



# Message

**Issue 225**  
**February 2005**

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## Preparing for Snow Removal

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The Public Works crews need your cooperation to clear our streets after a snow storm. The Mount Rainier Police Department has an active role during a snowstorm. For example, when an impending snowstorm is predicted for the region, the Police will check the snow emergency routes in Mount Rainier to make sure that all vehicles have been removed. The snow emergency routes in Mount Rainier are currently as follows:

1. 34th Street from Eastern Ave. to Arundel Rd.
2. Chillum Road from Arundel Road to the City boundary at Queens Chapel Road
3. Rainier Avenue from 34<sup>th</sup> Street to Upshur Street
4. Upshur Street from Rainier Avenue to 28<sup>th</sup> Place
5. 28<sup>th</sup> Place from Upshur Street to Russell Avenue
6. Russell Avenue from 28<sup>th</sup> Place to Arundel Road

During a snowstorm, the first streets to be cleared are the snow emergency routes. In Mount Rainier snow emergency routes are clearly identified by signs. Snow emergency rules are in effect when the District of Columbia declares a snow emergency. It is illegal to park on snow emergency routes during a storm. The Mount Rainier Police will enforce the City Code as it relates to clearing of snow emergency routes before the snow begins to fall.

Residents of Mount Rainier can do their part to help City snow removal crews. During a snowstorm the best policy for residents is to keep off the roads so the snow removal crews can operate unimpeded. If at all possible, residents should wait until the storm has passed and roads are passable. Abandoned vehicles prevent snow plows from clearing streets.

Also, when removing snow from around a parked vehicle, it is better to deposit the snow on tree boxes or grassy areas instead of throwing it out on the street or on the sidewalk.

Finally, residents and business owners are required by City Code to clear the sidewalks of snow directly in front of their property. In that way, most sidewalks in the City will be safely passable and pedestrians will not have to walk in the street.

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## State Income Tax Reminder

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The City of Mount Rainier shares in the state income taxes paid by residents ONLY if you write in "Mount Rainier" as your municipality in the appropriate box on your state tax return. This does not increase your taxes; it assures that a share of your tax dollars will help fund city services like police, public works, etc. All of Kaywood and Queens Manor, as well as most of Queenstown are within the borders of Mount Rainier.

**Deadline for the March  
Message is February 18.**

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## Mayor's Report

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by Mayor Bryan Knedler

**POLICE DEPARTMENT AWARDS AND RECOGNITION.** With the grand opening of the Artspace Building and the continuing positive media coverage of the arts district, we should not forget the importance of the police department to our revitalization successes. Even with the greatest plans on paper, crime and the perception of crime in the minds of potential investors can hamper economic development. Fear of crime can stifle the interest of residents to volunteer for community projects. Recently, a mayor of one of our sister cities that sits on Eastern Ave. south of the river, noted that cross-border crime had stunted the town's revitalization.

Our city police department has made vast improvements over the past few years under the leadership of Chief Keeney. His continuing demand for top performance from his officers and administrative staff has had a positive impact on the effectiveness of the force. His leadership has resulted in better equipped officers, a continuing stream of grant monies, and a steady reduction in our crime rate. Community policing has really taken root and residents are able to make a direct connection to the department during quarterly community meetings.

You should also be proud of our chief and department for the various awards, honors, and grants that have recently been received. The MRPD was recently a runner-up in an international competition (135 applicants from around the world) for the International Community Policing Award. The Maryland State Highway Safety Office, Exemplary Service Award was given for

"Chief's Challenge" Seat Belt Initiative. County Executive Jack Johnson presented a proclamation for our "outstanding policing program." And more than 10 awards for exemplary performance and made more than 5 promotions to officers and residents.

The Chief himself was recently elected president Maryland Chief's of Police Association. He received a proclamation from County Exec. Jack Johnson for "Exemplary Leadership." And a state Senate Proclamation for exemplary leadership for election as the MCPA president and service to the Cities of District Heights and Mount Rainier as Chief of Police. In addition, he was recently appointed to the Maryland Police Training Commission.

Also impressive are the various grants the department has received. With grant money very tight these days, it is especially noteworthy that our small department is able to successfully compete. Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG)—\$19,048; DC Council of Government UASI Grant—\$13,350 (for training \$8,100; equipment \$5,250); CSAFE (former Hotspots program)—\$73,760 (which includes money for community policing, coordination, victim services and the After School Program); and a federal BYRNE Grant—\$3,835 (for Neighborhood Watch, waiting to hear from PGPD on award approval).

**MRPD/COMMUNITY MEETING REGARDING RECENT MUGGINGS.** A very successful meeting drew a standing room-only crowd on Dec. 6 for the community to get information about the recent muggings on the footpath behind Queenstown Apts.

Chief Keeney, who organized the meeting, was able to get representatives from police agencies of Hyattsville, Prince George's County, WMATA, and MNCPPC. Also represented was the Parks Division of MNCPPC. I was encouraged to hear the MNCPPC reps immediately concede that the trail is not just a "park" or "recreational" path, but a commuter route from the metro station. MNCPPC will not put lights in its parks, but if the trail is redesignated as a commuter route, then lights would be possible. Also, we were told that 9 robberies have occurred in the past year on the trail (that includes the section near the metro station).

**REGISTER TO VOTE.** The City election is on the horizon (May 2). Voter registration will close in early April, so don't delay in filing out a form. A form is available online at the city website, or at City Hall.

**LIBRARY UPDATE.** The public meeting to discuss future uses of 3409 Rhode Island Ave. was a great success. More than 25 people attended the meeting which was facilitated by Jan Townshend of the Neighborhood Design Center. The overwhelming sentiment was to demolish the building and construct a multi-story building with a library in the building. Other space in the new building would be leased out to help defray the cost of the construction. Ms. Townshend hopes to find architects who will volunteer their time to create several potential designs that the community could then look at and discuss. This may occur in March 2005.

**Mayor,** *continued on page 8*

## From the Police Chief

### Winter and Auto Theft

Just because it is winter does not mean the number of auto thefts will dramatically increase. In fact, in many instances the numbers go up. To lessen the likelihood of being a victim, follow these steps:

- Do not warm up your car unattended in a parking lot
- Do not warm up your car unattended in the driveway
- If you must warm up your car do so with a spear key and lock the door, and keep an eye on the car while it is warming up.
- Always deploy an anti-theft device on your car.
- Register your car in the "Watch Your Car Program."

For additional information go to [www.mdautotheft.org/](http://www.mdautotheft.org/) or call 301-986-6566 and ask for an officer.

### Department 2004 Awards

On December 10, elected officials from the City and State joined our employees and select residents in recognizing superior performance and service for the year 2004. The breakfast program was highlighted by the unveiling of the IACP/ITT Community Policing Finalist Medalion. The Department also received an Executive Proclamation from The Honorable Jack Johnson for its policing efforts. Senator Gwendolyn Britt awarded a Senate proclamation to Officer of the Year recipient Sergeant John Hosinski and to Chief Keeney for his leadership of the Department. Employees and residents recognized included:

- Civilian Employee of the Year—Shermika Clack
- Community Officer of the Year—POFC Andre Williams
- Rookie of the Year—Officer Joey Toto

- Other recipients included; CPL Victor Kenworthy, former Officer Jeremy Perkins, Angela Davis, Ophelia Baxter, Robert Dickens, Robert Taylor and Barbara Goliday. Mayor Knedler, Councilman Briones and City Manager Jeannelle Wallace participated in the presentations of awards.

### Department Receives Grant Funding

The Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT) the insurer of the City has awarded to the Department a grant to be used for training of our officers. The grant will pay for subject matter experts to instruct officers on the legal aspects of law enforcement and the latest Supreme Court updates. Other topics will, include civil liability concerns, internal investigative issues impact on a Department and negligent employee retention. Other area cities and towns will also be allowed to attend the training.

### HELP, Our Walls are Bare

Are you a photographer or an artist will a few photographs or pictures lying around collecting dust? If so, please help us cover our walls. Many offices in the police station have bare walls and are in need of dressing up. If you would like to donate some framed pictures or artworks give us a call at 301-985-6580, please ask for Sergeant Malley.

### November 2004 Crime Report

#### Assaults (5)

4100 Block of 34<sup>th</sup> St.  
3200 Block of Queenstown Dr.  
3200 Block of Varnum St.  
3800 Block of 34<sup>th</sup> St.  
4100 Block of Russell Ave.

#### Breaking and Entering (3)

4300 Block of Russell Ave.  
3300 Block of Bunker Hill Rd.  
4600 Block of 27<sup>th</sup> St.

#### Robberies (8)

2300 Block of Varnum St.  
4600 Block of 27<sup>th</sup> St. (2)  
3200 Block of Bunker Hill Rd.  
4300 Block of 28<sup>th</sup> Pl.  
3300 Block Buchanan St.  
2900 Block of Allison St.  
3400 Block of Rhode Island Ave.

#### Sex Offense (0)

#### Stolen Autos (10)

2700 Block of Queens Chapel Rd.  
3700 Block of 36<sup>th</sup> St.  
3700 Block of 34<sup>th</sup> St.  
3300 Block of Chauncey Pl.(3)  
3200 Block of Queenstown Dr.  
4200 Block of 28<sup>th</sup> St.  
3200 Block of Bunkerhill Rd.

#### Theft (26)

3100 Block of Queens Chapel Rd.  
3200 Block of Rhode Island Ave.(2)  
2300 Block of Varnum St. (3)  
2200 Block of Varnum St.  
3100 Block of Chillum Rd.  
3300 Block of Chillum Rd.  
3200 Block of Queenstown Dr.  
4600 Block of 25<sup>th</sup> St. (2)  
3500 Block of 37<sup>th</sup> St.(2)  
4200 Block of 28<sup>th</sup> St.  
3700 Block of 35<sup>th</sup> St.(2)  
2800 Block of Shepherd St.  
3500 Block of Newton St.  
3100 Block of Windom Rd.  
4200 Block of Russell Ave.  
4700 Block of 31<sup>st</sup> Pl.  
29<sup>th</sup> @Allison St.

4000 Block of 29<sup>th</sup> St.  
3300 Block of Bunkerhill Rd.  
3300 Block of Buchanan St.

#### Vandalism (9)

3300 Block of Chillum Rd.  
4000 Block of 34<sup>th</sup> St.  
3200 Block of Otis St.  
3600 Block of Queenstown Dr.  
3100 Block of Queens Chapel Rd.(2)  
3400 Block of Rhode Island Ave.  
3300 Block of Chauncey Pl.(2)

#### Arrests (22)

#### Adults - 22

#### Juveniles - 0

Police, continued on page 10

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## Public Hearing on Bass License Renewal

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The Mayor and Council will hold a public hearing on Tues., Feb. 15 beginning at 7 p.m. at City Hall, One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, Md., to hear testimony regarding whether to oppose the 2005 renewal of the Bass Liquor (class B+) license currently held by Borak and Gould Inc. This protest must be filed with the Board of License Commissioners no later than March 1, 2005. The licensee has until April 1 to file for renewal and the circuit court will not hear the appeal of the Board's refusal to renew the license in 2004 until mid-March. Therefore, if a challenge to the 2005 renewal is to be made, the protest must be filed prior to resolution of the appeal.

Per Maryland Statutes Ann., Art. 2B, Sec. 10-302(g)(4)(iii) a municipality may protest renewal of a liquor license after holding a public hearing on the proposed opposition to the license renewal.

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## Moms! Dads! Grandparents!

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Mt. Rainier has a new babysitting coop: TIME OUT! In this coop parents give TIME OUT to other parents by watching their children free of charge and they receive TIME OUT from another participating parent. Our next meeting will be held February 27 from 1-2 p.m. at the home of member Dana Grabiner, 3720 35th Street. To join this group you must first attend a meeting. For more information, call Melissa Barringer 301-699-5395 or come to the next meeting!

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## Election Board Members Needed

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City seeks election supervisor, judges, and clerks for city election on May 2. The Mayor and Council appoints an elections board to manage the municipal elections. If you are interested in serving on this important board, please submit a letter stating your interest to the City Manager, Jeannelle Wallace, by Feb. 15, 2005. The election supervisor receives \$300. Judges \$100 and clerks \$75.

The election supervisor is responsible for running the nomination process, as well as preparing for and supervising the election itself. The two election judges and two clerks assist the supervisor. All board members must be able to spend the entire day at the poll on May 2, as well as attend some training sessions. See City Charter Sec. 501 and Ordinance 1-116 for more details). An election process guidebook also is available.

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## Senatorial Scholarships

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Students are encouraged to apply for a scholarship from the office of State Senator Gwendolyn Britt. Scholarships are awarded yearly to undergraduates, including incoming freshmen and graduate students. Criteria for selection is based on financial need and/or academic achievement.

Scholarships are awarded for 4 years or until graduation whichever comes first. Applications are available by calling the senator's office, 301-858-3745.

Deadline is no later than May 2, 2005.

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## PGCMA Scholarships

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The Prince George's County Municipal Association is offering scholarships to residents of municipalities in Prince George's County. Applications can be picked-up at any Prince George's municipality. The entire application (including letters of recommendation) is due no later than April 30. Selection of the scholarships will be made by a countywide selection committee and announced by the end of May.

Applicant must be accepted to or currently enrolled in a accredited college or university in an undergraduate degree program intended to prepare students for a career in governmental or public service. Applicant must have good scholastic standing, i.e., at least a 2.0 GPA.

Questions regarding this scholarship program can be directed to the PGCMA Scholarship Committee c/o council member Michael Leszcz, City of Laurel: 301-725-5300 ext. 120.

Each applicant's application must indicate or include:

- A commitment to public service, e.g., past or current involvement with civic organizations.
- An educational program in local governmental or public service.
- Applicant's statement of educational objectives and career goals.
- Two letters of recommendation. One must be from a faculty member of the current educational institution; the other should be from a municipal public official.
- An essay on the importance of municipal government in the community.
- Completion of the scholarship application.

Download the PGCMA Scholarship Application: [pgcma\\_scholarship\\_application.pdf](#).

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## Ward Two Report

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by Pedro Briones

One of my continuing goals during my tenure on City Council has been to advance the development of our commercial districts and attract businesses that meet the needs of our residents. To that end, we have fought hard to clean up Bass, involving our City Attorney and Police Department in an on-going fight to revoke their liquor license. I also voted last summer to support our Urban Renewal Plan, which passed unanimously. I am extremely happy to report now that our Council agreed to host an economic development summit on Tuesday, February 22. Visit [www.mountrainiermd.org](http://www.mountrainiermd.org) for more information.

You may have noticed that I have been placing "economic development" on our Council work session agendas for the past several months, urging my colleagues on the Council

**Ward Two Report**, continued on page 6

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## "If I Were Mayor" Contest

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Each year, the Maryland Municipal League (MML) and the Maryland Mayors' Association (MMA) invite 4th grade students throughout Maryland to participate in a state-wide essay contest: "If I Were Mayor, I Would..." This year, students are asked to include ideas for reaching out to all community members. The contest gives students a chance to creatively use grade-specific language arts skills and civics/social studies knowledge. Fourth grade teachers should have received information about the contest. Essays must be received no later than April 1. The prizes include a \$250 savings bond and \$25 Barnes and Noble gift cards.

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

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**Friday, February 11, 2005.** Deadline for City departments and community groups to submit FY 2006 budget requests to City Manager

**Monday, March 14, 2005.** City Manager submits proposed FY 2006 budget to Mayor and Council

**Tuesday, March 22, 2005.** Work Session on budget

**Thursday, March 24, 2005.** Notice in Port Towns Gazette about budget presentations, April 5, April 12, April 19.

**Tuesday, April 5, 2005.** Presentation and public comment, proposed FY 2006 budget for all City programs other than police, parking enforcement, public works, and code enforcement. (Summary available)

**Thursday, April 7, 2005.** Notice in Port Towns Gazette about budget presentations April 12, April 19.

**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

**Friday, May 6, 2005.** Port Towns Gazette deadline for submission of May 14 display ad on constant yield tax rate, public hearing Tuesday, May 24.

**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

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## Community Tool Shed

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3601 Bunker Hill Road, 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.

**Winter hours:** Saturdays 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; other days by appointment.

February tips:

- Be sure to drain garden hoses and outdoor spigots/sillcocks during freezing weather.
- Clean your gutters to avoid ice dams! The Tool Shed has a variety of ladders available to help.
- Without the foliage, winter is a great time to prune your trees. The Tool Shed has ladders, a pole pruner, and other tools to help.

**Do-it-yourself clinics:** Watch for the Spring 2005 schedule of do-it-yourself clinics. Under consideration are classes on backyard composting, securing your home, and gardening with native plants.

**Plant swap:** The Tool Shed and the America in Bloom Committees are organizing a community plant swap in April. If you have any plants you no longer want, save them for the swap.

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## Youth Recreation Programs

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Compiled by Mayor Bryan Knedler

Below are opportunities for young residents who are looking for recreation and after-school programs. If you know of other programs, please let me know and I will add them to the listing next month.

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

The Prince George's 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
- <http://www.pgsparks.com/things/pgcbgc/contacts.html>

### Boys Scouts Troop 224

Meets in St. Jerome's Church, Hyattsville

- Tuesday evenings, 7 p.m.
- <http://users.erols.com/wthomas/troop224.html>

### Girl Scouts

- Mt. Rainier E.S., Tuesdays, 2 p.m.
- Thomas Stone E.S., Tuesdays, 2 p.m.
- Hyattsville Middle Sch., Fridays, 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
- <http://www.worldartfocus.org/youth.html>

### Mount Rainier Nature Center

- 31st and Arundel Rd.
- 301-927-2163; TTY 301-699-2544
- <http://www.pgsparks.com/places/nature/rainier.html>

Located inside the Capital Beltway, the Nature/Recreation Center is a unique facility which operates as both a nature center and a recreation center. The facility hosts a variety of nature-related, interpretive programs for visitors of all ages.

["Non-resident" means not a resident of Prince George's County.]

### Latino, Africano, Caribbeano Dance Workout

- Saturdays, 10-11:15 a.m.
- Ages 16 & up
- Join us for a workout to keep the heart pumping.
- Reservations required.
- Fee: \$40/8-week session; Non-Resident \$45/8-week session

### Fitness Walking

- Saturday mornings.
- Call for details.

### National History Museum Trip

- 9 a.m.
- \$5 resident; \$6 nonresident
- Ages 10-14

### Ice Skating at the Mall

- 10 a.m.
- \$13 resident; \$14 nonresident
- Ages 10-14

### Lewis and Clark Expedition

- 8 a.m.
- \$23 resident; \$24 nonresident
- Ages 10-14
- Exhibit at Academu of Natural Science in Philadelphia

### Puppet Theater

- Saturday, February 19
- 11-11:45 a.m.
- Free
- Ages 10-14

### 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

## Ward Two Report, continued from page 4

to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) to area developers to begin marketing our newly minted Urban Renewal Plan and obtain proposals for possible development of our under-utilized commercial areas. Recently, at the suggestion of our Assistant City Manager James Booth, we scheduled the economic development summit to invite developers, business leaders, the Council, City Staff, and interested residents to begin a dialogue on Mount Rainier's Urban Renewal. We hope that an RFP and development summit would promote our Urban Renewal Plan to local developers while gauging their interest in taking the next steps towards implementing the plan in ways that are environmentally appropriate, economically sound and attractive to existing businesses that serve our residents.

I look forward to working with you, my colleagues on Council and Mr. Booth in this endeavor. Kudos, also, to Council Member Miles for recently submitting a grant application for an economic development specialist for Mount Rainier. I encourage anyone who would like to become involved or who have experience or expertise in the area of urban development to contact either Mr. Booth or myself.

I am sure many, if not all of you, share my vision of one day walking to Varnum Street to rent (or watch!) a movie, or strolling to Rhode Island Avenue to have a sit-down meal or apply for a loan at a local credit union or bank. How fantastic would it be to have four eateries on our length of Rhode Island Avenue instead of just four liquor stores? I hope the development summit next February will bring us one step closer to that vision.

Best wishes for the New Year!

## Homeowners' Property Tax Credit Program

Concerned about increased city property taxes? The State of Maryland has a program that sets a limit on the amount of property taxes any homeowner must pay based upon his or her income. This program is available to all homeowners regardless of their age.

For purposes of the tax credit program, "income" means the combined gross income before any deductions are taken. Income from all sources must be reported whether or not the monies received are included as income for Federal and State income tax purposes. Nontaxable retirement benefits such as Social Security and Railroad Retirement must be reported as income for the tax credit program

The chart below is printed in \$1,000 increments to show you the specific tax limit for each income level.

| Household Income | Tax Limit |
|------------------|-----------|
| \$1 - 4,000      | \$0       |
| 5,000            | 10        |
| 6,000            | 20        |
| 7,000            | 30        |
| 8,000            | 40        |
| 9,000            | 85        |
| 10,000           | 130       |
| 11,000           | 175       |
| 12,000           | 220       |
| 13,000           | 285       |
| 14,000           | 350       |
| 15,000           | 415       |
| 16,000           | 480       |
| 17,000           | 570       |
| 18,000           | 660       |
| 19,000           | 750       |
| 20,000           | 840       |
| 21,000           | 930       |
| 22,000           | 1,020     |
| 23,000           | 1,110     |
| 24,000           | 1,200     |
| 25,000           | 1,290     |
| 26,000           | 1,380     |
| 27,000           | 1,470     |
| 28,000           | 1,560     |
| 29,000           | 1,650     |
| 30,000           | 1,740     |

For each additional \$1,000 of income above \$30,000, you add \$90 to \$1,740 to find the tax limit.

Example: If your combined household income is \$16,000, you see from the chart that your tax limit is \$480. You would be entitled to receive a credit for any taxes above the \$480. If your actual property tax bill was \$990, you would receive a tax credit in the amount of \$510—this being the difference between the actual tax bill and the tax limit.

Applications are available at most public libraries, or by calling the Tax Credits Telephone Service at 1-800-944-7403. Or visit the Web site: <http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/htc.html>.

## Council Highlights

by City Manager

### January 4—Mayor and Council Meeting

- Special Presentation—County Executive Jack Johnson Proclamation presented to Chief H. Fred Keeney by Obie Pinckney, Jr., Municipal Liaison to Jack Johnson for the Mount Rainier Police Department being recognized by the International Association of the Chief of Police (IACP) as second in the nation for its community policing efforts.
- New Officer—Derrick Harris sworn in by Mayor Knedler
- Recognition of 2004 Mount Rainier Police Department Award Recipients

### Officials Report Summary

City Manager Report

- City Manager handed out report indicating that a lien was placed on seven (7) City properties totaling \$10,455 for the month of December 2004. Vacant property list was updated by Code Enforcement Officers; City Manager, Assistant City Manager, Code Enforcement Officials and officers from the MRPD attended the County sponsored workshop on Codes and Permits.
- Manager and Assistant met with WSSC representative about upcoming water main replacement project that is slated to begin April 2005 and last several months. The replacement will entail valve replacement along Eastern Avenue affecting properties on 34<sup>th</sup>, 35<sup>th</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> Streets. Manager consulted with Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County (RDA) concerning the CARE program for area businesses. RDA will submit a report in the near future concerning availability of continued funding.
- Tax Differential report submitted by Finance Director Manjani was approved.

Mayor's Report

- Artspace received its temporary U&O and met its deadline for December 2004. There will be a follow-up on the Dog Ordinance. Building is scheduled to open in February 2005.

Ward 1 Report—Council member Gandee

- Adopted a family for the holidays—Citizen Adrian Tanguay promoted this activity which supported 18 families with food and other goods. Citizens asked to assist with effort for those who lost lives and loved ones in Asia,

Council, continued on page 10

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## Ward One Report—January 19, 2005

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by Carol A. Gandee

After 18 months on Council, I am pleased to report that our financial house is in order, and the Emergency Preparedness Commission is working hard to protect the community. This past week the Mayor and Council voted to approve the expenditure of the \$8,000 grant received from the County Executive for Homeland Security.

The Council has accomplished a great deal over the last year. With the leadership of Council Member Miles, the Council has also received a grant for the Mt. Rainier Tool Shed, completed the City Personnel Policy, and completed a procedure manual for Election Procedures for the City.

However, I have a serious concern I would like to share with my constituents. There is one issue that has divided the Mayor and Council. I have always believed that the buck stops at the Council, that we are ultimately responsible for the well being of our City. That said, I also believe that Management should inform the Mayor and Council of serious allegations made against our employees. Management has stated this would be a violation of an employee's privacy, and the Mayor and Mr. Briones have supported this position. There have been some serious allegations against employees of the City, some with merit, and some without. It has taken a great deal of effort on my part to be sure I was aware of allegations against staff. As a sworn Council Member, I believe that the Mayor and Council are part of Management and should

be kept informed of serious allegations against any employee. It is not our place to become involved in the investigations, but we should be informed of these things.

Because of this dilemma, and the lack of information being shared with the Council, I am publicly asking my constituents in Ward One, and anyone in the City who has a complaint against the staff or management to follow procedure for filing a complaint. I would also ask that the complaint be forwarded to me either by e-mail, phone or in a meeting with me. In order to fulfill my responsibility as a Council Member it is necessary for me to know the good as well as the bad.

It is not my intention to micromanage, but I believe as Council Members it is our fiduciary responsibility to at least be aware of problems that could become legal matters for the City. The legal costs for the City in recent years have been very high. I do not see this as an area that Council should not be informed about.

I am bringing this to the attention of citizens because this topic and the specifics are usually discussed in closed session to protect employees. However, the general issue of Council awareness is not a closed session topic, and therefore, I wanted to keep everyone informed.

I hope you will feel free to give your opinion to the Mayor and Council either through public comment, e-mail, or phone calls. Your opinion is appreciated.

Mayor, *continued from page 2*

**BASS BANKRUPTCY NOTICE.** An official notice of the bankruptcy filing for Borak & Gould Inc., doing business as Bass Liquors appeared in the Washington Post in late Dec. This is a Chapter 7 liquidation (a court trustee sells assets to pay creditors' claims). Assets: \$10,000. Liabilities: \$1,224,018. Largest unsecured creditor: Amerik Singh Melhi, \$569,000.

**CITY IN THE NEWS.** The Washington Post carried a very positive opinion piece on Dec. 28 by Lee Hockstader about the arts district and our renaissance. He focused on Al Newell who is one of more than 60 artists who have applied for a spot in the Artspace building.

**PHOTOGRAPHS OF CITY HISTORY SOUGHT.** The centennial of Mount Rainier's founding will occur in 2010 and efforts will soon begin to organize a celebration. Meanwhile I would like to begin collecting photos of houses and businesses that will be kept at City Hall as an archived snapshot of what the City looked like in the early 21st Century. Please mark the address on the photo's back and drop them at City Hall for Mayor Knedler. If you know what year your home was built, please indicate that as well. If you have older photos of your home or business, please consider providing copies of those as well. Again, mark the date on the back. Interior photos are welcome as well but I would at least like to get an archive of what our streets look like.

## We Need YOU to Join the Town Center Design Review Committee!

Are you excited about the redevelopment taking place in downtown Mount Rainier? Do you have artistic and visionary ideas you want to contribute to this process? Would you like to play an important role in the revitalization of the city as part of the Gateway Arts District? If you answered "yes" to any or all of these questions, then consider applying to join the Mount Rainier Town Center Design Review Committee.

City officials are currently seeking five people to join the committee, which is a six-person group that reviews and make recommendations on all proposals for new development and exterior renovation in the city's Mixed-Use Town Center Zone. This zone extends along Rhode Island Avenue from the city limits into the 3400 block, along 34th Street from the 3700 block into the 4000 block, and along parts of Bunker Hill Road, Otis Street, and Perry Street.

The committee consists of two members each from the residential, business, and municipal community. There are currently five slots available: one municipal representative (who represents the city government); two residential representatives (who live in Mount Rainier); and two business representatives. Please note that criteria for business representatives have expanded: Previously, business and/or property members had to own either a business or property within Mount Rainier's Mixed-Use Town Center Zone. However, with the December 2004 approval of the Gateway Arts District Sector Plan, criteria for business applicants have been broadened to include all persons who own/operate businesses anywhere in Mount Rainier and persons who hold management positions in businesses located in the Town Center.

Members attend monthly meetings held on the second Wednesday

of each month at 6:15 p.m. at City Hall. Prior to meetings they review applicants' site plans and other documents, with the help of the Mount Rainier Town Center Development Plan, whose design guidelines are used to help shape and guide development within the city's mixed-use downtown core. Prospective members are invited to attend monthly meetings to meet current members, to articulate their views about downtown revitalization, and to familiarize themselves with current issues and the workings of the committee. Upon joining the committee, each member receives a copy of the Mount Rainier Town Center Development Plan; a copy of the Committee Rules of Procedure; and other relevant documents.

The committee's findings are advisory to the Prince George's County Planning Board. The Board, as part of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), will select and appoint committee members from a pool of applicants provided by Mount Rainier officials. All committee terms are for two years and are renewable.

The City is looking for participants who have a sense of fairness and common sense in reviewing applications and who are interested in the ongoing revitalization of the downtown business area. Issues that come before committee members involve exterior colors, signage, lighting, windows, awnings, roofs, parking, building height, building materials, landscaping, screening, and other items related to exteriors.

While members do not have to be working artists, they should possess an artistic and visionary sense to help make decisions that integrate new exterior projects into the downtown as it undergoes revitalization as part of the Gateway Arts District. Members should also be able to

express their views clearly and succinctly and need to be able to work effectively as a group. In addition, committee members should be willing to encourage appropriate building construction, alterations, and signage among business and property owners and to help educate rather than regulate applicants.

Furthermore, one of the six members will be chosen to be a convener, who in addition to participating in discussion and voting on issues will preside at meetings and decide on procedures and points of order. This person should be organized, detail-oriented, and able to work effectively with all committee members as well as with James Booth, Assistant City Manager and city liaison to the committee, and Dineene O'Connor, M-NCPPC Senior Planner and staff liaison to the committee.

More information about the Committee, including Frequently Asked Questions and minutes of previous meetings, can be found on the city's website at the following link: [www.mountrainiermd.org/community/towncenterreview/index.html](http://www.mountrainiermd.org/community/towncenterreview/index.html).

To obtain an application to be on the committee, please contact Assistant City Manager James Booth at 301-985-6585 or at [jbooth@mountrainiermd.org](mailto:jbooth@mountrainiermd.org). Applications should be accompanied by a resume and a brief cover letter stating your interest in joining the committee. Please mail or deliver all materials to Mr. Booth at City Hall, 1 Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, MD 20712. Please note:

The deadline for new members' applications is March 1. Appointed applicants will join the committee this spring.

Police, continued from page 3

## December 2004 Crime Report

### Homicide (1)

3200 Block of Chillum Rd.

### Assaults (7)

3700 Block of 37<sup>th</sup> St.

3200 Block of Queenstown Dr.

3200 Block of Rhode Island Ave.

3400 Block of Rhode Island Ave.

3100 Block of Queens Chapel Rd.

3700 Block of 35<sup>th</sup> St.

2700 Block of Arundel Rd.

### Breaking and Entering (3)

4200 Block of 28<sup>th</sup> St.

4100 Block of 32<sup>nd</sup> St.

4200 Block of Eastern Ave.

### Robberies (6)

2501 Block of Arundel Rd.

3400 Block of Rhode Island Ave.

3200 Block of Queenstown Dr.(3)

3300 Block of Chillum Rd.

### Stolen Autos (16)

2500 Block of Arundel Rd.

4200 Block of Kaywood Dr.(2)

3200 Block of Queenstown Dr.

3300 Block of Chillum Rd.

3300 Block of Shepherd St.

4300 Block of Kaywood Dr.

3300 Block of Buchanan St.(2)

2700 Block of Arundel Rd.

3200 Block of Bunkerhill Rd.

3500 Block of Perry St.

4100 Block of Russell Ave.

3100 Block of Queens Chapel Rd.

4600 Block of 29<sup>th</sup> St.

4200 Block of 34<sup>th</sup> St.

### Theft (20)

4700 Block 31<sup>st</sup> Pl.

3200 Block of Queenstown Dr.(2)

4000 Block of 34<sup>th</sup> St.

3300 Block of Buchanan St.

3500 Block of Otis St.

3000 Block of Queens Chapel Rd.

3800 Block of 34<sup>th</sup> St.

3500 Block of Newell Pl.

4100 Block of Russell Ave.

3700 Block of 37<sup>th</sup> St.

3300 Block of Chillum Rd.

4300 Block of 28<sup>th</sup> Pl.

3100 Block of Queens Chapel Rd (2)

4300 Block of Russell Ave.

4100 Block of Russell Ave.

3300 Block of Chauncey Pl.

2700 Block of Arundel Rd.

3200 Block of Rhode Island Ave.

### Vandalism (15)

2700 Block of Arundel Rd.

3000 Block of Arundel Rd.

4600 Block of 29<sup>th</sup> St.

3300 Block of Chillum Rd.

4300 Block of 29<sup>th</sup> St.

4200 Block of Russell Ave.

4000 Block of 35<sup>th</sup> St.

3100 Block of Queens Chapel Rd.(2)

Russell St. @ Taylor St.

Queenstown Dr.@ Chillum Rd.

3300 Block of Chauncey Pl.

3200 Block of Queenstown Dr.

2900 Block of Allison St.

4300 Block of 30<sup>th</sup> St.

### Arrests (22)

Adults - 22

Juveniles - 0

Council, continued from page 7

and to support U.S. military with prayers.

### Ward 2 Report—Council member Miles

- PGCMA Livable Sustainable Communities Resolution needs support of the Mayor and Council. This legislation supports the Prince George's County Municipal Association legislative agenda; this specific resolution guarantees that all municipalities in the state will have the authority to regulate the adult entertainment industry; it will also include Prince George's County in the list of 17 other Maryland Counties that do not grant a liquor license to establishments that allow nudity and will require certain informational notices be sent to the County municipalities on any pending action before the Board of License Commissioners. Citizens were asked to join various committees including, cable commission, tree commission, tool shed committee, personnel review board, elections review board and the Mixed Use Town Center Design Review Committee.
- Economic Development Forum for Thursday, February 22, 2005 was announced by Council member Briones. Other issue of concern was the application for a liquor license by Circle Café.
- First Reading—Ordinance 1-2005—amending Chapter 6, 7, and 11 of the City's Code of Ordinances relating to Refuse Collection.
- First Reading—Resolution 1-2005—adopting an Elections Procedures Manual for the City of Mount Rainier.

January 11—Mayor and Council Work Session

### Discussion Items

- Ordinance 1 -2005—Trash Hauler Fees
- Resolution 1-2005—Election Procedures
- Lease Agreement Van Hollen Office—Manager recommended increasing fees to fair market value
- Police Grant Dollars Expenditures—Homeland Security Grant Funds of \$8,000 were discussed focusing on recommendations of the Senior Preparedness Committee. Most of the funds will be used to purchase communication equipment and medical supplies.
- Livable Communities projects were discussed to include coordination with America in Bloom projects, Tool

Shed expansion, Mount Rainier Day funding, Nature Center projects.

January 18, 2005—Mayor and Council Meeting

- Presentation of Grant Award—Local Government Insurance Trust—Jon Burrell, Executive Director presented a grant award in the amount of \$2,400 for training of police officers. Grant was submitted by Chief Keeney and will reduce the City's training costs. Mr. Burrell indicated that the City's loss ratio was significantly reduced by 323 % in 2002 to 55% in 2004.
- Ted Porter, Presenter and one of the principle partners along with Mount Rainier resident and business owner Steve Shaff, presented business plan, schematic drawings, and menu recommendations for Circle Café located at 3310 Rhode Island Avenue. Anticipated opening is May 2005.

### Old Business

- Ordinance 1-2005, amending chapter 6, 7, and 11 of the City Code of Ordinances relating to commercial refuse collection, second reading/ vote. There were several amendments to the original reading of this legislation. Vote for amendments - 5-0. Legislation passed 5-0
- Resolution 1 -2005, adopting an Election Procedures Manual, second reading/ vote. There were several amendments to the original reading of this legislation. Vote approving amendments - 5-0. Legislation passed 5-0.

### New Business

- Resolution 2-2005 A Resolution Mayor and City Council of the City of Mount Rainier, Maryland Accepting a Prince George's County Grant in Homeland Security Funds for Local Preparedness, 1<sup>st</sup> reading/ vote—legislation approved 5-0.
- Resolution 3-2005 - A resolution to support PGCMA's Building Livable Municipalities Legislative Agenda for 2005, first reading/ vote. Legislation passed 5-0
- Ordinance 2-2005—Amending the Compensation of the Mayor and Council members of the City of Mount Rainier, first reading. Council agreed that the Mayor's compensation will be higher than other members of the City council. Compensation will take effect following the May 2007 election.

**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](http://mtrainierfol.org))—Monday,  
7:30 pm, Community Vision, 34th St.  
**Yard Waste**

In Dec., Jan., and Feb., yard waste  
collections will occur on the second  
Mon., by prior appointment only. Call  
301-985-6558 to make an appt.

## February–March calendar

|         |   |         |   |
|---------|---|---------|---|
| Feb. 1  | Mayor and Council Meeting   | Mar. 1  | Mayor and Council Meeting   |
| Feb. 2  | Regular Trash Pickup  | Mar. 2  | Regular Trash Pick Up   |
| Feb. 4  | Recyclables Pick up   | Mar. 4  | Circuit Court hearing on Bass appeal 9:00 am<br>Recyclables Pick Up |
| Feb. 8  | Council work session  | Mar. 7  | Bulk Trash (by appointments only)& Yard Waste Pick Up               |
| Feb. 7  | Bulk Trash Pick Up (by appointments only)   | Mar. 8  | Council Work Session  |
| Feb. 9  | Regular Trash Pick Up   | Mar. 9  | Regular Trash Pick Up   |
| Feb. 11 | Recyclables Pick Up   | Mar. 11 | Recyclables Pick Up   |
| Feb. 14 | Yard Waste Pick Up (by appointments only)   | Mar. 14 | Yard Waste Pick Up  |
| Feb. 15 | Mayor and Council Meeting<br>Bass Public Hearing on Challenge to Liquor License—<br>City Hall 7:00 p.m. | Mar. 15 | Mayor and Council   |
| Feb. 16 | Regular Trash Pick Up   | Mar. 16 | Regular Trash Pick Up   |
| Feb. 18 | Recyclables Pick Up   | Mar. 18 | Recyclables Pick Up   |
| Feb. 21 | President's Birthday - City Hall closed   | Mar. 21 | Bulk Trash (by appointments only) & Yard waste Pick Up              |
| Feb. 22 | Economic Development Forum 4-7 p.m. City Hall<br>Bulk Trash Pick Up (by appointments only)              | Mar. 22 | work session on budget  |
| Feb. 23 | Regular Trash Pick Up   | Mar. 23 | Regular Trash Pick Up   |
| Feb. 25 | Recyclables Pick Up   | Mar. 25 | Recyclables Pick Up   |
|         |   | Mar. 28 | Yard Waste Pick Up  |
|         |   | Mar. 30 | Regular Trash Pick Up   |

### *Save the Date*

**When:** February 22, 2005 from 4 to 7 p.m.

**Why:** Economic Development and Business Summit

**Where:** City Hall, Mount Rainier

The City of Mount Rainier will host a summit to share ideas and strategies related to strengthening the City's Mixed Use Town Center/ Downtown Business District. Come out to this exciting event and hear representatives from State, County, and local government discuss ideas on neighborhood revitalization, business creation and improving the City's quality of life and services. Representatives from financial institutions, area developers, and local businesses will also be in attendance.

A brief sample of topics/strategies to be discussed:

- Implementing the Urban Renewal Plan
- Attracting, Retaining, and Expanding Businesses Within the City
- Economic Development Along The Route 1 Corridor
- The Arts and Entertainment District, and much more!

For further information, please contact James Booth, Assistant City Manager/ Director of Economic Development at 301-985-6585 or [JBooth@mountrainiermd.org](mailto:JBooth@mountrainiermd.org)

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**  
301-277-6377

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

*Intisar Haamid*

301-864-3418

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

*Ward 2*

**Malinda Miles**  
301-699-1378

[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)

Gazette Circulation  
301-670-7350

Health Department  
301-386-0300

Library 301-864-8937

Hours: M-W 10-6:30 (closed 2-2:30)  
Sat. 10-5

Landlord-Tenant Commission  
800-487-6007

Mt. Rainier Nature/Rec Center  
4701 31st Place  
301-927-2163

M-National Capital  
Park and Planning,  
Park Permit Office  
301-918-8111

North Brentwood Comm. Ctr  
4012 Webster St.  
301-864-0756

Office of Handicapped Services  
TDD 301-627-3352

Park Police  
301-459-3232 (emergency)  
301-459-9088 (non-emergency)

Parks and Recreation  
301-699-2407

Pepco  
*Lights Out*  
1-877-737-2662  
(you must give the 10-digit phone  
number or 10-digit account number  
for location of outage)

*Live Wire, Other Emergency*  
202-872-3432

Post Office  
301-864-5168

Public Defender  
301-699-2760

Public Schools  
301-952-6000

State's Attorney  
301-952-3500

Washington Gas Light  
703-750-2500

WSSC  
301-206-8000  
301-206-4002 (emergency)

*The City of Mount Rainier is an equal opportunity employer, without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, disability, political or union affiliation.*

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February 2005 Message  
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