



# NEWSLETTER

## Celebrate Our “Hometown” Holidays

*Hark...The Town of Bladensburg Celebrates the Ye Ole' Holidays*



Come join us as the Town of Bladensburg will celebrate the Holiday Season with a special Hometown celebration in the Town Hall Park on Friday December 12, 2008 with a special lighting of the Town Christmas tree and a host of activities: Festivities begin at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall with an ornament making session, hot cider and cocoa. At 6:30 a Yule log will be lit and the tree decorating will officially begin. Participating Community members are requested to bring one ornament to hang on the tree to help decorate it and make it special to the Town of Bladensburg. At 7:00 p.m. the tree and park will be lit for a Town of Bladensburg pageant of light. A holiday sing-along and community caroling will follow to close out the event. The event is free to all, so be certain to mark your calendars to attend this very special event. For more information please contact Ms. Griffin at (301) 927-7048.

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### Contact Us

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# Port Towns Becomes Capital for a Day

“Capital for a Day,” a program launched by Governor O’Malley more than a year ago, brings the State Capital to every corner of Maryland through a series of monthly events across a diverse selection of Maryland cities, towns and communities. On September 17th, the Port Towns represented the fifth “Capital for a Day” of 2008.

The Governor began the day with an official Cabinet meeting, where local leaders briefed the Governor and his Cabinet on the challenges and opportunities facing the Port Towns region. The Governor heard from Mayor Walter Lee James Jr. of Bladensburg, Mayor Diana Fennell of Colmar Manor, Mayor Adam Ortiz of Edmonston, Town Commission Chair Aileen McChesney of Cottage City, County Executive Jack Johnson, and Senator David Harrington (District 47).

Throughout the day, Governor O’Malley met with local elected, community, business, and tourism officials during this fifth in a series of “Capital for a Day” declarations across the State. The Governor’s activities, as well as those of his Executive Cabinet, focused on the ongoing Local, County, and State partnerships necessary to achieve real and steady progress for the people of the Port Towns of Prince George’s County.

Governor O’Malley helped break ground for the new Colmar Manor Community Center, a



state-of-the-art, multi-use facility that will serve the needs of the Colmar Manor community and surrounding areas. In addition to housing the Colmar Manor Police Department and the Town’s administrative offices, the new facility will provide recreational opportunities to include a regulation basketball court, fitness and game room, computer lab, senior outreach center, jogging track and a multi-purpose room with a large seating capacity. Construction on this \$4.9 million project will begin in October.

Governor O’Malley shared lunch with the Port Towns Community Development Corporation, an organization of area residents and community leaders that engages in strategic partnerships and collaborative economic development for the Port Towns. Discussion at lunch

centered on development projects in the area and opportunities for the Port Towns during the upcoming Bicentennial celebration.

Following the Governor’s “Capital for a Day” declaration in Bladensburg Waterfront Park, Governor O’Malley planted a tree with representatives from the Port Towns Youth Council, a youth leadership organization whose members are selected by their schools or community leaders to act as the voice of community youth in their homes, neighborhoods, schools, churches and civic organizations. The tree planting, a signature event at each “Capital for a Day”, not only symbolizes the Governor’s commitment to environmental initiatives but also signifies the

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# CSX OVERHEAD TRACKS ARE OPEN FOR BUSINESS



Much to the long awaited relief of the citizens of Bladensburg and all who travel through our Town, trains started running on the bridge overpass on September 14th. Old at-grade tracks are expected to be removed and the rough pavement repaired by mid November. Construction of the overpass has been a long term battle for the community and its leaders. When it looked as if

the project would be shelved due to shortfalls in funding, Senator Gwendolyn Britt took on the fight to reinstate the dollars needed to move forward. For this reason the Bridge will be dedicated in her honor and memory sometime in the near future. Thanks to all who participated in the demonstrations, letter writing, phone calls, and other strategies to see this through to fruition.

**Top:** CSX Annapolis Road Overpass under construction  
**Bottom:** A train passes over Annapolis Road on the newly functional overpass

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## BLADENSBURG RECOGNIZES SOME VERY SPECIAL CITIZENS AND FRIENDS

September’s Council Meeting was abbreviated so that a celebration of the lives and contributions of some very special people could be recognized by the Town’s Mayor and Council, staff, and residents.

The following “VIPs” were honored:

- Mr. Joe Osterman: Most Senior Gentleman of the Town of Bladensburg
- Ms. Janice Wilkins: Most Senior Lady of the Town of Bladensburg
- Ms. Lori Smith: Departing Bladensburg Community Center Director (Promoted)
- Mr. Steve Ellis: Newly Promoted Bladensburg Community Center Director
- Mr. John Pepper: Resident of Bladensburg, weapons trainer for soldiers for Iraq
- Miss Caroline Guzman: Bladensburg Resident, published poet by the American Library of Poetry
- Ms Maria Martinez; Retired Librarian, Bladensburg Library

The recognition ceremony was followed by light refreshments and cake as guests enjoyed a time of fellowship.







CAPITAL FOR A DAY CONTINUED



nurturing qualities necessary to sustain progress.

Governor O'Malley ended the day with a boat tour of the Anacostia River, joined by Washington, D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty and led by the Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS), an organization whose mission is to make the Anacostia and its tributaries swimmable and fishable, and to restore and protect the local environment for the health and enjoyment of local residents. The tour included information about AWS initiatives, ongoing restoration projects, and the future goals of these efforts. At a press conference following the boat tour, Governor O'Malley announced Mayor Fenty as Chair of the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership Leadership Council, which is tasked with the development and implementation of a restoration plan for the watershed.

"I am proud to officially proclaim the Port Towns of Prince George's County Maryland's 'Capital for a Day,'" Governor

O'Malley said, "Since the cornerstone of our progress is an ability to work beyond the confines of the State House with local partners throughout our One Maryland, we're proud to bring the State Capital to the people of Maryland where they live and work. Strengthening our local partnerships where they already exist, and establishing those partnerships where they have lapsed, is absolutely critical to the progress of areas like this."

"As a proud Prince Georgian, it is a pleasure to help Governor O'Malley bring his vision of One Maryland to my home county," Lt. Governor Brown said. "The Port Towns and Prince George's County are remarkable assets to the State of Maryland and vital partners in our efforts to keep Maryland on the path of progress."

"We the People of Bladensburg and the Port Towns Community are excited and thankful for the opportunity to host 'Capital for A Day,'" said Mayor Walter Lee James, Jr. "This initiative is a true testament to the people that our Governor and his administration truly care about the needs and concerns of those they serve. The tree planting ceremony happening on this day, not only has environmental significance, but also speaks to the fact that it is our responsibility to plant healthy seeds in the hearts and minds of our young people, which in turn will create a positive, safe, clean and sustainable community."

### Calendar

**Pearl Harbor Day Observance**  
Dec. 7, 2008, Peace Cross, 1 pm

**December Worksession**  
December 8, 2008, 6 pm

**December Council Meeting**  
December 8, 2008, 7 pm

**Bladensburg's "Hometown Holiday" Celebration**  
Dec. 12, 2008, Town Hall Park, 6 pm

**Holiday Decorations Judging**  
Week of December 14, 2008

**January Worksession**  
January 5, 2009, 5:30 pm

**January Council Meeting**  
January 12, 2009, 7 pm

**Seniors' Club**  
Town Hall, 10 am, 2nd and 4th Thursdays of every month

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

### Holiday Decoration Contest

Before you know it the holidays will be upon us, so start planning now to decorate your home or business; encourage your neighbors to join you! Through these times of economic hardship and international conflict, the brightness of holiday lights and decorations will help to soar the spirit of hope, peace and goodwill in our community. This year, a new addition to prizes will be "Best Block" for a group of six or more homes in a group that coordinate for a great display. Judging will take place the week of December 14th.



PORT TOWNS HOST MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

September was a most busy month for our community. The month started with an all day program for Board Members of the Maryland Municipal League. The League is a consortium of members from almost every city and town in the State that strives to education municipal officials on policies and programs to improve our communities and to lobby the Maryland General Assembly on legislation that affects our citizens. The group kicked the day off with a presentation at Bostwick on the history of estate and the partnership with the University of Maryland to restore its buildings and grounds. The group then headed off for a bus tour of all four Towns where elected officials and staff talked about the exciting projects that we are completing and embarking on. The Board broke for lunch at the Bladensburg Waterfront Park and enjoyed a boat trip down the Anacostia River, narrated by Jim Connelly, Director of the Anacostia Watershed Society who explained the challenges and hope we have for this waterway. The day ended with a reception of the porch at Bostwick where the Port Towns received accolades for the informative and entertaining program. We know they took back to every region in Maryland, the achievements, challenges and partnerships of the Port Towns and we look forward to Statewide municipal support for our greater community and its endeavors.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Another August has passed and so has another Bladensburg National Night Out. This year's event was extraordinary. A beautiful, cool, summer evening contributed to one of our best turnouts ever. Over 400 residents attended our festivities. Over thirty prizes and gift baskets were given away, including a large flat screen television. The funnel cake booth was busy the whole night. The Bladensburg Police Department looks forward to seeing all of you again next year. And for those of you who missed us, stop on by next year. Lets all look forward to working together and another safe year.

Sgt. Scott Davis & Ms. Dana Duncan  
Community Resources Unit  
Bladensburg Police Department



FIFTY SEVENTH AVENUE: OUR NEW "BOULEVARD"

If you have been in the area of Annapolis Road and 57th Avenue in recent months you can't help notice the ever evolving improvements to the area. The Town, owners, of the Phoenix Apartments, and Neighborhood Design Center have partnered to make the area more attractive and safer for the many pedestrians, including students, who traverse this roadway every school day. As

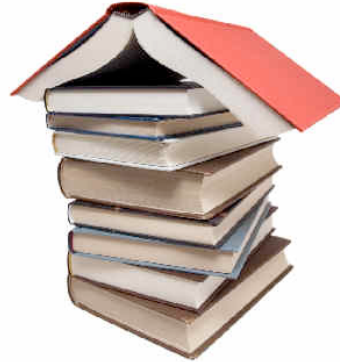
part of their multimillion dollar capital improvement project, owners of the Phoenix have added decorative fencing, new landscaping, stone accented signage, and improved lighting on their property. The Town has installed new curbs and gutters from Annapolis Road to 58th Avenue; the new sidewalks are wider for safety with additional handicapped ramps. The project

includes conduits for electricity under 57th Avenue for future pedestrian lights along the walkways. By the time you read this newsletter, landscapers from the Phoenix have installed twenty five crepe myrtles along our "new" boulevard and we know our citizens and visitors will enjoy their flowering beauty throughout next summer. Flower beds will be planted in the springtime.



# Go to School – it is the law!

**Call  
301-864-0400  
To Report  
Truant  
Students**



Unlawful absences may result in jail.  
All students have to attend school until they turn 16 year old.



**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
www.pgcps.org

## Contact Information

### Mayor

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

### Council Members Ward I

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

Charlina Watson.....301437-7197

### Council Members Ward II

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

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

### Administrative Offices

301-927-7048

### Code Enforcement

301-927-0330

### Police Department

301-864-6080

### Public Works

301-927-1452

*Town of Bladensburg  
4229 Edmonston Road  
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### **Bulk Rate**

*U.S. Postage Paid  
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*20710*

*Permit No. 2132*

**RESIDENT**  
**Bladensburg, MD 20710**