



# Message

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**June 2006**

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## City of Mount Rainier and Town of Brentwood sign historic MOU for Community Policing initiative

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The City of Mount Rainier and the Town of Brentwood have entered into an unprecedented partnership for community police services between the two municipalities in Prince George's County. The elected officials of the City of Mount Rainier and of the Town of Brentwood, met formally during the Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006 Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council at Mount Rainier City Hall. The full Mayor and Council of both Mount Rainier (Mayor Malinda Miles, Council Member Ward Two Bryan Knedler, Council Member – Ward Two Pedro Briones, Council Member – Ward One Carol Gandee and

Council Member – Ward One Alta Morton) and Brentwood (Mayor George Denny Jr., Council Member Marlene Robinson, Council Member Roger Rudder, Council Member Bettyjean Schmiedgen, and Council Member Mary E. Reed) were represented at the historic meeting of the municipalities.

Through a grant from County Executive Jack Johnson's Livable Communities Initiative, \$90,000 has been awarded for this project which is geared towards strengthening public safety in these two communities through crime reduction efforts.

**City Hall**



**City of Mount Rainier**

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

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

The project's focus includes, but is not limited to a greater level of community policing that involves training residents of both communities through the development of community/neighborhood watch programs, and coordination with business owners to implement a business watch program that will aid them in crime abatement within the business districts.

### Town Hall



Town of Brentwood

The grant funds will be used to hire a bi-lingual Community Police Officer who will work out of the Town of Brentwood Municipal Center. The grant will also provide the officer with necessary police equipment, and allow for the purchase of neighborhood

watch signs, etching machines, hat, shirts, and radios for neighborhood watch program participants. The officer will provide a minimum of 40 hours on duty service between the two cities during the term of the grant. The officer will report to the Chief of Police of the City of Mount Rainier, who will provide oversight and training to the officer as well. The program is funded from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007.

A press conference was held on Thursday, May 18, 2006 at 11:00am at City Hall in Mount Rainier. On behalf of Mount Rainier, Mayor Malinda Miles, City Manager Jeannelle Wallace, and Acting Chief Mike Scott were attendance. For the Town of Brentwood, Mayor George Denny and Town Administrator Lanny Mummert were in attendance.

### HIP's Artists' Housing wins 2006 AIA "Show You're Green" Award



Mayor and Council of the Town of Brentwood  
 From Left: Mayor George Denny; Council Member - Mary E. Reed; council Member - Madlene Robinson; Council Member - Roger Rudder; Council Member - Bettyjean Schmiedgen

Housing Initiative Partnership (HIP) and its development team--Wienczek & Associates and Hamel Builders-- were thrilled to receive its 2nd national award celebrating the green innovation of HIP's Artists' Housing for

its renovation of a derelict, historic apartment building in Mount Rainier, Maryland.

Completed in 2003, HIP substantially renovated the building transforming it into a vibrant residence where artists earning 50% or less of the statewide median income can live and create.

Some of the green features include:

- Green Roof
- Biorentension Landscaping



Mayor and Council of the City of Mount Rainier  
 From Left: Council Member, Ward One - Alta Morton; Council Member, Ward One - Carol Gandee; Mayor Malinda Miles; Council Member, Ward Two - Pedro Briones; Council Member, Ward Two - Bryan Knedler

- Tankless Hotwater Heaters
- Bathroom Tiles made of Recycled Car Windshields

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Housing Initiative Partnership, Inc. is an innovative nonprofit developer based in Prince George's County, Maryland dedicated to revitalizing neighborhoods. HIP creates housing and economic opportunities for persons of low- and moderate-income and provides services that improve the quality of life in the communities we serve.

We envision a world where stability abounds, hope thrives, and opportunities flourish

Housing Initiative Partnership  
6525 Belcrest Road, Suite 555  
Hyattsville, MD 20782  
301-699-5875—phone  
301-699-8184—fax  
www.hiphomes.org



Mayor Malinda Miles and Acting Police Chief Lieutenant Michael Scott awaiting the Mount Rainier Day parade.

## Mount Rainier Day 2006 – A Successful Community Event

Ophelia Baxter

Mt. Rainier Day 2006 introduced our 1st annual 3-on-3 Basketball tournament. The participation in the event was outstanding. There were over 32 teams consisting of 3 players each. Team Urlyana's Hair Studio and Spa, located at 3237 Rhode Island Avenue, won the prize. The winning team took home championship tee shirts and trophy's sponsored by the Mt. Rainier Business Association (MRBA). The winning team also took home tickets to a June 2006 Mystic's Basketball game compliments of Wachovia Bank. They are also being given access to the Wachovia sky box for the duration of the game.

Perry Street hosted a Kidz Korner, that included a Moon Bounce, Cotton Candy and Snow Cone machines, and various games for kids of all ages. The children of Mt. Rainier participated in a big way in the parade. The kids peace train was a prominent part of the parade. The parade was the most ambitious yet! It began on the other side of the city (on Varnum Street and Russell Avenue, right next to the 7-11) as a totally mobile parade. It moved through the city, street by street, until it came to the fire station on Bunker Hill Road. There it met with Joe Robbins and his puppets, ALAFIA Dance Group, a float by Jolene Ivey, and the Little Kids for Peace - Peace Train. Elected officials and candidates for office participating in the walking parade were State Senator Gwendolyn Britt, Delegate Victor Ramirez, supporters of Montgomery County Executive Doug Duncan, and former State Senator Rushern Baker. A crowd of cheerful revelers awaited the motorcade so that the walkers and drivers

could continue the parade south along Rhode Island Avenue, across Eastern Avenue, and back down the other side of Rhode Island Avenue and back into the Festival.

During and after the parade, the west side of Rhode Island Ave was closed off and the Festival was in full swing. There were food vendors of various types, arts and craft vendors and information booths. And then, last but not in anyway least, was a stage full of entertainment. They included: ALAFIA Dance group, Joe's Movement Emporium, the Swanns, Proverbs, a Jazzercise exhibition, Buffalo Baptist church, G-Wash, Unkut, Oginga Shelton Group, Verny Varela Project-Salsa Music, Jubilee Band, and emma's revolution.

Thank you all for making this the most wonderful Mt. Rainier Day yet!

## A Camp For Every Joe

Joe's Movement Emporium has 10 weeks of Summer Arts Camp programming for children 13 and under. For the Little Joe, Creativity Explored encompasses a variety of visual arts, dance, drama, and storytelling. Children ages 3-5 will develop basic motor skills, self-confidence, independent thinking, and improve social interaction skills in the four 1-week sessions.

For the 6-13 year old Jumping Joe, Xtreme Circus introduces tumbling classes fused music, energy and strength. Also, Circus Arts, Dance, Drama/Comedic Improve and Visual Arts We even have Dance camp for the Jazzy Joe ages 8-13. Campers will gain in-depth training in a variety of dance techniques and styles, including composition and stagecraft.

In addition, each camp ends with a performance. Campers will splash at P.G. Community Pool several days per week. We have uniquely talented instructors and caring staff. The camp day begins at 9:00 am and ends at 3pm. Extended care is available, if requested in advance.

Go to [www.worldartfocus.org](http://www.worldartfocus.org) to obtain forms for camps and financial aid. Fax (301-209-1874), mail or drop off registrations (3806 34th Street, Mt. Rainier, Md 20712). Space is limited, so call 301-699-1819 today.

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## PEDALS ON PARADE!

### The Mt. Rainier Bicycle Co-op Gets “Wheel” on Mt. Rainier Day

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The Mt. Rainier Bicycle Co-op, with the assistance of its founding organization Trip For Kids/Metro DC, showed up to party with the best of them during the May 20th Mt. Rainier Day festivities.

Donning brand new bright yellow T-shirts (designed by MRBC Michael Park), Co-op members turned out in force for the parade that led off the day’s activities, winding through Mt. Rainier from the Varnum Street starting point to the downtown Circle, picking up townies along the way who grabbed their bikes and joined in the procession. Once downtown, MRBC president PJ Park opened up the Co-op garage located behind City Hall (3409 Rhode Island Avenue) allowing residents to meet-and-greet at their friendly neighborhood bike co-op, some for the very first time.

Among those who visited the Co-op for were children, many of whom participated in a bicycle rodeo set up in the alley adjacent to the garage. To participate in the rodeo they first watched a safety video on bicycling, provided by Trip For Kids, and then get fitted with a helmet or, if they brought their own, given a “fit check.” After a quick safety pep-talk, the kids were given the opportunity to test their riding and safety skills on our rodeo course. Once done, the kids were allowed to keep their helmets if they did not already own one. All told, some 75 to 100 kids visited the Co-op and participated in the rodeo, many with parents in tow.

Special thanks go to TFK/Metro DC for providing support and services in making MRBC’s participation in Mt. Rainier Day a great success. TFK provided MRBC with a BMX bike that was raffled off as a fundraiser; Ken Scott obtained the bicycle helmets that were given away to kids who participated in the rodeo; and David Zuk and Anne Blein-Villacres provided logistical support for the parade and rodeo, and even brought their three children, Julian, Caleb, and Chloe, as well as four members of their extended family (who were visiting from New Jersey) to participate in the parade and Co-op activities (Anne is also the Co-op’s vice-president).

The Co-op is opened Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information and to sign on to the listserve, click on <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mrbikecoop/>. For Trip For Kids/Metro DC, visit [www.tfkmetrodc.org](http://www.tfkmetrodc.org).

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## MT. RAINIER ELEMEN- TARY SCHOOL HELD 10TH ANNUAL PEACE PARADE

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Mount Rainier Elementary School, recognized as both a National School of Peace and a National School of Character, held its 10th Annual Peace Parade on May 26. Each day the students recited and reaffirmed the Mount Rainier promise:

- I promise to show Respect.
- I promise to act Responsibly.
- I promise to be Peaceful.
- These life skills will help mold me into a solid citizen.

The parade commemorated more than 160 Days of Peace throughout the school year—more than 160 days when children used respect and responsibility to communicate effectively to resolve their differences—more than 160 days when violence was rejected and Peace was maintained.

The Peace Parade began at the school and progressed throughout the Mount Rainier community. The Northwestern High School Marching Band performed. Street closings and traffic supervision were provided by the Mount Rainier police.

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## Community and Eco- nomic Development Workshop Series: Home Ownership and Home Improvement Concur- rent Workshops

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Tuesday, June 13, 2006

5:30PM – 7:30PM

City Hall – Mount Rainier

One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, MD

As part of an ongoing series of Community and Economic Development workshop, the City of Mount Rainier will host concurrent workshops on home ownership (first-time buyers, financing, re-financing, finding the right home, etc) and home improvement (financing, selecting a contractor, city codes and permit process, how-to tips, etc.)



Representatives from the Prince George's County Housing and Community Department, Home Ownership Initiative, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, local real estate agents, building contractors, and mortgage consultants will be available to answer your questions and provide information on available services.

All Are Welcome To Attend.  
Refreshments will be available.

To RSVP for this event, please email Council Member Alta Morton at [amorton@mountrainiermd.org](mailto:amorton@mountrainiermd.org) or email Assistant City Manager James Booth at [JBooth@mountrainiermd.org](mailto:JBooth@mountrainiermd.org) or call City Hall at (301) 985 – 6585 to RSVP.

## Business and Economic Development in Mount Rainier

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

On page 10, you will notice a list of over 83 businesses. For the past 3 to 4 months, we have listed Mount Rainier businesses in the monthly Message as an informal directory of City's business. As a City, we appreciate all the businesses that have chosen the City of Mount Rainier as their destination location.

Over the next 3 to 6 months, several new businesses will open their doors to the Mount Rainier community to provide a variety of products and services. It's been many many years since Mount Rainier has had a full-service, sit-down restaurant in the heart of the Business District. Before year's end, Mount Rainier will have two, full service restaurants along the Rhode Island Avenue corridor with establishments serving classic American fare and international cuisine.

In addition, Mount Rainier will also have a digital arts café, Artmosphere Digital Café, located in the City's Artspace Artist Loft Building (3311 Rhode Island Avneue). The Artmosphere Café will provide specialty teas and coffees, light sandwiches and desserts, all in a digital and artistic atmosphere that is destined to become Mount Rainier's signature

*Economic Development, page 9*

## Obituary Notices

### ***Minnie Barz***

Hi Madam Mayor,

We just got a call from Pearl Owenby who lives in Tennessee and she informed us that her mother, Minnie Barz, died.

Minnie used to live at 4105-29th Street. She moved to her daughters home in Cosby, Tennessee and it was sad to see her in a wheelchair, because she always had been such a active person, but this past year she was bedridden. She just had turned 94 on May the 14th and during her more active years she was quite a prolific folk artist, 20-30 years ago she used to do stone and wood carvings and all through that time she did paintings, mostly landscapes. When she could'nt handle the chissels anymore, she just kept on painting on any card board or paper that had a clear surface. She was very frugal, she did'nt bother with canvases and I would say, she was a true self-taught folk artist.

She liked everybody and she talked to all of us and she liked animals and she fed all the stray cats that came around.

The viewing is tomorrow and the burial is on Thursday in Tennessee.

Her husband Willie, to whom she was married for 50 some years, died 5 or 6 yaers ago and he is buried at Ft.Lincoln Cemetery.

May they rest in Peace

--Karl H.Matthes

### ***Maxine La'Vert Hayes Fuller***

#### **Retired Mount Rainier Police Dispatcher**

Maxine was born and raised in Winchester, Virginia and later moved to Mount Rainier, Maryland. She worked as a Prince George's County Police Officer before she came to Mount Rainier. Maxine became a Mount Rainier Police Dispatcher after working for the County, and served in that capacity until she retired from that position in 1990.

She is survived by a loving granddaughter, Kristol Michelle Hayes. Also three children, two sons, Sheldon Hayes of South Carolina, Marcus Hayes, and daughter Monica Hayes, of Jessup Maryland; four grandchildren and three great-grand children.

Internment was held at Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery on May 23, 2006.

Should you require more information, contact Mary-Jean Hayes, 4307 30th Street, Mount Rainier, MD 20712-1658, (301) 927-4956

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## POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

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### How To Reach Us

For police service calls (24 hours/day)  
301-985-6565/66

Administrative Offices ONLY  
(M-F, 9A-5P) 301-985-6580  
[www.mountrainiermd.org/government/mrpd](http://www.mountrainiermd.org/government/mrpd)

Please cut and place on or by your phone

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### "Toy Guns Could Get You Killed!!"

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At some point during each workday, I make time to get out of the office to patrol the City and see first hand what our officers are doing (or not doing as the case may be). I also use this time to check out our usual "hot spots" and generally look for situations or problems that require the police department's attention.

On a particularly nice day a couple of weeks ago, A/LT Stoots and I were patrolling the area of 34<sup>th</sup> Street by the old fire station when we noticed a young man in his early teens running around the corner of the station towards the Cedar Lane Alley. Curious as to what this child was up to, we decided to drive back through the alley. As we neared the back of the fire station we saw our teenage friend walking with three other teenagers. When the group looked around and spied our police car approaching they took off running up the driveway back towards 34<sup>th</sup> Street. Just as they started to run, to our shock, we saw one of the boys in the group toss another kid what looked to me to be an honest to goodness, genuine sawed off shotgun complete with a pistol grip!

Once we saw that gun, we sped up and followed them up the driveway. When we got to the front of the building we immediately bailed out of the cruiser, guns drawn, and confronted these four teenagers with screams of "Police, don't move!" and "Drop the gun!" Fortunately for them and us, they did as they were told. The boy holding the shotgun threw it

down behind the building and immediately surrendered. My first reaction was to retrieve the shotgun before anyone else could get to it. As I picked it up I was shocked to find that it was not a real shotgun at all, just a black plastic toy pellet gun! I can't say what I felt more, relief or anger at the sheer insanity of that kid's actions. The kid that ran from us with that toy gun did not know at the time, and will probably never fully appreciate, just how close he came to losing his life on a nice sunny day! Had he not dropped the gun immediately when he was told to do so, and made the mistake of turning towards us with it still in his hand – well, I don't even want to think about that anymore. I can still see the headlines in the next morning's Post: "Police Chief Shoots Teen Armed With Toy Gun!"

Officers are highly trained to react to people, regardless of their age, holding a gun in their hand. In these stressful confrontations it makes no difference if the gun is the real deal, or one of a number of highly realistic mass-produced plastic toys. The way these things are made and sold these days, quite often it's hard to tell the difference even at close range. So difficult in fact, that in police academies and other safety courses, officers are taught to assume that all guns are real, and loaded, until the officer can gain control over the weapon and make a positive identification. And sometimes, tragedy occurs:

- In 2000, budding actor Anthony Dwain Lee, who had roles in the movie "Liar, Liar" and the popular TV show "ER" was shot while holding a toy gun at a Halloween party by a Los Angeles police officer.
- In March 2000, in Brooklyn, New York, two teenagers, a 19-year old and a 17-year old were fatally shot by two undercover narcotics detectives while brandishing toy handguns.
- In November 2004, Anaheim, CA police shot and killed a 23-year-old man after he allegedly drew a replica

handgun on plainclothes officers who contacted him about a car-theft case.

- In November 2004, a 43-year-old Anaheim Hills, CA woman was arrested on charges of contributing to the delinquency of a minor after allegedly allowing two children to shoot airsoft guns at passersby while the children were in her car.

Even though air guns, similar to the one Stoots and I confiscated, are considered toys, they continue to be a serious cause of childhood injuries and deaths, especially in boys 10 to 14 years old. A study conducted by researchers at the University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle; University of Cincinnati School of Medicine, Cincinnati; and Children's Mercy Hospital, Kansas City, Mo. (published in "Pediatrics," the Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Oct. 1997) reported that of 101 children hospitalized for air gun injuries, three died, fifteen were blinded permanently, twenty five suffered permanent visual loss, and half of those 101 needed surgery.

The Americans For Gun Safety (<http://www.agsfoundation.com/safety/parents.html>) "Parents Guide to Firearms Safety" provides parents with a number of useful tips that will help educate children about real and toy gun safety. A few important points the AFGS makes are:

- Many parents declare their homes a "no gun" zone, free from real or toy guns. That's a legitimate choice. However, some children will go to great lengths to create "guns" for play. Everything from sticks to plastic building blocks arranged into Space Invader ray guns are fair game for a child's imagination.
- An active imagination is a healthy trait in a child. However, the ability to distinguish between reality and fantasy also is important. The child that cannot differentiate between Hollywood make-believe action film behavior and his or her behavior in the real world is a tragedy waiting to happen. [*Studies have shown that most*

*children younger than eight cannot reliably distinguish a toy gun from a real one.*

- Never assume your child knows the difference. As a parent, you cannot begin too early in your child's development to explain the difference between the fantasy world of the entertainment industry and the real world with real consequences for our every action.
- Make certain your child knows the difference between a real gun and a toy gun. Tell your child that guns used on television, in the movies, or on the video game screen are toys. Tell them that plastic squirt guns are toys.
- Make it absolutely clear that BB guns, air guns, cap guns and firearms - rifles, pistols and shotguns - are not toys. If they cannot tell the difference, tell them to assume the gun is real.

To elaborate on this last point, it is important that parents not allow their children to play with any toy gun, unsupervised by an adult, that could in any way be construed to be a real gun. Parents should remember that just because their home may be a "no gun" zone, or their child is not allowed to play with toy or replica guns, there is a better than average chance that the child will be exposed to either real or toy guns through friends, neighbors and playmates. It is therefore imperative that your children be taught firearms safety from an early age.

Luckily, we have never had a tragedy involving a mistaken handgun here in Mount Rainier, and with your help we can make sure we never do.

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## Selected Crimes--June 2006

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### Arson - Attempt

4000 BLOCK 34TH ST

### Assault - Simple

3100 BLOCK QUEENS CHAPEL RD  
3200 BLOCK QUEENSTOWN DR

### Recovered Stolen Auto

3000 BLOCK QUEENS CHAPEL RD  
4000 BLOCK 34TH ST  
4000 BLOCK 37TH ST  
4200 BLOCK KAYWOOD DR  
4300 BLOCK 28TH PI

### Robbery - Carjacking

2300 BLOCK VARNUM ST  
3300 BLOCK BUCHANAN ST  
4200 BLOCK KAYWOOD DR

### Robbery - Citizen

2700 BLOCK ALLISON ST  
3200 BLOCK QUEENSTOWN DR  
3200 BLOCK QUEENSTOWN DR  
3200 BLOCK RHODE ISLAND AV  
3300 BLOCK BUCHANAN ST  
3400 BLOCK PERRY ST  
3700 BLOCK 34TH ST  
4200 BLOCK RUSSELL AV

### Sex Crime

2700 BLOCK UPSHUR ST

### Stolen Vehicle

2000 BLOCK UPSHUR ST  
2500 BLOCK ALLISON ST  
2700 BLOCK WEBSTER ST  
2900 BLOCK QUEENS CHAPEL RD  
3000 BLOCK QUEENS CHAPEL RD  
3200 BLOCK CHILLUM RD  
3200 BLOCK CHILLUM RD  
3700 BLOCK 34TH ST  
3800 BLOCK 33RD ST  
4100 BLOCK RAINIER AV  
4200 BLOCK RUSSELL AV  
4300 BLOCK 31ST ST  
4400 BLOCK 30TH ST  
RUSSELL AV

### Theft - From Auto

3300 BLOCK CHILLUM RD  
4200 BLOCK 28TH ST  
KAYWOOD PL

### Theft - Vehicle Tags

3100 BLOCK QUEENS CHAPEL RD  
3200 BLOCK CHILLUM RD  
3300 BLOCK BUCHANAN ST  
3300 BLOCK OTIS ST  
4100 BLOCK 33RD AV  
34TH ST

### Theft < \$500

2300 BLOCK VARNUM ST  
2300 BLOCK VARNUM ST  
3200 BLOCK CHILLUM RD  
4000 BLOCK 37TH ST

### Vandalism

2700 BLOCK ARUNDEL RD  
3200 BLOCK QUEENSTOWN DR

### Vandalism to Auto

3300 BLOCK BUNKER HILL RD  
4000 BLOCK 29TH ST  
4100 BLOCK 31ST ST  
4100 BLOCK 31ST ST  
4100 BLOCK RUSSELL AV  
4200 BLOCK RUSSELL AV  
4300 BLOCK 31ST ST  
34TH ST

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## Microchip Your Pet

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One in 3 pets get lost. Collar tags can easily come off or be removed. Microchipping is permanent and does not change appearance of pet in any way. Procedure is safe, inexpensive, fast, and virtually painless. Microchips are not electric and cannot shock or harm. About 20,000 microchip scanners are used by shelters and veterinary clinics, to ID your pet if lost. For info, contact your local SPCA (<http://www.pgspca.org>).

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## Report from Carol A. Gandee, Council Member - Ward One

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Dear Residents,

Once again Mt. Rainier has won its 5th Award for Excellence for the bike coop. This is an excellent project that we can all be proud of. Mt. Rainier continues to lead the state of Maryland in Awards for Excellence. Thank you to PJ Parks and all your supporters for your vision and bringing this project to fruition. A job well done.

I am very happy to see the curb and gutters that have been put in on 37th St. and Tilden and 34th. I have worked for years to get these projects completed. I have visited those neighborhoods, and the residents are thrilled. So am I.

I continue to work with the Emergency Preparedness Commission to improve our response in the event of a disaster, or terrorist attack. I would like to thank Acting Chief Scott and Acting Lt. Stoots for their support for this project. I would also like to thank Tonie Davis, Joan Ring Cook, Regina Wardwell, and Intisar Haamid for their continued support of this program.

We had a great Mount Rainier Day, kudos to Ophelia Baxter and all the members of the committee who put together this great event. Once again we closed Rhode Island Ave. down so people could take notice of our great City.

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I look forward to the opening of Artsmospere. I had the opportunity to stop by on Mount Rainier Day, and I think this business will be well received in our City. I also spoke with Brooke Kidd and she is anticipating the new Joe's opening in the fall.

Some of you have raised concerns about meetings I have missed. I am always in touch with the Mayor and review the tapes of those meetings at home. So, you can be sure I know what is going on. However, recently I have been tasked with a very important, and large project at Walter Reed Army Medical Center where I work. This project has increased my hours at work, and required me to miss meetings or events. I have not neglected the City, you can always call me at home, 301-277-6377 or e-mail me at gandydncr@aol.com. I will get back to you. If you have an issue you would like me to address, feel free to contact me.

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## Report from Alta Morton, Council Member – Ward One

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The City of Mount Rainier is moving forward. We are in the process of final reviews of our FY 2007 budget and we anticipate ending the current fiscal year, FY 2006, in the black (surplus). We have applied for and received grant funding that will enable the City to move forward with plans for redeveloping the 3409 Rhode Island Avenue property, Park and Planning is prepared to move forward with enhancements to parks located in Mount Rainier that were part of Park and Planning's Capital Improvement Plan budget for years, and the City is exploring innovative initiatives such as a special taxing district, stricter enforcement of property maintenance codes, and a renewed focus on state and federal funding sources.

I am excited about the opportunity to address important national issues such as immigration and borders, affordable housing, and preserving the historical and architectural character of our neighbors by requiring our property owners to conform to the Gateway Arts District Standard plan and the associated text amendments.

I've met with representatives from the Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development regarding the City's CDBG funds (Community Development Block Grant). The County has resources that is has not shared equitably with the municipalities and I've contacted our County Council regarding this issue. Over the past 4 to 7 years, the City has received CDBG funds primarily for street repairs. Although the funding received has helped Mount Rainier repair and improve streets, curbs, and sidewalks that were in disrepair, CDBG can provide a greater benefit. In the near future, I anticipate Mount Rainier receiving these funds for economic development, planning, affordable housing, and other important initiatives. Our resources must be allocated towards projects and activities that benefit our entire City.

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## Committee Members Still Needed

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Our many committees need you. Several of our committees are in need of members. I am sure there is a committee that is of interest to you and their meeting schedules fit into your schedule. Please contact James Booth, Assistant City Manager at City Hall at 301-985-6585 to find out more about the following committees:

- Tool Shed Committee
- Beautification Committee
- Neighborhood Watch Program
- Parking Task Force Committee
- Tree Commission
- Cable Commission
- Emergency Preparedness Commission
- Mount Rainier Business Association

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## Report from Bryan Knedler, Council Member - Ward Two

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On May 23rd, the Mayor and Council heard public comment on the proposed budget for the fiscal year that starts July 1, 2006. The Council will vote on the tax rate and budget on Tuesday June 6th. The proposal for the tax rate is to keep it at the current 79 cents per hundred dollars of assessed value. Because everyone's property values went up over the last year, if you are a property owner, you will be paying more in taxes to the City in the coming year. For you to pay the same amount to the City that you paid last year, the Council would have to lower the tax rate to 73 cents. Keeping the rate at 79 cents means the City will take in about \$165,000 more in the coming year from the tax payers. For most city property owners, the increase will be approximately \$100 to \$150 more than last year (depending on the value of your property). That is in addition to the same sorts of increases you have experienced over the past 3 years.

In addition, the Council is considering creating a special taxing district that would levy an extra 25 cents on the owners of Kaywood Garden Apts, Rainier Manor, Arundel Arms Apts., and Arundel Apts. The money raised must be spent for public safety improvements within the special taxing district. That means the money can be used to hire a police officer to patrol that area, improve the street lighting, and hire additional code enforcement help.

None of these properties have their own security. We acknowledged that Queens Manor and Queenstown have spent money improving the security and lighting on their properties and so those properties are not included in the district.

The proposal also increases the rental license fees for all rental units. Fees would double from the current amounts (except for single family home rentals which would remain at \$100).

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## Community Events in Prince Georges' County

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### Public School Parent and Community Advisory Board Meeting

Monday, June 12, 2006

4:30pm to 6:30pm

Sasser Administration Building, Rm 103  
Chief Executive Officer's Conference Rm  
14201 School Lane, Upper Marlboro  
(301) 952 – 6000

### Photo Contest for Seniors

Ages 60 and older

Cora B. Wood Senior Center

3601 Taylor Street, Brentwood

(301) 699 – 1238/ TTY (301) 445 – 4512

Contest criteria can be picked up at the center beginning at 9am. Entry deadline is July 14th.

Prizes will be awarded.

Cost is \$3 residents/ \$4 others

### Ongoing Registration

Summer Xtreme Teens Centers

Ages 13 to 17

From 11am to 5pm

Monday through Fridays, June 19th through July 28th. Participants must turn in health forms prior to the first day of the program. Additional nominal fees will be charged for off-site transportation and special events, where applicable.

(301) 445 – 4500/ TTY (301) 445 – 4512

### "Meet the Sheriff" Forum

July 11th – 7pm to 9pm

Westphalia United Methodist Church

8511 Westphalia Road, Upper Marlboro

Attendees are invited to bring family, friends, and neighbors out to join Sheriff Jackson and his staff as they address community concerns as well as the Office of the Sheriff's role and responsibilities.

Contact Tiffany Williams

(301) 883 – 7050

### Seniors age 60 and older

#### Free use of fitness center and pool

8am to 12 noon,

Mondays, Wednesday, Fridays

Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex

8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, Maryland

Call (301) 583 – 2400

TTY (301) 583 – 2483

### Chess Club

Every Tuesday, at 7pm, All ages welcome!

Prince George's Memorial Library

Largo-Kettering Branch, 9601 Capital Ln

(301) 336 – 4044

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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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## Business Development

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meeting place. Looking further into the future, 6 to 18 months, a mixed-use apartment, commercial space, that has been vacant for over 15 years, will open it's doors to a host of businesses and newly renovated living spaces.

Mount Rainier is excited about the development and revitalization of the business corridor that will occur in the coming months.

In December 2004, the City hosted a public hearing regarding development of the old City Hall and Police Station. Since May 2006, the City has received grant funding of approximately \$230,000 towards redevelopment of 3409 Rhode Island Avenue. These grant funds were provided through state funding sources. The City is actively seeking additional funding for predevelopment and to complete redevelop the property.

Stayed tuned as new businesses continue to see Mount Rainier as a destination location and the City moves forward with continued development.

Stop and shop at our many local businesses and do your part to support the Mount Rainier economy.

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## City of Mount Rainier Businesses

***"I saw your business in the June Message!"***

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### **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**

Eastern BP Amoco, 4501 Eastern Avenue  
Bunker Hill Laundromat, 3846 34th Street  
Advance Auto, 3191 Queens Chapel Road  
LaCasita Furniture and Bedding, 3235 Rhode Island Avenue  
A&P Wholesalers, 3501 37th Street  
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 Early Learning Center, 4001 33rd Street

### **Convenience, Beverage and Dollar Stores**

Digital Nth, 3200 Rhode Island Avenue  
Check Cashing Services, 3211 Rhode Island Avenue  
El Palenque Disco Centro, 3414 Rhode Island Avenue  
La Pequenita Grocery, 3840 34th Street  
Mount Rainier Antique Shop, 3815 34th Street  
Chuck's Liquors, 3416 Rhode Island Avenue  
Marie's Variety Store, 4002 34th Street  
Party Time Liquors, 3307 Rhode Island Avenue  
7-11 Convenience Store, 3310 Chillum Road  
Habesha International Market, 2311 Varnum Street  
7-11 Convenience Store, 2310 Varnum Street

Erika's Grocery, 3237 Rhode Island Avenue  
Family Dollar, 2201 Varnum Street  
Family Dollar, 3179 Queens Chapel Road

### **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  
Money Marts/Checks Cashed, 3213 Queens Chapel Road  
Charles K. McConkey & Sons, 3314 Perry Street  
Metro Metal Company, 3700 Otis Street  
PDSystems, 3808 34th Street  
Reynold's Real Estate School, 3239 Rhode Island Avenue

### **Grocery Stores and Super Markets**

Dr. Suresh Gupta, 3503 Perry Street  
K' Food Mart, 3233 Rhode Island Avenue  
Kaywood Supermarket, 2303 Varnum Street

### **Health; Medical Services, Books**

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

### **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 Committee 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 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.

### June–July

# Calendar

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

**As of 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**

**Sandra Joseph**

tumkho@comcast.net

## 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.*

Mount Rainier, MD 20712

Postal Customer

June 2006 Message  
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One Municipal Place  
Mount Rainier, MD 20712

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