



NEWSLETTER

What The Flag Means To Me.



Council Member Cris Mendoza

What the flag means to me. For the last nine years I have read over 50 essays from elementary school students in our town on this subject. Every June 14th, the United States celebrates Flag Day, and every year former Council Member Marion Hoffman prepares a ceremony for the winners of the essay contest. Two students from each elementary school in the Town are selected as winners by their teachers. Every year students get creative and passionate about the U.S. Flag, writing about how many stars and stripes it has and the meaning behind each star and stripe. I usually get jealous of the students because they get to write about something I am very passionate about. As a Flag enthusiast, collector and a bit of a patriot, I enjoy talking, reading, and even visiting places that have historic flags in the U.S.

This we know about the U.S. Flag; it was adopted June 14, 1777 as

John Adams addressed the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. His words were "Resolved that the Flag of the thirteen United States shall be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the Union be thirteen stars, white on a blue field, representing a new constellation." Since communication was not great in the 1770s, the Flag looked differently depending how the description was interpreted. The Original U.S. Flag has changed 27 times since its adoption, 26 of those have been star additions.

Let me explain what the Flag means to me by telling you a story about myself growing up in another country. I was born into a dictatorship where the government controlled most of the rights we hold sacred. I saw my grandfather arrested for speaking against the government; I was told that a gathering of me and two other 9 year olds was an illegal assembly punishable by law. I saw the government issue warrants against any opposition party organizers and arrest them until the day after the election when they could no longer vote. I saw that only certain party

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Contact Us

301-927-7048
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 Bladensburg, MD 20710
www.TownofBladensburg.com

(Complete information list on back)



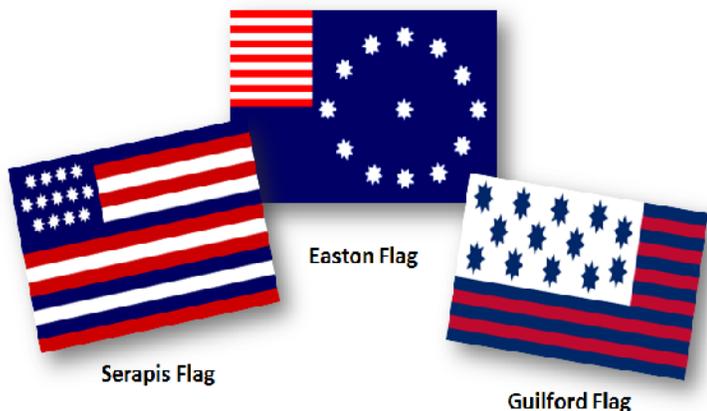
What The Flag Means Continued From Page #1

members were allowed to own guns, and the police would abuse any opposition member without probable cause. I once heard the "President" say that the Constitution is only a piece of paper. As a child I dreamed of a government where certain basic human rights are given to all the people, and not just to those that belong to the ruling party. When I turned 10, I came to the U.S. and discovered that Americans have many rights and those rights are protected by the Constitution. So the U. S. Flag has special meaning to me as it symbol of freedom, human rights, right to bear arms, and other laws protected by the Constitution.

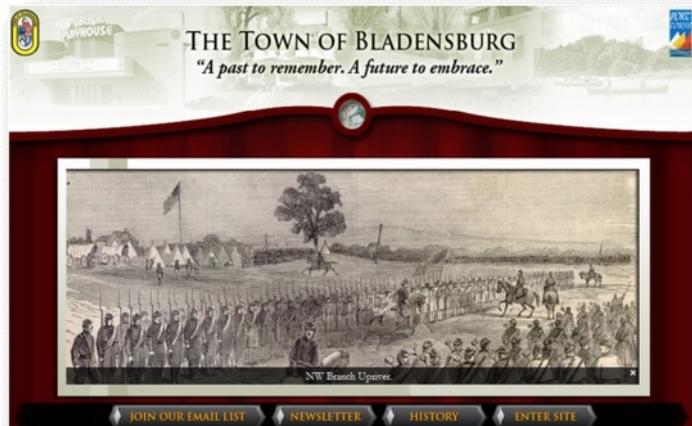
The best description I know of the Flag was during a 1914 Flag Day ceremony. Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior, said the Flag "spoke" to him that very morning: "I am what you make me; nothing more. I swing before your eyes as a bright gleam of color, a symbol of yourself."

Cris Mendoza

Council Member Cris Mendoza, Ward I



The Town Communication



We urge our community to log-in to our Town Website at www.townofbladensburg.com to stay informed and up-to-date on Town activities, meeting minutes and more. **You may wish to join in staying "up-to the minute" informed by giving us your email address. Our e-blasts** contain job information, community information about upcoming activities, and notes of useful interest. Please forward your information to Admin@bladensburg.net or drop by Town Hall to be included.

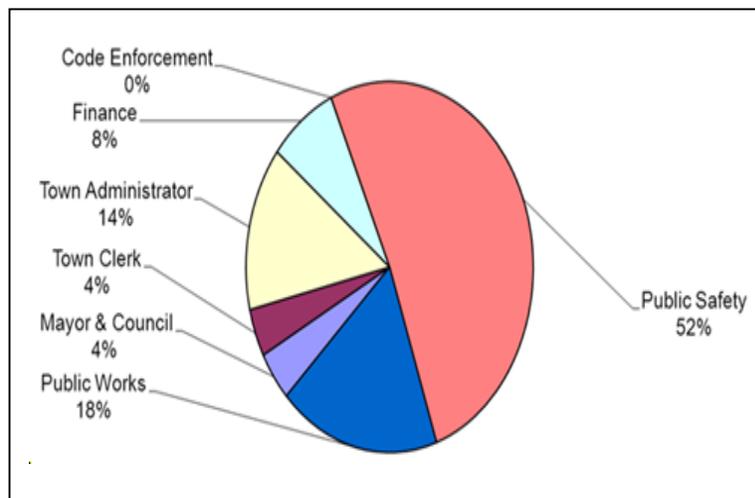


The Town of Bladensburg Earns Designation as a Maryland Banner City/Town.

The Town of Bladensburg was one of a number of selected cities and Towns in the State of Maryland to earn designation in the Maryland Municipal League's (MML) Banner City/Town Program. "MML has been a great resource for the Town of Bladensburg, and I'm proud that we are one of the municipalities to earn this designation," said Town of Bladensburg Mayor Walter L. James. There are five minimum requirements to earn the designation, including participation and support of the annual "If I Were Mayor" contest, support of Municipal Government Works Month, attendance at chapter meetings, participation in the annual convention and fall conference, and other service criteria.



FY'15 Town Budget



From time-to-time the Town will publish portions of the Town code so that residents can be informed and inform others of our community values and codes.

Nuisances by Dogs; Owner Subject to Penalties. (33-8.)

Any animal which causes annoyance by loud or habitual barking, yelping or howling, annoying people and vehicles on public ways, injuring or destroying the property of persons other than its owners, disturbing garbage and waste containers is deemed a nuisance. The owner of such animal is subject to the penalties imposed under this chapter for each such offense committed by the animal.

HOUSING STANDARDS (Chapter 68)

[The current Housing Code of Prince George's County, Maryland, as enacted and revised by the County Council, is hereby adopted to be and to continue in effect throughout the Town of Bladensburg. It is the intent of the Mayor and Council that any amendment made to the Housing Code for Prince George's County from time to time by the aforesaid Council members shall become effective elsewhere in the county.]

The fiscal year 2015 budget was adopted on June 2, 2014, in accordance with the provisions of the Town Charter and in alignment with goals and objectives accepted by the Mayor & Council. Overall, the budget of \$5,735,030 focuses on maintaining current levels of service, while optimizing resources to enhance wherein and when possible the delivery of exceptional services to the residents. **Core services of the budget include public safety (52% percent of budget) and public works (18% percent of budget).**

Highlights of the fiscal year 2015 adopted budget include:

Real Property (\$.74) and Personal Property Tax Rate (\$2.09) **no change;**

Continuation of general fund support for the capital spending to include the purchase of

2 police vehicles, 1 passenger van, and general equipment for public works (\$110,479)

Incorporation of **MEA Empower LMI grant funding** (residing in the Town Administrator's budget line) to support initiatives that promote energy saving measures that are most appropriate for County residents (\$450,000).



Tuesday August 5th, 2014
6:00 -8:00 pm
Bladensburg Town (Hall)Green
Food, Fun PrizesFREE
(More info 301-927-7048)



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Summer usually means vacation time and hot weather conditions. To keep yourself safe and cool on the roads, follow these summer driving-safety tips:

1. **The summer sun can create dangerously hot temperatures in your vehicle.** Be sure to check that your air-conditioning system is functioning properly before traveling. Do not leave pets or children waiting in a car.
2. **Summer temperatures can wreak havoc on your vehicle.** Before you head out on the road, be sure to have your car serviced and inspected for safety.
3. **If planning a road trip, know your route,** and share your travel itinerary with friends and family.
4. **Make certain you tell your neighbors to look-out after your home while you are away.** Use timers and leave a contact number in which you can be reached in case of an emergency.
5. **When parked, use a sun shield underneath the windshield** to keep heat to a minimum and to protect your vehicle's interior.
6. **The end of summer signals the start of school.** Be aware of children playing.



PORT TOWNS Introducing the
2014
Port Towns
POWER P. A. C.
(Performing Arts Camp)

An 8-week performing arts summer camp touring and hosted by the Port Towns **EXCLUSIVELY** for children ages 6-12 who reside in the the Port Towns Community!
FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH DAILY !!!
 Weekly Sessions Start Monday, June 30th so register today!
 Space is limited! Registration is first come, first served!

This performing arts summer camp will tour weekly each of the Port Towns allowing campers from any of the participating towns to learn about where they live while enjoying lessons in singing, acting, dance as well as workshops including bully prevention, financial literacy, civic engagement and more taught by pros!

Visit www.artisticempowerment.org or call 240-424-5226 for more info!

Recyclable Materials

					
Cardboard and Paperboard (recycl boxes)	Glass	Aluminum and Steel Cans	Paper (White and pastel office paper, newspaper, phone books, magazines and catalogs)	All Plastics (#1 - #7)	Styrofoam

Only place recycling materials in recycling bins..not trash.



Undaunted
in Battle



Aman Memorial Trust

The Battle of Bladensburg Monument is now a reality, and it **will be dedicated on Saturday, August 23, 2014, at 11:00 am**. Originally proposed by the Aman Memorial Trust and the Friends of the Battle of Bladensburg, the monument is one of the most significant and lasting structure in the State of Maryland's War of 1812 Bicentennial program.

It includes a large bronze sculpture on one side, granite illustrative panels on the other side, and a limestone base. It will commemorate the battlefield and those who fought there, interpret the historic battle, serve as a focal point for tourism, and help stimulate the revitalization of Bladensburg and nearby communities.

You are cordially invited to attend the dedication and commemorate this significant event in Maryland's history. The monument is located in a landscaped area in Bladensburg owned by the Maryland-National Capital and Planning Commission between the Peace Cross and the George Washington House.

The Town of Bladensburg &



Academics + Athletics + Arts = American Families
www.AplusKidsUSA.com

Dedicated To Improving The Lives Of Children

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Our non-traditional program and instruction offers diverse and multi-cultural after school and Saturday classes. Our curriculum is designed to meet the children where they are, raise their academic, social, reading, comprehension, and math skills to new and higher heights.

A+ Kids offers the following classes in:

- ❖ Radio Broadcasting (on our own radio station and Live TV Show)
- ❖ Television Communications (broadcasting/programming)
- ❖ Information Technology
- ❖ Journalism



Just think, your school/organization could jumpstart a child to be the next evening news anchor, leading actor/actress on stage or in film, technology guru, or a performing arts legend.

Call the Town Offices @ 301-927-7048 for more information.



The Peace Cross History

The Memorial Peace Cross is an area landmark that has become synonymous with the historic Town of Bladensburg. The Snyder-Farmer Post of the American Legion of Hyattsville erected the forty foot cross of cement and marble to recall the forty-nine men of Prince George’s County who died in World War I. The first enlisted man from Prince George’s to die in the line of duty (WWI) was George B. Farmer. The Memorial Peace Cross was dedicated on July 13, 1925, by the American Legion. A bronze tablet at the base of the monument contains the unforgettable words of Woodrow Wilson: The right is more precious than the peace; we shall fight for the things we have always carried nearest our hearts; to such a task we dedicate ourselves. At the base of the monument are the words, Valor, Endurance, Courage, Devotion. At its heart, the it bears a great gold star. The Memorial Peace Cross towers above the convergence of Baltimore Avenue, Bladensburg Road and Annapolis Rd. The Memorial is also situated near the WWII, Korean and Vietnam Memorials for those who gave the supreme sacrifice in Prince George’s County for our Country. The Memorial has endured a lot in its time including major floods from the nearby river. Due to its location at a major roadway junction, pollution and weather have shown some signs of wear to the Memorial. Fortunately, the memorial is maintained regularly and has had some major restoration and repair. The site is a major landmark in the Maryland, District of Columbia, and Port Town area. But most important of all, is the fact it memorializes those who made the supreme sacrifice in the Big One, (*Over There*) World War I.



Photos by Mr Steve Weitz, Bladensburg Town Resident

2014
Port
Towns
Day

HOME ABOUT VENDORS VENDOR PAGE WEBB CONTACT

Saturday September 27, 2014

Be part of "history in the making."

PORT
TOWNS

Be ready
FUN
18th Annual vendors
Port Towns
Day 2014
Food Music
Saturday
September 27, 2014



10:30AM - 10:00PM	Shuttles from University of Maryland, Landover Metro Station, and Colmar Manor Park (37th Avenue, Colmar Manor, MD) operate to Waterfront Park (No Parking in Waterfront Park except bicycles, see below for maps)
11:00AM - 12:00PM	Dedication of "Undaunted in Battle" Monument at Monument Park
12:00PM - 9:00PM	Battle of Bladensburg Festival! (All items free unless noted) * DMV Food Trucks serving ALL DAY! (\$) * Children's Activity Village Featuring Blue Sky Puppets & Tad Miller Historic American Games * Arts & Craft Vendors (\$) * Historic Demonstration Village Heritage Breed Animals, Coal Fired Forge, Spinners, Silhouettes, Sutlers, Weavers, more! * Community & Information Booths * Anacostia River Boat Tours * Battlefield Trolley Tours * Wandering Living History Performers
12:00PM - 1:30PM	President & Mrs. Madison receive visitors at Festival Tent before Battle of Bladensburg begins!
12:15PM - 5:15PM	Fort McHenry Guard Artillery Demonstrations - Every hour on the quarter hour on the opposite side of the Anacostia River
12:30PM - 1:00PM	Regency Society of Virginia presents 1814 era dance lessons in park.
1:00PM - 2:00PM	Writers Roundtable at the Education Building - Join Steve Vogel ("Through the Perilous Fight"), Christopher T. George ("Terror on the Chesapeake: The War of 1812 on the Bay"), Ralph Eshelman ("In Full Glory Reflected"), and Peter Snow ("When Britain Burned the White House") for a moderated discussion about the Battle of Bladensburg and the War of 1812.
1:30PM - 2:00PM	The Royal Doctor practices surgery on the field of battle at Festival Tent.
2:00PM - 2:30PM	Regency Society of Virginia presents 1814 era dance lessons at the Festival Tent.
3:00PM - 4:00PM	Grand Tactical - re-enactors from around the United States and Canada come together to demonstrate the Battle of Bladensburg on the Anacostia River Field! (Registered groups include: Ship's Company, Inc., First Baltimore Sharp Shooters, "Asquith's Sharp Shooters", 1st Regiment Volunteers, 44th Regt of Foot, Capt. George Washington McGee's Company, Brooks' Detachment US Marines, 3rd East Kent Regiment - The Buffs, Corps of Royal Engineers, No. 3 Company of the 21st Regiment of Foot, Chesapeake Independent Blues, Lt Williams's Company of Artillery, 60th Regiment, Infantry VA Militia, 1812 US Marine Guard USS Constitution, XIX Light Dragoons British Cavalry, No. 1 Company 2nd Battalion Royal Marines, Maryland Light Dragoons Fort Norfolk Garrison, P.U Blues)

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/ Town Clean-up
3rd Saturday of every month. **Please call (301) 927-7048 by noon the Friday before.**

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

CERTS Meetings
Second Saturday of every month, 9:00 a.m.
Call 301-927-8126 for info.



4:00PM - 6:00PM	Dance Programs - Piscataway Tribe Demonstration and Flight Dance Theater presentation at the Festival Tent.
6:00PM - 7:00PM	Local Music at Festival Stage
7:30PM - 8:30PM	U.S. Navy Commodores on the Main Stage perform a variety of patriotic, swing and jazz music - ending with the Star Spangled Banner!
8:30PM	Fireworks!

Town of Bladensburg
4229 Edmonston Road
Bladensburg, MD 20710

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20710



Contact Town Hall @ 301-927-7048 or Maryland
Milestones/ATHA Inc @ 301-301-887-0777 for more information.

An exciting way to explore the history is to try our Audio Tour – by
dialing 301-242-958

Contact Information

Mayor

Walter James301-452-7560

Council Members Ward I

Cris Mendoza240-604-6349

Trina Brown301-509-9202

Council Members Ward II

Walter Ficklin301-792-8199

Beverly Hall301-379-4774

Administrative Offices

301-927-7048

Code Enforcement

301-927-0330

Police Department

301-864-6080

Public Works

301-927-1452

"Responsible and Responsive Government"