



NEWSLETTER

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?



Council Member Walter George

Where do we go from here? It's with great honor that I address the residents of the Town of Bladensburg. We have a lot to be grateful for. We have positioned ourselves well as we move to FY'12.

As we look at things around us, Federal, State, County and other towns and cities, many are facing deep cuts in services, furloughs, and layoffs. We don't have that problem here, however, now the question has arisen "Where do we go from here?"

The leadership of the Town will have to make some tough decisions. Money has been cut, both from the Federal and State levels. Many people have seen their home's value diminish; for the Town that means fewer dollars to operate. So how can you help?

(1.) **Trash** – if we keep the Town clean it will help to improve the value of your home. Most people don't think about how dropping a "little" piece of paper affects you or others but it really does.

(2.) **Safety** – the police can't do it alone. We see things that happen to our neighbor but we fail to get involved. It's alright until it is you! Things like Neighborhood Watch or just reporting things that don't look right can help.

(3.) **Your involvement** is the greatest thing that you can do to aid the Town. Many of you have great ideas, cost saving ways and other things that can help, but we need to hear from you to make them work.

I urge you to come to the Town Meetings, sit in on the Worksessions, find out what's going on and commit to help. It is easy to say what's wrong, but we, like you would like solutions to the problems. Stop setting on the sidelines; let your voice make a difference. We can get through these hard times only with your help. The strength of a community is its people. We have the power so let's make it work.

A few weeks ago there was a fire at Emerson House and I saw firsthand how this community came together to help one another. That is the greatness of Bladensburg, people helping each other. I love living in Bladensburg and serving it's people, however I know I cannot do it by myself nor the Mayor and

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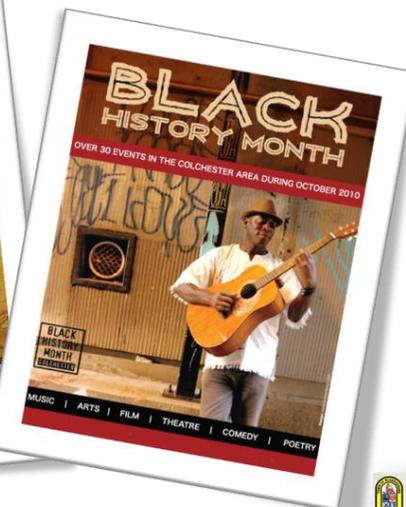
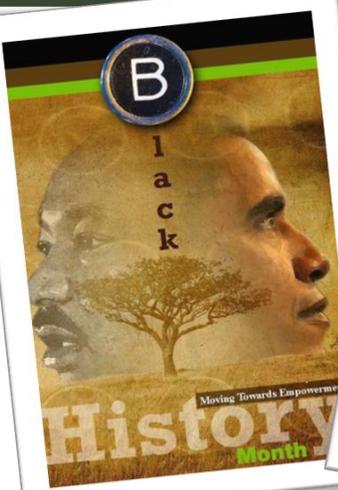
- New Town Website
- Black History Month Event
- Frequently Asked Questions...
- Crime Statistics
- Public Work, *Hometown Heroes*
- Toys-For-Tots
- Community Clean-up Days.



Contact Us

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

(Complete information list on back)



Black History Month Event

*"The time is always right to do what is right."
~Martin Luther King, Jr. ~*

The Town of Bladensburg will host and celebrate its annual Black History month event on Saturday **February 26th, 2011** at the Bladensburg Recreation Center located at 4500 57th Avenue, Bladensburg Maryland. The program will begin at 6:00 pm and will contain, fun, food and facts.

For more information, please contact the Town's administrative offices at 301-927-7048.



Lend-A-Hand: Community Clean Up Days

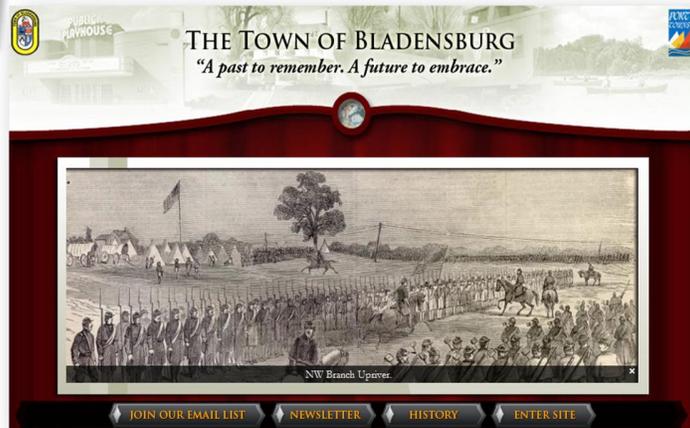
The Town is hosting community clean-up days the **second Saturday of each month** beginning **April 9th** wherein residents are encouraged to join in the effort. Residents are urged to volunteer to assist in community trash pick-up. For more information on locations and start times, please contact Town Hall at **(301) 927-7048**. Volunteers are needed! *Community service hours for school will also be certified.*

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Council. Together we will move forward and our children will stay and return to keep this Town great! In closing, if not you then who? And if not now then when? The choice is yours as to where we go from here.

Council Member Walter George, Ward II

New Town Website



We are delighted to be able to inform you that the new Town of Bladensburg website will be live shortly. If you call up www.townofbladensburg.com you will see that the website has a more modern look and feel and, while maintaining all of the tried and tested functions of the old site, you will find that there are some new features such as Facebook and Twitter that we hope you will find useful. Come and check in often as we plan to use this site to announce many Town activities and events.



TOWN OF BLADENSBURG BUSINESS PROPERTY TAXES



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Q. What is the Town's business property tax rate?

A. The Property Tax rate is \$2.09 per \$100 of assessed value. Assessed value is equal to 100 percent of value on personal property. The property tax rate remains **unchanged** since tax year 2007/2008.

Q. How does a value get assigned to my property?

A. The MD [State Department of Assessments and Taxation](#) sets the value on your property based on the market value of similar properties in your area. Please call toll free at 888-246-5941 for specifics.

Q. Why did my property tax increase for tax year 2010/2011?

A. Since property tax assessments vary from business to business, the Town cannot exclusively explain the increase in property tax for each business. However, based upon recent property assessment trends (statewide) the Town has observed slight increases in property assessments.

Q. Who do I contact if I have a concern about the present assessment of my property, if the owner occupied status is incorrect on my tax bill or, if I need additional information regarding my assessment?

A. Please call the MD [State Department of Assessments and Taxation](#) at 888-246-5941 (toll free).

Q. Who do I contact if I wish to appeal my property tax assessment?

A. Please call the MD [State Department of Assessments and Taxation](#) at 888-246-5941 (toll free).

Q. Who sets the Town's tax rate?

A. The rate is set by the Town's Mayor & Council prior to the start of each tax year.

Q. How are my property taxes calculated?

A. They are calculated by multiplying the Town's tax rate (\$2.09) by each \$100 of your assessment.

Q. When are my property taxes due?

A. Business Property tax bills are due *within 30 days* from the date of invoice. As per the Town's Charter, the Town reserves the right to assess interest and penalty fines (not to exceed 2% for each month) to businesses who fail to pay their taxes *within 30 days* from the date of invoice.

Q. Who do I contact if I cannot pay my property tax bill *within 30 days* from the date of invoice?

A. Please contact the Town's Treasurer Office by phone at (301) 927-7048.



TOWN OF BLADENSBURG RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY TAXES



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)



Q. What is the Town's property tax rate?

A. The Property Tax rate is \$0.74 per \$100 of assessed value. Assessed value is equal to 100 percent of market value on residential property. The property tax rate remains **unchanged** since tax year 2007/2008.

Q. Why did my property tax increase for tax year 2010/2011?

A. Since property tax assessments vary from residence to residence, the Town cannot exclusively explain the increase in property tax for each residence. However, based upon recent property assessment trends (statewide) the Town has observed slight increases in property assessments.

Q. How does a value get assigned to my property?

A. The MD State Department of Assessments and Taxation sets the value on your property based on the market value of similar properties in your area. Please call your local tax assessment office at (301) 952-2500 for specifics.

Q. Who do I contact if I have a concern about the present assessment of my property, if the owner occupied status is incorrect on my tax bill or, if I need additional information regarding my assessment?

A. Please call your local tax assessment office at (301) 952-2500.

Q. Who do I contact if I wish to appeal my property tax assessment?

A. Please call your local tax assessment office at (301) 952-2500.

Q. Who sets the Town's tax rate?

A. The rate is set by the Town's Mayor & Council prior to the start of each tax year.

Q. How do I qualify for home tax credits?

A. The Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation makes tax credits available to qualified individuals. Contact that office for information about the Homeowner's Tax Credit, Homestead Tax Credit, 100% Disabled Veteran Exemption or Blind Exemption. The telephone number is 301-952-2500 or at www.dat.state.md.us.

Q. When are my residential property taxes due?

A. Residential property tax bills are due when rendered. Typically, most home loans require that home owners setup an escrow account with their mortgage lender. When your mortgage lender receives your monthly mortgage payment, a portion of it is put into an escrow account. Depending upon your escrow disbursement schedule, your mortgage lender makes residential property tax payments, on your behalf, to the Prince George's County Treasury Division.



Bladensburg Police

Charles L. Owens
Chief of Police

Crime Is **Down** Again!

Each month, 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.

I am very pleased to announce that Part 1 crime statistics show that 2010 **was a down year for crime, continuing the trend (-19.43%) for past several years:**

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Assault	73	100	98	87
Burglary	95	92	92	123
Forcible Rape	3	0	2	1
Homicide	1	2	1	1
Larceny-Theft	322	341	288	279
Motor Vehicle Theft	161	138	110	113
Robbery	59	70	43	38
Annual Crime Rate	-2.19%	4.06%	-11.20%	-10.08%

Community Service Unit officers work in partnership with community members. **Call Sergeant Scott Davis, at (301) 927-8126**, or stop-by the office at 5012 57th Avenue A2, Bladensburg, MD 20710.



Where can I obtain crime statistics for my community?

The Bladensburg Police Department has partnered with CrimeReports.com

(www.crimereports.com), an online mapping and analysis service provided by Public Engines, Inc., headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah.

CrimeReports.com combines the value of police data with the ease-of-use of Google-based mapping and an analytics module so that members of the public can view police data in a high-impact map or summary descriptive format. Members of the public may also sign up to receive free email alerts based on user-defined parameters (e.g., geography, crime types, frequency, etc.).

Walter L. James, Jr, Mayor of the Town of Bladensburg, has remarked that “this partnership is an innovative and monumental leap in supporting our community’s ability to become aware and involved in the prevention and reduction of community crime. “The ability to visually see the patterns of crime will also directly support our concept of open professional government and the sharing of information beyond our borders so that it may positively affect other communities.” Mayor James further stated.

Data from CrimeReports.com can be reviewed and used to improve community crime reduction efforts



L to r: Purnell Hall, Rodney Simms, Theran (TJ) Raynor and Cornell Woods.

The Town's Department of Public Works *When You Need a Tough Job Done Right!*

Most often when it snows, or there is foul weather and a community tree has fallen down, residents' travels and convenience are most often affected. Many times residents may have the opportunity to remain home in poor weather and terrible conditions until conditions clear-up. Not the hard working members of the Town's Public Works Department! They are the ones on call who clear the snow, move the trees, and generally make it safe for our community members to resume their normal lives in the shortest amount of time humanly possible. Although one might argue of believe that there should be a team of six or more to accomplish these herculean tasks, the Public Works crew have formed a formidable multi-talented team that effectively take on just about any task that is demanded of them.

During the last several snow storms, when the entire Washington region was closed down for a week at a time, these men worked around the clock, often with barely working vehicles and equipment in the most extreme conditions. An assessment was made last spring to determine what is necessary to ensure that the Town's roads remained clear if there were another set of relentless storms in the future. The assessment revealed that due to the overly harsh winter, new

equipment must be purchased if we were to continue the high quality of service that the Town residents deserved and had become accustomed. With that, Mayor Walter L. James and Council authorized new equipment to be purchased. This equipment (*pictured above*) was used for the first time in the snow fall of this year. Although the snow was not heavy (so far this year), the combination of new and working machinery and an excellent team cannot be beat!

The story is not over. The staff of the Town's Public Works do much more than move snow and trees. They have an endless task of community up-keep to curbs and streets, cleanliness of community common areas, maintenance of Town parks and common spaces, as well as host of seemingly "invisible" tasks that ensure our Town is clean neat and orderly. We are very proud of their continuing efforts to make the Town of Bladensburg a special place for all residents to live, work, worship, and play.





accomplished without the help of Ms. Dawn Stem (pictured above), Regional Coordinator for the Toys-For-Tots program. Ms. Stem was awarded a special recognition for past and continuing efforts to place a smile on every child's face during the Holiday Season. We all collectively join with the Council Member Ficklin (The Chair of the Town's effort) and the remainder of the Council and give her a hearty thank you for a job extremely well done!

Making a Difference in a Child's Life

Many know the Toys-For-Tots program as one that just donates to needy families. Actually, the Toys-For-Tots program began as a Los Angeles charitable effort in 1947. Reservist Major William L. Hendricks was inspired by his wife Diane when she tried to donate a doll to a needy child but could find no organization to do so. At her suggestion he gathered a group of local Marine reservists, including Lieutenant Colonel John Hampton, who coordinated and collected some 5,000 toys for local children that year from collection bins placed outside of Warner Bros. movie theaters. Their efforts were so successful that, in 1948, Toys-For-Tots was launched as a national campaign. Hendricks used his position as director of Public Relations for Warner Brothers Studio to enlist celebrity support, as well as have Walt Disney Studios design the red toy train logo.

What also may not be as well-known is for the past three years, the Town of Bladensburg has been a strong partner with the program. Over 4,500 toys have been donated to the Town's deserving and needy children whom might otherwise not have had a happy Christmas. The Town noted all of this special help could not have been

Remember Only You Can
Keep Prince George's County and the
TOWN OF BLADENSBURG Beautiful
(A public service announcement brought to you by the Town of Bladensburg and the KPGCB Campaign).




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.

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

Town of Bladensburg
4229 Edmonston Road
Bladensburg, MD 20710

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Surveyor Map Circa 1787 Traced by B Rathbone, Feb. 4, 1897.

Around Town

The Original Roads of the Country

There are two roads on this map that seem to run generally in the same area today. Extending northeast from between Lots 59 & 58 (see layout below) is **Edmonston Road**, and the continuation of the main east-west road is the **Road to Annapolis (still called Annapolis Road)**. If Edmonston Road is the same as the original, then early Bladensburg extended just a bit past the shopping area containing the Rolling Pin Bakery.

Contact Information

Mayor

Walter James301-452-7560

Council Members Ward I

Cris Mendoza240-604-6349

Charlina Watson301-437-7197

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

"Responsible and Responsive Government"