



Message

Issue 237
April 2006

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**The deadline for submissions
for the Message is the 20th
of each month.**

www.mountrainiermd.org

City Held Informal Public Hearing on Public Safety Special Taxing District

The City of Mount Rainier held a public hearing on Tuesday, March 21, 2006 in regards to a proposal to establish two public safety taxing districts. The Mayor and Council provided residents, business owners, and property owners an opportunity to share their concerns regarding the City's proposal to create two special taxing districts.

The intent of the special taxing districts are to provide increased revenue for the sole purpose of improving safety and address concerns of crime and unwanted activities. Property owners within the districts will be assessed taxes in addition to the regular property tax rate that applies generally within the city limits. The areas under consideration are high density areas within the City and also areas with a high concentration of calls for service per address. A significant amount of staff time and other resources, particularly from the City's Police Department are dedicated to these areas.

The Special Taxing Districts will provide the City with the resources to provide 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.

It should be noted that any funds collected under the special taxing district must be used within the districts.

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 City will continue discussions regarding the Special Taxing Districts at the April 18 worksession and a formal Public Hearing will be held in May.

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

Proposed Areas (includes Kaywood, Queens Manor, Queenstown, and nearby properties)

All commercial, multi-unit residential, and vacant properties within the corporate limits of the City of Mount Rainier (except single family homes):

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

Help Keep Our City Clean

In an effort to curb the increase of rodents in the City, all residents are asked to follow the City's Trash Code as it relates to trash and trash cans.

Have all trash placed in water tight and rodent proof containers (with lids). This violation carries a fine of twenty five dollars.

Please have trash cans set out no sooner than 7:00 p.m. on the day before the scheduled trash pick up and no later than 7:00 a.m. on the day of the scheduled pick up. The empty container must be removed no later than 7:00 p.m. on the day of the scheduled pick up. This violation carries a fine of twenty five dollars.

Due to the numerous complaints about missing lids it is suggested that all new trash cans have lids that can be locked onto the can or attached to the can. Lids can also be tied to old cans. If cans are collected immediately after pick up, the likelihood of lids being blown away or removed maliciously will be reduced. Some citizens leave home early for work and return home late. Please ask your neighbors to place trash cans in the yard for you if you are unable to place the trash cans in your yard or near to your home within the time frame specified in the Mount Rainier Code.

For bulk trash special pickup, call 301-985-6558. Remember, beginning March 2006, every Monday is yard waste pickup, no appointment necessary.

Fiscal Year 2005 Audit Report

Vijay K. Manjani, Treasurer

The City has received a draft audit report for FY 2005. An independent firm Bridgett, Mock & Associates, P.A. conducted the audit of financial statements of the City of Mount Rainier and expressed a favorable opinion. In their opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Mount Rainier as of June 30, 2005 and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The City financial statement shows an excess of revenues over expenditures by \$255,278. The City uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. The City's governmental funds reported a combined ending fund balance totaling \$71,983, an increase of \$255,278. The City's total net assets increased by \$239,060. At year-end, the City had \$1,167,041 in outstanding Long-term debt. Long-term debt, which consists of bonds payable, capital lease obligations and accumulated unused compensated absences, had a net decrease of \$30,019.

The City's revenues from general fund and non-major funds totaled \$3,408,383.

The original grant and revenues budget of \$3,018,651 was not amended and the City did not fully implement GASB 34. The grants contributed 9.2 percent of the total revenues and roughly 69 percent came from taxes. The intergovernmental sources contributed 10.4 percent of the total revenues. The City's expenses covered a range of services, with about 47 percent related to Public safety and roughly 27 percent related to Public Works.

Mayor & Council Members and the management are very pleased. The completion of FY 2005 audit will bring the City's status of filing Uniform Financial Report up-to-date. The final audit report will arrive in a weeks time. A copy of the audit report will be available for residents at City Hall in the second week of April 2006.

The financial report is designed to provide the citizens, taxpayers, customers, investors and creditors with a general overview of the City's finances and to demonstrate the City's accountability for the money it receives. If you have any questions about the report or need additional information, please contact the Treasurer's Office, City Hall, City of Mount Rainier, One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712.

Anacostia Hours—Local Currency for Local Development

This spring the Local Currency Study Group, affiliated with Neighbors United for Justice and Peace, will be introducing a local currency called Anacostia Hours. Anacostia Hours is local paper money traded among people and businesses in Mount Rainier, Brentwood, North Brentwood, and Hyattsville. Using Anacostia Hours will foster more local spending, help neighbors trade goods and services, keep more wealth in our towns, and let people save U.S. currency for other needs. To participate means to accept payment in Anacostia Hours, which one can then use to purchase other goods or services in the neighborhood.

The level of participation is up to each person. Anyone is able to use them. There will be a directory for individuals and stores who sign up to offer services.

For some time, people have been organizing local currency projects in various cities across the United States. The most successful program is in Ithaca, New York, where it has played a major role in developing the local economy and building community.

To find out more about the Anacostia Hours project and how you can participate, please call 301-927-6216 or e-mail anacostiahours@yahoo.com. Stay tuned for further updates on this exciting local project!

Artspace Architects Win AIA Award

The American Institute of Architects has announced the 2006 Housing Committee Awards. Mount Rainier's Artist Lofts won in the multifamily category. Low- and high-density projects for both public and private clients were considered. In addition to design features, the jury evaluated the contextual integration of buildings in their environs, transportation options, and use of open recreational space.

The Housing Awards program recognizes the best in housing design. This is what the jury said about Artspace's Artist Lofts:

Live/Work Artists' Housing, by Hammel, Green and Abrahamson Inc.

The intent is to create affordable housing along with arts-oriented venues and services to draw artists from local colleges and neighborhoods to the Arts District. In this project, 18 different unit types recognize individuals and families and are kept neutral and adaptable with layouts maximizing flexible open space and allowing for living changes and work and exhibit needs. Two-story central commons areas provide space for exhibits. A large workshop is provided on the lower level. The building's colorful exterior attempts to knit together the historic context of the neighborhood while reflecting the diversity of the inhabitants and their work on the inside.

This was a "good active urban project that we'd like to see more of. (It) represented an involved community process and was affordable too." The recipients will be recognized June 9 at the AIA National Convention.

Report From Councilmember Knedler

Warm weather has arrived and with it will come outdoor parties with loud music. Every summer, I get calls from upset residents who are victims of a neighbor's party music. Sometimes the music is so loud, you can hear it several blocks away! And guess what. Under the current city ordinance, there is absolutely nothing the police can do about it IF the neighbor acquired a noise permit from City Hall. With a permit, there are NO limits on how loud the music can be (beyond what is technologically possible).

Generally (see our Code of Ordinances, Sec. 10-121 for all the details) per our noise ordinance, between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., amplified sound must not be heard more than 50 feet from the property where it is occurring; from 10:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. of the following day, no noise should be heard more than 50 feet from its source). Exceptions exist for major holidays (like July 4). When the city's noise ordinance was put into effect 10 years ago, the Council created a permit system that allows the property owner to exceed the noise limits.

Over the past decade, I think the noise ordinance has worked pretty well with the exception of the people who get a permit and take the license to the extreme.

I will be proposing to the Council that we limit the noise permits to a set time period of no more than 5 hours (right now a party with a noise permit can go on with loud music from 8 am to 10 pm). In addition, a limit of 300 feet from the source of where the sound is coming from (this distance certainly can be made more or less depending on feedback). Many of our house lots are roughly 40 feet by 150 feet. I also think the person who gets a permit should be required to inform all immediate neighbors that a loud party is going to occur and the hours. That way, the neighbors can plan ahead and be away during that time if they do not want to hear the party.

I would like to hear your opinions on this. I know some constituents have asked that we eliminate noise permits completely. Have you ever had a problem with loud parties on your block? My e-mail is bknedler@aol.com.

Call for Artists: Upcoming Tour

Call for artists within the four towns of Hyattsville, North Brentwood, Brentwood and Mount Rainier to register for the one-day self-guided tour of commercial and residential artist studios. The day features works for sale, workshops and presentations at select studios throughout the arts district. There will also be a group show for participating artists at the Mount Rainier Artists' Lofts.

This is a free service to artists of the Gateway Arts District. Specific arts district boundary limits will apply. Gateway CDC will provide complimentary brochures, maps, marketing materials and in-kind public relations support. DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS APRIL 18, 2006.

For registration information, please contact Tonya Jordan or John Paradiso at 301-864-3860, x1 or x3, tonya@gateway-cdc.org, john@gateway-cdc.org.

The National Bicycle Greenway: Mayor's Ride 2006 will be in Mount Rainier on May 12 (9 a.m.).

More info: <http://www.bikeroute.com/NationalMayorsRide2006>.

Mayor's Report

Hats off to the 47th Legislative

Delegation—On Saturday, March 11, Assistant City Manager James Booth, Cheryl Harrington of G. S. Proctor and Associates, and your Mayor went to Annapolis and testified before the House Finance Committee and the Senate's Appropriation Committee on the bond bill that would provide funding for the proposed Multi-Use Facility (Community Center, Municipal Center, etc) at 3409 Rhode Island Avenue. Delegate Doyle Niemann was instrumental in getting the bill before the Finance Committee and Senator Gwendolyn Britt was supportive of the bill in the Senate. Although no official word has been given, it has been reported that the City will receive approximately \$150,000 funding under the proposed bill.

So long, and Congratulations to Otis and Emma Haywood. After living in Mount Rainier for many years, Otis and Emma sold their home on 30th Street and moved to Atlanta, Georgia. Otis was the first Black person to serve on the Mount Rainier City Council. Although Otis only served two terms on the Council, his footprint was very big, and led to many changes (changing the City from four wards to two; initiating the study and change to the City Charter; the bike trail) here in the City. After leaving the Council, he became very active in community activities and continued to exemplify good community spirit and character. Otis and Emma, we will miss you, but wish you Bon Voyage on your new adventure!

Port-a-Potties—The struggle continues with the port-a-potties, however, the good has outweighed the bad. In an effort to find a happy medium, the City placed into use two port-a-potties from behind City Hall to the front side in an effort to reduce misuse, and illegal activities. For many years, there was no place in the City for travelers to use to relieve themselves since the City does not have any fast food places

or restaurants. To alleviate this problem, the City placed into use to port-a-potties in the down town area. These port-a-potties serve metro riders, metro bus drivers, and many of the homeless population that pass through our City. Should you identify or witness misuse or illegal activity at the port-a-potties, please report it to the Mount Rainier Police Department by calling 301-985-6590.

Sobriety Check Point Operation—Congratulations to Acting Chief Michael Scott and our police officers for the excellent job they did on March 17 DWI Checkpoint and Auto Theft Task Force Operation that was held from 9 a.m. to 3 a.m. The border initiative working with the District of Columbia is effective and sends the right message to those entering Prince George's County. Please also extend the gratitude and thanks of the Mayor and Council to various law enforcement officials that came to our City and participated in this effort.

City's Financial Audit Completed—Congratulations to the City Staff and Bridgett Mock and Associates for completing the City's financial audit in a timely manner. It should be noted that the audit was conducted and completed in approximately four months. It will be made available to the public following the official receipt and vote by the Mayor and Council.

Mount Rainier and Brentwood to form MOU—As part of the Livable Communities Grant proposals submitted to County Executive Jack Johnson, Mount Rainier and Brentwood submitted a grant for a shared police officer. The grant was funded at \$90,000, now the elected officials must sit down together to determine just how every thing will work. The selected officer will provide a full range of community services to Brentwood and Mount Rainier. The \$90,000 grant from the Livable Communities Initiative will among other things, fully equip the officer for duty, pay salary and benefits, and provide other necessities to ensure full performance of the new police officer. More details will be

provided once the MOU is developed. The City also received funding for its much needed lighting project.

Terry Kelly is leaving—Many of you may not know who puts together the Mount Rainier *Message* every month, but she has done it for more than 14 years. Her name is Terry Kelly, and she has decided to move on! She will be MISSED. Terry, thank you for a job well done over many years, and thanks for hanging in there until we can find someone else to take on this awesome but necessary task. The Mayor and Council appreciate the dedication that you have shown over the years. Terry has agreed to work with the City through the April and May issues of the newsletter. In the meantime, the City is looking for someone to take on this awesome task and to ensure that the June issue is developed, produced, and distributed on time. If you are interested in this job, please contact the City Manager, Ms. Jeannelle Wallace at 301-985-6585 and/or send her your resume today (see position description on page 11).

Announcements

Soul Food Author to come to Mount Rainier—LaJoyce Brookshire will be coming to town on April 15 from 12:00 noon until 2:00pm for a book signing of her latest novel "**Faith Under Fire: Betrayed by a Thing Called Love**". Sponsored by Ms. JoAnn Richardson and your Mayor, Soul Food author LaJoyce Brookshire will be featured at City Hall, located at One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, MD. She will sign books and greet guests during the book signing event. Ms. Brookshire is the first black woman to write a novel based on a major motion picture. Selling over 105,000 copies and exhibited in a national book tour, Soul Food (based on the film by the same name) has out-sold every novelization ever written. Soul Food is the story of a Midwestern black family whose relationships are held together by the Sunday dinners served by the matriarch. Come out and meet Ms. Brookshire.

Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Summary

by Jeannelle Wallace, City Manager

The management team presented a balanced budget to the Mayor and Council on March 13, 2006 for the fiscal year 2007 that includes all anticipated revenues and projected expenditures.

Property Taxes

For the Fiscal Year 2007, management does not propose any increase in the real property tax rate. The proposed tax rate is \$0.79 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

There are no proposed increases for railroad and utilities. It is proposed that this tax remain at FY 2006 levels of \$2.50 per \$100 of assessed valuation. There is a proposed increase of \$0.38 per \$100 of assessed valuation for business personal property taxes, from \$1.60 in FY 2006 to \$1.98 in FY 2007. This proposed increase is primarily due to language in the *Annotated Code of Maryland*, Tax-Property §6-303(c) that states as follows:

(c)(1) Unless otherwise provided by the governing body of the municipal corporation:

(i) There shall be a single municipal corporation property tax rate for all real property subject to municipal corporation property tax except for operating real property described in §8-109(c) of this article; and

(ii) The municipal tax rate applicable to personal property and the operating real property described in §8-109(c) of this article for taxable years beginning after June 30, 2001 shall be 2.5 times the rate for real property.

(2) Paragraph (1) of this subsection does not affect a special rate prevailing in a taxing district or part of a municipal corporation.

The proposed rate for business personal property tax at \$1.98 is 2.5 times the real property rate of \$0.79.

The most significant criteria in the Fiscal Year 2007 Budget includes the following:

- Proposed 6% salary increase for regular City employees

- A Capital Improvement Plan for fiscal years 2007 through 2009 to include department and community groups capital items
- A Fiscal Year 2008 Proposed Budget
- A Performance Analysis for Fiscal Years 2008 through 2005 that indicates the City's debt ratio and actual vs. projected revenue and expenditures
- Special Taxing Districts imposing a tax to support operating costs to enhance police services, improve signage and increase lighting at multi-family dwellings
- All departmental and community groups budget proposals are included in the budget manual; this includes proposals for youth programmatic activities, the Bicycle Cooperative, Tool Shed and a proposal for the City's newsletter, the *Message*.

The text and spreadsheet detail is available on the City's website:

www.mountrainiermd.org

Fiscal Year 2006 and 2007 Budget Comparison

FY 06	FY 07	+/- Percent	DEPT
29,150	31,050	+6	Mayor and Council
77,000	60,000	-22	Legal and Elections
380,066	419,700	+9.4	City Hall
23,250	9,050	-61	City Property
32,157	29,500	-8.2	Communications
48,396	45,090	-6.8	Cable Television
1,221,180	1,217,600	-2.9	Department of Public Safety
76,571	81,290	+5.8	Parking Enforcement
517,750	520,940	+0.6	Public Works
102,792	112,575	+8.7	Code Enforcement
51,671	46,835	-9.35	Call-a-bus
500	500	0	Waste Collection
206,121	263,750	+22	Highways and Street
95,000	95,000	0	Waste Disposal
73,100	75,000	+2.5	Street Lights
107,351	101,000	-5.9	General Insurance
165,438	165,050	-0.23	Debt Service
12,000	15,000	+20	Contingency
32,806	35,000	+6.2	Reserve
9,640	6,700	-30	Library
0	1,500	+100	Fire Department
30,000	10,000	-66	Youth Programs
1,000	2,000	+50	MR Day
0	1,200	+100%	Tool Shed
0	1,100	+100%	Beautificat
0	1,950	+100%	Bike Coop
0	500	+100%	Nat Night Out
0	3,422,384	47,900	
3,619,090	+100%+5.4%	CIP	

Police Chief's Report

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
Please cut and place on or by your phone

The Rites of Spring

As I write this, it is a beautiful, bright sunny St. Patrick's Day here in Mount Rainier. There's a bit of a chill in the air, the breeze has picked up, and the weekend promises to still be cool. But, despite the below average temperature, the day reminds me that it won't be long until our officers can put away their winter long sleeve shirts and heavy jackets in favor of short sleeves and the warmer weather of Spring.

This is also the time when our residents have had enough of being cooped up inside with TV, video games and artificial light, and are eager to throw open their windows, swap the storm windows for screens, get started spring cleaning and begin anew to enjoy the suburban version of the great outdoors.

We sometimes forget; however, that as we move our lives outside we also take our noise outside right along with us. Stereos, car radios, DJ equipment, backyard parties and picnics, and even Junior's trumpet practice are broadcast throughout the neighborhood. If your neighbors are not impressed with Junior's talent, your taste in music, or your boisterous family and friends, chances are you will receive a visit from the Mount Rainier Police.

The Mount Rainier City Code Section 10-121 defines noise, and basically boils down to this: If the noise emanating from your property is excessively or unusually loud, and annoys, disturbs, injures or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace or safety of others, and that noise can be heard more than 50 feet from your property, you are in violation of City Code and are subject to a fine of \$75. The officer who responds for a noise complaint will

ask the property owner, or another responsible party who may be present, to reduce the offending noise level to a point where it complies with the Code. He or she will extend this courtesy *only once*. If we receive a second complaint, someone will receive a City citation for \$75.

Motor vehicles driven on City streets are also subject to excess noise rules. Maryland law provides that when a motor vehicle is operated on a highway or street, the driver may not permit the operation of a sound amplification system from the vehicle that can be heard outside the vehicle from 50 or more feet. The fine for violating this provision of Maryland vehicle law can be as high as \$500.

With the onset of spring the Mount Rainier Police Department is gearing up for our annual seatbelt/child safety seat education and enforcement campaign known as Click It or Ticket or the Chief's Challenge. Each year, during the months of April, May and June, police departments across Maryland focus on enforcing these critically important motor vehicle laws.

The seatbelt law in Maryland covers the driver, and the front seat passenger next to the door. Each or both of whom may receive a ticket for not wearing a seatbelt. For example:

- In the case where *neither* the driver *nor* the passenger is buckled up – each of them will receive a ticket for \$25.
- In the case where *neither* the driver *nor* the front seat passenger who is 15 years old or younger are buckled up, the driver will receive a ticket for *both*. A \$25 adult fine for the driver and a \$53 fine for the front seat passenger. The \$53 fine is covered under the provisions of the child passenger safety law.

A child younger than six years old, regardless of his/her weight, or who weighs forty pounds or less, regardless of his/her age, must be secured in an approved safety seat. For example, a five year old who weighs only 38 pounds, or a 3-1/2 year old who weighs 42 pounds would still be required to use child safety seats. A person may not transport a child younger than 16 years of age unless the child is

secured in a child safety seat or a vehicle's seat belt in all seating positions.

Traffic safety, not just seatbelt violations, has and will continue to be a priority for the Mt. Rainier Police Department. This year, we will be combining our annual seatbelt enforcement strategies to include *strict enforcement* of stop sign violations and excessive speed on our residential streets. With spring comes an increased desire of our residents to be out and about enjoying the weather and reconnecting with neighbors and neighborhood events. Our children also use their newfound freedom to play on our streets and sidewalks, and, being children, don't always look first to see if a car or truck is coming down the street before darting into the road. The men and women of the MPRD will work to ensure that our residents can safely walk along and play in our streets without the fear of tragedy caused by drivers speeding, running stop signs or otherwise violating our motor vehicle laws.

Please be safe, watch your children, and have a great springtime!

Home Safety

The Department has seen a recent increase in the number of calls reporting suspicious individuals calling on residents posing as cable TV repairpersons. Residents should be wary of *anyone* coming to their home unannounced, particularly at times outside normal business hours. It is extremely unlikely that a legitimate business representative will come to your home during the late evening hours unless there is some emergency and you are expecting their arrival. Please read and practice the home safety measures listed below. If at any time someone suspicious comes to your door, or if you see suspicious persons in your neighborhood, please report them to the MRPD immediately.

The bottom line is that you don't want to provide opportunities to those who might want to harm you or your family. Pay attention, and you will lessen the chances of you or your loved ones becoming a victim.

- Never open your door to strangers. Use peepholes or look out a window. There

is no reason that you have to open the door to anyone. Teach this to everyone in the household.

- Never let a stranger into your home. If they need to use the phone, tell them that you will make the call for them.
- Make sure that all doors to the outside are metal or solid, 1 3/4" hardwood.
- Install deadbolts on all exterior doors and use them. Be sure that the screws for the strike plate go at least 3 inches into the doorframe.
- If someone lived in your home before you, have the locks changed.
- Use the locks you have. Always lock up your home when you go out, even if it's only for a few minutes.
- Secure sliding glass doors with commercially available bars or locks, or put a wooden dowel or broomstick in the door track.
- Make sure your windows, especially at ground level, have good locks *and use them*.
- Close your window shades at night and be sure that the landscape around them is trimmed short.
- Make sure all porches and other possible entrances are well lit. Install photocells for your porch lights (instead of motion sensors). Your lights will go on at night and off in the morning whether you are home or not. Use inexpensive low watt bulbs.
- Trim any bushes or trees that hide doors or windows. Keep ladders, tools, toys, and recreational equipment inside when you're not using them.
- Don't hide your house keys under the doormat or in a flowerpot. It's much wiser to give an extra key to a trusted neighbor.
- Keep written records of all furniture, jewelry and electronic products. If possible, keep these records in a safe deposit box, fireproof safe, or other secure place. Take pictures or a video, and keep purchase information and serial numbers if available. These help law enforcement agencies track recovered items.
- Clearly display your house number, so police and other emergency vehicles can find your home quickly.

- List only your first initial and last name on your mailbox, phone book, or door.
- If you see a screen that has been cut, broken windows, or a door that's been left open, don't go in. Call the police from a neighbor's house or a public phone.
- If you hear a noise that sounds like someone breaking in or moving around, quietly call the police and wait calmly until they arrive. If you can leave safely, do so. Otherwise, lock yourself in a room you are in and pretend to be asleep.
- Have a telephone extension in your bedroom.
- If you receive an obscene and/or threatening phone call, dial *57 immediately, then call police to report it (301-985-6565).
- Report any suspicious persons, vehicles, and activities to the police as soon as possible.
- Contrary to what some would have you believe, guns *are not* your best protection. Studies have shown that what works best is to employ basic home defense measures like the ones listed above. These studies also show that if your home defense measures can keep an intruder from gaining entry for just six minutes, he/she will give up and find an easier target. Please – *think carefully before buying a firearm for protection*. Guns can be stolen and sold to anyone, or captured and used on you or the police. If you do own a gun, keep it locked up, with the ammunition secured separately, and learn how to use it safely. The MRPD will provide gun locks to you free of charge. Stop by during normal business hours, or, if you can't get here during the day, call us and we'll have an officer drop one off to you.
- Dogs are wonderful companions and also effective deterrents. Get a dog that barks loud! It doesn't have to be a big, mean, nasty Cujo-type dog; it just has to sound like one when it thinks someone is trying to break into your house. Bad guys don't like to get bit!
- The MRPD has officers trained to do a security analysis of your home or

business and recommend effective ways of securing your property. To arrange for a security analysis, please call our Records Section at 301-985-6580.

Selected Crimes – February 2006

<i>Assault - Aggravated</i>			
3200	BLOCK	QUEENSTOWN	DR
<i>Burglary - Residential</i>			
2700	BLOCK	ARUNDEL	RD
<i>Burglary - Commercial</i>			
3400	BLOCK	RHODE ISL.	AV
<i>Murder</i>			
4600	BLOCK	27TH ST	
<i>Recovered Stolen Vehicle</i>			
4200	BLOCK	28TH ST	
3300	BLOCK	CHAUNCEY	PL
4200	BLOCK	KAYWOOD	DR
2700	BLOCK	UPSHUR ST	
3500	BLOCK	NEWTON	ST
3200	BLOCK	UPSHUR ST	
4300	BLOCK	38TH PL	
<i>Stolen Vehicle</i>			
4000	BLOCK	36TH ST	
3800	BLOCK	35TH ST	
4700	BLOCK	27TH ST	
4400	BLOCK	28TH PL	
4200	BLOCK	RUSSELL AV	
4000	BLOCK	29TH ST	
4600	BLOCK	30TH ST	
3300	BLOCK	CHAUNCEY	PL
3800	BLOCK	30TH ST	
<i>Theft - From Auto</i>			
3300	BLOCK	RHODE ISL.	AV
2700	BLOCK	ARUNDEL	RD
<i>Theft - Vehicle Tags</i>			
3100	BLOCK	UPSHUR ST	
3300	BLOCK	CHILLUMRD	
3200	BLOCK	QUEENSTOWN	DR
3200	BLOCK	RHODE ISL.	AV
4500	BLOCK	29TH ST	
<i>Theft < 500</i>			
3300	BLOCK	RHODE ISL.	AV
4300	BLOCK	30TH ST	
<i>Vandalism</i>			
4000	BLOCK	37TH ST	
<i>Vandalism to Auto</i>			
4300	BLOCK	RUSSELL AV	
3300	BLOCK	CHILLUMRD	
3300	BLOCK	RHODE ISL.	AV
3100	BLOCK	QUEENS CH.	RD
4300	BLOCK	RUSSELL AV	
2500	BLOCK	ARUNDEL	RD
4200	BLOCK	KIRKWOOD	DR
2400	BLOCK	ARUNDEL	RD
3100	BLOCK	SHEPHERD	ST
4500	BLOCK	31ST ST	
4100	BLOCK	RUSSELL AV	

Council Highlights

March 7, 2006 – Mayor and Council Meeting

- **Ordinance 1-2006** - An Ordinance to amend Chapter 12, of the *Mount Rainier City Code*, to increase the penalty for illegal deposit of trash and other debris in the public right-of-way. Second reading/Vote, legislation passed.
- It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to place or deposit any trash, litter, garbage, rubbish or debris on any street, alley, sidewalk, public right-of-way, park, or other public property and in the drains or gutters of such streets, roads, or sidewalks within the City of Mount Rainier.
- **Ordinance 4-2006** - An Ordinance to amend Chapter 13 Traffic, Sections 13-104 and 13-105 of the *Mount Rainier Code of Ordinances*.
- **Ordinance 5-2006** - An Ordinance approving an Agreement between the City of Mount Rainier and American Traffic Solutions, Inc. for an automated red light camera enforcement system.
- **Resolution 2-2006** - A Resolution establishing the Policy of the City of Mount Rainier on Employment Contracts the City of Mount Rainier shall no longer negotiate, offer or enter into any contract, subcontract or other **managerial or executive level** employment agreement with current or prospective employees or any individual, except for any employment contract as the Mayor and City Council shall from time-to-time enter into between the City of Mount Rainier and the City Manager or prospective City Manager as provided by the Charter of the City of Mount Rainier;

New Business

- **Ordinance 7-2006** An Ordinance amending Chapter 12B, Urban Forest, of the *Mount Rainier Code* relating to hazardous trees on private property. First Reading

- The Mayor and Council also reviewed building permit applications for the following properties:
4108 – 32nd Street
3112 Varnum Street
4019 37th Street
4106 31st Street
Joe’s Movement Emporium

March 21, 2006 – Public Hearing on Proposed Municipal Taxing Districts

- Mayor Malinda Miles and Council member Knedler (Ward 2) received public comment about the proposed taxing districts for multi family facilities where there is a significant impact on crime and the city’s resources to combat that crime.
- The Mayor and Council Work Session was canceled because there was no quorum present. The City Manager gave a summary of the Capital Improvement Budget.

Mount Rainier Day 2006

Mount Rainier Day will be held on May 20, 2006 in the down town area. Once again, our County Council Member, Mr. Will Campos has come through for the City with funds to support this community activity. Please let him know how much you appreciate his concern and interest in our City. Lots of activities are being planned for residents and guests. If you are a vendor and wish to host a table, please contact the Committee. To contact the Committee send an e-mail to Ophelia Baxter, orbaxter@comcast.net; Pedro Briones, Pedroeb@aol.com; Dale Dayton, DaleWDayton@aol.com; Brooke Kidd, bkidd@worldartsfocus.org; Barbara Goliday, BGoliday@aol.com; or Vicki Onderdonk, vicki_onderdonk@nthp.org.

Careers Day and Job Fair

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.

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 1st 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.

ATHA Inc. Cosponsors Cultural Heritage Tourism Conference

Building A Vision: The Economic and Redevelopment Potential of Cultural Heritage Tourism

When: Wednesday, April 19, 2006
Time: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Where: Holiday Inn – College Park
10000 Baltimore Avenue,
College Park, MD 20740

Who to contact: ATHA Inc.
Karen Crooms-Jennings
301-877-0777
E-mail: karencrooms@atha.com
ATHA (Anacostia Trails Heritage Area)
Registration and attendance fees required.
Visit the website: www.atha.com.

Mount Rainier Tool Shed and Community Garden

2006 Plant Swap

When: Saturday May 6, 2006
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Where: 3601 Bunker Hill Road
Parking: New Mount Rainier Fire Station

Come one, come all share your garden with other gardeners. Come if you are interested in learning more about gardening. Swap plants and information. Come with or without plants.

Coffee and Tea (baked goods welcomed)
For more information, call the Tool Shed on Saturdays from 10-1 p.m. at 301-779-1962.

Street Repairs and Improvements

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 (2900 and 3000 blocks)
- 3300 Block of Bunker Hill Road
- Tilden Street (3400 block)
- 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 April 2006 through June 2006.

Little Friends for Peace Announces Summer Peace Camps 2006

The summer peace camps will be held on July 17–21 at Cora B. Woods Senior Center in Brentwood and August 14–18 at Mount Rainier Nature/Recreation Center.

For more information, contact MJ Park at 301-927-5474 or send an e-mail to mjpeace@gmail.com for brochure and application.

Rainier Manor Apartments

In the City Manager's Report in the February edition of the **Message**, it stated that a meeting with management of the Rainier Manor Apartments had been requested to discuss complaints from residents about alleged unfair treatment and other code concerns. Since that article, the City Manager and Mayor Malinda Miles met with Eva Gibson, Property Manager for Humphrey Management and Mary Worth, Community Manager for the Rainier Manor Apartments. The discussion focused on the initial complaints lodged with the Mayor, the process for code enforcement inspections, and the responsibility of the City to investigate all complaints received to determine accuracy of the complaint, and to ensure that residents receive quality care and timely responses to their concerns.

The discussion was a good one and both Ms. Gibson and Ms. Worth assured the Mayor and City Manager that issues raised by any residents are addressed fairly and timely.

Since the meeting with the corporate and property managers, the City Manager was invited to attend the Tenants Association meeting held on March 7, 2006 at Rainier Manor. The invitation came directly from the Tenants Association President Ernest Wheeler. During the meeting, members of the association expressed great concern that the article in the February **Message** implied that many or the residents were not

satisfied with management's response to complaints and that many of the residents were disrespected. The members present indicated in no uncertain terms that the Tenants Association works diligently on behalf of the dues paying members and that all complaints are addressed once they have been filed with the Grievance Committee of the Tenant's Association. When the Grievance Committee receives the complaint, they meet directly with the Community Manager and other responsible parties of Rainier Manor along with the complainant to discuss remedies and time frames for resolution of the problems. The members further indicated that complaints sent to the City of Mount Rainier may have been from residents who are not members of the Tenants Association who did not follow the complaint process procedure. All residents, whether or not they are members of the Association, may attend the monthly meetings to receive up-to-date minutes and other valuable information from the Association. Members of the Association pay \$10 per year for dues. The Association serves as a liaison between management and the residents.

The approximate 30 residents at the meeting indicated that they were very pleased with the Association, with management's response to their concerns, and expressed an overall satisfaction with

the way the property at Rainier Manor is managed and maintained.

Mr. Money Turner, who chairs the Grievance Committee, reported during the March 7, 2006 meeting that no complaints had been submitted for the month of February indicating that everyone was satisfied with management at the present time.

The City manager was asked why was there a need to schedule a meeting with management or even respond to the complaint of a few disgruntled residents. The manager responded that any time a complaint is submitted to the division of code enforcement, the City Manager's office, or to the Mayor and Council, the City has a responsibility to investigate all complaints received, schedule an inspection of the premises, and/or set up a meeting between the complainant and property owner, ensure that the complainant is not the recipient of retaliation based on the complaint, and/or implement any other measures as necessary to resolve the issues at hand.

It is very reassuring for this City government to know that management of a multi-family facility is responsive to the needs of its residents, particularly those with special needs.

The City manager looks forward to future invitations from the Rainier Manor Tenants Association.

Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Calendar

DATE	EVENT
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

Mount Rainier Seeks Newsletter Editor

Mount Rainier is looking for a newsletter editor with 3 to 5 years of layout experience using either PageMaker, Quark, or Indesign. Must have experience working with high-resolution images and be able to manipulate them. Be able to gather all electronic submissions, layout the copy and images, create PDFs drafts for review, prepare files for printing, and work closely with City staff and Mount Rainier citizens. Must have copyediting and proofreading experience and be able to rewrite copy as needed.

Interested persons should send their resumes to City Manager by regular mail to One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, MD 20712, fax to 301-985-6553, or send an e-mail to jwallace@mountrainiermd.org.

Committees Members Still Needed

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

Design Review Board Members Sought

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.

Summer Jobs for Youth

Prince George's County Executive Jack Johnson announced today that the Summer Youth Employment Applications are now available through April 14 for interested County youth.

As part of Johnson's Livable Communities Initiative, the Summer Youth Employment program was created to provide Prince George's County youth with the opportunity for a structured, supervised and quality work experience that builds skills and assists in career decision-making.

Partners of the Summer Youth Initiative include the Economic Development Corporation, Division of Workforce Services, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the Prince George's County Public Schools, Prince George's County Council, and End Time Harvest Ministers.

Applications are available on the county's Web Site: www.princegeorgescountymd.gov.

Applications are also available in the Office of Community Relations, the Office of Human Resources Management, Economic Development Corporation, Division of Workforce Services, the county's public high schools, and in branches of the county's Memorial Library System.

Applicants must be county residents, between the ages of 14-21, and in good standing with their school. The six-week employment program will begin on June 26 and end on August 4, 2006. Some employers may require additional information from applicants.

For more information please contact the Office of Community Relations at 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive in Upper Marlboro or by calling 301-952-4729.

The Rap and Act Group...

...Asks Questions

...Hace Preguntas

The **Rap and Act Group**, located at the Queenstown Apartments in Mt. Rainier, MD, trains young people ages 9-11 (a few teens participate occasionally) in journalism and creative expression. Journalists ask questions, so this month the children thought of questions they wanted to know the answers to.*
 *Note: The children asked these questions *before* the break-in, rape and robbery at Queenstown last month.

El Grupo "**Rap and Act**," ubicado en los Apartamentos de Queenstown de Mt. Rainier, MD, instruye a jóvenes de 9-11 años (con la participación ocasional de jóvenes mayores) en periodismo y expresión creativa. Los periodistas hacen preguntas, y por ello los niños pensaron en preguntas de las que quieren saber la respuesta.*

*Nota: los niños hicieron estas preguntas *antes* de la entrada forzada, violación y robo del mes pasado en Queenstown.

These questions are from: Allison Landon, Amina Moreno, A'Shanti Loving, Cristian Molina, Fatima Benouraida, Jennifer Ruiz, Kierra George, Mabel Jose, Raul Urbaz, Rodnika Campbell, and Shakera Williams.

Why do people urinate and smoke marihuana in the passageways, and litter and make things dirty?
 ¿Por qué la gente se orina y fuma marihuana en los pasillos y tira basura y ensucia las cosas?

Why do people use steroids?
 ¿Por qué la gente utiliza esteroides?

Why is Queenstown not safe for children to play in the park?
 ¿Por qué no hay seguridad en Queenstown para que los niños jueguen en el parque?

By Cristian Molina



The world should be a better place.

Why do people steal?
 ¿Por qué la gente roba?

Why do people get shot and raped?
 ¿Por qué balacean y violan a la gente?

Why do people buy guns, and the store owner doesn't ask for their ID?
 ¿Por qué la gente compra armas de fuego y el comerciante no les pide identificación?

Why do adults sometimes blame kids unfairly for things they didn't do?
 ¿Por qué los adultos a veces culpan a los niños sin razón, por cosas que no hicieron?

Why is this so much a ghetto, with violence, robberies and break-ins in the apartments?
 ¿Por qué es esto un ghetto, con violencia, robos y atracos en los apartamentos?

Why in the Revolutionary War did the British go against the Americans?
 Why were they killing innocent people instead of sending them to a safe place?
 ¿Por qué en la Guerra Revolucionaria los ingleses pelearon contra los americanos?
 ¿Por qué mataban a gente inocente en vez de mandarla a un lugar seguro?

Why are there insects and rats at Queenstown?
 ¿Por qué hay insectos y ratas en Queenstown?



By A'Shanti Loving

Why did war begin?
 ¿Por qué empezó a existir la guerra?



By Mabel Jose

Why do people smoke and drink alcohol when they know it's bad for them?
 Por que la gente fuma y toma alcohol sabiendo que les hace daño?

Why is there so much violence, making me feel scared walking to the 7-Eleven?
 ¿Por qué hay tanta violencia, que me asusto al caminar al 7-Eleven?

Why do people cuss and be rude to others?
 ¿Por qué la gente dice groserías y ofende a los demás?

Why aren't potholes in the street being patched?
 ¿Por qué no arreglan los hoyos en la calle?

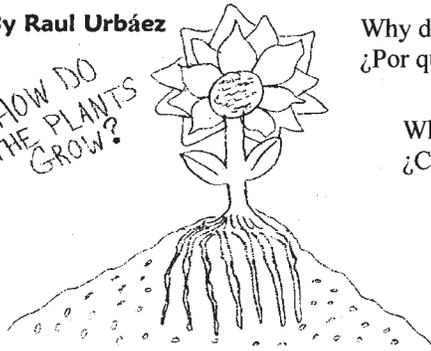
Why are there so many rules?
 ¿Por qué hay tantas reglas?

Why were there slaves back in the day?
 ¿Por qué había esclavos en otros tiempos?

Layout by Julie Barnett

By Raul Urbáez

HOW DO THE PLANTS GROW?



What makes trees and plants grow?
¿Cómo crecen los árboles y las plantas?

Why do bugs pop out?
¿Por qué salen insectos?

When did the first people live?
¿Cuándo vivió la primera gente?

How many kids are there in the community?
¿Cuántos niños hay en la comunidad?

Why does it snow?
¿Por qué hay nieve?

Why do people have white hair?
¿Por qué la gente tiene el pelo blanco?

How old is the earth?
¿Qué edad tiene la tierra?



By Raul Urbáez

...Comments on a scary incident

...Comenta sobre un incidente espantoso

Mabel: A cable man came in and raped this woman and stole her tv and all her money and left her like nothing, on the floor like some piece of dirt. I was frightened because I think he or they will knock on my door. But my mom told me, "Don't open the door to anyone, even if it's a family member. My sister started crying. I wish people wouldn't be bad anymore.

Rodnika: The rape was bad because he acted like a cable guy and it happened in my building. Now I know that you

Shakera: It made me feel sorry for the lady...and she was feeling very frightened.

Raul: I am not really used to hearing people saying that somebody got raped. I think it is good to have the news to inform other people and kids about what has happened in our community. Last but not least, we need more police around our community.

Allison: ...I think he needs to go to jail, and the question is why are people so CRAZY!!! They need to get it straight!!

Un hombre de cablevisión entró y violó a una mujer y robó su televisión y todo su dinero, y la dejó como si nada, en el piso, como basura. Me sentí asustada porque creo que él o ellos van a tocar mi puerta. Pero mi mamá me dijo, "No le abras la puerta a nadie, incluso si es de la familia." Mi hermana se puso a llorar. Quisiera que la gente ya no fuera mala.

La violación fue mala porque se disfrazó como técnico de cablevisión, y eso pasó en mi edificio. Ahora sé que nunca hay que abrir la puerta a la gente, sólo la familia.

Sentí lástima por la mujer...y ella sentía mucho miedo.

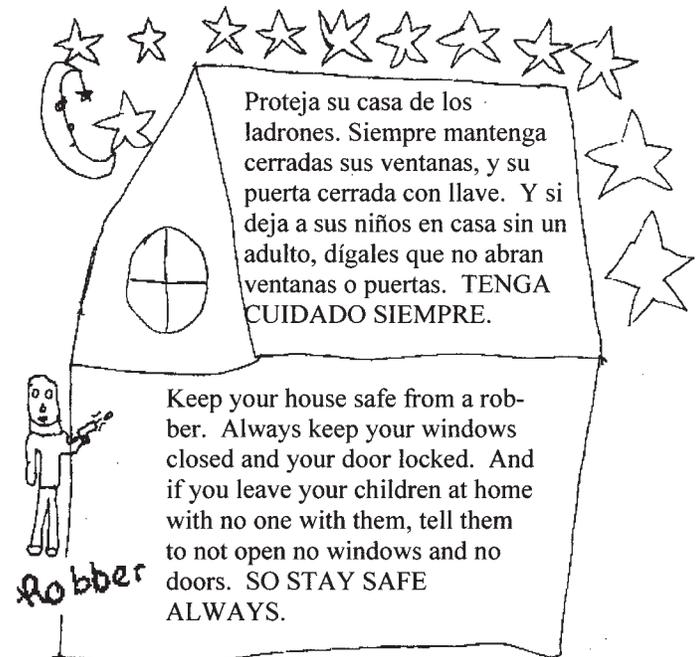
No estoy acostumbrado a oír a la gente decir que alguien fue violada. Creo que es bueno tener las noticias para informar a otra gente y niños sobre lo que ha pasado en nuestra comunidad. Por último, necesitamos más policías en nuestra comunidad.

...Creo que él debe ir a la cárcel, y la cuestión es ¿¿por qué la gente está tan loca?!! ¡¡Necesita comportarse derecho!!

...Has a Day Off ...Tiene un Día Libre

Friday, March 10 was a day off from school. **Rap & Act Group** participants told about the day and we all took notes of what they said: **A'Shanti, Allison, Jennifer, Amina, Fatima, Mabel,** and **Shakera** went with 140 girls in five buses on a **Girl Scout** field trip. A'Shanti said she fell a thousand times at the skating rink, but liked it. She had fun in the museum. **Shakera** liked the field trip, the skating rink more than the museum. **Raul** brought some toys to the Community Center and played with the other boys, sharing toys. **Cristian** went to the MCI Center to see "smackdown" wrestling.

El viernes 10 de marzo fue día libre de la escuela. Participantes del **Grupo Rap & Act** hablaron de lo que hicieron ese día y tomamos apuntes de lo que nos contaron: **A'Shanti, Allison, Jennifer, Amina, Fatima, Mabel,** and **Shakera** fueron con 140 niñas en cinco buses a una excursión de las **Girl Scouts**. **A'Shanti** dijo que se cayó mil veces en la pista de patinaje, pero le gustó. Se divirtió en el museo. **A Shakera** le gustó la excursión, el patinaje más que el museo. **Raúl** llevó algunos de sus juguetes al Centro Comunitario para jugar con los otros niños, compartiendo juguetes. **Cristian** fue al MCI Center a mirar WWE lucha "smackdown."



By Amina Moreno

City of Mount Rainier Businesses

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 April 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 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

Barbershop, Hair Salon, Beauty and Spa Supplies

Beauty Depot, 3171 Queens Chapel Road
Color’s By Tangie, 3800-B 34th Street
Hands on Barber, 3811 34th 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 34th Street
Urlyana’s Hair Studio and Spa, 3237 Rhode Island Avenue
Crown of Glory Salon, 4004 34th 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 34th Street
Chuck’s Liquors, 3416 Rhode Island Avenue
Marie’s Variety Store, 4002 34th 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 37th Street
Thrifty Car Rental, 3210 Rhode Island Avenue

Child Care Services

Gateway Child Development, 3833 34th Street
Mount Rainier Early Learning Center, 4001 33rd 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 34th Street
WWCG Books, 3847 34th Street
Glut Food Coop, 4000 34th Street

Arts and Crafts; Antiques; Arts and Entertainment

Bazaar San Antonio, 4010 34th Street
G&A Discount, 3813 34th Street
Joe’s Movement Emporium, 3802 34th Street
Latin American Folk Institute-LAFI, 3400-A 34th Street
Nisey’s Boutique, I Got It At Nisey’s, 4006 34th 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 34th Street
Community Vision, 3808 34th Street
Digital Nth, 3200 Rhode Island Avenue
El Palenque Disco Centro, 3414 Rhode Island Avenue
Mount Rainier Antique Shop, 3815 34th Street

General Contractors/ Building Services/ Real Estate

Built Up Roofing, 3711 Wells Avenue
Charles K. McConkey & Sons, 3314 Perry Street
Metro Metal Company, 3700 Otis Street
PDSsystems, 3808 34th 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 34th Street
LaCasita Furniture and Bedding, 3235 Rhode Island Avenue
Queens T. Custom Cleaners, 3111 Chillum Road
Standard Pressing Company, 3299 Queens Chapel Road

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.

April–May calendar

April 3	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301-985-6558) Yard Waste Pick Up	May 3	Regular Trash Pick Up
April 4	Presentation and public comment, on proposed FY 2007 budget for all City programs other than police, parking enforcement, public works, and code enforcement. This will include brief presentations from community groups.	May 5	Recyclables Pick Up
April 5	Regular Trash Pick Up	May 8	Yard Waste Pick Up
April 7	Recyclables Pick Up	May 10	Regular Trash Pick Up
April 10	Yard Waste Pick Up	May 12	Recyclables Pick Up
April 11	Presentation and public comment proposed FY 2007 budget for police department and parking enforcement	May 12, National Bicycle Greenway: Mayor’s Ride. 9 a.m.	
April 12	Regular Trash Pick Up	May 15	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) Yard Waste Pick Up
April 14	Recyclables Pick Up	May 17	Regular Trash Pick Up
April 17	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301-985-6558) Yard Waste Pick Up	May 19	Recyclables Pick Up
April 18	Presentation and public comment proposed FY 2007 budget for public works and code enforcement	May 22	Yard Waste Pick Up
April 19	Regular Trash Pick Up	May 23	Public Hearing on Constant Yield Tax Rate, Variable Tax Rate and on budget (revised summaries available). First Reading of FY 2007 Budget Ordinance
April 21	Recyclables Pick Up	May 24	Regular Trash Pick Up
April 24	Yard Waste Pick Up	May 26	Recyclables Pick Up
April 26	Regular Trash Pick Up	May 29	Memorial Day Holiday (Public Works and City Hall Closed)
April 28	Recyclables Pick Up	May 31	Regular Trash Pick Up
May 1	Bulk Trash Pick Up (By appointment only, call 301 985 6558) 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

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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

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)

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**April 2006 Message
City of Mount Rainier
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