



NEWSLETTER

Cinco de Mayo Comes

Bladensburg celebrates historic Mexican holiday

The wearing of Mexican sombreros, putting on mustaches, and dancing la Bamba at our Town Green Park was some sight to see. Our first Cinco de Mayo celebration was a very successful one, leaving our residents wanting to plan for more activities next year. There were many children in attendance who played on the moon bounce, ran the sack races and scrambled for candy after hitting the piñatas. There was also entertainment for the adults; DJ Flo kept the crowd going in between set up and breaks from the Mexican band Grupo Escalante. The Mexican Folklore Dance Group, De Colores, performed several times displaying dances and colorful costumes from different regions of Mexico. There were also a Tae Kwon Do demonstration by the Ramblers and a display of a pristine '66 Mustang for all to see. The Town would like to thank the Cinco de



Mayo Committee for all the planning that went into making this event a success, along with all the Town employees who were there to make sure that everything went smoothly.

This event was made possible by the sponsorship and donations from many businesses in and around the town.

- WSSC
- Americana Grocery
- Russ Mask
- Kim's Cleaners
- House of Music
- Tina's Liquor
- La Sirenita Restaurant
- Mexico Lindo
- PT CDC
- Mayor & Council
- Code Enforcement
- Police Department
- Public Works
- Town Staff



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Contact Us

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

(complete contact list on pg 6)



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Aug 5 2008

5p to 8pm

Free Food and Prizes



Bladensburg Police Department

Making a Difference in Our Community

The Bladensburg Police Department has acquired yet another tool in the fight against crime and is now letting the community play a significant part of the role of prevention and resolution. The Department has created a partnership with www.CrimeReports.com an online law enforcement data base that allows citizens to review mapped crime in their own communities. How the process works is when police officers respond to a crime, a report is made and kept on file for future reference. The crime report is classified as a documented incident, and then becomes a public record, without the victims' information or

specifics included. The crime incidents are then uploaded to computer system that allows both officers and citizens to view the trends and patterns and hopefully, suspects that may be related to the active crime patterns.

Walter L. James, Jr, Mayor of the Town of Bladensburg, has remarked that "this new 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.

For more information community members can visit www.CrimeReports.com at any time to view crime incident reports for any participating jurisdiction. Community members can also sign up to receive daily, weekly or monthly email alerts regarding criminal activity and police dispatch calls for service in their neighborhoods. The majority of crime and call incident records are available indefinitely on www.CrimeReports.com.





When Will It Be Over?

The Never-Ending Story of CSX



The CSX overpass crossing at Route 450 was expected to be complete by this summer, but officials now say the project will not be finished until fall 2009

Chuck Gischlar, a spokesman for the Maryland State Highway Administration, said only about 27 freight trains cross Route 450

per day, stopping traffic for about 15 minutes each time.

“The construction delay was caused by weather, moving utilities and locating building materials,” he said. “On a huge project like this, it’s not uncommon to fall behind,” he said. “But by the latter part of this year and early next year motorists will start to see the benefits [of the overpass].”

Gischlar said train traffic will be switched to the overpass as soon as it is safe, and pedestrian benefits will soon be in place underneath the overpass.

Gischlar said the completion of the overpass will come at a time when it will be needed.

“Right now there are 39,000 vehicles per day that pass through 450 near that Peace Cross. Projected traffic by 2030 is 62,000,” he said.

The campaign for the overpass began in 1996. The project stalled when it fell \$10 million short of the \$70 million necessary to completely fund construction.

“Construction on Upshur Street has begun with the setting of the bridge beams, closing the road for the next four weeks while the rest of the bridge over Upshur is completed. A bridge covering the tributary to the Anacostia River is also 90 percent complete,” Gischlar said.

Pastoral Lay Council

Hosts Second Networking Meeting

The Bladensburg Pastoral Lay Council has been hard at work “building bridges” in the community by hosting Community Networking Meetings at the Mango Caffe, 4719 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg, once every three months. The meeting consists of leaders and citizens giving community updates and having discussion on community issues and concerns in a “living room” environment. Topics range from “how to better support our youth in positive activities” to “the state of the criminal justice system.” Council Members Ficklin, Ward II, states that “We have already seen the positive aspects of the networking through the discussion of common community goals and the sharing of vital information.” Many in the community may not know that the resolution for their issues may lay right outside their door. We all have something to offer. This meeting just gives us an opportunity to share the information among others.” Council member Ficklin stated. The Bladensburg Pastoral/Lay Council is a community based organization whose membership is comprised of over sixty clergy and lay practitioners from local churches and houses of worship, as well as members of the community at large who have an interest in meeting the spiritual and everyday needs of the community. Meeting participants have included State’s Attorney Glen Ivey, Senator David Harrington, Mayor Walter James, Michael Herman, representing County Executive Jack Johnson’s Office, and a host of other community leaders and businessmen. The current President is Minister Minnie Pearson. For more information please contact Council Member Ficklin at (301) 927-7048

Teen CERT and Service Learning Camp

The Bladensburg Police Department & Camp Fire USA are proud to announce the opportunity for 40 youths to attend



June 29th through July 3rd 2008

The program will be held at Elks Camp Barrett in Crownsville Md.

Camp Barrett is an ACA Accredited resident camp that has beautiful facilities and provides a great opportunity for youth to learn new and exciting skills along with exhilarating activities. Parents will drop off their teenagers at 10:00 am on the 29th of June. A graduation ceremony will be held on July 3rd at 5:30 pm at the conclusion of the program.

The cost of the program is \$225.00 per student. The fee covers lodging, food, CERT

training, equipment & gear. Each youth will receive a CERT bag and equipment, which is theirs to keep. Very limited financial aid is available on a first come, first serve basis. Contact Camp Fire USA for a Financial Assistance Application.

After completing the basic Teen CERT training, youth will participate in bi-monthly drills and training exercises and service projects to ready the community in the event of an emergency.

WHAT IS TEEN CERT?

The Teen CERT program educates students 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 skills learned in the classroom and during exercises, Teen CERT members can assist others in their schools, neighborhoods or workplaces following an event when emergency service providers are not immediately available. Teen CERT members are also trained to assist professional first responders, (i.e. police, fire & medical personnel). The training also develops positive self-esteem & leadership skills, while fostering concepts of teamwork, effective communication and responsibility. Youth participating in this program earn 24 hours of community service.



Topics include:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disaster Preparedness 2. Fire Safety 3. Disaster Medical Assistance 4. Light Search and Rescue Operations | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Disaster Psychology 6. Terrorism 7. Course Review & Disaster Simulation 8. Community Readiness and Service |
|---|--|

For more information or registration materials please contact Camp Fire USA at:
Registration Materials Are Available At WWW.TEENROADSKILL.ORG

Go to the Download page and download General Teen Program Application.

Email: CampFirePatuxent@aol.com Phone: 301-565-4360 Fax: 301-262-0212



REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JUNE 20, 2008

Home Town Heroes

Making a Difference in Our Community



On April 22nd, Bladensburg Police Department received a call for a robbery that had just occurred in the 5600 Block of Tilden Road.

It was discovered that a lone individual had approached two High School students on the way to school and demanded money from them at gun point. The suspect subsequently fled into the wooded area between Bladensburg Senior High School and the Parkway Shopping Center. Officers requested additional police officers to the scene to include K-9 dogs and helicopter to cordon off the area and conduct a search for the presumed armed suspect. Due to the nature of the incident, the Bladensburg High School was placed in “lock-down” for the safety and security of the students. Officers from the Bladensburg Police Department, Mount Rainier Police Department, Prince George’s County Police Department, Maryland Park and Planning Police, Town of Bladensburg Office of Code Enforcement, and many other local enforcement officers quickly responded and began an intensive search for the

suspect. The suspect was subsequently apprehended. Further investigation carried out that day revealed that the suspect was responsible for three additional robberies earlier in the day.

Those who played a role in the apprehension were invited to an awards presentation wherein they were commended for their professional response and effort to make a swift apprehension.

Congratulations and certificates were conveyed by Mayor Walter L. James, Jr. and the Bladensburg Town Council to all persons involved who made the apprehension possible and for their strong team work that ensured that the Town of Bladensburg community remained safe.

Front Row (L-R) Code Enforcement Officer Roger Rinehart; Administrative Aide Candice Ortize; Police Communications Officer Pam Booth; Code Enforcement Officer Danny Needham; Bladensburg Police Officer Dante' Arnold; Mount Rainier Police Officer Herriot; Bladensburg Police Officer Corporal James Flynn; Mount Rainier Police Officer Captain James Stoots; Bladensburg Police Officer Paul Brooks.

Rear Row (L-R) Council Member Walter Ficklin; Council Member Walter George; Council Member Cris Mendoza; Mayor Walter James; and Mount Rainier Police Chief Micheal Scott



SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY for High School Students

Are you a high school student who resides in Bladensburg looking for summer employment with still time to enjoy part of your day? Do you have a current work permit in your possession? If so, consider joining the Town of Bladensburg Summer Work Crew. We have a limited number of four hour per day positions to fill. Most work is with our Public Works department: landscaping, painting, cleaning and more. If you are interested, please pick up an application as soon as possible at the Town Hall, 4229 Edmonston Road.



Citizen's Corner

Subject: Neighborhood Traffic Safety
To: Citizens of Bladensburg
From: Deacon Curtis O. Gill

I greet you in the spirit of love, love for our community and love for our children. It is with that love, that I write you to express my concerns for the safety of our citizens.

I have noticed that many of the motor vehicle operators driving through our neighborhoods are driving at an extremely rate of high speed. Many drivers are failing to come to a complete stop at stop signs. Many drivers are going the wrong way on our one way streets and many are failing to yield the right of way to our pedestrians, even in the crosswalks. I have observed many pedestrians crossing at the lights against the "do not walk" indication light.

Safety is every citizen's responsibility! Therefore, I encourage each of you to do your part to ensure that our citizens, especially our children, live in a safe community. Summer is once again upon us and as the weather gets nicer, the CHILDREN ARE COMING OUT TO PLAY including into the evening.

Let each of us be extremely watchful and do all we can to ensure that the children are not victims of inconsideration, carelessness, and disrespect for POSTED LAWS.

God bless you and have a GREAT AMERICAN DAY. I pray that each of us will have a happy and safe summer.

Contacts

Mayor

Walter James.....301-452-7560

Council Members Ward I

Cris Mendoza.....240-604-6349

Charlina Watson.....301-437-7197

Council Members Ward II

Walter Ficklin.....301-792-8199

Walter George.....301-277-5716

Administrative Office

301-927-7048

John Moss, Acting Town Administrator

Pat McAuley, Town Clerk

Cia Torrence, Treasurer

Code Enforcement

301-927-0330

Tim McNamara, Director

Police Department

301-864-6080

John Moss, Police Chief

Public Works

301-927-1452

IMPORTANT RECYCLING INFORMATION

Welcome to Single Stream Recycling – where all recyclable items may be placed into your new recycling cart! Uneeda Disposal Service, Inc. is the recycling collection vendor in your community. Together, we are dedicated to providing you with efficient and reliable collections. In order to do so, it is necessary to make some changes to your Recycling Program.

Effective July 1, 2008, your recycling collection day will be Wednesday.

A partir del 1 de Julio de 2008, la recolección de sus materiales a reciclar será el día Miércoles.

As a reminder, please have your recycling car at the curb by 6:30 a.m. on your scheduled collection day. Collections may begin as early as 6:30 a.m. and end as late at 8 p.m. We thank you for your patience and look forward to providing improved recycling services to your community.

Should you have any questions concerning collections, please feel free to contact the Collections Team at 301-952-7630. Questions regarding the Recycling program may be directed to the Recycling Team at 301-883-5045.

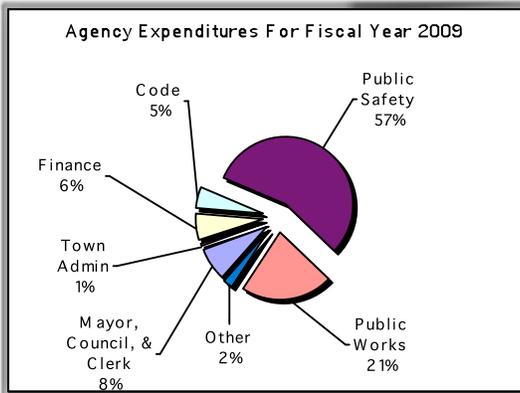
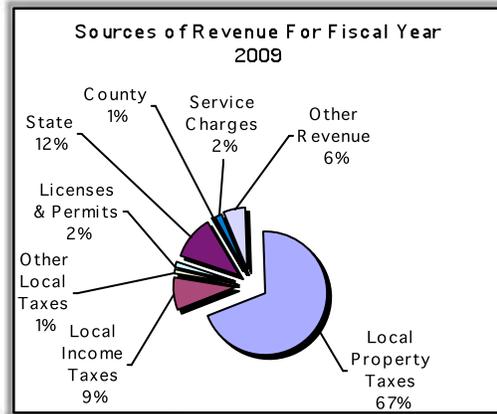


Fiscal Year 09 Summary

Keeping a balanced budget to serve the best interests of the community

The Town of Bladensburg is committed to serving the best interests of the community by providing a safe, clean and healthy Town while sustaining public trust through effective resource management governed by responsible and responsive government policy.

The FY 2009 budget is



increasing 192,080, or 4.9%, over the FY 08 budget level.

The FY 09 does not include any new positions, but does include a 3% Cost of Living Adjustment.

Capital Outlays total \$58,400 in the FY 09 budget, which is 56% lower than the FY 08

a balanced budget; with general fund revenues totaling \$4,079,439 and expenditures also totaling \$4,079,439.

While expenditures are increasing 224,006 or 5.8% over the FY 08 budget level, revenue is

budget.

Property tax rates are not increasing in the FY 2009 budget. The personal property tax rate is \$.74 per \$100 of assessed real property. Personal property tax

Calendar

Town Council Meeting

Second Monday of Every Month, 7pm (Recessed in August)

Worksession of Mayor & Council

First Monday of Every Month, 5:30pm (Recessed in August)

Recreation Council

Third Wed. of Every month, 6:30pm - Town Hall

Mayor's Breakfast

Monthly, 8:30am, Date and Time TBA

Apartment Manager's Assoc.

Third Wed. of every Month, noon

Neighborhood Watch Meeting

Every Fri. Evening,

Meet at EZ Mart in Autumn Woods

Regular Trash/Recycling Yard Pickup

Every Monday

Regular Trash Pickup

Every Thursday

Bulk Trash Pick-Up

Third Sat of Every Month. You Must Call Ahead at 301-927-1452

projections total \$365,000. The corporate personal property tax rate is \$2.09 per \$100 of assessed real property. Estimated corporate personal property tax revenue is projected to total \$2,771,558. Other revenues include Highway user/gas tax which is estimated to total \$247,198, or a 3% increase over the FY 08 level.

BLADENSBURG ANNEXES NEWTON GREEN SENIOR HOUSING SITE

The Town recently completed the requirements set forth in State law for annexation to include Newton Green Senior Housing within our Town boundaries. The Town and its leaders have always valued the contributions of our seniors to the quality of life in our community. Our seniors are known for their civic commitments, neighborhood social interactions and most importantly, communicating with the Town on issues concerning public safety, education, transportation and more. Therefore, we are pleased to announce that this new senior facility will be a great asset to the Town and its citizens (along with providing an additional tax base to help us continue to provide outstanding service to all our residents!). If you are interested in possibly residing within this complex, please call Town Hall for more information.



FIRE DEPARTMENT MOURNS THE LOSS OF A GREAT MEMBER AND LOVING FRIEND

It is with deepest regret we announce the untimely passing of "Henry", ID# 78A.

Henry was 13 years of age (98 years old) and although was only a member for a short 6 years and 2 months he touched the lives of all who met him during his time in the fire service. His passing comes after a sudden onset of complications resulting from old age after a full and happy life.

During his early years he would ride the apparatus and participate in numerous community and public service events as well as fire prevention appearances. He would ride with JB (Branock) on a regular basis to visit various shops and on errands. Henry had an instinct for instantly melting hearts, especially when he would smile and consequently was able to conjure many a "Scooby Snacks" as he called them, from everyone.

Some of Henry's more memorable snacks was during the warmer months when Mister Magic would stop by the station so Henry could get his dish of vanilla soft ice cream.

Henry, we know you are now at peace and watching over us. We want you to know that we miss you, we love you and you'll always have a front seat in our hearts and minds as you will be remembered forever.

Members of Station 9



**Town of Bladensburg
4229 Edmonston Road
Bladensburg, MD 20710**

**Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage Paid
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20710
Permit No. 2132**

**RESIDENT
Bladensburg, MD 20710**