



# Message

Issue 240  
July/August 2006

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The deadline for submissions for the Message is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

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

**PUBLIC HEARING ON  
BASKETBALL  
COURT/PARK  
IMPROVEMENTS 37TH  
AND WELLS AVENUE –  
JULY 25, 2006 7:00 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**



**Tuesday, August 1, 2006  
6pm to 9pm  
Thomas Stone Elem.  
School  
4500 34th Street  
Mount Rainier, MD**

**2006 National Night Out  
Against Crime**

***"How's Your Chili?"***

National Night Out was introduced by the National Association of Town Watch back in 1984, and was the brainchild of executive Director Matt A. Peskin. Director Peskin said, "It's a wonderful opportunity for communities nationwide to promote

police-community partnerships, crime prevention, and neighborhood camaraderie. While one night is certainly not an answer to crime, drugs and violence, National Night Out does represent the kind of spirit, energy and determination that is helping to make many neighborhoods safer places throughout the year. It is a night to celebrate crime prevention successes – and to expand and strengthen programs for the next 364 days."

The traditional 'lights on' and front porch vigils continue to be a core part of National Night Out, and over the years activities have expanded to include block parties, cookouts, parades, festivals, neighborhood walks, safety fairs, rallies and neighborhood watch meetings. National Night out is designed to:

- Heighten awareness of drug and crime prevention efforts
- Generate support and participation in crime prevention efforts
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community relations
- Send a message to criminals to let them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back

Here in Mount Rainier, this year's National Night Out celebration will take place on Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup> from 6 PM to 9 PM on the grounds of Thomas Stone Elementary School. As many of you know, beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, we begin our community policing contract and partnership with the Town of Brentwood. Thomas Stone was selected because

of its proximity to Brentwood, and will hopefully give us the opportunity to share the evening's activities with Brentwood residents.

For this year's NNO, we want to reach out to our Latino residents in a big way. We will have local Latino businesses on hand to display their products and services. We will distribute crime prevention materials that specifically address Latino victims. And, in addition to our usual slate of entertainers, and a Latin band will entertain us for part of the evening.

So, how's *your* chili? Is your recipe the envy of family and friends? Has the fire department requested prior notification before your guests are served? Has the National Antacid Association declared you a vital industry asset? Then National Night Out is the chance to strut your stuff. Bring your best chili concoction and challenge Corporal Vic Kenworthy's secret family recipe for the right to be crowned Mount Rainier's "Chili Champion."

***Remember:  
The best crime  
prevention tool is a  
good neighbor!***

At the time of this writing, we have not finalized all the events and activities for this year's National Night Out. We will post additional information on the City's web site and cable channel as it becomes available. You can also check in with the Chief's Blog at [www.mrpdchief.blogspot.com](http://www.mrpdchief.blogspot.com) where I will post updates to the NNO schedule.

**Noise Ordinance Amended:  
Limits Placed on Permits;  
Quiet Hours Extended**

The Mayor and Council amended

the city's noise ordinance on June 6th. Noise permits allow the property owner to exceed the usual 50 foot limit for amplified sound (stereos, radios, speakers). Per the amendments, the permit will allow amplified sound to travel up to 200 feet from the source during day-time hours (the prior law had no limit at all). The permit is valid for a 5 hour period (prior law had no limit) and only 1 permit can be issued to a property within a 30 day period. Up to 4 permits per property are allowed each year (no change from existing law).

During the daytime, no permit is needed if your outdoor party has no amplified noise sources that can be heard more than 50 feet from the property. Most other noise during the day is unrestricted.

Quiet night-time hours now begin at 8 pm rather than the former 10 pm. Exception is on Saturday night which is still 10 pm. Loud noise that can be heard more than 50 feet from its source must cease at 8 pm on most nights (including barking dogs, yelling, car radios, stereos). There are various exceptions (emergency vehicles, etc.). Daytime hours begin at 8 a.m. (no change from existing law).

The full-text of the city's noise ordinance can be found in the City Code at Sec. 10-121. To obtain a noise permit, contact City Hall. (301) 985-6585.

**Trip for Kids Metro DC  
"Benefit" at Franklin's  
July 11**

After a day of cycling, is there any better way to re-fuel than to head over to Franklin's in Hyattsville?

Trip for Kids Metro DC is gearing up with Franklin's for a 20% day, meaning TFK Metro DC receives 20% of your tab for the entire day, be it restaurant or store purchases. And since TFK/DC was the major force behind the formation of the Mt. Rainier Bike Co-op, visiting Franklin's on July 11 is a great way to say

thanks! All proceeds are earmarked for TFK Metro DC's activities in Prince Georges County, which at this point includes bike coop operations and TFK rides organized by the coop.

To start the day, there will be a mountain bike ride at Ft. DuPont. Then participants head over to Franklin's for dinner and drinks. Members of the band Reverb Galaxy (who reside in Prince Georges) will be there, and TFK/DC will be giving out tickets to the July 26th TFK benefit show at DC Nine that will feature Reverb (a great surf band) and No Second Troy (a major breaking group).

Tickets for the benefit are on sale or can be purchased at the door. For more info, visit [www.ttkmerodcorg](http://www.ttkmerodcorg). Franklin's web site is [www.franklinsbrewery.com](http://www.franklinsbrewery.com).

TFK/DC was and is the driving (cycling?) force in the formation of the Mt. Rainier Bike Co-op by providing tools and expertise for city residents to maintain their bikes or build new ones from available parts and frames. We also partner with TFK on bike rides tailored especially for kids and teens. Without TFK's backing, there would not be a Bike Co-op, so they deserve our support at Franklin's, and Co-op supporters deserve a great meal!

**Interview with Nisey Baylor**

*By James Booth, Assistant City  
Manager, Director of Economic  
Development*

Today, we are talking with Nisey Baylor, Manager and Owner of Nisey's Boutique located at 4007 34<sup>th</sup> Street in the Mount Rainier Town Center.

**James:** Nisey, Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to talk with me today.

**Nisey:** You're welcome. It's great to have you at Nisey's Boutique.

**James:** Nisey, how long have you owned and operated Nisey's Boutique in Mount Rainier? Has the area changed since you first located

your business in the City?

**Nisey:** Wow, how time does fly... I can't believe it has been almost nine years. A lot of those years we were getting established, so I would say five solid years. Mount Rainier has changed since I opened here about nine years ago. It has definitely changed for the better over the years.

**James:** What have you learned in terms of business survival techniques and strategies that you can pass on to new Mount Rainier businesses in their first or second year of operation? What advice would you give to a business that is struggling to survive and keep it's doors open?

**Nisey:** I treat customers with respect and gratitude for stopping in. I provide the personal touch that customers do not receive at the larger stores and shopping malls. I want customers to have a great first experience and to keep coming back. Customers have choices, they can shop anywhere, even online. So you have to give your customers a reason for wanting to stop and shop at your store as well as return as a repeat customer. Service, quality products, and a welcoming atmosphere are key ingredients to business success.

**James:** Any plans for the future? New products or services? Different focus? Special events?

**Nisey:** Yes, there are many plans for the future. Nisey's Boutique is starting our annual summer sale. Everything in the store is on sale. Also, I plan to host several summer social events, which will include, business discussions, how to workshops, and workshops for the love of working, etc.

**James:** How do you generate business and attract customers to shop at Nisey's Boutique?

**Nisey:** I generate business by (1) advertising...a must, (2) having an eye for unique products through word of mouth, and (3) a lot of my customers want to support my

business, that's a big plus.

**James:** What suggestions do you have for increasing foot/ pedestrian traffic along the 34<sup>th</sup> Street business corridor?

**Nisey:** My suggestions for increasing foot traffic along the 34<sup>th</sup> Street business area, holds true for anywhere in the City. You have to make sure the area is clean, well lit, and safe. You have to make the area attractive.. put flowers out, make your windows look wonderful and inviting, make your store a place where people want to stop and shop or at least browse, people are always stopping by my window display, that makes me feel good because that means I got their attention.

**James:** Are you a member of the Mount Rainier Business Association (MRBA)? And what are the major benefits or advantages of being a member of MRBA?

**Nisey:** Yes, I am a member of the business association. What's missing is active participation and input from Mount Rainier businesses. Just a small handful of businesses attend the meetings and are active. We pay our Association dues whether we are active or not.

Overall, the MRBA can do much more. As a business owner, I want a stronger advocate for business rights and issues. I want a business resource. I want someone who understands the business community because they have a business in the community and they are concerned about my business success just as they are concerned about the success of their own business. I am not sure if we need the Executive Director position, but we definitely need a more active Board of Directors and Elected Officers. I think we have over 20 representatives in MRBA, and I barely know any of them. It would be great if they stopped by our businesses throughout the week and said "Hello, glad you are here" and let me know if "our business

association" can do anything for you.

I wish that the business association would become more active with the Mayor and Council and to work on increasing business promotion within and outside of Mount Rainier. The MRBA has been talking about ValuPak mailings and advertisements in the area papers for years and nothing has been done yet.

I am grateful for all the business initiatives that come out of City Hall. I definitely feel that the City has a committed interest to the businesses. James, I've seen you more times in 2 years than I've seen the MRBA in 9 years.

**James:** What services do you feel the City or the County should offer to it's businesses?

**Nisey:** I think the City is doing an excellent job. A greater police foot patrol presence would be very helpful to make our customers feel safe walking the streets and shopping during the day and evenings. I am excited about the summer youth program, I look forward to working with the youth and providing them with some business training and to get them thinking from an entrepreneurial perspective of starting their own business.

It would help if the City would host special events that might showcase local area businesses or provid local businesses with the opportunity to vend or reach a broader audience (County, State, etc.).

Mount Rainier Day is an excellent activity for businesses.

**James:** Over the coming months or years, what are you excited about in regards to future happenings in Mount Rainier?

**Nisey:** I am excited about the opening of Artmosphere Café, the New Joe's Movement in the old Direct Mail Building, Circle Café, the long-awaited opening of Quest for

Fresh, and the proposed streetscape improvements (sidewalk enhancements and street lighting) along 34<sup>th</sup> Street (funded by the Community Legacy Grant). I am very excited about the redevelopment of the current library and old Police Station.

**James:** Any final thoughts or comments?

**Nisey:** Yes, I consider Mount Rainier as a “Jewel in the Rough” that’s just beginning to shine.

I recently purchased the building in which my business is located. I am vested here and I consider myself a part of the Mount Rainier community. I love giving back to the community. I do not ask “what is the City going to do for me.” I ask what can the City and I do to make the community better for everyone.

**James:** Nisey, thanks again for sharing your business expertise and community insight. And we look forward to your upcoming Business Networking Events and other special activities that you have planned over the next couple of months. And, thank you for choosing Mount Rainier as the place for owning and operating your business.

I recommend every resident of Mount Rainier to stop by Nisey’s Boutique. Nisey’s has an excellent array of wonderful gifts for all occasions (Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Valentine’s Day, special events, anniversaries, graduations, etc.).

To contact Nisey; please call (301) 277-7977 or visit her website at: [www.niseysboutique.com](http://www.niseysboutique.com). If you mention that you read this article about Nisey’s Boutique, Nisey will give you a welcome gift when you visit the store.

Nisey’s Boutique, 4007 34<sup>th</sup> Street, Mount Rainier, MD 20712 (301) 277 - 7977.

## Maryland Foster Care Program

Foster Care is a temporary Service that provides short-term care and supportive services to children who are unable to live at home because of child abuse or neglect. Foster children live in family foster homes and group care settings.

Twenty-three counties in Maryland and Baltimore City operate foster care programs. Foster care caseworkers work with the birth and foster families to develop the most appropriate permanency plan for each child. Reunification with parents, placement with relatives, or adoption are examples of permanency plans. Also, some children receive services that teach them to be independent young adults if for some reason they cannot reunite with their family. The foster care caseworker assists the birth and foster families in obtaining the services, such as counseling and health care, needed to meet the goals of the permanency plan. Each foster care program also works to recruit, train, approve and retain foster care providers.

The Foster Care Program in the State of Maryland features a family to family theme that encourages foster parents to play an active role with the birth family in planning and carrying out the goals of the permanency plan. Using the family to family premise, foster children are placed in homes that are in their own community thereby keeping the children connected to their home school, friends and resources within their neighborhood. Besides offering family to family foster care services, adolescents that are unable to reunite with their family are eligible to receive Independent Living Services that will lead toward self sufficiency.

### Foster Care Program Goals

- To place all foster children into a permanent living arrangement within a maximum of 15 months from the date they entered foster care.

- To increase the number of foster parents willing to work with birth families.
- To assist teenagers in the foster care system in becoming self-sufficient.

Children in foster care are children from your neighborhood. They are children who want to remain attached to their families despite their experiences. They are children whose families need the help of your family. They can be of any race, infants to teenagers, and of either sex. They are abused or neglected, and some have been exposed to domestic violence or substance abuse. However, with your help, these children can overcome the challenges that they face and become happy, confident, and productive members of society.

For additional information, visit the Maryland Foster Care Website at <http://www.dhr.state.md.us/how/chldprnt/foster.htm>.

## Rat Management

If you think you have rats in your neighborhood, there are steps you can take to help get rid of them. Rats need three things: food, water and harborage (shelter).

Poor sanitation and the presence of garbage allows rats to exist in residential areas. Good sanitation will effectively limit the number of rats that can survive in and around the home. This involves good housekeeping, proper storage and handling of food materials and refuse, and elimination of rodent harborage. Remove piles of wood and debris. Rats will find food and water from bird feeders, fountains and ponds, uncovered trash cans, food scraps dropped along the sidewalk, pet droppings, pet food dishes, open restaurant grease drums, and exposed plastic or paper garbage bags. The most successful form of rat control is to “build them out” by making their access to structures impossible. All places where food is stored, processed or used should be rodent-

proof. Store bulk foods, bird seed, and dry pet food in metal trash cans or similar containers. Seal any building openings larger than 1/4 inch to exclude both rats and mice.

Trapping is an effective method of control. It is the preferred method in homes, garages, and other structures where only a few rats are present. Poison baits can be used to treat major infestations. It is recommended that you hire a professional exterminator if you are planning to use rodenticides.

Please make every effort to ensure that your property is kept clear of all trash, animal defecation, and wood piles. This is a great home for rats. Rats will live within 100 feet of a food source, so if you remove their food source, they will move on.

### Controlling Mosquitos

With summer here so is the all too familiar nuisance of mosquitos. Mosquitos can be transmitters of encephalitis, malaria, and yellow fever to humans, and heartworm to pets. Please clear your property of any potential breeding sites for mosquitoes. You can take steps to reduce this menace right at home, since many generations of mosquitoes can breed right in your own yard.

- Get rid of old tires, tin cans, buckets, drums, bottles, or and water holding containers.
- Fill in or drain any low places (puddles, ruts) in yard
- Keep drains, ditches, and culverts clean of weeds and trash so water will drain properly
- Cover trash containers to keep out rain water
- Repair leaky pipes and outside faucets
- Empty plastic wading pool at least once a week and store it indoors when not in use

- Make sure your backyard pool is properly cared for while on vacation
- Fill in tree rot holes and hollow stumps that hold water with sand or concrete
- Change the water in bird baths and plant pots or drip trays at least once a week
- Keep grass cut short and shrubbery well trimmed around the house so adult mosquitoes will not hide there

### “Shoot It, Share It”

Mount Rainier Cable TV is offering area residents and community groups the opportunity to cablecast any self-produced videos that might be of interest to the rest of the City. If you have attended a city event or captured something interesting on video, give us a call. Contact the City of Mt. Rainier Cable TV Department for more information or call (301) 985-6585 and leave a message.

### Mount Rainier Cable TV

Watch the Channel 71 Community Program Bulletin for program updates, schedules, city services and announcements. To place an announcement, submit the information in written form to City Hall or email [gcarbonell@mountrainiermd.org](mailto:gcarbonell@mountrainiermd.org).

### Channel 71 Program Schedule

4PM - Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursday, and Fridays  
(Repeat of videotaped meetings, events, etc.)

7PM - Tuesdays (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>)  
City Council Meetings, Work Sessions, Public Hearings, Live Cablecasts

Programs subject to change without notice

### Smoke Detectors and Insurance Reminders

Have you checked the smoke detector batteries lately? And, with the greatly increased value of our homes, please think about the sufficiency of your insurance coverage. Hide your small valuables (jewelry, credit cards, etc.) instead of leaving them readily available for a burglar. And, leave the porch light burning at night!

### You Need a Building Permit

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.

### Contractor Licenses Required

The Maryland Home Improvement Commission licenses and regulates home improvement contractors, subcontractors and salespersons. Home improvement work includes alteration, remodeling, repair or replacement of a building or part of a building used as a residence. Home improvement also includes work done on individual condominium units. Home improvement does not include work done on commonly owned areas of

condominiums or buildings that contain four or more single family units. The Commission investigates complaints by homeowners, awards monetary damages against licensed contractors, and prosecutes violators of the home improvement law and regulations.

The Commission has a Guaranty Fund (the Fund) established by assessments to contractors. This Fund compensates homeowners for actual monetary losses due to poor workmanship or failure to perform a home improvement contract. The Fund applies only to work done by licensed contractors. Each licensed contractor is covered by the Fund for up to \$100,000 for all claims.

### **Maryland Home Improvement Commission**

500 N. Calvert Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202-3651  
410-230-6309  
1-888-218-5925  
<http://www.dllr.state.md.us/license/occpof/homeim.html>

### **City Permits Required for All Fences**

All fences require City permits. Prior to installing a fence on your property, please contact City Hall at 301-985-6585 and request a copy of the one page fence application and a copy of Ordinance 4-97 which explains the regulations.

City fence permits that do not require variances can usually be obtained within 1 to 2 business days. A permit can be issued once the application is complete, the required property sketch showing the location, height and materials of the proposed fence is submitted and the permit fee is paid. The permit fee is \$25.00.

Generally, fences in the rear of properties may be 6 feet high; front yard fences no more than 4 feet high.

Ordinance 3-2006 requires that the finish side of the fence shall face the

public street, alley, or abutting property.

### **Council Highlights**

#### **April 4, 2006 Mayor and Council Meeting**

##### **Ordinance 7 -2006 – Hazardous Trees – second reading and vote.**

This legislation establishes penalties for hazardous and dangerous trees on private property, requiring property owners to remove the trees, or the City will remove at the owner's expense. This legislation was passed by the Mayor and Council.

**Ordinance 8-2006 –** amends the City Code requiring demolition permits for all razed property. This legislation enhances the City's ability to enforce safety regulations pertaining to proper removal of asbestos, lead paint, etc. This was a first reading.

**Resolution 4-2006 -** appointed members to the Mount Rainier Youth Committee – First Reading/vote – Legislation passed.

#### **May 2, 2006 - Mayor and Council Meeting**

**Ordinance 8-2006 –** amending the City code requiring demolition permits - legislation passed.

**Ordinance 9-2006 –** amending the City code on noise restrictions in the City – First Reading.

The Mayor and Council approved the names of persons to be submitted for consideration to the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission for the Mount Rainier Mixed Use Town Center Design Review Committee.

The Mayor and Council approved the City of Mount Rainier and the Town of Brentwood Memorandum of Understanding to create a Community Policing Partnership to enforce safety along the borders of the two cities. The Town of Brentwood and the City of Mount Rainier will share a community police officer who will report to the Chief of Police for Mount Rainier.

#### **May 2, 2006 – Mayor and Council Work Session**

##### **Discussion Items**

- Ethics Ordinance Revisions
- FY 2007 Budget
- Adjourned to closed session to discuss possible property acquisition.

#### **May 23, 2006 – Special Meeting called by the Mayor**

**Ordinance 10-2006 –** Increasing the multi-family rental facility fee – first reading.

**Ordinance 12 – 2006 – FY 2007 Budget and Tax Rate –** first reading

**Ordinance 13 – 2006 – Creating a special taxing district –** first reading

#### **June 6, 2006 – Mayor and Council Meeting**

**Ordinance 9 -2006 –** amending the City code on noise regulations. Second reading/vote – legislation passed. (A fair summary is provided elsewhere in this *Message*.)

**Ordinance 10-2006 –** Ordinance to revise Chapter 7 of the City Code on Licenses and Permits – increasing the annual fee for multi-family rental facilities to \$100 (One Hundred Dollars). Second Reading/Vote Legislation passed.

**Ordinance 12-2006 –** approves the fiscal year appropriations for FY 2007 and establishes the tax rate. Second reading/vote –legislation passed.

**Ordinance 13-2006 –** Creating a special taxing district second reading/vote – legislation failed.

### **Visit the Chief's Blog**

The free encyclopedia Wikipedia defines a *weblog*, which is usually shortened to *blog*, as a website where regular entries are made (such as in a journal or diary) and presented in reverse chronological order. Blogs often offer commentary or news on a particular subject, such as food, politics, or local news; some function as more personal online diaries. A typical

blog combines text, images, and links to other blogs, web pages, and other media related to its topic. Most blogs are primarily textual although many focus on photographs, videos or audio.

You can visit my Blog by going to [www.mrpdchief.blogspot.com](http://www.mrpdchief.blogspot.com). I created the Blog in order to provide residents with up-to-date information on a variety of topics, and as an additional way of improving communication with the police department. By the time you read this, I will have started posting regular weekly crime information on when and where crime is or has occurred in the City. These postings will be similar to what you see in my monthly *Message* articles, but will offer additional information such as descriptions of possible suspects in a particular crime. Readers will be able to post comments to these posts, and should someone have information they think would be useful in solving a crime, the comments function will be an additional way of getting the information to the police department. You can give your name or remain anonymous.

Now, I am *not* a Blog expert by any stretch of the imagination. Blogger.com provides free hosting and a *Chief-proof* template to create a basic Blog. Anyone who is an expert or has more experience than I at these things, who would like to offer suggestions on how it can be improved, please e-mail or call me.

## Prevent Crimes Against Children

I am constantly on the lookout for meaningful crime prevention and personal safety information to pass on to our residents. Now that school is out, our children will spend more time outside enjoying their freedom from classroom activities and the same hazy, hot and humid Washington summer weather we

parents enjoyed when we were children. Unfortunately, today's children face many more challenges to their safety than did we. "Crime prevention" was not something my parents talked about when I was young. The summer rules at my house were to call home a couple of times a day (on one of those 14-pound rotary phones) and be home before dinner. Children and parents face far more menacing challenges these days. What follows is an excerpt of information distributed by the Los Angeles Police Department to participants in community crime prevention meetings.

Children are our most precious resource. Unfortunately, because of their vulnerability, children are popular targets for molesters, drug dealers, and other predatory criminals. By working with children and teaching them crime prevention measures, we can substantially reduce the chances of child victimization.

An important tool for teaching children personal security is reinforcing their trust in the adults who care for them, e.g., parents, police and teachers. To further lessen the chances of children becoming victims, the following should be stressed:

**Reassurance** – Inform your children they can be safer if they form good habits and follow some simple rules. One good rule for children to remember is: never go anywhere with *anyone* without their parents' permission;

**Openness** – Encourage your children to confide in you, even if the subject feels uncomfortable;

**Strangers** – Teach your children the difference between good strangers and bad strangers. Good strangers are police officers, teachers and firefighters. Children should seek assistance from them if they are in trouble. Children should avoid other strangers; and

**Secrets** – Discourage your children from keeping bad secrets. A bad secret is when an adult tells a child to keep information from the child's parents or guardian. An example would be an adult offering a child candy to get into his or her car and then telling the child not to tell anyone. Another example would be if an adult tries to touch the private body parts of a child and then tells the child not to tell anyone. Private body parts are parts of the body covered by a bathing suit. Child molesters have also been known to approach children and fake a family emergency. A good example would be a child molester who drives to a school bus stop and tells a child, "Your dad is hurt and your mom wants you to come with me to the hospital." The chances are high that a child placed in this circumstance might be tempted to get into the car. That is why parents should select a family code word that they and their children know. If a stranger does not know the code word, the children will know not to trust him or her. A good secret is keeping a family code word confidential.

### **Children Should Know:**

- The definition of an emergency and when to contact police, fire or paramedics;
- Their full name, address, and telephone number, including area code;
- Their parents' full name and work telephone number;
- How and when to use 9-1-1 and how to use a public telephone;
- How to use the telephone to call home;
- That they should check in with you or a trusted neighbor when he or she gets home from school so you always know where they are;
- Where to go for safety if you are not around;
- The location of Safe Houses in their neighborhood and the ability to recognize the Safe House

Placards;

- Always keep doors locked, even during the day;
- Anyone they don't know is a stranger;
- Stay away from cars occupied by strangers;
- Never open doors for strangers;
- Never tell anyone who comes to the door (or anyone who calls on the telephone) that they are alone;
- When answering the telephone, never give information to strange callers;
- It's **OK** to say **NO** to an adult if the adult makes them feel uncomfortable or wants them to do something they feel is bad;
- Never let anyone touch them where their underwear or swimsuit should cover;
- It's **OK** to run away and scream, "**HELP**" if someone tries to make them do something they don't want to do;
- It's **OK** to tell if someone offers them gifts or money, or wants to photograph them;
- How to describe a person's appearance, clothing and their car if a stranger ever approaches them;
- Run to other people and to lighted areas if they are being followed;
- Stay near parents while in a store or other public place;
- Never go out to a parking lot if they get separated from parents in a shopping center or mall;
- Go to the nearest check out counter and ask a cashier or clerk for assistance if they get lost in a store;
- What to do if they should become lost in a crowd;
- Stay in one place if they get lost;
- Never go into a public restroom alone; and
- Never play in abandoned buildings.

### **Rules For Parents:**

- Encourage your children to communicate with you. If someone

is causing them to be anxious, fearful, or concerned for their safety, but has not attempted overt acts, parents need to know about it;

- Never leave your children unattended;
- Know where your children are at all times;
- Know your children's friends, where they live and their telephone numbers;
- Know the location of Safe Houses in your area and the Safe House participants by contacting your local Los Angeles Unified School District or Los Angeles Community Police Station;
- Listen to your children when they tell you they don't want to be with someone and ask why;
- Have your children's school or day care center personnel call immediately if your children are absent;
- Use extreme caution when selecting a babysitter, preschool or day care center. Check their references and have face-to-face meetings with the babysitter, preschool and day care center personnel who will be looking after your children; and
- Get to know your neighbors, especially in a new neighborhood.

### **Parents Should Know:**

**Marked Clothing** – Children should *not* wear clothing with their name prominently displayed. Children may respond to a stranger who calls them by name. If you must mark your child's clothing, don't put the name in an obvious place. Instead, mark the inner lining of a hat or jacket.

**Family Safety Plan** – Should an emergency occur and someone is designated to pick up your children, make sure you've discussed a code word with your children in advance. The code word acts as a signal to your children that you have sent an authorized person to act on your behalf. Parents should stress the

importance of keeping the code word a secret.

### **Safe House Community Program** –

This program is made of concerned community members who demonstrate a desire to accept a shared responsibility for the well being of children throughout the City. A Safe House is a home or business where a child may go for safety or assistance when the child encounters a threat or other emergency while en route to or from school or when getting to a Safe House is closer than getting home.

The Mount Rainier Police Department will be exploring a Neighborhood Safe House Program in the coming months. If you would like to volunteer to host a Safe House, please contact Mr. Donald Bell at 301-985-6580 for additional information.

**Who to Call** – In the event your child is missing, spread the word by calling the police, hospitals, schools, neighbors and especially your child's friends. Contact every possible source of help.

**Safety Identification** – Keep an up-to-date identification file of your children. This file should include:

- A recent photograph;
- A physical description that includes height, weight, hair color, eye color, distinguishing marks and birth date;
- A set of fingerprints or thumbprints; and
- A mental note of what your children were wearing when you last saw them.

This brief article has attempted to establish a "crime prevention attitude" for parents and children. The importance of practicing a "crime prevention attitude" cannot be stressed enough! Play crime prevention roles with your children and teach them how to respond. If properly prepared, your children will automatically take the correct crime prevention action in a dangerous situation. It is important to practice

with your children and to encourage a "crime prevention attitude" in their daily lives.

### **Help Wanted: Code Enforcement Officer**

The City of Mount Rainier has approved funding for FY 2007 (beginning July 1, 2006) for one additional Code Enforcement Officer position. The primary responsibilities of this new position are to enforce codes and property maintenance standards for residential rental properties, ensure timely renewals of residential rental licenses, improve response to resident complaints of code violations, and to work as a team player within the City's Code Enforcement Division. This position may require some evening and weekend work hours, as necessary. This is a full-time position which will include health and other employee benefits.

For additional information or an application, please contact Ms. Jeannelle Wallace, City Manager at (301) 985 - 6585.

The City of Mount Rainier is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

### **Police Officer**

The Mount Rainier Police Department has immediate openings for Maryland certified officers or persons able to be certified by comparative compliance training by the Maryland Police Training Commission. A thorough criminal and personal history background check is required including a truth verification test (polygraph), credit report, criminal history and activity, and driving record. Vacancies are open until filled. *Bi-lingual (English/Spanish) persons are encouraged to apply.*

Out of state applicants (VA, PA, DE and NJ) must be able to meet Maryland certification through the Maryland Police Training Commission by completing a 5-week

comparative compliance course. The Department pays for this course once you are hired. Your resume/application must include proof of state certification or academy completion (PA applicants; ACT 120 meets Maryland compliance requirements).

### **Attention police academy students – do not wait until after graduation, backgrounds take 4-6 weeks to complete.**

Benefits include:

- Salary – \$35,500 for Maryland certified (up to \$37,662 DOQ).
- Take home City patrol vehicle for officers residing w/in 20 miles of the City (with personal use).
- State of Maryland retirement system
- 401/457 Deferred Compensation Plan

Interested persons should fax a resume with cover letter to A/LT James Stoots at 301-985-4074, or file a City police application in person at the police station.

### **Upcoming Discussion on Community Building - September 2006 Message "We're Successful in building Buildings in Mount Rainier, now it is time to start building the Character and the People of our Community....."**

In the September 2006 issue of *The Message*, Pastor Gerald Grandison of Greater Rock Creek Baptist Church, discusses the role faith-based and community organizations can play in improving the quality of life in our community (discussions on health, financial empowerment, well being, etc.).

The discussion will include a summary of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Forum held with Faith Based Community Organizations. The forum was held on Wednesday, June 28, 2006 by the Prince George's County

Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).

Stay tuned each month as *The Message* provides a forum to discuss topics of concern, success stories and the daily challenges faced by Mount Rainier residents and the greater community.

### **Mount Rainier is Presenter at MML Conference Highlighting Bicycle Coop**

The City of Mount Rainier was asked to be a presenter to explain its Bicycle Cooperative program as an award winner for a mid-size town at the annual Maryland Municipal League Conference held in Ocean City, Maryland. City Manager Jeannelle Wallace and project coordinator Paul "PJ" Park were co-presenters during the MML Award Winner showcase during the annual convention. PJ Park spoke about the concept and partnerships that have evolved since the project's inception, and the thousand of dollars worth of tools that have been donated to support this effort.

The City of Mount Rainier also showcased the project in an exhibit booth along "Municipal Main Street", where many neighboring municipalities also addressed recent successful revitalization and economic development projects ongoing in their respective areas.

The City of Mount Rainier has now received five (5) Maryland Municipal League Awards for Excellence. Much of this success is attributed to the work, vision and support of community volunteers who spend hours, days, and weeks of their spare time making the City of Mount Rainier a great place to live and work.

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**City of Mount Rainier Businesses**  
***“I saw your business in the July/August Message!”***

**Arts and Crafts; Antiques; Arts and Entertainment**

Bazaar San Antonio, 4010 34th Street  
Community Vision, 3808 34th Street  
G&A Discount, 3813 34th Street  
Joe’s Movement Emporium, 3802 34th Street  
Kaywood Unisex Salon, 2309 Varnum Street  
Latin American Folk Institute-LAFI, 3400-A 34th Street  
Ms. Cee’s Beauty Parlor, 2307 Varnum Street  
Nisey’s Boutique, I Got It At Nisey’s, 4006 34th Street  
Odd and Even Thrift Shop, 3400 Rhode Island Avenue  
Oldies Music, 3219 Rhode Island Avenue  
Phil Y’s Barber Shop, 2319 Varnum Street  
Shear Creation Barber Shop and Salon,  
Textures and Tones, 3705 Rhode Island Avenue  
Virgo Company Dollar Store, 3221 Rhode Island Avenue  
World Arts Focus, 3810 34th Street

**Auto Services; Gas/ Fuel; Supplies**

A&P Wholesalers, 3501 37th Street  
Advance Auto, 3191 Queens Chapel Road  
Bunker Hill Laundromat, 3846 34th Street  
Eastern BP Amoco, 4501 Eastern Avenue  
LaCasita Furniture and Bedding, 3235 Rhode Island Ave.  
Thrifty Car Rental, 3210 Rhode Island Avenue

**Barbershop, Hair Salon, Beauty and Spa Supplies**

Beauty Depot, 3171 Queens Chapel Road  
Color’s By Tangie, 3800-B 34th Street  
Crown of Glory Salon, 4004 34th Street  
First Beauty Nail Salon, 3215 Rhode Island Avenue  
Hands on Barber, 3811 34th Street  
Tracey’s Hair Studio, 3848 34th Street  
Urlyana’s Hair Studio and Spa, 3237 Rhode Island Avenue

**Books; Natural Healing; Coops**

Dar Es Salaam, 4000 34th Street  
Glut Food Coop, 4000 34th Street  
WWCG Books, 3847 34th Street

**Child Care Services**

Gateway Child Development, 3833 34th Street  
Mount Rainier Child Development Center, 3407 Perry Street  
Mount Rainier Early Learning Center, 4001 33rd Street

**Convenience, Beverage and Dollar Stores**

7-11 Convenience Store, 3310 Chillum Road  
7-11 Convenience Store, 2310 Varnum Street  
Check Cashing Services, 3211 Rhode Island Avenue  
Chuck’s Liquors, 3416 Rhode Island Avenue  
Digital Nth, 3200 Rhode Island Avenue  
El Palenque Disco Centro, 3414 Rhode Island Avenue  
Erika’s Grocery, 3237 Rhode Island Avenue  
Family Dollar, 2201 Varnum Street  
Family Dollar, 3179 Queens Chapel Road  
Habesha International Market, 2311 Varnum Street

La Pequenita Grocery, 3840 34th Street  
Marie’s Variety Store, 4002 34th Street  
Money Marts/Checks Cashed, 3213 Queens Chapel Road  
Mount Rainier Antique Shop, 3815 34th Street  
Party Time Liquors, 3307 Rhode Island Avenue

**Dry Cleaning and Laundry**

Queens T. Custom Cleaners, 3111 Chillum Road

**Eating Places**

Caribbean Market, 3213 Queens Chapel Road  
Frances Salvadorean and Mexican Food, 3852 34th Street  
Grand China Restaurant, 2300 Arundel Road  
Island Style Ice Cream Parlor, 3856 34th Street  
Joe’s Carryout Restaurant, 3185 Queens Chapel Road  
Joe’s Seafood Carryout, 3183 Queens Chapel Road  
Mannie’s Carryout, 2305 Varnum Street  
Pan Lourdes Latin Bakery, 3237 Rhode Island Avenue  
Potomac Fish House, 3221 Rhode Island Avenue  
Terminal Snack Bar, 3405 Rhode Island Avenue  
Tortilla Kitchen, 3231 Rhode Island Avenue

**Flower Shops**

Margaret’s/Mount Rainier Flower Shop, 3407 Perry Street  
Oscar’s Flower and Gift Shop, 4006 34th Street

**General Contractors/ Building Services/ Real Estate**

Built Up Roofing, 3711 Wells Avenue  
Charles K. McConkey & Sons, 3314 Perry Street  
Metro Metal Company, 3700 Otis Street  
PD Systems, 3808 34th Street  
Reynold’s Real Estate School, 3239 Rhode Island Avenue

**Grocery Stores and Super Markets**

K’ Food Mart, 3233 Rhode Island Avenue  
Kaywood Supermarket, 2303 Varnum Street

**Health/Medical Services**

Dr. Sukumaran Arqangat, 3308 Perry Street  
Dr. Suresh Gupta, 3503 Perry Street  
Dr. Raman Tuli, 3503 Perry Street, Suite B

**Insurance, Tax and Accounting Services**

Anchor Finance Company, 3200 Otis Street  
Crown Insurance Agency, 3615 Rhode Island Avenue  
Jabez Tax Solutions, 3200 Rhode Island Avenue  
Jackson Hewitt, 3207 Rhode Island Avenue

**Security Services/ Professional Services**

Abacus Corporation, 3501 Perry Street  
C.A. Mayo and Associates, 3403 Perry Street  
H&W Printing, 3616 Oak Lance  
Standard Pressing Company, 3299 Queens Chapel Road

## Mount Rainier Committees Meetings

### **Council Meetings**

1st and 3rd Tues., 7 p.m., City Hall  
lower level

### **Beautification Committee**

3rd Mon., 7:00 p.m., City Hall

### **Cable Commission**

2nd Mon., 6:00 p.m., City Hall

### **Friends of Library** (mtrainierfol.org)

Mon., 7:30 p.m., Community Vision,  
34th Street

### **Gateway Municipalities CDC**

2nd Thurs., 7:00–9:00 p.m.  
4102 Webster Street

### **Mount Rainier Business Association**

2nd Weds., 6:30 p.m., Mount  
Rainier Police Station

### **Tool Shed Committee**

2nd Mon., 7:00 p.m., City Hall

### **MUTC Town Center Design Review Committee**

2nd Weds., 6:15 p.m., City Hall

### **Design Review Board**

3rd Weds., 7:00 p.m., City Hall

### **Tree Commission**

2nd Thurs., 7:00 p.m., City Hall

Note: The above Committees are scheduled to meet according to the above schedule. Please check the City's website or contact City Hall to verify if a meeting is being held on a particular date. Meeting notices are posted at City Hall prior to the scheduled meeting.

# Calendar

## July-August

July 3	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up	August 2	Regular Trash Pick Up
July 5	Regular Trash Pick Up	August 4	Recyclables Pick Up
July 7	Recyclables Pick Up	August 7	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up
July 10	Yard Waste Pick Up	August 9	Regular Trash Pick Up
July 12	Regular Trash Pick Up	August 11	Recyclables Pick Up
July 14	Recyclables Pick Up	August 14	Yard Waste Pick Up
July 17	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up	August 16	Regular Trash Pick Up
July 19	Regular Trash Pick Up	August 18	Recyclables Pick Up
July 21	Recyclables Pick Up	August 21	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up
July 24	Yard Waste Pick Up	August 23	Regular Trash Pick Up
July 26	Regular Trash Pick Up	August 25	Recyclables Pick Up
July 28	Recyclables Pick Up	August 28	Yard Waste Pick Up
July 31	Yard Waste Pick Up	August 30	Regular Trash Pick Up

*Starting March 2006, every Monday will be Yard Waste Pick Up, No appointments necessary. Please have all bulk trash out by 7:00 am on bulk trash day and all appointments made before 12 noon on the Friday preceding pick up day.*

*There is a 3 cubic yards limit per household for bulk trash pick up and a total of 6 pick up in a 12 month period, after which any other pick up will be a special bulk pick up for which there is a charge.*

www.mountrainiermd.org

**Mayor**

**Malinda Miles**  
301-699-1378

mayormiles@malindamiles.com

**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

gandydncr@aol.com

**Alta Morton**

202-309-5455

altaward1@hotmail.com

**Ward 2**

**Pedro Briones**

301-277-1833

pedroeb@aol.com

**Bryan Knedler**

301-699-3134

bknedler@aol.com

**Message**

**Sandra Joseph**

tumkho@yahoo.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**

Acting Chief Lieutenant Michael Scott

Mscott@mountrainiermd.org

301-985-6565 (emergency calls)

301-985-6566 (nonemergency calls)

301-985-6590 (administrative)

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

Child Abuse

and Neglect Hotline

301-699-8605

Congressman Chris Van Hollen's Mount

Rainier Office Information:

3409 Rhode Island Avenue

301-927-5223 (voice)

301-927-6122 (fax)

Monday–Friday 9:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Consumer Affairs

301-470-7534

County Animal Control

301-499-8301

County Building Permits  
301-883-5784

County Executive

Jack Johnson

301-952-4131

County Councilman

Will Campos

301-952-4436

Energy Assistance

301-422-5110

Family Services

301-699-2680

Fire Department

301-985-5406 (non-emergency)

911 (emergency)

Gateway CDC

4102 Webster Street

301-864-3860

Gazette Circulation

301-670-7350

Health Department

301-386-0300

Library 301-864-8937

Hours: M–W 10-6:30 (closed 2-2:30)

Sat. 10-5

Landlord–Tenant Commission

800-487-6007

Mt. Rainier Nature/Rec Center

4701 31st Place

301-927-2163

M–National Capital

Park and Planning,

Park Permit Office

301-918-8111

North Brentwood Comm. Ctr  
4012 Webster St.

301-864-0756

Office of Handicapped Services  
TDD 301-627-3352

Park Police

301-459-3232 (emergency)

301-459-9088 (non-emergency)

Parks and Recreation

301-699-2407

Pepco

Lights Out

1-877-737-2662

(you must give the 10-digit phone number  
or 10-digit account number for location of  
outage)

**Live Wire, Other Emergency**

202-872-3432

Post Office

301-864-5168

Public Defender

301-699-2760

Public Schools

301-952-6000

State's Attorney

301-952-3500

Washington Gas Light

703-750-2500

WSSC

301-206-8000

301-206-4002 (emergency)

*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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