



NEWSLETTER

FEDERAL STIMULUS FUNDS ARE PUT TO GOOD USE IN BLADENSBURG

The Town of Bladensburg has directly benefited from Federal stimulus money as a recipient of \$250,000 to pay for the initial hiring of a COPs (Community Oriented Policing) Officer that will go directly to benefit the community. The additional officer will allow us to re-allocate an officer that was on regular patrol duties to work exclusively and directly with the community. The officer, assigned to the Community Resources Unit, will focus upon prevention and intervention by educating the public, seeking crime patterns and trend and intervening in them. Ideally, the COPs Officer, although serving the greater Town of Bladensburg community, will be placed in the Phoenix Apartment Complex, a strong community partner, so that their management and residents will have immediate access to the issues and concerns of a large condensed constituency.

The Police department has also benefited from \$64,000 in other Federal Stimulus funds. These funds will be used to acquire radios

for the new Prince George's County 800 MHZ system that supports inter-operability (individuals can talk to each other) for all police agencies.

Additionally, the Town is pursuing \$44,000 as an energy grant initiative that is an outgrowth of stimulus funds as well. If we are successful, the Town will be using monies to support the installation of solar panels that will reduce the need for carbon and other emission generated by the use of more traditional energy use.

Lastly, Federal Stimulus Funds will be used by the State Highway Administration to pave Annapolis Road from Peace Cross to Bladensburg Elementary School.



Inside this Issue

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Contact Us

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

(Complete information list on back)



***MARK YOUR HOLIDAY CALENDARS: THE ANNUAL
BLADENSBURG YULE LOG AND TREE LIGHTING IS
DECEMBER 11TH, 2009***

The celebration starts at 5:00 p.m., with holiday ornament making for the children and hot drinks, light refreshments and camaraderie for all ages. At 6:30 we will then proceed to the park behind Town Hall for seasonal songs, burning of the Yule Log, and our own “Festival of Lights”. This is a fun family evening, so join us to celebrate the Holidays with friends and neighbors.



LEAF PICKUP

It's that time of year, so bag your leaves and place them curbside, or rake them to the curb (but NOT in the gutter or street) for pickup by the leaf machine. The machine will be going around town on a continuing basis for the month of December.





THE “WAR OF 1812” BICENTENNIAL IS FAST APPROACHING



MARYLAND IS GETTING READY! THE BATTLE OF BLADENSBURG IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF HISTORY!

“Not that the British wanted a hard fight. The day had been exhausting enough already. Leaving Melwood about 5:00 a.m., Ross’s army tramped west for five miles, feinted toward the Eastern Branch bridge and Alexandria, then doubled back and headed north on the road to Bladensburg.”

“There was no sign of life in the cluster of neat brick buildings directly ahead. The yards and the L-shaped main street were silent and empty. Yet Ross didn’t dare move in just yet. It seemed inconceivable that anybody. . . even the Americans . . . would abandon the town. Those sturdy houses were so perfect for sharpshooters.

“The hills across the river swarmed with Americans; the earthwork bristled with guns; the

uniforms worn by a few units suggested that their regulars had come?

“What will be said of us in England if we stop now?”

“On the reverse slope of Lowndes Hill, beyond the sight of prying American eyes, the bugles and drums began sounding. Quickly the men fell in . . . the column formed . . . and the advance moved over the crest of the hill. Now they were in plain sight, and as the column swung down the street into Bladensburg, a sparkle of gun flashes ripped along the earthwork across the river.”

Excerpts from “The Dawn’s Early Light” by Walter Lord. Copyright 1972.

As the months progress, the State and the Port Towns will be preparing for the commemoration of the War of 1812 as its Bicentennial (200 year anniversary) approaches. We can expect many visitors to our State and our community: history buffs, school children, and tourists caught up in the excitement, interested in all the special events and tours that will be unfolding.

The Town and other stakeholders will be working to ensure that Bladensburg and the surrounding area are highlighted as a significant part of this celebration. There will be many opportunities for the residents, business people, and friends of Bladensburg to assist in making this a great success. Look forward, in the near future, of ways you can help.



FINANCIAL HELP FOR UTILITY BILLS

While there are many steps households can take to increase energy efficiency and lower monthly energy bills, it still may be necessary for some to seek outside assistance. The Maryland Office of Home Energy Programs (OHEP) provides eligible limited-income households assistance in the form of energy grants that do not have to be repaid. With colder weather fast approaching, it is recommended that if you do have need for assistance, you start the application process immediately. The following are a few of the programs that may help to offset the cost of home heating and cooling.

Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP)

This program provides a grant for qualifying customers and is available each heating season, however customers may apply any time during the year.

Electric Universal Service Program (EUSP)

This is a State program that helps limited-income customers pay the electric portion of their bills. The program provides bill payment assistance and arrearage retirement for qualified customers.

Utility Service Protection Program (USPP)

This program provides a means for limited-income customers, who qualify and comply with the payment terms of the USPP agreement to protect their utility services. (Note: In order to qualify for USPP, you must participate in budget billing.)

You may apply for MEAP and EUSP at any time during the program year (July 1 through May 31). For more information on these programs, including eligibility requirements and other energy assistance programs, call Maryland OHEP at 1.800.352.1446 or visit www.dhr.state.md.us/meap.

Additional help may be available from the Fuel Fund of Maryland. Call 410.821.3022, press 1, or go to www.fuefundmaryland.org.

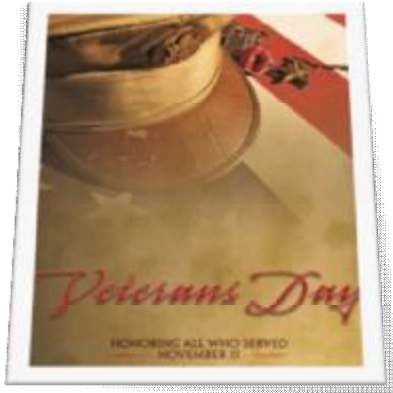




Community Events

Veterans Day

The annual commemoration, sponsored by the Town of Bladensburg Patriotic Committee and the American Legion, Post 131, will be held at the Peace Cross at 11:00 A.M. November 11th 2009.

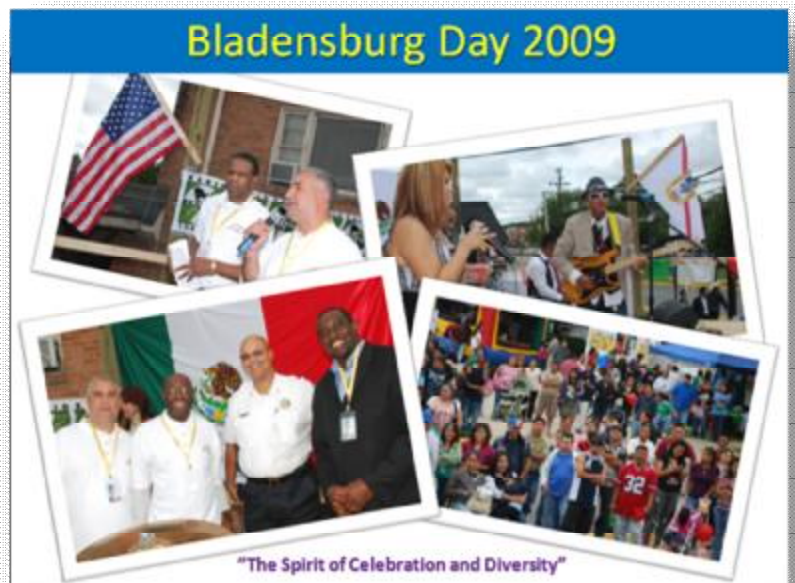


Basketball Turkey Shootout

Friday November 20th 6-7 p.m.
Ages 8 to 17-free.
Bladensburg Recreation Center.

Bladensburg Day.....A Success!!!!

Bladensburg Day, a community event to recognize and celebrate the diversity of the Town of Bladensburg, was held on Saturday, September 12, 2009 on the Town Green from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The event, which coincided with the Mexican Independence day, had well over 2,000 participants attending the event. Thirteen acts entertained the massive gathering (on an elevated stage) as the day also featured a host of food, activities for children, and other entertainment. *The cost was minimal to the town due to significant contribution of the planning participants.*



Calendar

Worksessions

First Monday of every month, 5:30 p.m. (excluding holidays)

Council Meetings

Second Monday of every month, 6:00 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



The Past Remembered

Originally called Garrison's Landing, Bladensburg was renamed in honor of Thomas Bladen, governor of Maryland, 1742–1747. Bladensburg was established in 1742 as a regional commercial center by an Act of the Maryland General Assembly. The Act also authorized the town commissioners to purchase 60 acres (240,000 m²) of land to be laid out in one-acre lots. The Act required that a house covering at least 400 square feet (37 m²) of ground with a brick or stone chimney be constructed within 18 months of the sale of the lot. As of 6 June 1746, only 18 of the lots had been improved according to the stipulations of the act. Christopher Lowndes' house, Bostwick, and those built by David Ross and William Hilleary (the William Hilleary House) were among them.^[2] With the establishment in 1747 of a government tobacco inspection system,



Bladensburg became a designated tobacco inspection and grading port.

A seaport during the colonial period, Bladensburg is best remembered for the Battle of Bladensburg (1814) during the War of 1812, which cleared the way for the burning of Washington by British troops. Its role as a seaport faded as the Anacostia River silted up and larger ships could no longer reach the port.

Operation “Make A Soldier Smile”

If any Bladensburg resident has a love deployed in Iraq or Afghanistan and would like for us to send him/her a care package to please provide us with a name and address. Items are not limited to what is listed just in case somebody would like to donate something else, for more information to call or Carlos Ocasio at the Bladensburg Community Center at ocasio@pgparks.com / www.pgparks.com 301-277-2042





2010 CENSUS: IT'S IN OUR HANDS

What You Need to Know about the 2010 Census

In 2010, the U.S. census will define who we are as a nation. Taken every 10 years, the census affects political representation and directs the allocation of billions of dollars in government funding. As a 2010 Census partner, you can educate your community about the importance of participating in this historic event and help ensure no one is left uncounted. You can help your community receive the fiscal and social benefits to which it is entitled. **Achieving a complete and accurate 2010 Census is in our hands.**

The Census: A Snapshot

- ▲ The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years.
- ▲ The census is a count of everyone residing in the United States: in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa. This includes people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, both citizens and non-citizens.
- ▲ The 2010 Census will create hundreds of thousands of temporary jobs across the nation.

It's in Our Hands: Your Participation in the 2010 Census Matters

- ▲ Every year, more than \$300 billion in federal funds is awarded to states and communities based on census data. That's more than \$3 trillion over a 10-year period.
- ▲ Census data guide local decision-makers in important community planning efforts, including where to build new roads, hospitals and schools.
- ▲ Census data affect your voice in Congress by determining how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Completing the 2010 Census Questionnaire: Simple and Safe

- ▲ The 2010 Census questionnaire asks only a few simple questions of each person—name, relationship, gender, age and date of birth, race, and whether the respondent owns or rents his or her home. This simple, short questionnaire takes just a few minutes to complete and return by mail.
- ▲ The Census Bureau does not release or share information that identifies individual respondents or their household for 72 years.

www.census.gov/2010census



Town Elections

.....*And the Winners Are*

Town elections were held on October 5th 2009 for the positions of Mayor, Council Member Ward I, and Ward II. The following are the results:

Mayor: Walter James.....90 Votes (*Winner*)

Ward I: Cris Mendoza.....67 Votes (*Winner*)

Ward II: Walter Ficklin.....43 Votes (*Winner*)
Joan George17 Votes

Holiday Closure Dates

Town offices will be closed on the following holidays:

- November 11th, 26th, & 27th, 2009
- December 25th, 2009
- January 1st, 2010

Contact Information

Mayor
Walter James301-452-7560

Council Members Ward I
Cris Mendoza240-604-6349
Charlina Watson240-604-6349

Council Members Ward II
Walter Ficklin301-792-8199
Walter George301-277-5716

Administrative Offices
301-927-7048

Code Enforcement
301-927-0330

Police Department
301-864-6080

Public Works
301-927-1452

Census 2010...YOU count!

*Town of Bladensburg
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Bladensburg, MD 20710*

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