable space that would generate income to defray the expense of the new building.

The next public forum will be a design charette. Date to be determined. It is hoped that Cook's designs can be made available on the internet and at City Hall. Also check the Friends of the Library website at <http://mtrainierfol.org/>.

The current buildings at 3409 Rhode Island Ave. are increasingly in need of repairs and a previous public forum decided to recommend to the Council that they be razed and start fresh.

## Calendar Events for Preparation of the FY 2006 City Budget

**Tuesday, April 12, 2005.** Special meeting before work session. Presentation and public comment, proposed FY 2006 budget for police department and parking enforcement (Summary available) Thursday, April 14, 2005. Notice in Port Towns Gazette about budget presentations, April 19.

**Tuesday, April 19, 2005.** Presentation and public comment, proposed FY 2006 budget for public works and code enforcement. (Summary available)

**Tuesday, April 26, 2005.** Work session on 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

### 2005 Mount Rainier Day Festival Mount Rainier City Hall, One Municipal Place Saturday, May 21, 2005 – 10:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.

#### *Featuring*

Discovery Creek Children's Museum of Washington  
Rolling Rainforest School Program and Festival Exhibition  
*Sponsored by Wachovia Bank*

Take a trip to the rainforest...in Prince George's County! Discovery Creek Children's Museum of Washington, a unique and interactive children's museum dedicated to teaching children about the wonders of nature and the environment, will be bringing its Rolling Rainforest to Mount Rainier Day Festival. The Rolling Rainforest is a 53-foot trailer that houses a fully immersive rainforest exhibition.

Discovery Creek Children's Museum of Washington, DC's mission is to inspire environmental stewardship among children through school and teacher programs, weekend family programs, immersion-based exhibitions, and special events.

Proposed Schedule of Events (as of March 28, 2005)

**10:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.** Festival will have a variety of entertainment, food, parade, games and activities for the entire family!  
**12:00–12:30 pm** Parade along Rhode Island Avenue—beginning and ending at festival site.

#### *Festival Contacts*

Questions or Need More Information?

Call the following Mount Rainier Day Festival Committee at 301-277-2065

Participation and Vendor Packets are available at City Hall.

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## Welcome New Mount Rainier Businesses

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The City of Mount Rainier welcomes the following new businesses to the City:

- The Reynold's Real Estate School, 3237 Rhode Island Avenue  
— Real Estate classes
- Mars Insurance and Financial Services, 3237 Rhode Island Avenue  
— Insurance services
- Tortilla Kitchen, 3231 Rhode Island Avenue  
— Spanish and American Food
- LaCasita Furniture and Bedding, 3239 Rhode Island Avenue  
— Furniture showroom
- El Palenque Disco Centro, 3414 Rhode Island Avenue  
— Latin American Music Store
- Lourdes Bakery, 3239 Rhode Island Avenue  
— Baked goods, Coffee, Light Refreshments
- Tru-2-Design Hair Studio, 3235 Rhode Island Avenue  
— Hair Braiding Studio
- Barber Shop and Hair Salon, 2319 Varnum Street  
— Barber Shop
- Marie's Variety Store, 4002 34th Street  
— Variety Store, Prepared Foods, Groceries
- La Pequenita II Mart, 3850 34th Street  
— Latin American Variety Store
- Phil Y's Hair Braiding, 2319 Varnum Street  
— Hair Braiding

Thank you for choosing Mount Rainier as your business location.

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## Community Tool Shed

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3601 Bunker Hill Road, 301-779-0133  
[www.mountrainiermd.org/community/toolshed](http://www.mountrainiermd.org/community/toolshed)

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 application at the Tool Shed Web page. Hours: Saturdays 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; other days by appointment.

**April Tips.** When your spring flowering bulbs (daffodils, tulips, crocuses, etc.) stop blooming, do not cut the plants back until they are brown. Green leaves are storing up food for next year's booms so cutting them means no color in 2006!

The last frost date for our area is early April. When you start spring outdoor planting and lawn seeding remember that 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 to protect from summer heat and sun. Wood decks should also be sealed. Stop by the Tool Shed for powerwashers to prep the job and power painters to speed your work.

Daylight savings time means you should change the batteries in your smoke detectors. The Tool Shed has stepladders to help.

**Plant swap.** We are planning a community plant swap on Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. If you have any plants you no longer want, save them for the swap. If you cannot hold them or don't have a pot for them, just call Tool Shed committee member Therese Nemil (301-927-4229) and she'll come collect them, and even dig them up if needed!

**Flea Market.** Anyone interested in renting space at a fund-raising flea market or helping to run one should call the Tool Shed 301-779-0133.

*Mayor, continued from page 2*

words, our tax revenue is highly dependent on residents' taxes, while in other towns, the businesses pay a proportionally higher share. In fact, we have three large property owners who pay a good chunk of our tax revenue (Kaywood, Queens Manor, and Queenstown). Is there a goal to increase the amount of commercial property in the city limits? The council has discussed for years the desirability of annexing the commercial areas just north on Queens Chapel Rd. Hyattsville and Cheverly seem to have figured out how to coax owners into being annexed. We can too. Serious negotiations with the property owners and some compromises will result in a win-win situation. The redevelopment around the West Hyattsville Metro Station is coming. Although the station itself is in Hyattsville, we stand to gain from the spillover effect along Queens Chapel and Chillum Roads.

These are just a few of the many issues facing us. I am confident that with our collective creativity and community spirit in tandem with qualified elected officials and city staff, the city will continue its renaissance. It has been an enjoyable challenge working for you and future residents. Best wishes to the new mayor and councilmembers in facing these and many other important issues.

**Police Chief, continued from page 4**

educate our children on the importance of buckling up. Remember **CLICK IT or TICKET**; it is your choice!

COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE PRACTICES. In 2004, the Chief of Police assigned for investigation twenty-eight (28) complaints against employees (sworn and civilian) of the agency. Thirteen (13) of the complaints were received from outside sources and fifteen (15) were from within the agency. This was an increase of six (6) complaints from 2003 when twenty-two (22) complaints were received. Of the twenty-eight (28) complaints six (6) were for motor vehicle accidents. The following is a breakdown of complaints investigated in 2004 and the dispositions.

Complaint Type	Total Received	Sustained	Non-Sustained	Exonerated	Unfounded	Withdrawn	Open
<b>Motor Vehicle</b>							
Accident	6	2	4	0	0	0	0
<b>Policy or Procedures</b>							
Violation	7	3	2	0	1	0	1
<b>Discharge of</b>							
Weapon	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
Discourtesy	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Harassment	2	0	0	0	1	0	1
Use of Force	6	0	4	1	0	0	1
Misconduct	4	2	0	0	0	1	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>

**GUIDE TO CLEARANCE TERMS**

- Non-Sustained** The investigation determined that the actions of the respondent were justified, lawful and proper.
- Sustained** The investigation disclosed sufficient evidence to clearly prove allegations of improper conduct.
- Unfounded** The investigation of the complaint indicates that the alleged acts did not occur or failed to involve officers of this command.
- Exonerated** The allegation in fact did occur, but the actions of the agency employee were legal, justified, proper, and in conformance with the agency policy and procedure.
- Withdrawn** The complainant withdrew the complaint before the investigation was completed or the employee resigned before completion of the investigation or service of the charges.
- Open** An active investigation.

**February 2005 Statistic's Report**

*Assaults (8)*

- 3200 Block of Rhode Island Ave.
- 3200 Block of Queenstown Dr.
- 4600 Block of 25<sup>th</sup> St.
- 4100 Block of Russell Ave.
- 2700 Block of Arundel Rd.
- 3200 Block of Varnum St.
- 4100 Block of 34<sup>th</sup> St.
- 2500 Block of Arundel Rd.

*Breaking and Entering (4)*

- 3300 Block of Chillum Rd.

- 3300 Block of Chauncey Pl.
- 3600 Block of Rhode Island Ave.
- 3200 Block of Queenstown Dr.

*Robberies (2)*

- 3300 Block of Chauncey Place
- 3000 Block of Queens Chapel Rd

*Sex Offense (1)*

- 2300 Block of Varnum St.

*Stolen Autos (12)*

- 4100 Block of Russell Ave.
- 4200 Block of Russell Ave.

- 3600 Block of Eastern Ave.
- 3700 Block of 34<sup>th</sup> St.
- 4300 Block of 28<sup>th</sup> Pl.
- 4500 Block of 32<sup>nd</sup> St.
- 3100 Block of Queens Chapel Rd.
- 3100 Block of Bunker Hill Rd.
- 2700 Block of Arundel Rd.
- 3800 Block of 34<sup>th</sup> St.
- 3300 Block of Chauncey Pl.
- 2700 Block of Webster St.

*Theft (20)*

- 4100 Block of 29<sup>th</sup> St.
- 3800 Block of 30<sup>th</sup> St.
- 4200 Block of 34<sup>th</sup> St.
- 3800 Block of 34<sup>th</sup> St.
- 3100 Block of Queens Chapel Rd.(2)
- 4400 Block of 28<sup>th</sup> St.
- 4700 Block of 27<sup>th</sup> St.
- 3400 Block of Rhode Island Ave.
- 3300 Block of Chauncey Pl.
- 4300 Block of 34<sup>th</sup> St.
- 3300 Block of Rhode Island Ave.
- 4200 Block of Eastern Ave.
- 2900 Block of Arundel Rd.
- 2900 Block of Allison St.
- 3200 Block of Perry St.
- 3100 Block of Perry St.
- 4000 Block of 32<sup>nd</sup> St.(2)
- 4000 Block of 33<sup>rd</sup> St.

*Vandalism (10)*

- 4400 Block of 30<sup>th</sup> St.
- 3300 Block of Bunker Hill Rd.
- 3600 Block of Perry St.
- 3700 Block of Rhode Island Ave.
- 4200 Block of 28<sup>th</sup> St. (3)
- 4200 Block of Russell Ave.
- 3300 Block of Rhode Island Ave.
- 4600 Block of 25<sup>th</sup> St.

*Arrests (12)*

- Adults (11)
- Juveniles (1)

## Fiscal Year 2006 Budget Summary

The City manager and management staff submitted a balanced budget with few changes from the previous year. There is no proposed tax increase for FY 2006. The proposed tax rate is \$0.79 per \$100 of assessed valuation. There are no proposed increases for Railroad and Utilities or for Business Personal Property Tax. It is proposed that these taxes remain at the FY 2005 levels of \$2.50 and \$1.70 for \$100 of assessed valuation - respectively.

There are no proposed increases for general insurance, police, and public officials liability, as management does not expect this expenditure item to increase.

It is estimated that revenue for FY 06 will remain at FY 05 levels. An analysis revealed that grant funding has been over-projected for several years. While management anticipates additional \$220,000 in tax revenue, other categories will be significantly reduced or totally eliminated for the next fiscal year.

Management has proposed the purchase of two new vehicles, one pick-up truck for the Department of Public Works and one 4-Wheel Drive vehicle for the Police Department that will increase the City's overall debt by \$20,000. These vehicles are being proposed to replace vehicles in a used and worn vehicle fleet. Managers of both departments requested replacement of vehicles that totaled well over \$200,000. While it is recommended that vehicles and equipment be replaced every 7 years, the City is behind in this effort due to years of non-replacement. Currently, the City's debt ratio is extremely high when one compares actual revenue to actual expenditures. As a result of this, management has proposed conservative budget estimates in

terms of expenditures and revenue for FY 2006.

There is a 3% merit increase proposed for all City employees. No COLA adjustments have been proposed.

Management proposes that the City hire a Civil/Structural Engineer to review building permits and construction activities in the City, as well as to manage the engineering projects related to the Community Development Block Grant program. This contracted position would be funded from the existed budgeted salary line for the Public Works Director.

Management also proposes that production of the *Message Newsletter* be combined quarterly to allow the City to pay for a part-time Web Master to design and update the City's website [www.mountrainiermd.org](http://www.mountrainiermd.org).

The Mayor and Council priorities including youth services programs, one (1) additional Code Enforcement Officer, one (1) additional parking enforcement officer, have not been proposed by the City Manager. There is no projected revenue to support these programs and positions.

The departmental percentage change for Fiscal-Year 2006 is as follows:

FY 05	FY 06	+/-	DEPT
46,244	44,226	-4%	Mayor and Council
52,500	56,500	8%	Legal and Elections
376,982	401,036	6%	City Hall
27,712	24,412	-12%	Communications
25,702	26,024	1%	Cable Television
1,251,281	1,281,412	2%	Department of Public Safety
55,887	54,284	-3%	Parking Enforcement
509,741	542,906	7%	Public Works
90,664	92,801	2%	Code Enforcement
33,437	28,574	-15%	Call-a-bus
500	1,000	100%	Waste Collection
79,750	125,500	57%	Highways and Street
70,000	100,000	43%	Waste Disposal
70,600	73,100	4%	Street Lights
99,399	99,399	0%	General Insurance
122,845	142,624	16%	Debt Service
39,175	33,375	-15%	Contingency
49,791	25,859	-48%	Reserve
9,140	7,500	-18%	Library
1,000	0	-100%	Fire Department
3,018,651	3,232,432	7%	

The operative word for the proposed budget for fiscal year 2006 is caution. Management feels that it has proposed a budget that is conservative and realistic based on anticipated revenue.

## Ward 2 Report

by Malinda Miles

Earth Day Every Day was a wonderful way to kick on the beginning of spring. There was a great attendance by citizens of Mount Rainier, Bowie, Washington DC, southern Maryland, and from Montgomery County. Of course, there were speeches, but then there was the moon bounce; Talon, the balde (white in old English) eagle; lots of materials and exhibits; wild animals, games, and demonstrations.

Many thanks to Paula McNeil and John Douglas, naturalist at the Nature Center, whose hard work made Earth Day Every Day a reality. They were the leading force for putting this program together. Also, thanks goes to Jack Engel for participating in the planning and execution of this project.

The hot topic in our neighborhood is the Washington Gas Chillum Station storage facility on Chillum Road because the Washington Gas Company is seeking to reopen the station and use it for a liquid gas storage facility. The old gas storage facility was closed down in 1999. After looking all over the County, and being turned down or priced out of purchasing another location, the gas company is seeking to reopen their old station. It is not clear what impact this decision will have on the development that has been planned for the area around the Hyattsville Metro Station. A hearing on this issue was held last week in Hyattsville for elected officials. Mayor Knedler and I attended, and raised questions.

The City's Election Manual is available at City Hall. Stop by and pick up a copy. **Election Day is Monday, May 2, 2005.** The Mount Rainier's Board of Elections' volunteers are **Maxine Drakesford**, Supervisor of Elections, **Lauren Williams**, **Anita Biancini**, **William Stringfellow**, **Elizabeth Rogovsky**,

and **Karl C. Jones**. See City Charter Sec. 501 and Ordinance 1-116 for more details on City Elections.

Kudos to the Public Works Department for keeping our streets clean during the recent snow storms.

Kudos to our Police Department for reducing crime in our City and making our streets safe for all or our residents. Our Police Department has received many honors this year including recognition for community policing. In addition, Chief Keeney has been appointed to work with the County's new crime task force.

The Mount Rainier Business Association (MRBA) March 9 meeting was a smashing success. More than 70 people attended this affair. The meal was catered by one of our new local businesses, and the meal was great. In attendance at the meeting were Mayor Knedler, and all four Councilmembers – Gandee, Haamid, Briones and Miles, and Will Campos, County Councilman, for District 2. The highlight of the meeting was the nominations. The following persons agreed to serve on MRBA's 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; Debbie Tobias Down the Aisle 301.277.2743; Robert Dickens, Party Time Liquors, 3307 Rhode Island Avenue, 301-927-3037; Larry Solomon, Thrifty Cars, 3210 Rhode Island Avenue, 301-927-0014; and Brooke Kidd, Joe's Movement Emporium, 3802 34th Street, 301-699-

1819. In addition to the food and nominations, there were great door prizes given away by area businesses. Everyone is invited, however, only members will be eligible for voting in the election process.

The Mayor and Council appointed the following persons to the Personnel Board:

- a. Patricia Fenn—Former Chair, PG County Human Relations Commission and Human Resource Specialist with Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission's Human Resource Department (Lewisdale)
- b. Paula Noble—Mayor, Town of Forest Heights, Commercial Real Estate Relationship Banking Officer (Forest Heights)
- c. Deborah Johnson—Administrative Assistant / Comptroller and Employee Development Specialist with U.S. Office of Personnel Management (Forestville)
- d. Ivy Thompson—Affordable Housing and Community Development Specialist, Artist-in-Residence Coordinator (Resident)
- e. Karen Hampton—Council Member College Park (College Park)
- f. George Denny—Mayor, Brentwood and former teacher (Brentwood) (has not confirmed)
- h. Grover Gardner—Mount Rainier Resident
- i. Charles Williamson—Mount Rainier Resident, former Paralegal Specialist, Office of the Corporation Counsel, District of Columbia
- j. Jerry Park – Mount Rainier Resident

Notifications and the first meeting will be scheduled during the next few weeks. Congratulations and thank you for volunteering.

Bass Liquors' is CLOSED. The owners of Bass Liquors' property

**Ward 2 Report**, continued on page 14

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**Ward 2 Report**, *continued from page 13*

officially locked and boarded the doors of Bass on Monday, March 14. The fate of the property has not been decided, but there are discussions about next steps. Let me hear from you about what should be done with this property. The Bass family still owns it, but the City will be working diligently to have input in the future use of the property.

The Community Tool Shed is operational. Committee members are desperately needed to make this wonderful resource in our community functional. Please consider joining this Committee. Our fearless leader, Peter McGahey will be leaving us in May/June. Sam Meredith and Nathan Cedroth have agreed to keep the ship afloat, but they NEED your help. Please call Peter and thank him for his tremendous job.

An Economic Summit was held in Mount Rainier on February 22, 2005. It was well attended and had representatives from the County, businesses, residents and Mayor and Council along with others interested in the continuing development of our City. This event was led by our own Assistant Manager James Booth and Councilman Pedro Briones. It was a smashing success. Kudos to both for such an inspiring event.

Most of us probably never think about how things get done in our City. Well, for the most part, things

get done by committee. One of the hardest working Committees in our City is the Mixed Use Town Center (MUTC) Committee chaired by Margaret (Peggy) Dillon. This Committee is not a City Committee, but the City gets to recommend the appointment of many of its members. During the past month, the Mayor and City Council will be appointing or reconfirming the appointment of several of those members at its next meeting.

Peggy Dillon who has led this Committee for the past few years will be leaving our fair City in the very near future, and I am taking this opportunity to say THANKS PEGGY for a job well done. I personally have appreciated the time and effort that you have given to this City, and REGRET with a passion your leaving. Best wishes for all of the success in the world in your new job. You will be missed.

Citizens 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!

- 1 Cable Commission (appointed by Mayor and Council)
- 2 Tree Commission (appointed by Mayor and Council)
- 3 Community Tool Shed Committee (appointed by Mayor and Council)

- 4 Senior Emergency Preparedness Commission (appointed by Mayor and Council)
- 5 Mount Rainier Day Committee volunteer group
- 6 Parenting Committee – volunteer group\*
- 7 Personnel Review Board – (appointed by Mayor and Council)
- 8 Town Center Design Review Committee
- 9 Mixed Use Town Center Committee (recommended for appointment)
- 10 Mount Rainier Board of Elections (appointed by Mayor and Council)
- 11 Mount Rainier's Beautification Committee (Appointed by Mayor and Council)
12. Mount Rainier Giving Project – volunteer group\*
13. 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. The City NEEDS YOU. To sign up for a committee or commission, please call 301-985-6585.

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## 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 [jjpark@capaccess.org](mailto:jjpark@capaccess.org).

**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.**

April–May  
**calendar**

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|--|---|
| <p>Apr. 1    Recyclables Pick Up</p> <p>April 4    Bulk Trash (by appointment only)<br/>                   Yard Waste PickUp</p> <p>April 6    Regular Trash Pick Up<br/>                   Mount Rainier Day Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.,<br/>                   3404 Rhode Island Avenue</p> <p>April 8    Recyclables Pick Up</p> <p>April 11    Yard Waste Pick Up</p> <p>April 13    Regular Trash Pick Up<br/>                   Mount Rainier Day Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.,<br/>                   3404 Rhode Island Avenue<br/>                   Mixed Use Town Center (MUTC) Design Review<br/>                   Committee Meeting, 6:15 p.m.<br/>                   MRBA Meeting, 8:30 a.m.</p> <p>April 15    Recyclables Pick Up</p> <p>April 18    Bulk Trash (by appointment only)<br/>                   Yard Waste Pick Up</p> <p>April 20    Regular Trash Pick Up<br/>                   Mount Rainier Day Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.,<br/>                   3404 Rhode Island Avenue<br/>                   Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (ATHA) Association Meeting</p> <p>April 22    Recyclables Pick Up</p> <p>April 25    Yard Waste Pick Up</p> | <p>April 27    Regular Trash Pick Up<br/>                   Mount Rainier Day Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.,<br/>                   3404 Rhode Island Avenue</p> <p>April 29    Recyclables Pick Up</p> <p>May 2      Bulk Trash (by appointment only) Yard Waste Pick Up<br/>                   CITY ELECTION, 7 a.m.–8 p.m., City Hall</p> <p>May 4      Regular Trash Pick Up</p> <p>May 5      Neighborhood Design Center (NDC) 2005 Annual Meeting<br/>                   6–7:30 p.m., City Hall, RSVP to Jan Townshend at<br/>                   301-779-6010</p> <p>May 6      Recyclables Pick Up</p> <p>May 9      Yard Waste Pick Up</p> <p>May 11     Regular Trash Pick Up</p> <p>May 13     Recyclables Pick Up</p> <p>May 16     Bulk Trash (by appointment only) Yard Waste Pick Up</p> <p>May 18     Regular Trash Pick Up</p> <p>May 20     Recyclables Pick Up</p> <p>May 21     MOUNT RAINIER DAY!</p> <p>May 23     Yard Waste Pick Up</p> <p>May 25     Regular Trash Pick Up</p> <p>May 27     Recyclables Pick Up</p> <p>May 30     MEMORIAL DAY, CITY OFFICES CLOSED</p> <p>May 31     Yard Waste Pick Up</p> |
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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*

**Bryan K. Knedler**  
301-699-3134

[bknedler@mountrainiermd.org](mailto:bknedler@mountrainiermd.org)

*City Manager*

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

[jwallace@mountrainiermd.org](mailto:jwallace@mountrainiermd.org)

*Asst. City Manager*

**James Booth**  
301-985-6585

fax: 301-985-6595

[jbooth@mountrainiermd.org](mailto:jbooth@mountrainiermd.org)

*Councilmembers*

*Ward 1*

**Carol Gandee**  
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*Intisar Haamid*

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[IHaamid@mountrainiermd.org](mailto:IHaamid@mountrainiermd.org)

*Ward 2*

**Malinda Miles**  
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[MMiles@mountrainiermd.org](mailto:MMiles@mountrainiermd.org)

*Pedro Briones*

301-277-1833

[PBriones@mountrainiermd.org](mailto:PBriones@mountrainiermd.org)

*Message*

**Terry Kelly**  
301-779-7857

[tkelly60@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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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