



# Message

Issue 236  
March 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)

## Mount Rainier Community Tool Shed Information

The Mount Rainier Community Tool Shed is located at 3601 Bunker Hill Road. For information, call 301-779-0133. The new hours are Saturdays 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

The 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 City Hall or download an application at [www.mountrainier.org/community/toolshed](http://www.mountrainier.org/community/toolshed).

City is looking for volunteers to serve on the Tool Shed Committee. They can contact Sam Meredith at the above address for more information on what the committee is expected to do. We need the volunteers to commit to at least a couple of hours each week on Saturday to man the facility (be available for those who want to borrow tools and answer questions).

## Mount Rainier Business District Revitalization Association, Inc. (MRBA)

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of Every Month
- Regular Scheduled Monthly Meeting
- Mount Rainier Police Department, 3249 Rhode Island Avenue, Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712
- Time: 6:30–9:00 p.m.
- Come and Hear How Your Dollars Are Being Spent
- Look Forward to Seeing You There

## Public Hearing: City Proposes To Create Public Safety Special Taxing Districts

**Tuesday, March 21, 2006—7 p.m.**

The City of Mount Rainier, as per its Charter (Section 804), shall have the power to levy and collect taxes in the form of special assessments in a special taxing district to cover all or any part of the cost of infrastructure improvements.

The Maryland General Assembly passed Senate Bill 2, regarding the creation of Special Taxing Districts for Public Safety. The legislation went into effect on July 1, 2005.

The Mayor and Council are seriously considering creating three (3) special taxing districts in the City. These special taxing districts will provide increased revenue for the sole purpose of improving safety in areas that are being plagued with crime and unwanted activities. The areas under consideration are in the areas that have had a large number of criminal activities over the past few years, and have resulted in a significant amount of staff time and other resources, particularly from the City's Public Safety and Police Department. It should be noted that any funds collected under the special taxing district must be used within that district.

The City of Mount Rainier, in an effort to enhance public safety, is planning to adopt an Ordinance that will create at three (3) Public Safety Special Taxing Districts within the City. The purpose of the Special Taxing Districts is to create areas within the City's limits that require additional safety measures, including but not limited to, community policing, increased lighting and signage, and other infrastructure enhancements that may redirect or improve pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

**Special Taxing**, continued on page 8

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## Mayor's Report

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Mount Rainier, "The City on the Move!" We continue to command center stage when there are discussions about the Gateway Arts District. We continue to be the place to live when persons are looking for a place to call home. We continue to be leaders in developing long lasting partnerships and exploring new ideas! Even those there are no City Elections this year, there will be elections in the City. We will be asked to vote for a new governor, new senator, new state delegates, new people on the central committee, and more importantly for persons to sit on the Prince George's County School Board.

This right was taken away from us a few years ago, and now we are going to be given the opportunity to elect someone to represent us and our views on the school board. DO NOT be distracted by all of the other races. This one will affect the level of education your child receives, and whom you will be able to talk to when you have an issue or idea that you wish to share with the Board of Education. Don't sit back and wait for this issue to be on the front of the newspaper. Start talking with your senator and state delegates now. Make sure that you will get to elect your school board representative in the fall of 2006. There is a lot of work to be done before the fall elections, and even more before our elections in May 2007.

There is a need for residents and business leaders to get to know the Mayor and Council, and City staff. We are there to lead, but we are unable to fill all the volunteer roles that are needed to keep our small municipality moving forward. In Ward 1, Councilmembers Carol Gandee and Alta Morton are there to represent you, to listen to your concerns and bring them to the Mayor and Council for resolution. They need you to step forward and serve on one or more of the City's committees, commissions, and/or boards. The same is true for Ward 2 Councilmembers Bryan Knedler and Pedro Briones.

Serving as Mayor and Council is a very tough job, but one that the five of us chose to do. Even so, it is a very tough job in which to keep an open mind and stay

focused on the long-range goals and issues of the City, but over the past year, your team has done just that. We have experienced a few bumps in the road that have gotten us off track, but we have quickly dealt with those issues and gone back to work on your behalf and the long-range improvement of the City.

Although there has been no solution developed for the vacant Bass property, the Mayor and Council have had numerous meetings with the various owners of the three properties on the south bound side of Rhode Island Avenue. We have met with representatives from the County and with our County Council representative. We have entertained discussions with potential developers, and we are still in dialogue with the owners. In the not so distant future, Mayor and Council hopes that a decision will be reached on developing that section of Rhode Island Avenue to enhance the entrance to Mount Rainier, "The City on the Move."

Here are a few things that we have worked on:

**1. SAID NO to Washington Gas Company**—The Fight Continues. . . Mount Rainier joined forces with Avondale, Brentwood, Hyattsville, Chillum, and North Brentwood to address the proposed used of the old Washington Gas Storage facility on Chillum Road. This fight is not over, but we are well on the way to get our message heard. Thank you to all of you, who sent emails, participated in the rally and/or presented testimony on the dangers of LNG, and the need to pass the legislation.

**2. Invited the Faith-Based Community**—to take an active role in our community and to share their resources. There are more than 20 faith-based facilities in the City. On Saturday, February 25, the Mayor met with representatives from some of the faith-based community to begin a dialogue about their involvement in City activities and to listen to their concerns. The following is a partial list the faith-based leaders that joined in the dialogue:

A. First Baptist Church of Mount Rainier—Reverend Tillman

- B. Greater Rock Creek Church—Reverend Grandison  
C. Cedar Lane Baptist Church—Reverend Mae Harrison  
D. Mount Rainier Christian Church—Reverend Shawn  
E. Hope Fellowship Christian Church—Reverend Lisa Littlejohn  
F. Saint John's Episcopal Church—have a new pastor (Gene Wright, Jr. Warden and Lydia Murray, Sr. Warden)  
G. Faith Christian Academy—Dr. Edwin Jones (Third year in operation and is accredited to award Associate to PhD degree. Classes are held on site at the Church.)

**3. Joined Forces with Brentwood**—Mount Rainier and Brentwood has worked together on several projects over the years. Our most recent effort is the submission of a joint Livable Communities grant proposal for a police officer assigned to Mount Rainier with focus and concentration in Brentwood. The approval of this grant request will result in increased police visibility in Brentwood and along Mount Rainier's 34<sup>th</sup> Street border and up in the Queenstown apartments where Mount Rainier and Brentwood share dual ownership.

**4. Financial Audit to be Completed by March 15**—For the first time in years, the City's financial audit will be done in less than four months from start to finish! All of the field work for the 2005 financial has been completed. Under GASB the City is required to take an inventory of its assets, determine and report their value as part of the audit. From all indications, the City is in the black.

**5. Committee Members NEEDED**—Since May of 2005, the City has experienced some settling in and some falling away. Volunteers have become a rare commodity, although our City's growth and development continues. There are several committees and/or commissions that desperately need your help and involvement. These committees and commissions are:

**Mayor's Report, continued on page 14**

## Trash Code Violations

On January 11, 2006, A City of Mount Rainier department of Public Work Violation Notice was issued to City residents for violation of the City's trash code, Chapter 11, **City of Mount Rainier Code of Ordinances**. Due to the violations, trash was not picked up at property where trash was not in water tight and rodent proof containers with a lid.

On February 15, 2006 there were over 100 residents still in violation of the *City Code*. Some of these violations have existed for two or more weeks.

In the future, those residents who continue to be in violation of the **City Code**, Chapter 11, Refuse Collection, will be issued a Municipal Citation (fine) in the amount of \$25 if it has been determined that it is the first violation. Each day that the violation continues shall be deemed a separate offense and will result in additional fines. The public works department and division of code enforcement has pictures and dates of each property in violation. If it has been determined that the violation is a repeat offense, additional fines will be assessed. The requirements for regular trash collection from single family residential dwellings (Section 11-105) of the **City Code** is as follows:

- Must be placed in water tight and rodent-proof containers (with lids) that are commonly used for residential trash collection,
- Must not exceed five (5) cans, each thirty-three (33) gallons or thirty-five (35) pounds each collection day,
- Must not be mixed with bulk trash, hazardous household waste, recyclables,

remodeling and building waste, special bulk trash, or biodegradable yard waste,

- Must also be in a bag in the container if it includes poison ivy, poison oak, or poison sumac, and
- Must be set out for pick-up no sooner than 7:00 p.m. on the day before the scheduled trash pick-up and no later than 7:00 a.m. the day of the scheduled pick up. The empty container must be removed no later than 7:00 p.m. of the day of the scheduled trash pick-up.

Fees are charged and must be paid in advance of pick-up at City Hall and prior arrangements must be made by calling Public Works 301-986-6583 for bulk trash special pick-up for the following:

- Special bulk trash (cost based on the City's cost per ton, \$50 minimum fee)
- Refrigerator, freezer (\$25 each)
- Air conditioner (\$25)
- Tires (\$5 per tire)
- Yard waste in excess of 3 cubic yards (cost based on City's cost, \$50 minimum)
- Remodeling/building waste (\$50 minimum charge)

For further clarification about yard waste collection, biodegradable yard waste, and special bulk trash, please contact the Public Works Department at 301-985-6583.

**Hazardous waste (oil, pesticides, paint, paint thinner, cleaner fluids, toxic chemicals, etc.) must be disposed of by contacting Prince George's County at 301-883-5045.**

## Mount Rainier Bike Coop Information and News

Location: 3409 Rhode Island in the alley behind the Mount Rainier Library.

Hours: Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Soon: Tuesday, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Website: [mrbikecoop.freewebspace.com](http://mrbikecoop.freewebspace.com)

To join the coop, visit us during our open hours. To join the list serve, e-mail [pauljosephpark@yahoo.com](mailto:pauljosephpark@yahoo.com).

Upcoming events:

1. Youth bike fleet in the Mount Rainier Day Parade.
2. Youth mountain bike ride with Trips for Kids Metro D.C.

Recent News: Congratulations to those elected to positions on the bike coop board: Board President—PJ Park, Board Vice-President Anne Villacres, Board Secretary—Timmy Park, Donations Solicitor—Mac Cooler-Stith, Publicity Coordinator—John Campanile, and Tools Manager—David Zuk. To be determined are the Board Treasurer and the Membership Coordinator.

## State Income Tax Reminder

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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## Police Chief's Report

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### How To Reach Us

For police service calls  
(24 hours a day) 301-985-6565/66  
Administrative Offices ONLY  
(M-F, 9A-5P) 301-985-6580  
[www.mountrainiermd.org/government/mrpd/index.html](http://www.mountrainiermd.org/government/mrpd/index.html)  
Please cut and place on or by your phone

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### Suburban Cocooning Phenomenon.

Recently, I read a Washington Post newspaper story written by Marc Fisher who quotes pastor Mark Tindle of Seneca Creek Community Church in Germantown. The story and the quote reminded me of our January community neighborhood watch meeting. In that meeting, one resident expressed concerns about the passive, so-called "I don't want to get involved" attitudes of his neighbors. The article says Pastor Tindle worries, like our citizen, that asking residents to get to know each other and to watch out for property and the comings and goings of our neighbors and visitors might not be the best thing for us to feel safe and secure about, even in our own homes.

In the article Pastor Tindle says "It's a self-perpetuating cycle: We trust the people we know, but I don't know my neighbors, so I can't trust them, so I don't get to know them." I say, if we don't know our neighbors, how can we expect them to look out for us, and if we're not looking out for them, then who's really watching - except the police. Pastor Tindle makes the point that "Everything people need in life is in their house—home theaters, six-foot privacy fences, ordering groceries and movies online," Tindle goes on to say "Between fear and convenience, we isolate ourselves further and further." I agree. As a police administrator who focuses on community policing, I'm convinced that we need all the help we can get from our residents to make sure criminals know that there is no opportune time to commit crimes, and that every hour of the day we are watching and looking out for one another.

The answer, Tindle suggests, is to step out, break the shell of isolation and connect with those around us. I believe Tindle is right. We need to put fear and mistrust aside and make the time to know our neighbors, even though they might not become fast friends. Having knowledge of what's normal with your neighbors enables you to recognize what's unusual or out of place. That makes it easier to know when to pick up the phone and call police about what might be suspicious activity. We can't afford to wear blinders that narrow our vision of the world right outside our own windows. Let's not allow Mt. Rainier to become a community where criminals can come and commit crimes without anyone seeing or reporting their actions.

**Carjacking: Tips for Prevention.** Stealing a car by force continues to capture headlines all across the country. In short, carjacking has become the new rage among criminals. The most recent figures published by the County police show a dramatic 49% increase in carjackings throughout Prince George's County. Across Maryland, carjackings are up 16%, and nationwide, carjackings account for roughly 3% of all motor vehicle thefts. Here in Mt. Rainier we had an unusually high number of carjackings in the month of January 2006 (5), considering we only experienced a total of seven (7) in all of 2005. Statistically speaking, however, your chances of being a victim of carjacking are very slim, and taking preventive measures can reduce your risk even more.

**Why is carjacking a problem? No one knows for certain, but some possible explanations include:**

- Carjacking is a crime of opportunity—a thief searching for the most vulnerable prey—sometimes it's the first step in another crime.
- For some young people, carjacking may be a rite of passage, a status symbol, or just a thrill.
- Cars, especially luxury ones, provide quick cash for drug users and other criminals.

- Sophisticated alarms and improved locking devices make it harder for thieves to steal unoccupied cars.
- It's easy to buy, steal, or barter for guns in this country. And a pointed gun makes a powerful threat.
- More teens and adults commit crimes of violence than ever before.
- Intense media interest may have created "copycat" carjackers.

**Golden opportunities: what do carjackers look for?**

- Intersections controlled by stoplights or signs.
- Garages and parking lots for mass transit, shopping malls, and grocery stores.
- Self-serve gas stations and car washes.
- ATMs (automated teller machines).
- Residential driveways and streets as people get into and out of cars.
- Highway exit and entry ramps, or anyplace else that drivers slow down or stop.

**The "Bump and Rob."** It works like this. A car, usually with a driver and at least one passenger, rear-ends or "bumps" you in traffic. You quickly get out to check the damage and exchange information. Either the driver or one of the passengers jumps in your car and drives off. If you're bumped by another car, look around before you get out. Make sure there are other cars around; check out the car that's rear-ended you and who's in it. If the situation makes you uneasy, memorize or jot down the car's tag number and description; signal the other car to follow you. Drive to the nearest police station or to a busy, well-lighted area. If you do get out of the car, take your keys (and purse or wallet if you have one) with you and stay alert.

**Police, continued on page 17**

## Council Highlights

FEBRUARY 7, 2006

- Director of Finance, Vijay Manjani, gave a report for the period ending December 31, 2005. The fiscal year 2005 audit is in the final stages awaiting an asset valuation report from Mr. Manjani. The City from all indications was in the black for fiscal year 2005. A draft report should be available early in March 2006. Management staff will provide to council recommendations for budget amendments for the fiscal year 2006 budget.

### Unfinished Business

#### LEGISLATION

- **Ordinance 2-2006** Amending Collective Bargaining Agreement Removing Police Officer at or above the rank of Sergeant (Second Reading/Vote). Legislation passed 3-0.
- **Ordinance 3-1006** – Amending City Code concerning fences (Second Reading/Vote) This legislation amends Section 12-101 of the Mount Rainier Code to require the finished side of a fence to face the public street or abutting property. Legislation passed 3-0.
- **Resolution 32-2005** – Youth and Recreation Program Committee (Second Reading/Vote) Legislation passed 3-0.
- **Resolution 2-2006** Establishing a Policy on City Employment Contracts (Second Reading/Vote). It was decided to place this item on the next work session for further discussion. The intent of the legislation is to no longer offer or enter into any employment contract, sub contract or other employment agreement with current or prospective employees except between the City and the City manager or prospective City Manager as provided by the Charter.

### New Business

- **Ordinance 1-2006** – Increasing the penalty for illegal deposit of trash (First Reading)
- **Ordinance 4-2006** – Commercial and recreational vehicle restrictions (First Reading)
- **Ordinance 5-2006** – Red Light Camera Agreement (First Reading)
- **Resolution 3-1006** – establish a rotation among the council members to serve as vice mayor of the City. (First Reading/Vote) Legislation passed 3-0.

## The Mount Rainier Beautification Committee

The Mount Rainier Beautification Committee consists of a group of residents working to make our city more beautiful. In the past, we have held various events to spark interest in keeping Mount Rainier looking its best. The Spotlight Yard of the Week/Month contest we held last year generated a lot of interest and praise. We would like to keep that spirit alive this year, and take it even further. Ultimately, however, beautification requires *COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT*. We all want our neighborhood to be a better place. But very few people actually do anything about it. Some think, “its not my job,” or “the City should take care of that,” or “Other people will do it,” or “ I don’t have any gardening/landscaping skills.”

### BEAUTIFICATION CAN BE AND IS.....

- Keeping your yard neat and tidy
- Helping to maintain a public area
- Picking up trash around your yard, block or at a park
- Planting a community garden
- Improving your storefront with floral displays or planters
- Refraining from posting flyers on telephone poles
- Picking up your pet’s waste while on a walk

So, many may be fostering beautification already without even knowing it!

### HOW TO MAKE MOUNT RAINIER BEAUTIFUL? LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

Our theme for this year is “*What does beautification mean to you?*” This year, the committee’s activities will be largely based on what YOU have to say... **we want to hear from you!** Please send us your suggestions for projects, activities, or events that would enhance Mount Rainier’s visual appeal. Send your comments and concerns to the Beautification Committee E-Mailbox at [mountrainiermd@gmail.com](mailto:mountrainiermd@gmail.com).

We are always looking for new people interested in helping us achieve our goal. For more information about the committee, please contact Charlene Howard at [MountRainierMD@gmail.com](mailto:MountRainierMD@gmail.com) or call 301-277-3237.

## Youth and Recreational Committee

The City seeks residents interested in serving on the newly created Youth and Recreational Committee.

The Committee was formed to address concerns from residents that have expressed an interest in serving on a Committee focusing on youth and recreational programs in the City for adolescents and older teens. There is no community center within the boundaries of the City of Mount Rainier for use by the older teenage population. Overall, the Youth and Recreational Committee will coordinate all recreational programs and youth activities.

- Residents are appointed as members to this committee to serve two (2) year terms that will expire on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of June in each odd numbered year following their appointments.
  - The Committee will consist of seven members that represent the diversity of the community
  - The Mayor and Council will allocate funds within its budget for implementing programs and recreational activities that are recommended by the Committee and approved by the Mayor and Council.
  - A member of the Mayor and Council will be appointed to serve on this Committee but shall not have a vote in the Committees’ decisions and/or recommendations to the Mayor and Council.
  - The Mayor and Council appropriate \$300 for the Youth and Recreation Committee to cover incidentals and other miscellaneous needs. All funds must be requested through the City Manager and approved prior to expenditure.
- Capital Park and Planning Commission Recreation Council (Prince George’s County) Planning activities via their recreation council or other similar recreational Committee or body
- Meetings of the Youth Program and Recreational Committee shall follow the Open Meetings Law in all of its meetings and deliberations.
  - Provide monthly reports to the Mayor and Council or as necessary to keep them informed of progress or obstacles that may require Mayor and Council input. If you are interested in serving on the Committee or would like additional information, please contact City Hall at 301-985-6585.

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## Design Review Board Members Sought

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The Mayor and Council are seeking applicants to appoint to the city's Design Review Board (DRB). The DRB was established in 1992 (by Resolution 14-92) to "(1) critique designs, develop designs, recommend guidelines, and propose legislation related to the existing built environment and construction projects that will enhance public safety and welfare or otherwise enhance the physical appearance of the community; (2) advise, upon request from the Mayor and Council or based on its own judgment, concerning design related issues including, but not limited to, fences, retaining walls, public plantings, construction proposals and regulations."

The DRB, for instance, reviews requests for variances to the zoning standards and makes recommendations to the Mayor and Council on disposition of those requests. The DRB in the near future may also be asked to review existing zoning standards and make a proposal to the Mayor and Council on how to protect the historic architecture of our neighborhoods.

The DRB consists of at least three but not more than five city residents, appointed by the Mayor and Council for a term of two years that is renewable. Please note that the DRB is a city board, and is separate from the Town Center Design Review Committee (TCDRC) which reviews applications for exterior changes to properties in the downtown area of the city.

If you are interested in serving on this board, please forward a resume to Asst. City Manager, James Booth, City Hall, One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, 20712. Or e-mail him at [jbooth@mountrainiermd.org](mailto:jbooth@mountrainiermd.org).

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## Report From Councilmember Knedler

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**SCHOLARSHIPS.** Sen. Gwendolyn T. Britt (D-Dist. 47) is again offering scholarships for students residing in District 47. The scholarships are awarded yearly to underclass graduates including incoming freshmen and graduate students. Applicants are selected based on financial need and D or academic achievement. All applicants must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid to be considered for the scholarship. Applications are available from Britt's office. Call 301-858-3745 or e-mail [gwendolyn\\_Britt@senate.state.md.us](mailto:gwendolyn_Britt@senate.state.md.us).

**REPORTS FROM IRAQ.** Mount Rainier homeowner and journalist, Jackie Spinner, was featured in the Washington Post food section in January. The article described cooking in a war zone (Iraq). Spinner was a correspondent in Baghdad from May 2004 to Nov. 2005. She has also authored, "Tell Them I Didn't Cry: A Young Journalist's Story of Joy, Loss and Survival in Iraq" (Scribner, 2006).

For the entire article and photos, go to: [www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/01/31/AR2006013100284.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/01/31/AR2006013100284.html)

**ESSAY AWARD.** Emy Koopman, 9, a 4th-grader at Mount Rainier Elem. School, had her essay about the meaning of Dr.

Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous, "I Have A Dream" speech selected by the Minority Affairs Committee of the Prince George's County Educators' Ass'n as the winner from the elementary school.

**COMMUNITY FORKLIFT.** Historic salvage warehouse located near Peace Cross on Tanglewood St. Website has info and directions. I suggest you take a flashlight because it is very dimly lit and things are piled up. Lots and lots of stuff. Doors, windows, shutters, appliances, mantel-pieces, radiator covers, light fixtures, etc. [www.communityforklift.com/](http://www.communityforklift.com/)

**COMMUNITY LIST SERV.** A new email list service has been created by residents. Among other things, the group has been sharing names of contractors, reviewing local eateries, and discussing public safety. Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MountRainierMD/> and click on the "Join this group" button.

**GLBT BRUNCHES.** Social potluck brunches are held regularly in the Gateway area for gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered persons, and their supportive friends. For details, contact [glmrmd@aol.com](mailto:glmrmd@aol.com), or give me a call, 301-699-3134.

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## Residents—Please be Aware of Accident Schemes

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Please be aware, criminals have been perpetrating phony accident schemes in Washington D.C. area parking lots. Here's what to look for in order to avoid becoming a scam victim:

**The Back Out.** A perpetrator drives down the aisle of a parking lot, targeting a driver backing out of a parking spot. When the perpetrator pulls up, the driver who is backing out stops their vehicle. The perpetrator then waves to the driver to continue backing. The unsuspecting driver continues to back up, assuming it is safe to do so, and the perpetrator proceeds forward and intentionally strikes the backing vehicle.

**The Parking Lot Pedestrian.** A perpetrator is walking through a parking lot and spots a driver backing out of a parking space. The perpetrator will approach the vehicle and strike the vehicle with a part of their body. The perpetrator then falls to the ground and the unsuspecting driver will think they have hit and injured the perpetrator. No injuries will be visible, but the perpetrator will complain of an injury.

PLEASE REPORT ANY SUSPICIOUS CLAIMS TO YOUR INSURANCE AGENT IMMEDIATELY.

## Town Center Zoning Committee Seeks Members

Are you excited about the redevelopment taking place in downtown Mount Rainier? Do you have artistic and visionary ideas you want to contribute to this process? Would you like to play an important role in the revitalization of the city as part of the Gateway Arts District? If you answered "yes" to any or all of these questions, then consider applying to join the Mount Rainier Town Center Design Review Committee (TCDRC). City officials are currently seeking people to join the committee, which is a six-person group that reviews and make recommendations on all proposals for new development and exterior renovation in the city's Mixed-Use Town Center Zone (MUTCZ). This zone extends along Rhode Island Avenue from the city limits into the 3400 block, along 34th Street from the 3700 block into the 4000 block, and along parts of Bunker Hill Road, Otis Street, and Perry Street. The committee consists of two members each from the residential, business, and municipal community. The committee's findings are advisory to the Prince George's County Planning Board. The Board, as part of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), will select and appoint committee members from a pool of applicants provided by Mount Rainier officials. All committee terms are for two years and are renewable. The Council is currently seeking applicants for one municipal representative and possibly a business representative (this was unclear at press time). Business applicants must own/operate a business anywhere in Mount Rainier and/or hold a management position in a business located in the MUTCZ.

A municipal representative must have served or currently serves on a recognized municipal body in the city (council, board, committee, task force, etc.). Members attend monthly meetings held on the second or third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall. Prior to meetings

they review applicants' site plans and other documents, with the help of the Mount Rainier Town Center Development Plan, whose design guidelines are used to help shape and guide development within the city's mixed-use downtown core. Prospective members are invited to attend monthly meetings to meet current members, to articulate their views about downtown revitalization, and to familiarize themselves with current issues and the workings of the committee. The City is looking for participants who have a sense of fairness and common sense in reviewing applications and who are interested in the ongoing revitalization of the downtown business area. Issues that come before committee members involve exterior colors, signage, lighting, windows, awnings, roofs, parking, building height, building materials, landscaping, screening, and other items related to exteriors. While members do not have to be working artists, they should possess an artistic and visionary sense to help make decisions that integrate new exterior projects into the downtown as it undergoes revitalization as part of the Gateway Arts District. Members should also be able to express their views clearly and succinctly and need to be able to work effectively with a group. In addition, committee members should be willing to encourage appropriate building construction, alterations, and signage among business and property owners and to help educate rather than regulate applicants. To obtain an application to be on the committee, please contact Assistant City Manager James Booth at 301-985-6585 or at [jbooth@mountrainiermd.org](mailto:jbooth@mountrainiermd.org). Applications should be accompanied by a resume and a brief cover letter stating your interest in joining the committee. Please mail or deliver all materials to Mr. Booth at City Hall, 1 Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, MD 20712. Please note: The deadline for new members' applications is March 24.

## National Poison Prevention Week: March 19–25, 2006

The National Capital Poison Center offers free materials to promote National Poison Prevention Week in Prince George's County. These include poison prevention brochures in English and Spanish; phone stickers and magnets with the Poison Help logo and 24-hour phone number, 1-800-222-1222; posters; and video-based programs for pre-school children and for adults. You can request materials on line ([www.poison.org](http://www.poison.org)), by downloading an order form to fax or mail, by phone, or by asking that an order form be e-mailed ([ras@poison.org](mailto:ras@poison.org)).

The poison centers answer tens of thousands of emergency calls and additional poison-related information calls every year. Poison prevention is appropriate for all ages, but National Poison Prevention Week is especially focused on young children, who rely totally on adults for their safety.

Injury prevention specialists can help in several ways:

- Post and distribute materials with the 24-hour Poison Help phone number: 1-800-222-1222.
- Encourage people to call the poison center immediately if they suspect there has been a poisoning.
- Spread the poison prevention message: Keep medicines and household items in child-resistant packaging, locked out of sight and reach of children.
- Contact me if you know of media or other outreach activities which would benefit from poison center expertise.

To request materials and additional information, contact the National Capital Poison Center: phone, 202-362-3867; e-mail [ras@poison.org](mailto:ras@poison.org). This is also a good time to subscribe to the Poison Center's free electronic newsletter; send your address to [PoisonPost@poison.org](mailto:PoisonPost@poison.org).

**Special Taxing**, continued from page 1

## **Proposal to Create Public Safety Special Taxing Districts**

### **Notice of Public Hearing**

*Public hearing regarding City of Mount Rainier establishing two Public Safety Special Taxing Districts*

Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2006

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: City Hall, One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier

The City of Mount Rainier, as per its Charter (Section 804), has the power to levy and collect taxes in the form of special assessments in a special taxing district to cover all or any part of the cost of infrastructure improvements.

The Maryland General Assembly last year passed Senate Bill 2, regarding the creation of Special Taxing Districts for Public Safety. The legislation went into effect on July 1, 2005.

The Mayor and Council are seriously considering creating two special taxing districts in the City. These special taxing districts will provide increased revenue for the sole purpose of improving safety in areas that are being plagued with crime and unwanted activities. Property owners within the districts will be assessed a special taxes in addition to the regular property tax rate that applies generally within the city limits. The areas under consideration are in the areas that have had a large number of criminal activities over the past few years, and have resulted in a significant amount of staff time and other resources, particularly from the City's Public Works and Police Department. It should be noted that any funds collected under the special taxing district must be used within that district.

The City of Mount Rainier, in an effort to enhance public safety, is planning to adopt an Ordinance that will create the Public Safety Special Taxing Districts within the City.

The purpose of the Special Taxing Districts is to create areas within the City's limits that require additional safety measures, including but not limited to, community policing, increased lighting and signage, and other infrastructure enhancements that may redirect or improve pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

The proposed Public Safety Taxing Districts within the City of Mount Rainier will cover the following areas:

### **Proposed Area 1 (includes Kaywood, Queens Manor, Queenstown, and nearby properties)**

All commercial, multi-unit residential, and vacant properties within the taxing district boundaries (excluding single-family homes) on the following blocks:

- 4100, 4200, and 4300 blocks of Russell Avenue;
- 2700 block of Taylor Street;
- 2700 block of Upshur Street;
- 4100 block of Kaywood Place;
- 4200 and 4300 block of Kaywood Drive;
- 2700 block of Webster Street;
- 2200 and 2300 blocks of Varnum Street;
- 4200 to 4500 blocks of Eastern Avenue;
- 3300 block of Buchanan Street;
- All of Queenstown Drive;
- 2500 to 3200 blocks of Queens Chapel Road;
- 3000, 3100, 3200, and 3300 blocks of Chillum Road;
- 4600 and 4700 blocks of 25th Street;

- 4600 and 4700 blocks of 27th Street;
- 4200 block of 28<sup>th</sup> Street;
- All of 28<sup>th</sup> Place;
- 4500 to 4700 blocks of 29th Street;
- 4600 and 4700 blocks of 30th Street;
- 4600 block of 31st Street;
- 2500 through 2900 blocks of Allison Street; and
- 2400 through 3300 block of Arundel Road
- All of Chauncey Place

### **Proposed Area 2**

All commercial, multi-unit residential, and vacant properties within the boundaries of the special taxing district (except single family homes) on the following blocks:

- 3400 to 3700 blocks of Otis Street;
- 3400 and 3500 block of Newton Place;
- 3400 block of Newton Street;
- 3500 block of 37th Street; and
- 3600 block of Oak Lane (Street)
- 3600 and 3700 blocks of Wells Avenue; and
- real property owned by the CSX Railroad Corporation along the city's border between Eastern Avenue and the Brentwood Corporate Limits.

The accompanying map provides the proposed boundaries of the proposed Public Safety Taxing Districts.

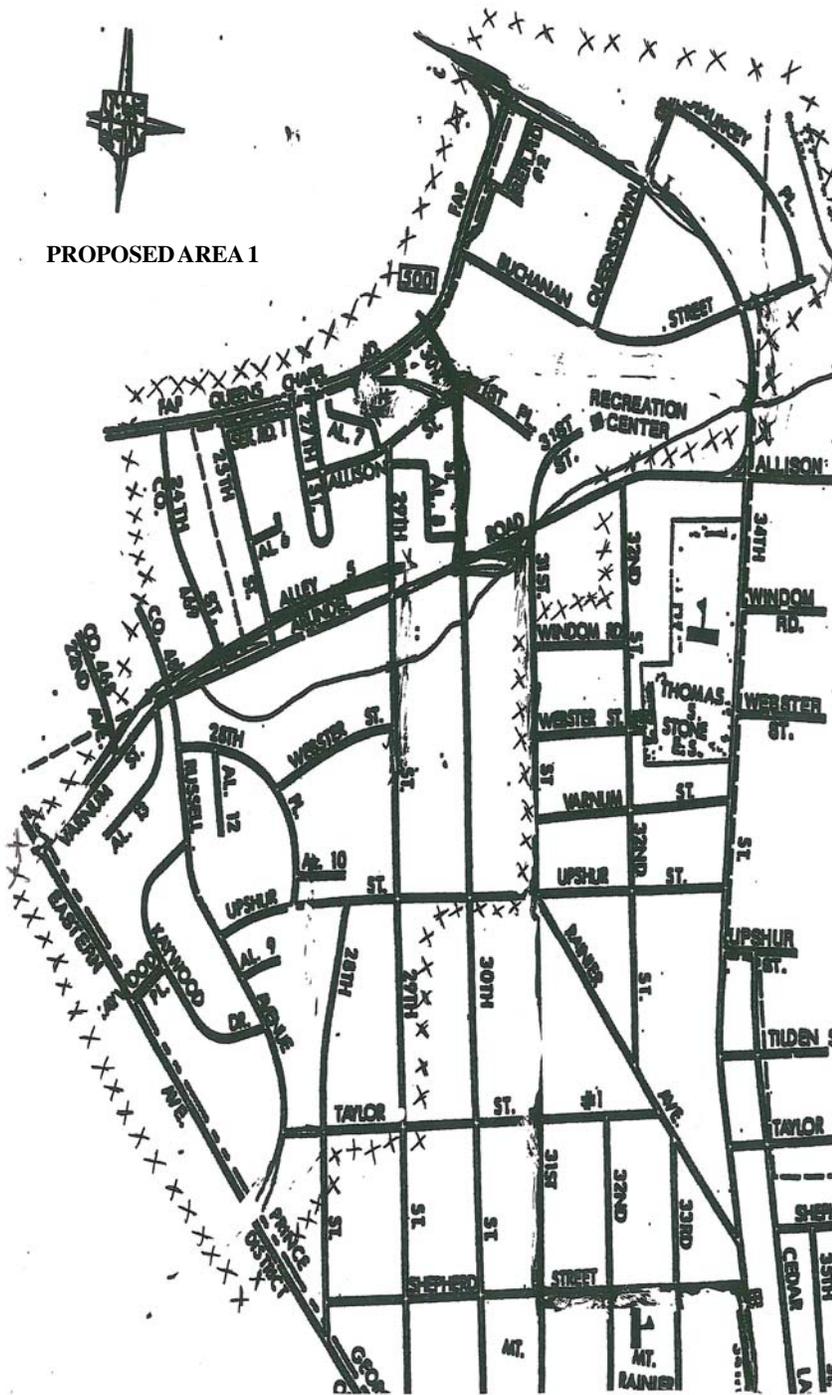
If you are unable to attend the Public Hearing, please submit your written comments or testimony to City Hall by Friday, March 17, 2006 before 4 p.m.

For further information, please contact James Booth, Assistant City Manager, at 301-985-6585 or e-mail at

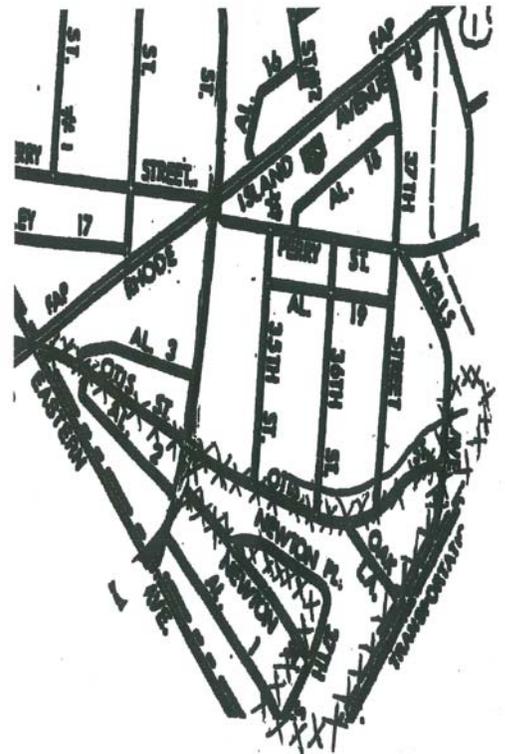
*JBooth@mountrainiermd.org.*



PROPOSED AREA 1



PROPOSED AREA 2



# The Rap and Act Group...

**...Enjoys Life**

\*

**...Disfruta la Vida**

## LAUGHING \* RISA

**Kierra George, 10**

Today I saw a man on a commercial dancing with a green hula dress, saying "Take a vacation card!" He was wiggling his hips right to left and left to right. My mom and I laughed hard about it. The more we thought about it, we laughed more. I felt like I was in the laughing center of my head. It was warm and I was on my way to the Community Center and the sky was blue and sunny and windy and I was happy today.

By Cristian



By Jennifer

By Raul



By Lamarr



## DUCKS \* PATOS

If you want a quiet place, go to a river and watch the ducks play, swim and fly. I like the ducks because I like swimming, and most of the time they swim. The place I go the most is the Queenstown River [Northwest Branch]. It's the best spot for me because I live in Queenstown and I can walk there. It is nice and peaceful. If you want to go to the river, go to the one closest to you.

Si quieres un lugar tranquilo, ve a un rio y mira a los patos jugar, nadar y volar. Me gustan los patos porque me gusta nadar y casi todo el tiempo están nadando. El lugar donde yo voy es el rio de Queenstown [Northwest Branch]. Es el mejor sitio para mí porque vivo en Queenstown y puedo ir caminando. Es agradable y apacible. Si quieres ir al rio, ve al que esté más cerca.

**Fatima Benovraida, 11**

Hoy ví a un hombre en un comercial, bailando con una falda hawaiiiana, diciendo, "Tómese una tarjeta vacacional!"

Estaba moviendo sus caderas de derecha a izquierda e izquierda a derecha. Mi mamá y yo nos reimos mucho de verlo. Mientras más pensamos en eso, mas nos reiamos. Me sentí en el centro de risa de mi cabeza. El día era cálido y yo estaba en camino al Centro Comunitario. El cielo era azul y asoleado y con brisa, y yo estuve feliz hoy.

## ...Remembers the "Old Country"

### Mi Perrita

Un día mi amiga me regaló una perrita. Mi mamá me dijo, "¿Cómo le vas a poner?" Yo le dije, "Lo voy a pensar. Yo le dije muchos nombres pero no le gustaron. Despues dije "Chispita," y mi mamá dijo sí, estaba bien bonito. En mi casa mi perrita subía las escaleras como un conejo y yo me reía.

Nosotros tuvimos que movernos a Usulután (El Salvador), y allá le gustó. Un día mi papi me llevó a la casa de mi tío. Ahí había piscina y había una puerta de vidrio. Chispita pensaba que era aire libre y se golpeó. Eso fue muy chistoso.

Ella tuvo sus cachorritos yo siempre los cuidaba. Cuando nos tuvimos que mover para aquí a los Estados Unidos yo estaba triste porque la iba a dejar. Yo con ella duré cuatro años. Ella era colocha y bien chiquita. Yo la extraño mucho.

**Jennifer Ruiz, 10**

### My Doggy

One day my friend gave me a puppy. My mom said, "What will you name her?" I said, "I'll think about it." I told her many names but she didn't like them. Then I said, "Chispita" [Sparky], and my mommy said, yes, that was a pretty name. In my house my puppy climbed the stairs like a rabbit and I laughed.

We had to move to Usulután [El Salvador], and she liked it there. One day my daddy took me to my uncle's house. There was a pool, and a glass door. Chispita thought it was just air and she ran right into it. That was very funny.

She had puppies and I always took care of them. When we had to move here to the United States I was sad to leave her. I was with her for four years. She had curly hair and was tiny. I miss her so much.

**...Sometimes Has Hard Days**

\*

**...A Veces Tiene Días Difíciles**

**Two Views of a Fight**  
**I. Lourdes Garcia, 10**

I. Mi amiga se peleó con una niña en la escuela. Todo empezó cuando estábamos en la biblioteca y una niña estaba hablando de mi amiga. Mi amiga se empezó a enojar y yo le dije que no hiciera caso a lo que estaban diciendo. Después la niña ofendió a mi amiga y se empezaron a pelear. La maestra vio y las regañó.

**Dos Versiones de una Pelea**  
**II. Allison Landon, 10**

My friend had a fight with another girl at school. It started when we were in the library and the girl was talking about my friend. My friend got mad and told her to pay no attention to what they were saying. Then the girl insulted my friend and they began fighting. The teacher saw and scolded them.



II. This girl punched a girl because she was messing with her and she got tired of her. One girl was Latin American and one was African American. The teacher saw and told my home room teacher. So the girls almost got suspended. Everybody from three classes was around when the incident happened, in the media center (library) when we just got to school.

I felt like I was terrified because it just felt like BOOM like my heart was pounding or exploded. This reminded me of when I got into that situation, and made me think about how I felt about myself: disgraced, insulted, hurt. This is very very very very very VERY CRUEL.

Una niña le pegó a otra niña porque le estaba molestando. Una de las niñas era latinoamericana y la otra afroamericana. A las niñas casi las suspenden. Todos los alumnos de tres grupos estaban ahí, en la biblioteca, cuando ocurrió el incidente, justo al llegar a la escuela.

Yo me sentí aterrada, como que me latía o explotaba el corazón: BUM. Me acordé de cuando yo me ví en la misma situación, y me hizo pensar en que me había sentido abochornada, insultada y lastimada. Ello es muy muy muy muy muy MUY CRUEL.

**Suspensión Injusta \* Unfair Suspension Amelia Velasco, 16**

El miércoles de la semana pasada hubo un problema en mi escuela. Unos compañeros se escaparon de la escuela y se fueron a un party. Otros se fueron al Mall. Ese día no fui a dos clases porque estaba enferma y tuve que ir con la enfermera. Me tuvieron allí durante mucho tiempo y me revisaron. Cuando llegué a mi tercer periodo me topé con la sorpresa de que me iban a suspender por cinco días, como a los otros, porque supuestamente me había escapado también. Todos quedamos suspendidos por cinco días. Y el jueves siguiente tuve que ir a la escuela y presentarme con el principal.

Last Wednesday there was a problem at my school. Some of my schoolmates escaped from school and went to a party. Others went to the Mall. That day I didn't go to two classes because I was sick and had to go to the nurse's office. They kept me there a long time, and examined me. When I got to my third period class I found to my surprise that I was going to be suspended for five days, because supposedly I had escaped also. We were all suspended for five days. The next Thursday I had to go see the principal.

**...Recuerda su país de origen**



**Jamaica**

**The First Day of Jamaica!**  
**El Primer Día de Jamaica!**  
**Rodnika Campbell, 9**

The first day I went to Jamaica was when I was a baby. My whole family was with us. All of my cousins were playing in the sand. Then I went down there with them. My cousin Sam put me in the water and then took me out. Her brother took some sand and put it in my diaper.



El primer día que fui a Jamaica yo era bebé. Toda mi familia estaba con nosotros. Mis primas y primos estaban jugando en la arena. Entonces bajé donde estaban jugando. Mi prima Sam me metió al agua y luego me sacó. Su hermano agarró arena y la metió dentro de mi pañal.

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## City of Mount Rainier Businesses

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The City is proud to provide the following list of Mount Rainier businesses. There are over 80 businesses located throughout the City that offer a wide variety of products and services. Products and services that range from fresh pastry, home made ice cream, Chinese, Salvadoran, Mexican and American cuisine, insurance, antiques, car and truck rental, storage supplies, hair supplies, beauty and spa supplies, hair salon services, barber shop services, arts and crafts, tax preparation, accounting services, digital communication solutions, auto supplies, security services, medical services, beverages, and many other items.

Help support the Mount Rainier economy and stop by one or many of the local businesses listed below. Stop by a business today and say, ***“I saw your business in the March Message.”***

The City of Mount Rainier is excited about several new businesses that will open in the near future. Stay tuned as plans are on the way for a full service restaurant on Rhode Island Avenue and two Café’s that will provide a great cup of coffee or specialty teas combined with arts and entertainment.

### Eating Places

Caribbean Market, 3213 Queens Chapel Road  
Frances Salvadorean and Mexican Food, 3852 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
Grand China Restaurant, 2300 Arundel Road  
Island Style Ice Cream Parlor, 3856 34<sup>th</sup> 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 34<sup>th</sup> Street

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

Beauty Depot, 3171 Queens Chapel Road  
Color’s By Tangie, 3800-B 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
Hands on Barber, 3811 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kaywood Unisex Salon, 2309 Varnum Street  
Ms. Cee’s Beauty Parlor, 2307 Varnum Street  
Phil Y’s Barber Shop, 2319 Varnum Street  
Shear Creation Barber Shop and Salon, 3201 Rhode Island Avenue  
Tracey’s Hair Studio, 3848 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
Urlyana’s Hair Studio and Spa, 3237 Rhode Island Avenue  
Crown of Glory Salon, 4004 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
First Beauty Nail Salon, 3215 Rhode Island Avenue

### Convenience, Beverage and Dollar Stores

Check Cashing Services, 3211 Rhode Island Avenue  
La Pequenita Grocery, 3840 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
Chuck’s Liquors, 3416 Rhode Island Avenue  
Marie’s Variety Store, 4002 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
Erika’s Grocery, 3237 Rhode Island Avenue  
Money Marts/Checks Cashed, 3213 Queens Chapel Road  
Family Dollar, 2201 Varnum Street  
Party Time Liquors, 3307 Rhode Island Avenue  
Family Dollar, 3179 Queens Chapel Road  
7-11 Convenience Store, 3310 Chillum Road  
Habesha International Market, 2311 Varnum Street  
7-11 Convenience Store, 2310 Varnum Street  
Kaywood Liquors, 2305 Varnum Street  
K’ Food Mart, 3233 Rhode Island Avenue  
Kaywood Supermarket, 2303 Varnum Street

### Auto Services; Gas/ Fuel; Supplies

Eastern BP Amoco, 4501 Eastern Avenue  
Advance Auto, 3191 Queens Chapel Road  
A&P Wholesalers, 3501 37<sup>th</sup> Street  
Thrifty Car Rental, 3210 Rhode Island Avenue

### Child Care Services

Gateway Child Development, 3833 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
Mount Rainier Early Learning Center, 4001 33<sup>rd</sup> Street

### Taxes and Accounting Services

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

### Books; Natural Healing; Coops

Dar Es Salaam, 4000 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
WWCG Books, 3847 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
Glut Food Coop, 4000 34<sup>th</sup> Street

### Arts and Crafts; Antiques; Arts and Entertainment

Bazaar San Antonio, 4010 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
G&A Discount, 3813 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
Joe’s Movement Emporium, 3802 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
Latin American Folk Institute-LAFI, 3400-A 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
Nisey’s Boutique, I Got It At Nisey’s, 4006 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
Textures and Tones, 3705 Rhode Island Avenue  
Odd and Even Thrift Shop, 3400 Rhode Island Avenue  
Oldies Music, 3219 Rhode Island Avenue  
Virgo Company Dollar Store, 3221 Rhode Island Avenue  
World Arts Focus, 3810 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
Community Vision, 3808 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
Digital Nth, 3200 Rhode Island Avenue  
El Palenque Disco Centro, 3414 Rhode Island Avenue  
Mount Rainier Antique Shop, 3815 34<sup>th</sup> 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  
PDSsystems, 3808 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
Reynold’s Real Estate School, 3239 Rhode Island Avenue

### Health; Medical Services, Books

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

### Other Products and Services

Bunker Hill Laundromat, 3846 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
LaCasita Furniture and Bedding, 3235 Rhode Island Avenue  
Queens T. Custom Cleaners, 3111 Chillum Road  
Standard Pressing Company, 3299 Queens Chapel Road

## Opportunities— Summer Jobs

### U.S. Embassy Summer Jobs - 90 locations worldwide

**U. S. Embassy Summer Jobs** Spend a summer working in a U.S. Embassy in one of 90 locations throughout the world! The USDA Foreign Agricultural Service's International Internship Program is a PAID internship program and is in need of applicants! As of this week, the program has only received 3 applications nationwide!

### **DUE TO THIS LOW NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS THE DEADLINE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO**

**MARCH 15TH!** The Foreign Agricultural Service's International Internship Program provides college students the opportunity to live and work in a paid internship at an American Embassy overseas. Through work assignments participants learn various aspects of international trade, trade policy, international relations, diplomacy, regional and cultural considerations, etc. Positions are available in Western Europe, Latin America, and Asia. The internship is offered every semester and summer for graduate students and upperclassmen (juniors and seniors). Requirements: Be a currently enrolled graduate or undergraduate student (must be a junior or a senior), a U.S. citizen and in good academic standing. Graduate level students in business, international relations, regional studies (i.e. Latin American Studies, Asian Studies, etc), public policy, foreign languages, etc., as well as high-achieving junior and senior undergraduates in similar majors are particularly encouraged to apply, though the program is open to all majors. Please see the application at this website: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/admin/student/summerintern.htm>

## Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Calendar

DATE	EVENT
Monday, March 13, 2006	City Manager submits proposed FY 2007 budget to Mayor and Council and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for FY 2007, 2008, and 2009
Tuesday, March 21, 2006	Work Session on budget and Capital Improvement Plans
Thursday, March 23, 2006	Notice in <i>Port Towns Gazette</i> about budget presentations, April 4, April 11, April 18.
Tuesday, April 4, 2006	Presentation and public comment, proposed FY 2007 budget for all City programs other than police, parking enforcement, public works, and code enforcement. Summary available)
Thursday, April 6, 2006	Notice in <i>Port Towns Gazette</i> about budget presentations April 11, April 18.
Tuesday, April 11, 2006	Special meeting before work session. Presentation and public comment, proposed FY 2007 budget for police department and parking enforcement (Summary available)
Thursday, April 13, 2006	Notice in <i>Port Towns Gazette</i> about budget presentations, April 18, 2006.
Tuesday, April 18, 2006	Presentation and public comment, proposed FY 2007 budget for public works and code enforcement. (Summary available)
Tuesday, April 25, 2006	Work session on budget
Tuesday, May 2, 2006	Work session on budget; decide proposed tax rate
Friday, May 5, 2006	<i>Port Towns Gazette</i> deadline for submission of May 11, 2006 display ad on constant yield tax rate, and variable tax rate; public hearing Tuesday, May 23, 2006.
Tuesday, May 23, 2006	Public hearing on Constant Yield Tax Rate, Variable Tax Rate, and on budget (revised summaries available). First reading of FY 2007 Budget Ordinance
Tuesday, June 6, 2006	Second reading and vote, FY 2007 Budget Ordinance

**Mayor's Report**, continued from page 2

- a. Mixed Use Town Center Committee (Mayor and Council recommend for appointment)
- b. Town Center Design Review Committee (Mayor and Council recommend for appointment)
- c. Senior Emergency Preparedness Commission (appointed by Mayor and Council)
- d. Personnel Review Board—(appointed by Mayor and Council)
- e. Cable Commission (appointed by Mayor and Council)
- f. Mount Rainier Board of Elections (appointed by Mayor and Council)
- g. Tree Commission (appointed by Mayor and Council)
- h. Community Tool Shed Committee (appointed by Mayor and Council)
- i. Mount Rainier's Beautification Committee (Appointed by Mayor and Council)
- j. Recreation and Youth Committee (appointed by Mayor and Council)
- k. Mount Rainier Day Committee—volunteer group
- l. Mount Rainier Giving Project—volunteer group
- m. Parenting Committee—volunteer group
- n. Babysitting Coop—volunteer group

**6. MOUNT RAINIER DAY FESTIVAL**—The Mount Rainier Day Festival is planned for Saturday, May 20. It is an all day fun event for families, friends and relatives. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Our City will once again come alive with activities to celebrate our spirit of community and our cultural diversity. There will be a parade, bands, vendors, and fun activities for the entire family. Please plan to come out and celebrate this event with your friends and neighbors. The Mount Rainier Day Committee includes Ophelia Baxter, Barbara Goliday, Robert Taylor, Vicki Onderdonk, Dale Dayton, and Council liaison Pedro Briones. They are always looking for volunteers, new ideas and suggestions. Please contact them, if this is a committee on which you would like to serve. Some contact numbers for you are Ophelia Baxter at 240-393-1187, Barbara

Goliday at 301-537-6046, or Robert Taylor at 301-779-2172 or e-mail the following members orbaxter@comcast.net; *Pedroeb@aol.com*; *DaleWDayton@aol.com*; *bkidd@worldartfocus.org*; *BGoliday@aol.com*; *vicki\_onderdonk@nthp.org*

**7. The Cable Commission**—Joan Ring-Cooke and members of the Cable Commission have been working hard to revamp our cable television programming; to become familiar with the County's Cable Commission; and to understand our cable franchise. In addition, the Mayor and Council recently passed a resolution accepting the bylaws that would implement INET, an information system that will bring quick access to County government and eventually State government. Information that would usually take days and even weeks for the City to access and/or receive will be as close as our computers. We are looking forward for this system to be up and running in the very near future. We will keep you posted.

**8. "IF I WERE MAYOR. . ." Essay Contest**—Essays must be received no later than April 1. The prizes include a \$250 savings bond and \$25 Barnes and Noble gift cards. All participants are invited to Annapolis to meet with the Governor or his designee. Our two schools, Mount Rainier Elementary and Thomas Stone Elementary have participated in this contest over the past two years. As Mayor of our City, I encourage their participation again this year and encourage parents of all fourth graders to have their children write an essay for the If I were Mayor Contest. Information about the contest and a study guide can be downloaded from the Maryland Municipal League site.

**9. Municipal Government Works Month**—April has been declared Municipal Government Works Month. Flyers have been sent out to schools and municipal governments to encourage participation. The purpose of Municipal Government Works month is to get high school students, teachers, parents, administrators and elected officials working together to appreciate the roles municipal government plays in their daily lives. Elected officials are encouraged to invite high school students to spend a day at City Hall and vice versa elected officials are asked to spend a day at

their local high schools to bring municipal government to the classroom.

**10. Chief of Police, Vacancy**—As you are aware, Chief Fred Keeney resigned his position with the City of Mount Rainier two weeks prior to accepting a position as second in command with Metro. Since his departure, Lt. Michael Scott has been and continues to serve as Acting Chief of Police. This is a very critical time in our history, and the Mayor and Council are very much aware of the safety issues and needs in our City. As the needs of our community changes, and the moneys needed to run our City effectively become harder and harder to come by, there is a need for the Mayor and Council to seek new ways of doing business.

As we look toward filling the Chief of Police vacancy, there are discussions underway to seek to regionalize policing between the smaller cities (Brentwood, Cottage City, Colmar Manor, Bladensburg, North Brentwood, and Edmondston). All of these municipalities are small and spending money for police coverage that is inadequate and does not fully meet the needs of their residents or businesses. Brief conversations have taken place with several of the Mayors to explore combining our funds and resources into one regional police unit under a Mutual Aid Agreement (MOU) that would provide for better 24 hour coverage.

The idea is growing and meetings were recently held with the 47<sup>th</sup> Legislative District representatives to seek their advice and support. They wholeheartedly agreed to work with each of the municipalities to bring about this concept. You will be hearing more about this as more serious discussions get underway.

**11. Potty-Johns**—The City in an effort to abate public urination and other similar activities installed two potty johns in the down town area. Over the past few months there has been a mixed review on the function and purpose of the potty johns. Without an official survey, it can be said that more people are proud that the City took this action than those who believe that we should not have undertaken this endeavor. Let me point out that you can now walk into City Hall without the strong smell of urine. City employees are spending fewer hours cleaning up and sanitizing the

alley ways around the down town area; and patrons and bus drivers are using the facilities. We are having some difficulty in keeping the potty johns clean, but are working with the company to increase their vigilance in keeping them clean.

**12. Code Enforcement**—Over the years, the City has applied a very lenient code enforcement policy. As a result many of the City's codes have gone unaddressed and/or violated, and when they are enforced, there is much hollering and screaming. For the record, it is the City's policy to strictly enforce all of its codes, and to prosecute when necessary to ensure compliance. This is not a get tough policy, but a policy that will ensure safety, good health, and a livable community. Over the past few month, the City has inspected businesses that had infestations of rats, roaches, and snakes! These conditions are not fit for human habitation, and the City will aggressively pursue their correction and continued compliance. If you are aware of these conditions in your home (apartment, rental housing unit, commercial building, etc.) or business, please contact code enforcement and your Ward representative so that the corrections can be made.

**18. Public Works Employees**—Because of the preparedness and vigilance, the City weathered it first snow storm of the year with jubilation and joy! Every where I go, I get compliments on how fast and how well our Public Works staff responded to the need to get and keep our streets clean. Thank you goes out to Luther Smith, Paul Messersmith, Charles Stewart, Michael Barnes, Elwood Jackson, Shawn Davis, Leroy Sammy, and Kevin Thompson.

**13. Red Light Cameras**—The Mayor and Council has said yes to installing Red Light Cameras on the traffic light at Queens Chapel and Chillum Roads. This action has been on and off the table over the past several years, however, in January the Mayor and Council decided that there was a safety need that warranted the installation of cameras at that intersection. Since the contract has recently been signed, the cameras will not go up right away, so now is the time to start practicing more safe conduct at that light. Pedestrian safety is a primary factor. The Queens Chapel Road has been narrowed, and a walk light installed, yet senior and children still must

run to cross that very busy street. We hope to change that with this safety measure. You should also know that Brentwood is also installing Red Light cameras on the traffic light at 38<sup>th</sup> and Rhode Island Avenue. So please practice safe driving habits.

**14. Other City Employees**—The other half of the City's employees are not covered by a union contract. And, one of my major concerns is the equity of salaries and benefits provided by the City to all of its employees. Although a major step was taken last year to improve the salary conditions of these employees, they did not receive a raise beyond an earned merit increase. This year I am proposing a cost of living increase as a well as any earned merit increase.

**15. Health Insurance**—This is and has been a major issue facing the City and its employees. Currently the City pays health insurance premiums for its employees, and allows the employees to purchase health insurance for their family members. However, the premium cost for family coverage is extremely high resulting in an average cost of \$800 per month. This is a major hardship on employees grossing \$21,000 to \$40,000 per year with a family of four or more. On President's Day, your Mayor and City Manager met with the 47<sup>th</sup> Legislative Delegation and ask them to help identify ways to reduce the cost of health insurance and to introduce legislation that support full health coverage for all Maryland workers. This will not produce an immediate answer, but they all recognize the need for good health care and the resources that are available to most small municipalities. This issue will continue to be in the forefront of the City's deliberations, and will have an impact on our budget preparations.

**16. Budget Preparations**—Mayor and Council will begin budget development in the next few weeks. Department head have already submitted their budgets, and the City Manager and the Director of Finance along with the Assistant City Manager are in the process of forging a two year proposed budget for the Mayor and Council to review and make adjustments. In addition to the issues noted above, the City is facing the harsh reality of a very old fleet of cars, and the need to do some

serious upkeep and maintenance on its buildings. These items are going to cost. In addition, the City is facing the same crisis that all of you are facing with the rising cost of oil, gasoline and other fuels. We are striving to become more energy efficient, but it is difficult to do when we are unable to purchase more fuel efficient cars and equipment. These rising costs are also going to impact our budget, and our ability to respond quickly and efficiently to the needs of our City. I invite you to take a moment to get a copy of our current budget, and offer suggestions, input, ideas for how we may maintain our current level of services while meeting some of the other needs that are beginning to present themselves.

**17. Recreation and Youth Committee** (appointed by Mayor and Council)—This is a very new committee. It is seeking volunteer members to work on youth programs and activities. This is a very important committee that has the financial backing of the City (\$30,000 built into the budget for the purpose of creating recreational and youth programs for our 12 to 19 year old youth – about \$5,000 was used last summer to pay youths to paint some of our curbs). With the creation of this committee, the Mayor and Council are seeking at least two youths in the age range of 12 to 19 to serve on this committee to help identify and develop youth programs in the City. If you have a teenager or you yourself would like to get involved with this Committee, please submit your name to Mr. James Booth at 301-985-6585. Our youth need you! The committee would also be charged with helping the City go after other grants that might be available for youths and recreation.

**18. The Message**—Over the past three issues, there has been an effort to improve the newsletter and to hear from other segments of our population. I hope that you have been reading the news stories and articles that have been placed there by our youths. The writers are young people between the ages of 9 and 17. Most live in the Queenstown Apartment, and are a part of the community center there. They meet regularly and are looking for ways to learn

**Mayor's Report, continued on page 16**

about and contribute to our community. This past week, I met with Mr. Obie Pinckney and Julia Barnett to discuss potential funding for this group, and for funds to help expand it. Based on the meeting we are quite hopeful that this program will continue. In the meantime, if you would like to see our youth at work or help them to continue what we have started with the Message, please consider making a donation to "The Rap and Act Group." Make checks payable to City Hall, but note that the funds are for this group since it is not yet incorporated. You may also donate your time to working with this group when they move to the Mount Rainier Nature/Recreation Center. Stay tuned, this group is truly awesome.

19. **Recycling**—his is a major role that you the resident can play in Mount Rainier. By recycling you reduce the amount of money the City has to pay for tipping fees. Tipping fees are what we have to pay to take all of the refuse collected in the City and dump it in one of the County's dumping sites. For this fiscal year alone, our tipping fees have cost more than \$54,000. Our recycling fees are under \$5,000. Yes, we pay for recycling, but not very much. However, our cost is higher than it should be for recycling because many of us in the City do NOT recycle. Recycling helps our environment by reusing plastics, papers, and cardboards that would otherwise sit in landfills. Mayor and Council encourage you to **Reduce, Re-use, Recycle! It is cost effective for the City, the environment and you.**

There is lots more going on in our City, but I am closing with the full intent of not

getting writers block again any time soon; with the hope that I can get another computer that will be just mine and not mine and the grandchildren who download and play games on it where every virus in the world knows my address; and with the hope that somebody out there will contact City Hall and GET INVOLVED. The City REALLY needs you, and some of you promised to be there to help me. I need you now so that we can continue to move forward!

As always, your comments are welcomed. Your participation in municipal government is critical, and your continued residence in Mount Rainier is needed so that we can continue to be **"The City on The MOVE!"**

Save the Dates:

**1. March 25, 2006—Earth Day Every Day** will again be celebrated at the Mount Rainier Nature/Recreation Center. Under the leadership of Ms. Paula McNeil, activities will include trash bag games, a presentation on what you can do to help our environment, games and activities for children and the good ole fashion moon bounce. Please come out and celebrate with us. For more information contact Ms. McNeil at 301-927-2163.

**2. March 27, 2006—The 47<sup>th</sup> Legislative Team** will be hosting a reception in Annapolis for its constituents. They would love to see you there. Check in with your senator and state delegates to get more information. They need to get to know your name. To contact them, call

**3. September 16, 2006**—First Baptist of Mount Rainier will host its annual picnic. All are invited. For further info, call 301-927-5565.

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## Street Repairs and Improvements

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### It's That Time of Year—Street Repairs and Improvements

The City will begin Street Repair and Improvements through the Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) Program. For Program Year 31 (PY 31), the City has contracted with Espina Stone Company to make street repairs and improvements to the following areas:

- 3400 Block of Newton Street
- 3800 through 4200 Block of 31st Street
- 3500 & 3800 through 4000 Blocks of 37th Street
- 3800 Block of 33rd Street
- Alley 19
- Arundel Road
- 29th through 30th Street
- 3300 Block of Bunker Hill Road
- Tilden Street
- 34th Street
- 3200 Block of Varnum Street

The above list of streets were submitted as part of the City's grant application package in November 2004. Additional streets will be repaired through the Livable Communities Initiatives Street Improvement Project as well as through subsequent program year funds for the CDBG program. Residents will be notified when street repairs will be made on their streets. The repair work is scheduled for the period March 2006 through June 2006.

**Police**, continued from page 4

### **Reduce Your Risk Getting in to Your Car**

- Walk with purpose and stay alert.
- Approach your car with the key in hand. Look around and inside the car before getting in.
- Be wary of people asking for directions or handing out fliers. Trust your instincts - if something makes you feel uneasy, get into the car quickly, lock the doors, and drive away.

### **When Driving**

- Keep your doors locked and windows rolled up (at least part-way, if it's hot and you don't have air conditioning), no matter how short the distance or how safe the neighborhood.
- When you're coming to a stop, leave enough room to maneuver around other cars, especially if you sense trouble and need to get away.
- Drive in the center lane to make it harder for would-be carjackers to approach the car.
- *Always* wear your seatbelt. Wearing a seatbelt is not only vital protection in case of a crash, but also makes it more difficult for a carjacker to pull you out of your vehicle when stopped
- Avoid driving alone. Go with someone whenever possible, especially at night.
- Don't stop to assist a stranger whose car is broken down. Help instead by driving to the nearest phone and calling police to help.

### **Getting Out**

- Park in well-lighted areas, near sidewalks or walkways. Avoid parking near dumpsters, woods, large vans or trucks, or anything else that limits your visibility.
- Never leave valuables in plain view, even if the car is locked. Put them in the trunk or out of sight.
- Try to park in a garage with an attendant. Leave only the ignition key, with no identification.
- Even if you're rushed, maintain your situational awareness - look around

before you get out and stay alert to the surroundings.

### **If It Happens to You...**

- If the carjacker threatens you with a gun or other weapon, give up your car. Don't argue. Your life is worth more than a car.
- Get away from the area as quickly as possible.
- Try to remember what the carjacker looked like - sex, race, age, hair and eye color, special features, clothes.
- Report the crime immediately to the police.

For a free, downloadable brochure on how to prevent carjacking, please visit the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services' web site at:

[www.dpscs.state.md.us/aboutdpscs/pct/capi/brochures/carjacke.pdf](http://www.dpscs.state.md.us/aboutdpscs/pct/capi/brochures/carjacke.pdf)

### **Selected Crimes— January 2005**

#### *Assault - Aggravated*

3100 BLOCK QUEENS CHAPEL RD

#### *Assault - Simple*

3400 BLOCK RHODE ISLAND AV

#### *Burglary - Commercial*

4000 BLOCK 34TH ST

#### *Burglary - Residential*

4600 BLOCK 30TH ST

#### *Burglary - Residential*

4100 BLOCK 29TH ST

#### *Recovered Stolen Vehicle*

3500 BLOCK RHODE ISLAND AV

2700 BLOCK UPSHUR ST

3200 BLOCK QUEENSTOWN DR

CHILLUM RD

2900 BLOCK ALLISON ST

3300 BLOCK CHILLUM RD

3300 BLOCK RHODE ISLAND AV

4000 BLOCK SHEPERD ST

3600 BLOCK OAK LN

28TH ST

#### *Robbery - Carjacking*

3400 BLOCK RHODE ISLAND AV

4700 BLOCK 30TH ST

2900 BLOCK ALLISON ST

3500 BLOCK NEWTON ST

3200 BLOCK CHILLUM RD

#### *Robbery - Citizen*

3000 BLOCK BUNKER HILL RD

4100 BLOCK EASTERN AV

4700 BLOCK 27TH ST

2700 BLOCK ARUNDEL RD

2800 BLOCK SHEPHERD ST

3700 BLOCK BUNKERHILL RD

3300 BLOCK CHILLUM RD

3000 BLOCK BUNKER HILL RD

#### *Stolen Vehicle*

4000 BLOCK 29TH ST

3000 BLOCK ARUNDEL RD

4200 BLOCK RUSSELL AV

4300 BLOCK 28TH PI

4100 BLOCK RUSSELL AV

2800 BLOCK UPSHUR ST

4200 BLOCK RUSSELL AV

4217 BLOCK RUSSELL AV

4100 BLOCK 29TH ST

2700 BLOCK ALLISON ST

4000 BLOCK 31ST ST

4200 BLOCK KAYWOOD DR

2900 BLOCK UPSHUR ST

3000 BLOCK ARUNDEL RD

3800 BLOCK 33RD ST

#### *Theft - From Auto*

3100 BLOCK WEBSTER ST

4100 BLOCK RUSSELL AV

4000 BLOCK 32ND ST

2700 BLOCK ARUNDEL RD

#### *Theft - Vehicle Tags*

4200 BLOCK RUSSELL AV

4300 BLOCK 28TH PI

4000 BLOCK 31ST ST

3100 BLOCK QUEENS CHAPEL RD

4000 BLOCK 31ST ST

3000 BLOCK ARUNDEL RD

#### *Theft < 500*

2300 BLOCK VARNUM ST

3100 BLOCK QUEENS CHAPEL RD

3100 BLOCK WINDON RD

2300 BLOCK VARNUM ST

2300 BLOCK VARNUM ST

#### *Urinating in Public*

2300 BLOCK VARNUM ST

#### *Vandalism*

3700 BLOCK 34TH ST

4200 BLOCK 34TH ST

3100 BLOCK QUEENS CHAPEL RD

#### *Vandalism to Auto*

2700 BLOCK ARUNDEL RD

3200 BLOCK QUEENSTOWN DR

4100 BLOCK 33RD ST

4100 BLOCK 33RD ST

4700 BLOCK 27TH STREET

3300 BLOCK CHILLUM RD

3100 BLOCK UPSHUR ST

3600 BLOCK RHODE ISLAND AV

4600 BLOCK ALLISON ST

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## **New Fence Permit Rules Go Into Effect**

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The Mayor and Council recently adopted Ord. 3-2006 which amended the city's fence permit rules (Sec. 12-101). After March 1, 2006, the finished side of the fence must face the public street, alley, or abutting property. The "finished side" of a fence is the smooth side or the side not containing structural supports. If structural elements are an integral part of the fence design, then such elements must be centered on the line of the fence and designed as part of the finished surface. In addition, all fences must be maintained in good, sound condition. Fences must be free of damage, breaks, and missing structural members. All fences must be located so as to comply with the Prince George's County Zoning Code.

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## **Careers Day and Job Fair**

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### **For employers and prospective employees**

Come and meet a variety of private and governmental agencies, as well as a number of jobseekers, representing the cultural diversity of Prince George's County are expected to attend.

When: Thursday, April 27, 2006

Time: 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Where: First Baptist Church of Mount Rainier, 3103 Shepherd Street, Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712

Job seekers: If possible bring copies of your resume and dress professional for meeting with employers

For Employer registration contact:

301-927-5565 Church Office, 301 927-5202 Fax, with Charles Kirkland, Mission & Community Outreach, Marcus Tillman, Senior Pastor, Online registration with Daniel Joya: [danjoya@aol.com](mailto:danjoya@aol.com).

*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 St.

*Gateway Municipalities CDC*—2nd Thurs., 7:00–9:00 p.m., 4102 Webster St.

*MRBA*—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.

## March–April calendar

March 1	Regular Trash Pick Up	April 3	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up
March 3	Recyclables Pick Up	April 5	Regular Trash Pick Up
March 6	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301-985-6558) Yard Waste Pick Up	April 7	Recyclables Pick Up
March 8	Regular Trash Pick Up	April 10	Yard Waste Pick Up
March 10	Recyclables Pick Up	April 12	Regular Trash Pick Up
March 13	Yard Waste Pick Up	April 14	Recyclables Pick Up
March 15	Regular Trash Pick Up	April 17	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up
March 17	Recyclables Pick Up	April 19	Regular Trash Pick Up
March 20	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301-985-6558) Yard Waste Pick up	April 21	Recyclables Pick Up
March 22	Regular Trash Pick Up	April 24	Yard Waste Pick Up
March 24	Recyclables Pick Up	April 26	Regular Trash Pick Up
March 27	Yard Waste Pick Up	April 28	Recyclables Pick Up
March 29	Regular Trash Pick Up		
March 31	Recyclables 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 a.m. on bulk trash day and all appointments made before 12 noon on the Friday preceding pick up day.**

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**

**Terry Kelly**  
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**

Acting Chief Lieutenant Michael Scott  
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.*

Postal Customer  
Mount Rainier, MD 20712

**March 2006 Message  
City of Mount Rainier  
One Municipal Place  
Mount Rainier, MD 20712**

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