



NEWSLETTER

LOOKING FORWARD; WHILE REFLECTING BACK.

For the past nine years I have had the privilege of serving as your Mayor and partner in making our community successful and a wonderful place to live. Together, we have seen a period of change, challenge and significant improvement in our community to include enhancements of our infrastructure, including our main street Annapolis Road. We 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, ensuring that our web page is continually updated, as well as beginning a series of quarterly community forums. All of this was implemented with the hope of raising community engagement and participation in our municipal processes and community events. If you wish to join our email notification list please do call, drop a line, or stop by Town Hall and leave your email and/ or telephone information.

We are anticipating our regional commemoration regarding the War of 1812 by hosting our annual Spring Fest on the grounds of Bostwick, one of the Town’s most iconic and historical sites. Following this event, prepare to be dazzled by the actual commemoration that will be hosted with the Town at the Bladensburg Waterfront Park on August 23rd - 24th, 2014.

Inside this Issue

- Town Treasurer’s Report
- Are you looking for Scholarships?
- Public Works Department Report
- Town Police & Code Enforcement Reports
- Town Front Office Report
- Town Administrator’s Report.



Contact Us

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

(Complete information list on back)



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 the continuation of our personal involvement and participation as Mayor and Council in the Bladensburg High School CSTEM program. This program challenges and hones the educational talents of youth and directly prepares them for higher educational opportunities. We will also provide assurance that our Town, beyond the sitting Mayor and Council, will run in an ethical and open manner and have implemented 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 bring in 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 --

Sincerely,



Town Budget of 5.4 Million

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:

Items of Note:

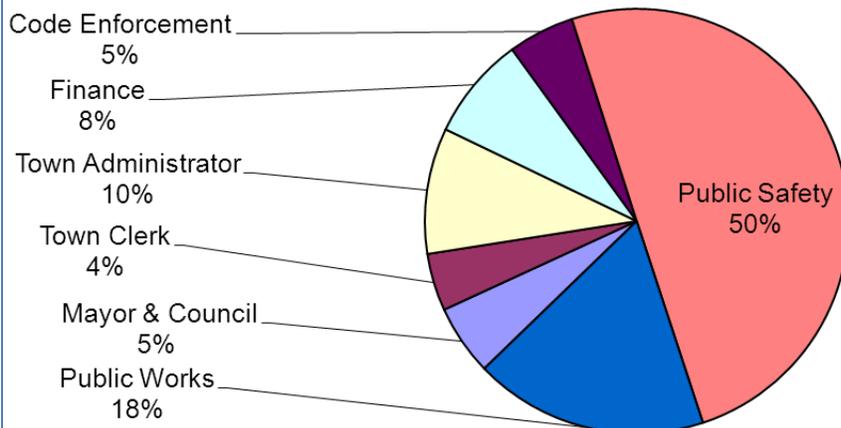
- Prepared a balanced FY 2013 with no increase in taxes.
- Completed FY 2013 audit on-time with no material findings.
- Continued to convert accounting documents into an electronic format.
- Created an enhanced Accounts Receivable Policy that helped improve collections on personal property taxes.

War of 1812 Information @

<http://www.mdmilestones.org/>



FY 2014 Budget Expense Percentiles By Dept (\$5.4 Million Budget)



Town Budget Meetings
(At scheduled Town meetings)

- April 14, 2014 (Introduction)
- May 12, 2014 (First reading)
- June 2, 2014 (Second reading)*

** Adoption of Budget*



In Case of a Sewer Backup



- WSSC will work with you to determine how we can assist you. Call WSSC's 24-hour emergency number 301-206-4002 or 1-800-634-8400. Our TTY number is 301-206-8345.
- If the backup is the homeowner's responsibility, WSSC recommends that the homeowner contact a WSSC registered plumber for repairs.
- If the sewer backup is WSSC's responsibility, a WSSC crew or WSSC registered plumber will be sent to relieve the blockage at no charge to the homeowner.
- If the backup is WSSC's responsibility and your residence/business is damaged, or if you are requesting reimbursement of plumber's fees, please contact the WSSC Claims Office during regular business hours at 301-206-7095.
- Fats, oils and grease can clog sewer pipes. To avoid blockages and backups, remember to Can the Grease; can it, cool it and throw it away. Learn more by visiting wsscwater.com/backups.



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://townofbladensburg.com/cms/available-scholarships/> or give me a call at **301-927-7048** (Town Hall) for more information.



Earth Day 2014!!!!



Soon it will be Spring and time to once again start the annual "around-Town" clean-up buzz! *This year the Town is joining forces with the Anacostia Watershed Society and the Friends of Quincy Run Creek and promoting Earth Day April 5th* as one of the main efforts. Be a part of the buzz! Join and make a difference for your community today! *You may join by logging on to www.anacostiaws.org/earthday2014 or for more information, please contact Town Hall at 301-927-7048 for more.*



Turn Cooking Oil into Bio-fuel



From chicken to pickles, everything tastes better fried. But what do you do with the used cooking oil once the frying is done? If you live in Prince George's County or Montgomery County, you can recycle it.

Take your used cooking oil to your county's recycling center where it will either be turned into animal feed or biodiesel fuel. So that the oil may be recycled, do not mix it with any other fluids.

The following are cooking oil recycling centers in the WSSC service area:

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill
11611 White House Road, Upper Marlboro, MD
princegeorgescountymd.gov

This service is free of charge to county citizens and residents who need to dispose of household waste.



THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"Working Today to Have Brighter and Cleaner Tomorrow"

By: Mr. Purnell 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 six (6) full-time employees.

Beatification and Maintenance of the Town:

- **417 times Bulk Trash was use.**
- **Removed 236.6 tons of Yard waste**
- **Removed 33.4 tons from the Condominiums**
- **Removed 91.4 tons of Building material**
- **Called out 5 time due to Snow/ Ice storms**
- **Several repairs in Town Buildings.**
- **Notified residents about Prince George's County new yard waste rule (Brown paper bags only)**
- **Assisted AWS with clean ups at the Bostwick House**
- **Public works is now fully staffed with 6 full-time employees**
- **Set up for 8 major Community events**
- **Maintain all Town owned properties/ Town Of Bladensburg signs**
- **Painted 12 miles of yellow curbs/ 89 STOP bars/ 17 pedestrian cross walks**
- **Maintained the two Town playgrounds, at the Town Hall and at 52nd street for our littlest residents.**



By: The Office 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 2013 vs. 2012

Number of Complaints Handled	7937	9506
Number of Abandoned Vehicles	255	215
Number of Illegal Signs removed	1102	2109
Number of animal Complaints	99	109
Number of Illegal Vendors	12	15
Number of Site Inspection	5534	6242
Number of Stop Work Orders	20	20
Number of Graffiti Complaints	31	12
Number of Building Permits	11	24





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 we serve.

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



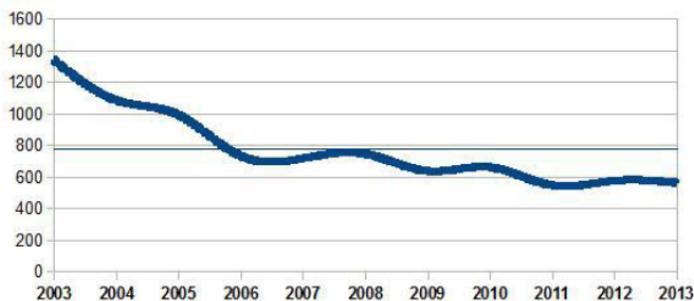
Crime Control



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 1 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 decreased by 12.66% in 2013. The three-year crime rate shows a 24.84% reduction in Part 1 offenses.

Part 1 Crimes
10-Year Trend



Traffic Accidents



A total of 468 traffic accidents were reported to the Bladensburg Police Department in 2013. In investigating these accidents, there were 57 reported or visible injuries, and no fatality. Hit & Run accidents were reported at 133. Pedestrians accounted for 8 injury reports. Police cruisers were involved in five 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.

Chief's Award of Excellence



Officer David Calloway: displayed professionalism and dedication above and beyond normal departmental duties.

Officer Calloway encountered an elderly wheelchair bound woman suffering from an acute fear of heights. The distressed woman was traveling to the District of Columbia. Officer Calloway set out on foot to escort the panic stricken woman. During their two mile journey, Officer Calloway held her hand and talked her through panic attacks until they safely reached her destination.

Officer Calloway epitomizes our motto: "Community Service."





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 38**, Quincy Place Street surface replacement **(\$88,000) IN-PROCESS**
 - **PY 39** and **PY 39R** funded
- 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.
- Repairs for South Chimney (Earth Quake damage) underway.
- New Board of directors being formed to assist with historical guidance and financial support.





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 CERT 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.



Deployment	Frequency	Volunteers	Event Time (in hours)	Total Time (in hours)
SAR Training	1	4	16	64
SAR Study Group	1	2	3	6
National Night Out	1	12	4	48
Adult CERT Training	1	4	20	80
Persons Trained (Bladensburg)	0	0	20	0
Emergency Preparedness Drill	0	0	2	0
Council of PG CERT Monthly Meeting	8	4	1	32
PG County Cert Instructor Training	2	1	3	6
Fox 5 News Coverage highlighting Bladensburg/PG County CERT	1	5	6	30
Metro CERT Drill, Lorton, VA	1	1	6	6
Bladensburg CERT Meetings	10	7 to 14	2	114
Bladensburg/PG County CERT Retirement of Lt. Davis	1	14	4	56
Port Towns Day	1	8	5	40
Greenbelt Labor Day Parade	1	4	2	8
PG County Cert Memorial Stair Climb	1	3	3	9

Total Hours: 499

“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-

- **Conduct Town operations more effectively**
 - Reviewed contractual arrangement to seek the best cost for benefit options. **COMPLETED**
 - Researched and implemented new purchase policies that support reduced energy consumption and lessens environmental impacts. **COMPLETED**
- **Sustainable Efforts:**
 - Submitted the Town for State Recognition for through the Sustainable Communities certified process. **Submitted and Pending**
 - Coordinated Community Home Weatherization project:
 - Grant Funds Received
 - \$484,000 (MEA)
 - \$115,000 (DHCD)
 - 79 Homes fixed.
 - Town Received “Collaboration Award” from the Community Development Network
 - Enacted a Community “Pedestrian Policy.” **COMPLETED**
 - Recognized by the National League of Cities and the “Let’s Move” Organization for Healthy Initiatives. **COMPLETED**
 - Obtained certification as a member of Maryland’s Green registry. **COMPLETED**



Town of Bladensburg
4229 Edmonston Road
Bladensburg, MD 20710

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
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ZIPCODE 20710
PERMIT NO. 2132

CURRENT RESIDENT

Bladensburg, Maryland
20710

↓ **Drive DOWN our Town's** ↓
Car Insurance Rates!



*Pay attention to the road and other drivers,
do not text and drive "wise to stay alive."
Call Town Hall at **301-864-6080** 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

Beverly Hall.....301-785-9984

Administrative Offices

301-927-7048

Code Enforcement

301-927-0330

Police Department

301-864-6080

Public Works

301-927-1452