



# Message

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**March 2005**

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## Municipal Election Set for May 2, 2005

The biennial City election will be held on **Monday, May 2, 2005**. This year, two council seats, one in Ward 1 and one in Ward 2, and the mayor's seat will be up for election. Candidates must be registered voters and have lived in the City for at least two years prior to the election. An elected official in Mount Rainier may not hold any other elected office.

**Candidates must file a petition signed by at least 20 registered voters.** Petitions are available from City Hall and a list of currently registered voters is available for review as well. It is recommended that candidates for office obtain more than 20 signatures, in case some are declared invalid. Also, candidates must file financial disclosure statements, about any gifts received from any person having a contract or doing business with the City and itemizing any real property in Mount Rainier that the candidate owns in whole or in part. Financial disclosure forms are available at City Hall. **Nominating petitions must be presented by the petitioner on Monday, April 4, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at City Hall.**

**To vote in the election you must be a registered voter in Prince George's County.** There is no separate City registration to vote in City elections only. Therefore, all who want to vote in City elections must be registered through the County. The registration requirements will not change: You must be a citizen of the United States, 18 years or older, and a permanent resident of the City.

**Cards for voter registration through the County are available at City Hall, One Municipal Place and at the Board of Supervisors of Elections, Upper Marlboro.** You may register in person or by mail. Registration through the County entitles you to vote not only in the City election but in County, State and federal elections as well. Declaring a party affiliation at the time you register allows you to vote in a particular party's primary. Registration through the County will be open through Monday, April 4, until 4:30 p.m. The Board of Elections also has a 24-hour telephone number—301-627-2814—where you can leave your name and address and have the Board send you a registration form. For additional information, call 301-952-3270, TTY: 301-627-3352, or visit [www.co.pg.md.us/Government/AgencyIndex/Elections/voter\\_reg.asp?h=60&s=&n=85](http://www.co.pg.md.us/Government/AgencyIndex/Elections/voter_reg.asp?h=60&s=&n=85).

The Prince George's County Board of Supervisors of Elections maintains and provides a number of products and services available at very low cost for candidates or others to use to prepare for an election. For example, you can get a printed set of mailing labels for addresses in the City for a fee. A guide to the Mount Rainier election process is available at City Hall.

**If you are asked to sign a petition** for a candidate for council you must live in the ward in which the person is running and you may sign only one such petition.

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

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## Mayor's Report

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*by Mayor Bryan Knedler*

A little over two years ago, I was elected as mayor in a special election after the resignation of Mayor Lawson. On May 2 you will be asked to vote for a new mayor. As I announced on Feb. 1, my name will not appear on that ballot. It has been an honor to serve the City as an elected official for nearly 8 years; the last 2 as your mayor.

My major reasons for seeking the office were to keep the City focused on the arts-oriented revitalization, to support the reforms being made by the then new city manager, Jeannelle Wallace, and Police Chief Fred Keeney. I wanted to help bring stability to a city government that had been through a rocky period of several council membership changes, as well as multiple changes with key City Hall staff. Those goals have been achieved. We have topnotch managers now, the city finances are on the upswing, the police department is winning awards, crime is down, and there is no stopping the arts-fueled revitalization.

Because the May election will determine the new mayor and two council seats, I urge you to please register to vote and participate in the election if you are eligible. While the arts district is taking shape and positive changes are occurring, you should never underestimate the importance of a single vote on the Council. In eight years, I can recall a single vote deciding who was appointed to an open council seat, who became city manager, and whether to challenge the Bass liquor license. The lack of a vote meant that Joe's Movement Emporium did not receive \$150,000 in state financial assistance. And I have seen several budgets and tax rates passed on 3/2 votes.

Closing this chapter in my life, I look back and see so many things both big and small for which I am proud.

Fighting to cleanup Bass Liquors is definitely at the top of my list of accomplishments even if we have not quite completely finished the fight. Over the objection of several council members and some vocal citizens over the years, we kept pushing and that pressure must be continued. The fence at the rear of the property was something I advocated and it has made a huge positive impact on the quality of life for the homes in that neighborhood. Stopping the practice of allowing our police officers to work there has vastly improved the attitude of citizens toward our PD.

A second top accomplishment would be my support of Chief Keeney and the astounding turnaround our police department has made. I was a sharp critic of the department prior to Keeney's hiring as many of you will recall. Today we have a PD that is winning international recognition, keeping the overall crime rate down, and truly interacting with the community in a positive manner.

My support of City Manager Wallace has not wavered. With her many years of city management experience, she has succeeded in collecting revenues long due to us, kept expenses under control, and made excellent choices in hiring her support staff.

Something else for which I am proud is my constant work to communicate information to my constituents--especially through reports here in the newsletter and with my weekly updates e-mailed to about 200 households. I also was the first advocate for a city website. Today it is used by many residents and is also a marketing tool for people interested in investing here.

While on Council, I helped decide on the design of our new police station and the Route 1 roundabout. I

drafted many ordinances and resolutions (top of the list being the city noise ordinance). I have consistently supported measures that would improve the quality of life for city residents. We have continued to strengthen codes dealing with property maintenance and vacant buildings.

I am also proud of smaller things: the trees I planted; the rebuilding of Richardson Park with money from a grant I wrote; traffic-calming measures; the night-time lighting of the gazebo (Councilmember Jackson and I lobbied for that).

I am also thankful for the many residents who have volunteered to be on our various committees and boards--many at my urging. Without that citizen involvement, this city would be a much less livable place. And proud of the way we have insisted on public input at hearings and workshops over the years--topics that range from designs for the roundabout, police station, and Artspace.

I am also very proud of the diversity and tolerance we have cultivated in this city. What was once a stronghold of segregation has become known for its progressive politics. The council has reflected that tolerance and diversity with election of Muslim and Christian and atheist; property owners and tenants; heterosexual and homosexual; all ages; high school and college graduates; and the election of black, white, and Latino members.

Three arts related projects for which I am proud even if I cannot take much credit for them are Artspace, the new Joe's Movement Emporium on Bunker Hill Road, and the Housing Initiative Partnership's Artist Apartments at Perry and 33rd.

Next month, in my final Mayor's Report, I will give some thoughts on the city's future.

## From the Police Chief

### MRPD Jobs Information

Visit our website to check for job opportunities here at MRPD. If a job opportunity is available, e-mail us your resume at [MRPDJobs@mountrainiermd.org](mailto:MRPDJobs@mountrainiermd.org).

### Car Been Stolen? You're Not Alone!

Sixty one percent (61%) of our crime is related to vehicles being stolen, broken into or vandalized. What are we doing? We have focused our attention to areas where the thefts occur, conducted extensive community educational meetings, listed stolen auto information in every Message issue for three years, sold or gave away anti-theft devices, put together a task force, made arrests and put people in jail. Our proximity to the District provides opportunity for interstate flight of automobiles. Car owners must take advantage of means to protect their cars by employing the anti theft steering wheel locks, alarms, locking the car and removing valuables from sight. It is also helpful to park your car in a lighted area.

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

### Crime Down Again

Regardless of our auto theft crime, overall crime that we report to the Maryland State Police and ultimately to the FBI for Uniform Crime report purposes is down by over 6%. We reported thirty-six (36) less crimes in 2004 than we did in 2003. Our arrests increased dramatically by 91%.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL	CHANGE
HOMICIDE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	3	50%
RAPE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-100%
ROBBERY	7	4	6	4	2	1	5	6	4	2	8	6	55	-27%
ASSAULT	4	0	1	2	0	1	3	5	12	3	5	7	43	-2%
BURGLARY	4	9	7	2	5	4	8	15	3	6	3	4	70	-13%
LARCENY	18	9	21	18	22	13	26	43	19	22	27	14	252	-6%
AUTO THEFT	18	16	12	20	22	20	21	13	12	7	10	16	187	9%
ARSON													1	-100%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>-6%</b>

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
HOMICIDE	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
RAPE	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
ROBBERY	7	3	4	9	4	6	7	8	9	8	4	6	75
ASSAULT	2	3	0	2	4	7	4	4	2	4	4	8	44
BURGLARY	10	5	6	9	5	8	4	4	6	5	9	9	80
LARCENY	14	14	13	28	19	18	29	34	29	33	21	17	269
AUTO THEFT	7	7	7	21	14	20	21	21	13	14	8	18	171
ARSON													5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>648</b>

	2004	2003	Change
ARRESTS	463	242	91%
OFFICERS ASSAULTED	2	9	

### January 2005 Statistic's Report

#### Assaults (5)

4300 Block of Russell Ave.  
3300 Block of Chillum Rd.  
2300 Block of Varnum St.  
3400 Block of 30<sup>th</sup> St.  
4000 Block of 36<sup>th</sup> St.

#### Breaking and Entering (3)

3200 Block of Arundel Rd.  
4300 Block of 34<sup>th</sup> St.  
4200 Block of Eastern Ave.

#### Robberies (4)

31<sup>st</sup> St @ Shepherd St.  
2700 Block of Arundel Rd.  
4000 Block of 37<sup>th</sup> St.  
3300 Block of Chillum Rd.

#### Stolen Autos (9)

4600 Block of 27<sup>th</sup> St.  
3300 Block of Chillum Rd.  
2700 Block of Upshur St.  
2900 Block of Arundel Rd.  
3100 Block of Queenstown Dr.  
3300 Block of Buchanan St.  
3100 Block of Queens Chapel Rd.  
4200 Block of 28<sup>th</sup> St.  
4200 Block of 29<sup>th</sup> St.

#### Theft (11)

3400 Block of 34<sup>th</sup> St.  
3000 Block of Arundel Rd.  
4300 Block of Kaywood Dr.  
2300 Block of Varnum St.(2)  
3100 Block of Queens Chapel Rd.(3)  
3300 Block of Chillum Rd.(2)  
4700 Block of 31<sup>st</sup> Pl.

#### Vandalism (5)

3600 Block of Oak Ln. (2)  
3100 Block of Varnum St.  
4100 Block of Russell Ave.  
2500 Block of Arundel Rd.

#### Arrests (15)

Adults - 15  
Juveniles - 0

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## Earth Day Everyday, March 19

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The Mount Rainier Nature/Recreation Center in partnership with the City of Mount Rainier will be sponsoring "Earth Day Every Day" March 19, 2005 from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the Mount Rainier Nature/Recreation Center, 4701 31st Place, Mt. Rainier, MD 20712. Activities will include a kickoff for America In Bloom (AIB), the Trash Bash Game, Who Polluted the Bay, Moon Bounce, food, and lots of other activities and entertainment. There will be a \$3 fee for children 3 years and up.

Vendors and others interested in participating in this activity may call Paula McNeil 301-927-2163 or TTY 301-699-2544; or Jack Engel 301-779-7956 or Malinda Miles 301-699-1378. Tables for vendors are available and FREE. Residents are invited to come out and learn about America In Bloom, soil conditioning, recycling, low impact development (LID), and to just have fun.

Bring the children. There will be something for everyone to do!

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## Drainage Nuisances

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The Mount Rainier City Code Sec. 3-114 forbids draining roof or surface water in a manner that creates a structural or health hazard, or any other nuisance to the adjacent properties. The National Building Officials and Code Administration (BOCA) Code Sec. 304.7 also forbids draining roof water onto adjacent properties. Please check your downspouts, sump-pump drainage tiles, and other water that flows from your property to make sure they are not creating a problem for your neighbors.

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

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**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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## 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.

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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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## Youth Recreation Programs

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### 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>

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## Public Hearing on Parking and Vehicle Traffic on 34th Street Corridor

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Date: Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Discussion on how to address issues regarding on-street parking, traffic flow, and street lane markings along 34th Street.

### 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.]

### 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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## MRBA Meeting Notice

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### Quarterly Meeting

Date: Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Mount Rainier Police Station

- Presentation by Gable Signs and Graphics Company
- Committee Reports
- Food and refreshments will be served

For more information, contact Larry Solomon at 301-927-0014.

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## Call for Volunteers

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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.

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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.

## 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>.

## Neighbors United for Justice and Peace

You are invited to "A Community Forum" (A monthly series of public events addressing pressing social issues facing our neighborhood, our country, the world, and life on our planet)

TOPIC: "The end of Suburbia: Oil Depletion and the collapse of the American Dream"

This forum revolves around the showing of the video "The End of Suburbia: Oil Depletion and the Collapse of the American Dream," followed by a discussion of the implications for our communities. The film is 78 minutes in length. It has been shown at film festivals and community gatherings like ours around the world.

DAY: Sunday, March 6, 2005

TIME: 4:00–6:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Mount Rainier City Hall, Second Floor (at the corner of Rhode Island Ave., Perry Street and 34th Street near the round-about and Metro bus stop)

ADDRESS: One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712

DIRECTIONS: If traveling by car on Rte 1 / Rhode Island Ave (towards Baltimore) approach the Mount Rainier "roundabout" and take a right off the roundabout on to Perry St and park. If traveling by bus take a bus route that stops at the above address. Exit the bus and enter at City Hall nearby.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please contact Joe Robbins at e-mail [robbins629@msn.com](mailto:robbins629@msn.com) or 301-927-3838. Refreshments and Childcare Available

*Neighbors United for Justice and Peace is made up of Greater Washington area neighbors primarily from Mount Rainier, Brentwood and Hyattsville, MD who gather monthly to discuss and take action on pressing social issues and challenges that face our neighborhood and the world.*

## Public Forum: A New Library?

Followup discussion on existing and proposed usage of 3409 Rhode Island Avenue. Presentation by Neighborhood Design Center and Architect on Preliminary Proposals.

Date: Thursday, March 10, 2005  
 Time: 7:00 p.m.  
 Location: City Hall, Upper Level,  
**One Municipal Place,  
 Mount Rainier, MD 20712**

A brief tour of the Mount Rainier Public Library will be conducted prior to the presentation.

Discussion facilitation by:

- Jan Townshend, Program Manager
- Peter Cook, Principal, Architect
- Neighborhood Design Center
- KGP Design Studio

The City strongly encourages residents, property owners and business owners to attend this forum. The City is actively seeking community input on current and proposed usage for city property located at 3409 Rhode Island Avenue.

For further information, please contact:

- Jan Townshend, Neighborhood Design Center  
 Phone: 301-779-6010  
 E-mail: [jtowshend@ndc-md.org](mailto:jtowshend@ndc-md.org)
- James Booth, Assistant City Manager  
 Phone: 301-985-6585  
 E-mail: [JBooth@mountrainiermd.org](mailto:JBooth@mountrainiermd.org)

Beverages and light refreshments will be available.

## Spring 2005 Economic Development Summit

The City of Mount Rainier held its first Economic Development Summit on Tuesday, February 22, 2005 at City Hall. The event was a major success. Over 50 business owners, property owners, residents, developers, county, city, and neighboring city elected officials and staff attended the event.

The panelist/ presenters were: Councilmember Pedro Briones, Ward 2; Assistant City Manager James Booth, Director of Economic Development; Stuart Eisenberg, Council President, Councilmember Ward 2 City of Hyattsville; David Warrington, Town Administrator, Town of Cheverly; Sam Parker, Associate Director, Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County; Larry Solomon, President, Mount Rainier Business Association (MRBA); Brooke Kidd, Executive Director, World Arts Focus; Nick Francis, Executive Director, Gateway CDC; Angela Blocker, Program Officer, Gateway CDC; and Anne L'Ecuyer, Americans for the Arts. There were representatives from Congressman Chris Van Hollen's Office, DC City Council, Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation, regional financial institutions, area developers, current and future business owners.

Councilmember Pedro Briones facilitated the discussion of the panel. Stuart Eisenberg, Council President, Ward 2 of the City of Hyattsville made a dynamic presentation and provided the attendees with an overview of the planned development in Hyattsville of the Lustine properties that were recently proposed by Eakin Youngentob Associates. Mr. Eisenberg provided insight into some of the challenges that Mount Rainier will have to face as it progresses with the implementation of its Urban Renewal Plan. He emphasized that developers, property owners and businesses are required to strictly adhere to the guidelines outlined in Hyattsville's Community Legacy Revitalization Plan.

Town Administrator David Warrington provided an overview of

economic development activities in the Town of Cheverly. Mr. Warrington explained the process the Cheverly used to acquire properties through eminent domain through a joint effort between the Town of Cheverly and the Prince George's County Redevelopment Authority.

Sam Parker of the Redevelopment Authority discussed redevelopment plans along the Route 1 Corridor.

Regarding existing major development projects within Mount Rainier, Brooke Kidd (World Arts Focus), provided an update on Joe's Movement Emporium's new space; Nick Francis and Angela Blocker, both of Gateway CDC, shared information about the major progress and scheduled grand opening of the new Artspace Building. Anne L'Ecuyer presented an exciting commentary on the value and contributions that cultural institutions and the arts entertainment industry bring to the economy.

Overall, the panelists addressed concerns regarding the challenges of economic development and redevelopment, service delivery challenges for government entities, neighborhood revitalization, business recruitment and retention, state and county initiatives, and the County's growing arts and entertainment community.

Refreshments were catered by future Mount Rainier business/ restaurant—Brown's Adventurous Flavors.

The City plans to host a similar event in the fall of 2005.

The Mayor and Council commended James Booth, Assistant City Manager/ Director of Economic Development for his efforts in putting together a professional summit that showcased the City's resources and economic potential.

Mount Rainier extends its thanks and appreciation to all the participants and attendees.

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## Beautification Committee/Historic Mount Rainier in Bloom 2005

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### Calendar of Events

- *Tuesday, March 1.* Two contests open for the design of two new street banners which will be placed on Rhode Island Avenue, Perry Street, 34th Street, Bunker Hill, and Varnum Street for the Mount Rainier Business District: (1) Spring theme banner Historic Mount Rainier In Bloom featuring spring blooms from: bulbs, trees, shrubs, perennials, which can be found in Mount Rainier gardens; and, (2) Summer theme banner Historic Mount Rainier In Bloom featuring summer blooms which can be found in Mount Rainier gardens. The winner of each design selected will receive a prize of \$100. Applications may be obtained at City Hall. Deadline for submission of entries is Friday, April 1.
- *Thursday, March 10.* Mount Rainier Elementary PTO Sidewalk Bake Sale, 2:30–3:30 p.m. (Fund raiser for the Beautification Committee plants/landscaping for school.) Sale will be inside the main entrance to the school in the event of rain or temperatures below 45 degrees.
- *Thursday, March 10.* Elementary School (Mount Rainier and Thomas Stone) Poster Contest opens. Posters will be in black and shades of gray on white paper 17" x 22". Posters will promote residents and businesses participation/support of the City's entry in the 2005 America In Bloom contest. Pupils in grades 4–6 are eligible to enter the contest. Winning posters will be reproduced and displayed in the windows of Mount Rainier businesses on Rhode Island Avenue, Perry Street, 34th Street and Varnum Street. Three winners will be selected from each school. First Prize: \$25.00; Second Prize: Art Supplies; Third Prize: Pair of Movie Tickets. Deadline for submission of posters: Friday, March 18.
- *Saturday, March 12.* Brookside Gardens (Wheaton) Annual Camellia Show, noon–5 p.m. Free! Location: Visitor's Center. Come and meet our internationally recognized Camellia expert Dr. Bill Ackerman who developed at the National Arboretum the hardy Camellias which are available today. Learn how easy it is to grow these beautiful shrubs from one of the Chapter's members. The colors and shapes of the blooms have as much diversity as our residents in Mount Rainier. Some bloom in the Winter and others bloom in early Spring. Save a bundle of money and buy your camellias here. Our own chair, Jack Engel, will be happy to carry your purchases to your car. Sale of plants begins at 9 a.m. Plan to arrive early. While at Brookside be sure to visit their Conservatory and see their famous and spectacular Spring displays.
- *Sunday, March 13.* Brookside Gardens (Wheaton) Annual Camellia Show, noon–4 p.m. Free. Location: Visitor's Center. The Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley's Camellia Show closes early today.
- *Thursday, March 17.* Spotlight Yard of the week contest begins. Each week in both Ward 1 and Ward 2, by judges will review nominations for the best year. Spotlight Yard Procedures will be available at City Hall and will be posted to the City's website.
- *Friday, March 18.* Deadline for submission of Elementary School Posters promoting residents and businesses participation/support of the City's entry in the 2005 America In Bloom contest.
- *Saturday, March 19.* (Week 1) Judges vote for nominees: Ward 1 and Ward 2 Spotlight Yard of the Week. Nominees will be posted on City Website.
- *Saturday, March 19.* Earth Day/Every Day/America In Bloom Contest Kick-Off. Nature Center, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
- *Tuesday, March 22.* Mayor Knedler announces winners of Ward 1 and Ward 2. Spotlight Yard of the Week at City Council Work Session. Mayor Knedler also announces the winners of the Elementary School Poster Contest. All winners are notified by phone.
- *Wednesday, March 23.* Signs to be posted in each Ward for week's winning yard. Winners posted on City Website.
- *Thursday, March 24.* Judges nominate Ward 1 and 2 yards for Spotlight Yard of the Week.
- *Saturday, March 26.* (Week 2) Judges vote for nominees, Ward 1 and Ward 2, Spotlight Yard of the Week. Nominees posted on City Website.
- *Tuesday, March 29.* Mayor Knedler announces winners Spotlight Yard of the Week. Winners are notified by phone.
- *Thursday, March 31.* Judges nominate Ward 1 and 2 Spotlight Yard of the Week.
- *Friday, April 1.* Deadline for submission of designs of two new Business District Street Banners.
- Tentative date: Saturday, April 2nd. BIG BLOOMING YARD

SALE. Location/Time: Tool Shed 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Bring your donations for this fund raiser (plants and materials) to the Tool Shed between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m. Jason Donaldson has offered to organize this event. If you have any questions leave them in his voice mail at 240-691-4279. Thanks Jason for suggesting this fund raiser and volunteering to organize it. Rain Date: Sunday, April 3, 1–4 p.m. Bring your donations between 11:30 a.m. and noon.

- *Saturday, April 2.* Seminar: Beautification of Your Yard. Part I. Tool Shed back yard. 1–3 p.m. (In the event of rain or cold weather below 50 degrees, the location will be City Hall, 2nd floor.) Listen to some of your neighbors describe their efforts, problems and how they solved them. Some of them have gone on to win coveted awards from the county for their gardening efforts. A few basic principles can be very helpful. Come prepared to take notes and we will also have some handouts for you. We also will show you some of our new tools which might be helpful while working on your yard. Part II will be Saturday, April 9. 1–3 p.m.

Now is the time to make your plans and prepare to compete in the contest sponsored jointly by the Tool Shed Committee and the Beautification Committee. We are offering a \$300. First Prize; \$200. Second Prize and a \$100. Third Prize. Duplicate prizes will be awarded in Wards 1 and 2 a total of \$600 for the six *Most Improved Yards* in the city three from Ward 1 and three from Ward 2.

How do we evaluate the degree of improvement? You will provide us with photos of your yard taken this spring of the areas of your yard where you will improve the beauty with flowers, shrubs and/or trees and possibly a small pond, fountain,

sculpture or something whimsical which will bring a smile to everyone's face. Those will be your Before photos. Then when you have completed your project, take photos of the completed project. Those will be your After photos. Finally, pick up an application at City Hall. On the application you will provide the following, in addition to your name, address and phone number and e-mail address, if you have one:

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

Attach your before and after photos, each dated on the back, & also with your address. Put everything in an envelop marked Most Improved Yard Contest Ward 1 (or Ward 2) and drop it off at City Hall NLT Thursday, May 12. A distinguished panel of judges (who are not residents of Mount Rainier) will begin judging that weekend. The winners from each ward will be announced by our new Mayor during the Mount Rainier Day festivities, May 21.

- *Saturday, April 2.* (Week 3) Judges vote for nominees Spotlight Yard of the Week and Spotlight Yard of the Month (March). Nominees for both categories posted ASAP on City's Website.
- *Tuesday, April 5.* Mayor Knedler announces winners of Spotlight Yard of the Week and Spotlight Yard of the Month at the City Council Meeting. Mayor Knedler will also announce the winners of the contest for the designs of the two new Business District Street Banners. All winners are notified by phone.

- *Wednesday, April 6.* Public Works posts signs in Week 3 winners yards and posts Monthly winners signs in Wards 1 and 2 winners yards. All winners posted ASAP on City Website.

NOTE: Nominations and voting for winners by Judges for Ward 1 and 2 Spotlight Yard of the Week and Spotlight Yard of the Month continues on the same schedule as above thru mid October.

- *Saturday, April 9.* Beltsville Garden Club Plant Sale. High Point High School. 8 a.m.–noon.
- *Saturday, April 9.* Seminar, Beautification of Your Yard Part II. Tool Shed. 1–3 p.m. In the event of rain or cool weather below 50 degrees, this will be held at City Hall, 2nd floor.
- *Friday, April 15.* Prelude to tomorrow Big Day. Plant flowers in public spaces. 4:30–7 p.m.
- *Saturday, April 16.* 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Plant flowers in Public Spaces 5:30–7 p.m. Thank-You Picnic (Planting Volunteers—ticket required.)
- *Sunday, April 17.* Rain date Planting flowers & Picnic. Same hours.
- *Thursday, May 13.* Deadline for submission to City Hall of Before and After photos of your yard/garden project and completed application. Judging begins Saturday, May 14th.
- *Saturday, May 21.* Mount Rainier Day. Mayor announces winners Ward 1 and 2—Most Improved Yard/Gardens. 1st Prize: \$300. 2nd Prize \$200. 3rd Prize \$100. Duplicate prizes will be awarded.
- *Saturday, May 21.* Mount Rainier Day. Mayor presents Certificates of Appreciation to residents who have volunteered to participate in City's Adopt a Public Space Garden program.

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## Community Tool Shed

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The Community Tool Shed is located at 3601 Bunker Hill Road. For information, call 301-779-0133 or send an e-mail to [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.

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

March tips:

- March is a good time to prune trees and shrubs, but not all of them! Some plants flower on last year's growth, not new growth. Know your plants before you cut. If you prune your azaleas and rhododendrons now, you won't have any flowers this year!
- Make a post-winter roof inspection. Roof problems can cause extensive and expensive damage to your home. The Tool Shed has ladders that can help you make that visual inspection and tools to help you make repairs.
- Inspect your deck or porch. Look for loose nails and boards or for rotted boards that need to be fixed or replaced after the harsh winter weather. The Tool Shed has cordless power saws and drills along with a variety of hand tools to help make repairs. If it just needs a cleaning, stop by for a power washer.
- If you're waiting for warm weather to open those windows and paint some rooms, don't forget to borrow a power paint sprayer from the Tool Shed.

- If you are planning to clear the rest of last autumn's leaves, the Tool Shed has a vacuum blower, rakes, and wheelbarrows to help.

### Spring Workshops

The first Tool Shed workshop on Backyard Composting and Integrated Pest Management will be held Saturday, March 12, 2005 at 10 a.m. at the Tool Shed.

In coordination with Mount Rainier's America in Bloom entry we are hosting the Prince George's County Master Gardener's Program (University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service) who will explain how you can turn your yard waste into beneficial compost that will lead to better gardens and landscaping. We will also discuss integrated pest management, an approach to pest control that relies on common sense practices rather than depending exclusively on pesticides. Learn how information about pests' life cycles can help you control them with fewer hazards to people and the environment.

*Plant swap:* The Tool Shed is planning a community plant swap in April which will also support our America in Bloom entry. 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 will 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.

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## Building Permit Required for All Exterior Changes to a Property

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The Mayor and Council adopted an ordinance on March 1, 2005 that requires a building permit for all exterior changes to a property within the mixed use town center zone. City building permits for exterior changes in this zone will not be issued without proof that the Town Center Design Review Committee has approved the plans. County law requires that all exterior changes in the MUTC zone be reviewed by the Town Center Design Review Committee. Contact James Booth, Assistant City Manager, at City Hall for details on the process. Stop work orders will be issued for projects lacking a city building permit.

Note that this new requirement is more stringent than current county law which requires building permits only for structural changes, fences, and some types of signage.

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## The Conflict Resolution Center (CRC)

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### Reverencing our Community Elders

- Session 8—Friday, March 11, 2005: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (Additional narrative description of program) Participants will present the final community class project.

A panel of community senior citizens will share with our youth the value of respecting people. They will discuss issues that impact their community and together, the seniors and youth will create a community empowerment plan.

Dr. Norris-Baker's contact e-mail is: [jnorriskbaker@hotmail.com](mailto:jnorriskbaker@hotmail.com).

The program is held weekly at Mount Rainier City Hall from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**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.

**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.

# March–April calendar

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| <p>Mar. 1 Mayor and Council Meeting</p> <p>Mar. 2 Regular Trash Pick Up</p> <p>Mar. 4 Circuit Court hearing on Bass appeal 9:00 am<br/>Recyclables Pick Up</p> <p>Mar. 7 Bulk Trash (by appointments only)&amp; Yard Waste Pick Up</p> <p>Mar. 8 Council Work Session</p> <p>Mar. 9 Regular Trash Pick Up</p> <p>Mar. 10 Public Forum on 3409 Rhode Island Avenue Property<br/>Library / Old Police Station / Congressman’s Office, 7–9 p.m.<br/>Tour of Mount Rainier Library prior to Public Forum</p> <p>Mar. 11 Recyclables Pick Up</p> <p>Mar. 12 Tool Shed Workshop, Composting and Integrated Pest<br/>Management, 3601 Bunker Hill Road, 10 a.m.</p> <p>Mar. 14 Yard Waste Pick Up<br/>Joe’s Groundbreaking at 3309 Bunker Hill</p> <p>Mar. 15 Mayor and Council</p> <p>Mar. 16 Regular Trash Pick Up<br/>Town Center Design Review Committee, 6:15 p.m., City Hall<br/>MUTC Committee</p> <p>Mar. 18 Recyclables Pick Up</p> <p>Mar. 19 1:00-3:00p.m. Gateway CDC Membership Meeting.<br/>Location TBA.</p> <p>Mar. 21 Bulk Trash (by appointments only) &amp; Yard waste Pick Up</p> | <p>Mar. 22 work session on budget</p> <p>Mar. 23 Regular Trash Pick Up</p> <p>Mar. 25 Recyclables Pick Up</p> <p>Mar. 28 Yard Waste Pick Up</p> <p>Mar. 30 Regular Trash Pick Up</p> <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</p> <p>April 8 Recyclables Pick Up</p> <p>April 11 Yard Waste Pick Up</p> <p>April 13 Regular Trash Pick Up</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</p> <p>April 22 Recyclables Pick Up</p> <p>April 25 Yard Waste Pick Up</p> <p>April 27 Regular Trash Pick Up</p> <p>April 29 Recyclables Pick Up</p> <p>Starting March every Monday will be Yard waste Day no appoint-<br/>ments necessary. Please have all bulk trash out by 7:00 a.m. on bulk<br/>trash day and all appointments made before 12 noon on the Friday<br/>preceding bulk trash day.</p> |
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www.mountrainiermd.org

*Mayor*

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

bknedler@mountrainiermd.org

*City Manager*

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

jwallace@mountrainiermd.org

*Asst. City Manager*

**James Booth**  
301-985-6585

fax: 301-985-6595

jbooth@mountrainiermd.org

*Councilmembers*

*Ward 1*

**Carol Gandee**  
301-277-6377

cgandee@mountrainiermd.org

*Intisar Haamid*

301-864-3418

IHaamid@mountrainiermd.org

*Ward 2*

**Malinda Miles**  
301-699-1378

MMiles@mountrainiermd.org

**Pedro Briones**

301-277-1833

PBriones@mountrainiermd.org

*Message*

**Terry Kelly**  
301-779-7857

tkelly60@aol.com

## Important Numbers

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

47th District Reps  
301-858-3745

Sen. Gwendolyn Britt  
301-858-3326

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

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

City Code Enforcement Office  
301-985-6551

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

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

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

Child Abuse  
and Neglect Hotline  
301-699-8605

Congressman Chris Van Hollen's  
Mount Rainier Office Information:

3409 Rhode Island Avenue  
301-927-5223 (voice)  
301-927-6122 (fax)

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

Consumer Affairs  
301-470-7534

County Animal Control  
301-499-8301

County Building Permits  
301-883-5784

County Executive  
Jack Johnson  
301-952-4131

County Councilman  
Will Campos  
301-952-4436

Energy Assistance  
301-422-5110

Family Services  
301-699-2680

Fire Department  
301-985-5406 (non-emergency)  
911 (emergency)

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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March 2005 Message  
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