



NEWSLETTER

LOOKING FORWARD; WHILE REFLECTING BACK.

For the past seven years I have had the privilege of serving as your Mayor and partner in making our community successful and a wonderful place live. Together, we have seen a period of change, challenge and significant improvement in our community to include enhancements of our infrastructure, our main street Annapolis Road, have been interactive with and assisted in meeting the needs of our students, while remaining committed to responsible financial practices and careful planning. I can fully affirm and report to you on another successful year for the Town of Bladensburg as we continue to strive to provide the best services, take advantage of all efficiencies and respond to the changing needs of our residents. These achievements and the ongoing efforts of our dedicated staff and volunteers continue to distinguish our Town as an excellent place to live, work and raise a family. We have brought about unique opportunities and services by overseeing and coordinating the efforts of the Collaboration of Municipalities which has brought a number of our qualified residents free weatherization and support for the purchase of energy efficient HVAC systems. We have



broadened the Town’s approach to community outreach by sending email alerts and information. Should you wish to join this list please do call, drop a line, or stop by Town Hall and leave your email and/ or telephone information. We have also begun regional commemoration regarding the War of 1812 by hosting two new annual events (a Spring and Fall Festival) on the grounds of Bostwick, one of the Town’s most iconic and historical sites.

But just as forefathers had to rise to the occasion during the dark time of the War of 1812, we also were faced with some daunting challenges such as the Dorecho and Micro-bursts striking the Town causing massive Town (and area) wide power outages and severe damage to our residents living in the Bladenswoods Condominiums. It was through the collective efforts of Prince George’s County Government, the Prince George’s County School system and, the Town’ CERT Team, Public Safety

Inside this Issue

- Town Treasurer’s Report
- Are you looking for Scholarships?
- Public Works Department Report
- Code Enforcement Report
- Town Front Office Report
- Weatherization program



Contact Us

301-927-7048
 (fax) 301-927-5257
 4229 Edmonston Rd.
 Bladensburg, MD 20710
www.Bladensburg.com

(Complete information list on back)



We thank all for their efforts to keep us safe.

As we look forward, through our budget process, we must ensure that we maintain our capabilities and provide service for all Town functions. We also see a pathway to further supporting and involving our youth in their educational goals through a new Town scholarship program that will be offered to Town residents. We will also provide assurance that our Town, beyond the sitting Mayor and Council, will run in an ethical and open manner by implementing an Ethics Commission. All of these efforts, as well as the creation of the Town's budget, requires your input, involvement, and support. I recommend and ask that you attend the Town meetings, stay informed and, participate as ultimately you determine how we can best serve you. As we begin this New Year I leave you with a quote that accurately sums up the perspective:

"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow." -- Albert Einstein --



Walter L. James, Jr.
Mayor



The Town Treasurer's Office

By: Mr. Terry Jackson, Town Treasurer

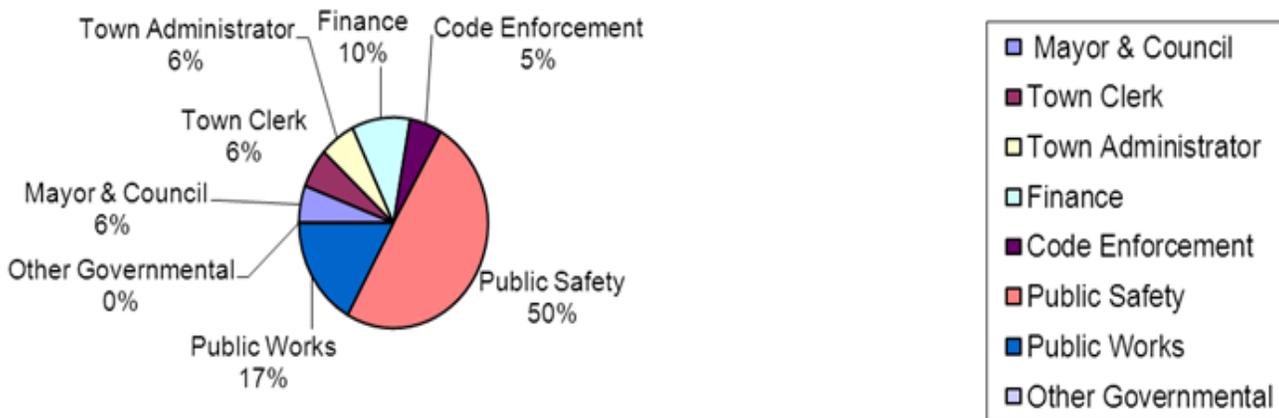
Overall, the Treasurer serves as a municipality's cash manager. In this role, the treasurer maintains custody of all municipal funds and possesses responsibility for the deposit, investment and disbursement of these monies. The Treasurer must administer the municipality's resources to ensure the availability of adequate liquid assets to pay obligations as they become due. In addition, the treasurer plays a principal role in municipal borrowing and manages tax title accounts. This year the Treasurer's office accomplished:

SAVINGS TO TAX PAYERS:

- Refinanced the taxable pension bond for a cost savings of \$178,000
- Prepared a balanced FY 2013 budget despite \$500,000 reduction in revenue (no increase in taxes)
- Hired a new Town auditor
- Who Completed FY 2012 audit on-time with no material findings.
- Converted more than 5,000 accounting documents into an electronic format.
- Created an enhanced Accounts Receivable Policy that helped improve collections on personal property taxes.

Town Budget of 4.2 Million

Departmental Expenditures FY 2012






The Town of Bladensburg

8th Annual
BLACK
HISTORY MONTH
Celebration Honoring
The Tuskegee Airmen
1941 - 1945



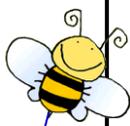
Saturday, February 23, 2013

**Bladensburg High School
4200 57th Avenue,
Bladensburg Maryland**

4pm-6pm

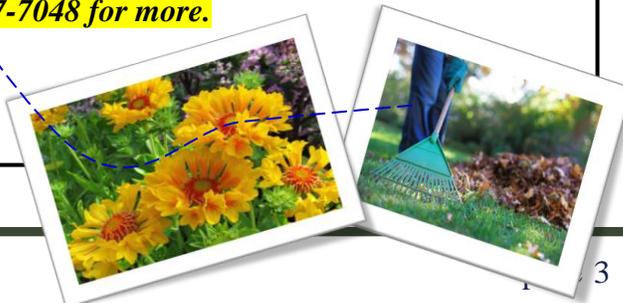
**Guest: Paul Capel of the
Tuskegee Airmen DC Chapter**

*There will be a book raffle for the
autobiography of Colonel Charles
McGee "Most decorated Airman"
in the Air Force!*



Community Spring Clean-Up Time !!!!

Soon it will be Spring and time to once again start the annual "around-Town" clean-up buzz! **March** will mark the return to the Town's monthly clean-up schedule (**every 3rd Saturday of the month**). Be part of the buzz, join your community today! For more information, **please contact Town Hall at 301-927-7048 for more.**



Hello! My name is Deshaun Williams and I am an intern for the Town of Bladensburg. Are you thinking about college? Do you have enough financial aid to go? I can help or direct you where to find and possibly get more scholarships. You can look up our scholarships online at <http://www.townofbladensburg.com/cms/> or give me a call at **301-927-7048** (Town Hall) for more information.



THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"Working Today to Have Brighter and Cleaner Tomorrow"

By: Mr. Purnnel Hall, Forman

The Public Works Department is responsible for the construction, maintenance, and preservation of the physical condition of the Town. This includes: Street maintenance; special trash collections; snow removal; leaf, brush and yard waste collection; grass mowing; street, sidewalk, curb and gutter repair; road signage and traffic lane marking; fleet maintenance; beautification landscaping, tree planting and grounds maintenance. The Public works department is staffed with four (4) full-time employees.

Beatification and Maintenance of the Town:

- **Removed 167.94 tons of Yard Waste**
- **Removed 79.48 tons of Building Material**
- **Removed 20.89 tons of Bulk trash from Condominiums**
- **Painted 11.2 miles of yellow curbs**
- **Painted 89 street stop bars and 17 pedestrian cross walks throughout the Town.**
- **Repaired 27 pot holes.**
- **Prepared for nine (9) major community festivals (each attended by several thousands.)**
- **Weeded and planted new flowers and installed new mulch in Town flower beds and around Town signs.**
- **Called out five (5) times to clear streets of ice and snow or to remove trees.**
- **Worked for several weeks cleaning up trees and debris from Micro Burst event.**
- **Maintained the two Town playgrounds, at the Town Hall and at 52nd street for our littlest residents.**



By: Mr. Tim McNamara, Director of Code Enforcement

The Office of Code Enforcement ensures public safety and promotes the highest achievable quality of life for the Town of Bladensburg's residents, business owners and tourists. The Code Enforcement Officers' of the Town enforce the Town Code, Property Maintenance Codes and Parking and Abandoned Vehicle Regulations along with the issuance of building permits through measures and procedures that emphasize compliance. Enforcement employs education along with fair, consistent and equitable enforcement measures while protecting the constitutional rights of all.

Year 2012 vs. 2011

Number of complaints handled	➤ 9,506	7782
Number of abandoned vehicles removed from town	➤ 215	228
Number of illegal signs removed from town	➤ 2,109	2375
Number of animal complaints	➤ 108	96
Number of illegal vendors	➤ 15	18
Number of site inspections	➤ 6,242	4328
Number of stop work orders	➤ 20	21
Number of graffiti complaints	➤ 12	13
Number of building permits issued	➤ 24	12





Town of Bladensburg Police Department



The Bladensburg Police Department is comprised of professionals dedicated to community quality, enthusiastically working with citizens to foster a safe, vibrant, and pleasant environment that makes Bladensburg such a special place. Partnerships with Bladensburg's citizens enable us to identify, prioritize and address community concerns, effectively impacting the fear and incidence of crime and disorder. We recognize that these successes would not be possible without meaningful interaction between the Police Department and the citizens

**By: Charles Owens,
Chief of Police**



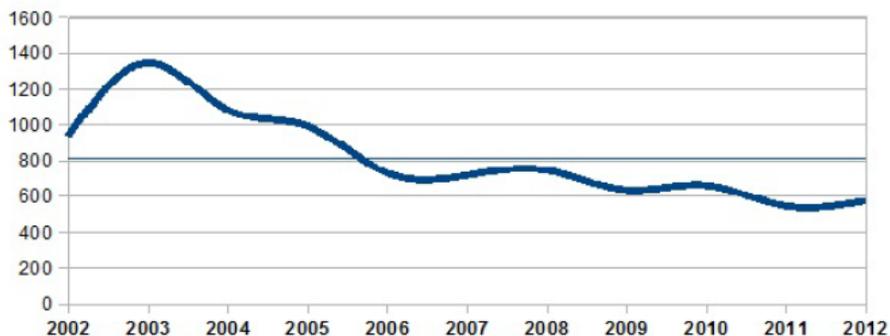
Crime Control



The Police Department reports the number of known index crimes in Bladensburg to the Maryland State Police and FBI. This mainly includes crimes reported to the police by the general public, but may also include crimes that police officers discover, and known through other sources. Part crimes are collectively known as Index crimes, this name is used because the crimes are considered quite serious, tend to be reported more reliably than others, and are reported directly to the police. Offenses include aggravated assault, forcible rape, murder, robbery, burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft.

Part 1 crimes rose by 5.15% in 2012. The three-year crime rate shows a 20.02% reduction in Part 1 offenses.

Part 1 Crimes
10-Year Trend



Traffic Accidents



A total of 437 traffic accidents were reported to the Bladensburg Police Department in 2012. In investigating these accidents, there were 45 reported or visible injuries, and no fatality. Hit & Run accidents were reported at 115. Pedestrians accounted for 10 injury reports. Police cruisers were involved in six accidents. During investigations, it was found that factors such as weather and speed were not major contributors. Driver error or inattention were the most frequent causes.





Front and Administrative Offices

The Town of Bladensburg's Front and Administrative Offices are composed of the Office of the Town Clerk and the Town Administrator's Office. **The Town Clerk** is responsible for the preparation and maintenance of all Council records and other official municipal documents, supervision of elections within the Town, recording various documents and vital statistics.

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

By Ms. Patricia McAuley, Town Clerk

- Greeted and offered assistance to **over 3,600 persons** who inquired for services at Town Hall.
- Implemented a tracking log for citizen concerns to reduce redundancy and improve prioritization and follow-up of citizen complaints.
- Offered planning assistance and participation in all key Town/Community Special Events and activities.
- Coordinated the use of all Town Facilities and available transportation for Town residents.
- Conducted telephone outreach to homebound senior citizens.
- Sought out, applied for and obtained CDBG grants:
 - **PY 37**, Quincy Place Street surface replacement **(\$83,618) COMPLETED**
 - **PY 38**, Quincy Place Street surface replacement **(\$88,000) IN-PROCESS**
- Continued responsibility as State Retirement Coordinator and support of the creation of the Town's newsletter.
- Participated in the battle of Bladensburg Taskforce and several other Special Events subcommittee.
- Coordinated restoration of Bostwick efforts.



Calendar

Worksessions
Second Monday of every month, 5:30 p.m.
(Excluding holidays)

Council Meetings
Second Monday of every month, 7:00 p.m.

Seniors' Club
Town Hall, 10 a.m., 2nd and 4th Thursdays of every month

Bulk Trash Pick-up
3rd Saturday of every month. Please call by noon the Friday before.

Neighborhood Watch
Every Friday, 7:00 p.m.
Call 301-927-8126 for info.

CERT Meetings
Second Saturday of every month, 9:00 a.m.
Call 301-927-8126 for info. Please call by noon the Friday before

Bostwick

Bostwick is a historic home located in Bladensburg and built in 1746 by Christopher Lowndes. The following are improvements underway:

- Conducted two Bostwick Events celebrating the culture and everyday life in Bladensburg circa 1812.
- Repaired North Chimney (Earth Quake damage)
- Replaced of north and south front porch piers
- Prepared the scope of work for Bostwick rear porch roof repairs (*earthquake*) and received approval to proceed. Repaired fences and fallen trees.





Citizen Emergency Response Team



Town Administrator

By: Mr. John E. Moss

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. The Town maintains its own team. Call 301-868-6080 for more.

The Town Administrator carries out the policies adopted by the elected body, provides professional administration, management and supervision of municipal departments, assures compliance with relevant federal laws and regulations, State and County Laws as well as municipal bylaws, ordinances and regulations, and develops long-range plans with guidance from the elected body and assists in the achievement of common goals and objectives.



Bladensburg CERT Statistics

Deployment	Frequency	Volunteers	Event Time (in hours)	Total Time (in hours)
MLK Safety Day (Berwyn Heights)	1	7	5	35
SAR Classroom Training	1	2	24	48
SAR Study Group	3	8	9	216
SAR Test & Practical Exercise	1	2	24	48
Teen CERT Training	1	6	23	138
Persons Trained (Bladensburg)		17	20	340
Incident Command Drill	1	12	5	60
Derecho-emergency call out	1	7	9	63
Derecho-Red Cross-Sheltering	1	6	20	120
National Night Out	1	12	6	72
Adult CERT Training	1	6	23	138
Persons Trained (Bladensburg)		15	20	300
Emergency Preparedness Drill	10	13	2	260
PG CERT Monthly Meeting	10	4	1	40
PG Marlow Heights Walk	1	4	2	8

Total Hours: 1886

- **Conduct Town operations more effectively**
 - Conducted weekly team meeting toward defined targeted goals. **COMPLETED**
- **Conduct Town operations more efficiently**
 - Reviewed contractual arrangement to seek the best cost for benefit options. **COMPLETED**
 - Researched and implemented new purchase polices that supports reduced energy consumption and lessens environmental impacts. **COMPLETED**
 - Led collaboration efforts for 9 other Municipalities in pursuing energy and sustainable grants. **COMPLETED**
- **Sustainable Efforts:**
 - Submitted the Town for State Recognition for through the Sustainable Communities certified process. **Pending**
 - Obtained certification as a member of Maryland’s Green registry. **COMPLETED**
 - Developed new community sustainable educational website: **SUSTAIN BLADENSBURG COMPLETED**
- **Town Grants Status:**
 - Oversaw the acquisition of over:

“Volunteering is an act of heroism on a grand scale. And it matters profoundly. It does more than help people beat the odds; it changes the odds.”
- President Bill Clinton-



Total Town Grants = \$1,876,791

Town of Bladensburg
4229 Edmonston Road
Bladensburg, MD 20710

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MAILED FROM
ZIPCODE 20710
PERMIT NO. 2132

RESIDENT

Bladensburg, Maryland
20710



Need Weatherization or energy assistance?

*You may qualify for a new program
sponsored by the Maryland Energy
Administration. Call Town Hall at*

301-927-7040

for more.

Contact Information

Mayor

Walter James301-452-7560

Council Members Ward I

Cris Mendoza240-604-6349

Trina Brown301-927-7048

Council Members Ward II

Walter Ficklin301-792-8199

Walter George301-379-4774

Administrative Offices

301-927-7048

Code Enforcement

301-927-0330

Police Department

301-864-6080

Public Works

301-927-1452