



# NEWSLETTER

## Have You “Visited” Our Town Lately?

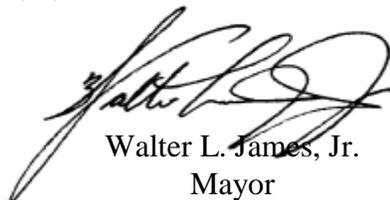


“Welcome! The Town has abundant resources and many historical aspects that range from a beautiful waterfront park, which hosts seasonal concerts and events, to numerous Town or community sponsored activities and clubs that shall engage and entertain you. Whatever interests you, I am most certain that you will find it here or nearby.” These are the opening words in our community Welcome Letter. Sadly, many of us as Town citizens have not taken the opportunity to “see” the Town as perhaps as new resident or tourist might.

For instance, have you taken advantage of visiting the Indian Queen Tavern, reportedly the stopover for George Washington when travelling between his Mount Vernon home? Or perhaps you have seen Bostwick which was also built at this time, and would later be home to the first Secretary of the Navy? Alternatively, have you

visited the wonderful Bladensburg Waterfront Park that offers scenic water vistas, free boat rides, covered areas for picnickers, and a playground for the young ones? Maybe you have sampled the diversity of our community life by coming to one of the community festivals or events annually hosted on the Town green which have featured live bands, performers, and a host of food vendors. If not, perhaps you have sampled the diverse food samplings from our local bakeries, food stores and eateries. All of our local businesses have a variety of goods and services just waiting for you.

We urge you to come and enjoy all of the unique gifts that this Town has to offer you. Be a part of our community life, come and “visit the Town of Bladensburg”, even if you live here. For more of what to do and see in the Town, please feel free to call the Town’s Offices at (301) 927-4078.



Walter L. James, Jr.  
Mayor

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### Contact Us

301-927-7048  
(fax) 301-927-5257  
4229 Edmonston Rd.  
Bladensburg, MD 20710  
[www.Bladensburg.com](http://www.Bladensburg.com)

(Complete information list on back)



## “READ ACROSS AMERICA”

Springtime in Bladensburg means many things, but one new tradition is the appearance of the “Cat in the Hat” at all our elementary schools to read in person this famous tale (tail?) by Dr. Seuss.

Every March, he appears “unannounced” in classrooms, to the delight of students, faculty and staff, to share time and the enjoyment of reading books with his listeners.

Remarkably, he is the same height and has the same voice as Mayor Walter James! But, as true believers, we know he is really “Cat in the Hat”.

### *Noisy Neighbors....SHHHHH!*

It is summer time when we open our windows for fresh air. Unfortunately, we can be confronted by loud noises or music from our nearby neighbor.

Noisy neighbors are a common problem in our modern day society where many people live closely together. Obviously, this issue can be most significant when you share walls or a floor/ceiling with a neighbor in an apartment, or condo. But even in freestanding homes, a noisy neighbor can make

life challenging, particularly if noise continues well into the night, or occurs during early morning hours. This situation is a delicate one to deal with, requiring your ability to keep your calm and work toward a resolution.

Reason suggests that you should first attempt to address noisy neighbors about the noise. This conversation should be polite, even friendly. It can begin with a statement like, “I’m not sure you’re aware” so that the noise is attributed merely to the person’s inability to recognize that the noise they make penetrates your walls. Explain briefly the noise issue, and ask the neighbor to turn down the music. If this does not work, we urge you to contact the Town of Bladensburg Police Department at 301-864-6080 and request assistance. Complaints can be made anonymously. However, giving your name is most helpful in complaints of a continuing nature.





# The U. S. Census .....How Did Bladensburg Fare So Far?

2010 has arrived in the Town of with a special kick-off event that hosted special speakers informing residents about the process and why it is necessary. The Census is the process where the United States Government attempts to count the number of people living in the Country. The information collected by Census officials is critical in planning and allocating resources in the coming decade. Accurate information concerning our residents here in Bladensburg is very important to ensure that the Town of Bladensburg will receive its fair share of resources from both Federal and State agencies.

At this writing the first initial statistical count is in. To date the Town of Bladensburg participation score is 64% against the National average of 72% and the Maryland average of 74%. However, we are not done yet! Enumerators are now canvassing our community residences that have not completed or mailed in their returns. Therefore it is very important that if you have not yet filled out and/ or submitted this information PLEASE speak to an

enumerator who will contact you for follow-up. Your participation will help us get our fair share of Federal monies annually allocated to communities. It means services and support for all of our residents.

## Census 2010 Participation Rates

JURISDICTIONS	Census 2010 Participation Rates as of April 27, 2010
National	72%
Maryland	74%
Virginia	76%
District of Columbia	69%
Frederick County	77%
City of Frederick	72%
Montgomery County	78%
City of Gaithersburg	76%
City of Rockville	79%
City of Takoma Park	74%
Prince George's County	71%
City of Bowie	80%
City of College Park	66%
City of Greenbelt	71%
<b>Town Of Bladensburg</b>	<b>64%</b>

*Information gathered from Metropolitan Council of Governments*



## A Note (\$) From The Office of Finance

As we approach fiscal year 2011, we look for ways to build a fiscal budget that will allow the Town of Bladensburg to remain a government that is accountable, responsible, and responsive to the needs of its citizens. In the FY 2011 Budget, the Mayor, Council, and Staff will develop a financial plan that will provide direction for the coming year.

The proposed FY 2011 Budget for the Town of Bladensburg is met with new challenges and opportunities that will enable us to focus on the long range future of the Town. The

fiscal budget will seek to provide funding for the continuity of Town services, while ensuring that we serve the best interest of the community during a time where there is much economic uncertainty. It will also seek to achieve one of many community goals to include developing a cleaner and 'green' community, invest in community's youth, and invest in new Town vehicles and equipment. Your input and suggestions of how we can best serve you in an economically efficient manner is essential to good government. If you have any cost saving ideas or suggestions, please let us know. The Office of Finance can be reached through 301-927-7048.



## Summertime Crime Prevention Tips

Summertime is here. Time for vacations, long evenings out, and fun time for all. Although it may be vacation time, let us not take a vacation from our successful approach to crime prevention. Your use of these tips most likely will save you the experience of having “unwelcomed visitors” arrive at your home and remove your prized belongings. Keep these tips handy and refer to them often. For more, please contact **Sgt. Scott Davis**, Community Resource Unit at **301-927-8126** or **301-864-6080**.

- Install and use good locks on all doors and windows.
- Engrave your valuables with your driver’s license or other identification number.
- Stop all deliveries, or arrange for someone to pick up your mail, newspapers, and packages.
- Arrange for someone to mow your lawn or rake leaves to give you home a lived-in look.
- Use timers to turn lights and radio on and off at appropriate times.
- Hide garbage cans out of view. Empty cans, when everyone else’s is full, can tell a burglar you are away.
- Turn down the ringer on your telephone and the sound on your answering machine so a burglar will not be alerted to your absence by its ringing.
- Close and lock garage doors and windows. Ask a neighbor to park in your driveway. If you leave your car at home; park it in the driveway rather than the garage. Have your neighbor move it occasionally so it looks like you are using it.
- Leave your blinds, shades, and curtains in a normal position. Do not close them unless that is what you do when you are home.
- Ask a neighbor to watch the house while you are away. Leave your vacation telephone number so you can be reached in case of an emergency.



## Travel Crime Prevention Tips

There may be times you may find yourself waiting at a pick up point where very few people are around. When this happens, stay near the largest number of people you can find. Criminals may be lurking in the background, waiting for someone to wander off on their own where they will be isolated. If there aren’t other people around, at least wait in a well lit area even if it means standing away from a bus stop. A predator will take advantage of the dark and use it to gain the element of surprise against you, so remain in the safest area you can find until you can see the bus driver. Give them a wave to alert them that you intend to get on the bus.

When you are on a bus that has only a few passengers, sit up close to the front. A criminal is less likely to single you out if you are near the driver. Pay close attention to anyone who exits at the same place as you after riding on any form of public transportation. It is probably just a coincidence, but it’s smart to keep an eye on them in case they try to follow you. If you believe you are being followed, move quickly to the nearest public location and stop to see if they pass by. Don’t leave until you are certain they are no longer around. Call the police if you are not sure that you are safe. Whatever you do, do not go home if someone is trailing you. The last thing you want is for a stalker to have your address.



*Town of Bladensburg*  
*A past to remember, A future to embrace*

**Saturday  
 June 19, 2010**

**Free  
 Residential  
 Electronics  
 Recycling  
 Event**

*10 am – 2 pm*

  
 Funded by the Town of Brentwood  
 through a grant by the Maryland  
 Department of the Environment

In partnership with the municipalities of  
 Bladensburg, Colmar Manor, Cottage City, Mt. Rainier, Riverdale Park & University Park

In celebration of  
 Communities Coming Together  
 to **Protect our Environment &**  
 to **Assist Those in Need**  
 Please join us in exhibiting  
 community spirit by  
**Recycling & Donating**  
 unwanted electronics to  
**Goodwill of Greater Washington**

*For specific guidance on acceptable items,  
 please visit [dcgoodwill.org](http://dcgoodwill.org)*

*Tax - Deduction receipts will be available  
 upon request*

**Drop-Off Location:**  
 Bladensburg Town Hall  
 4229 Edmonston Road  
 (301) 927-7048 \* (301) 927-7962

*This event is open to Bladensburg residents  
 only. Proof of residency will be required.*

For More Information, Please Contact:  
 Jaime Selvin, e-Cycling Coordinator  
 Town of Brentwood  
 (301) 927-3344



# National Night Out... Tuesday August 3rd

National Night Out (NNO) is an annual event, sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch and the Town of Bladensburg, that takes place on the first Tuesday in August on the Town Green. Each year, the Bladensburg Police Department actively participates in National Night Out by rallying community members throughout the Town to join with neighbors and police officers in the community to be a part of this annual food and fun filled event.

The National Night Out campaign involves citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials from 9,500 communities from all 50 states, US territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide.

National Night Out is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

*Be sure to join us for the event!*

*John Moss, Chief of Police*

  
 POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

**Food** *National Night Out... Tuesday August 3rd* **Prizes**

**TOWN OF BLADENSBURG  
 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**

**Games** **On the Town (Hall) Green** **FUN**  
**Starting at 6:00 p.m.**  
**FREE TO ALL**



# CINCO DE MAYO

## “RODRIGUEZ STYLE”

Under beautiful blue skies, “all hands on deck” was the call on May 5, 2010. It was a morning of festivities for the community Cinco de Mayo, Jose Rodriguez style, who invited all to help celebrate the revitalization of the Bladensburg Shopping Center that has occurred since his acquisition of the site.

Elected Officials, Storefront Merchants, neighbors and many others gathered to join in the fun at the newly updated Bladensburg Shopping Center. The crowd enjoyed food and beverages while catching up with friends and listening to live music from a mariachi band.

The celebration was hosted by the center’s owner Jose Rodriguez and Edna Spearman, of Rolling Pin Bakery. To everyone’s delight, a representative of Papa John’s Pizzeria was introduced as a new tenant who will join the other diverse array of stores in the shopping center.

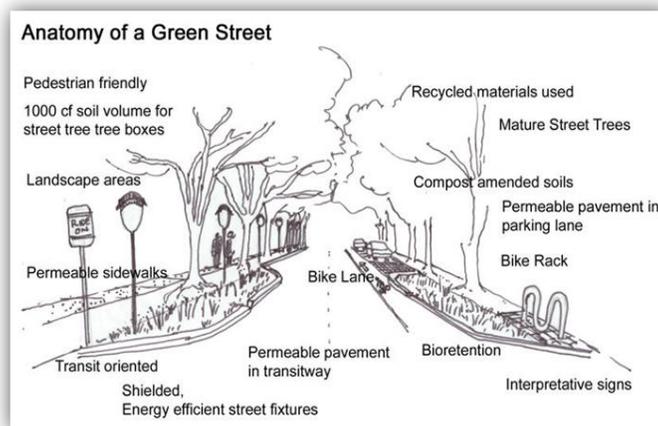
## A “GREEN STREET” FOR THE TOWN OF BLADENSBURG

What do the War of 1812 and the Anacostia River have in common? They share a common geography and troubled history. The Battle of Bladensburg, fought during the War of 1812, has been called “the greatest disgrace ever dealt to American arms.” The mainstream of the Anacostia River is formed by the confluence of the Northwest Branch and the Northeast Branch just north of Bladensburg, Maryland. Bladensburg was a port with deep water access in colonial times. However, due to prior poor land use practices the river developed silt and became in passable for large boats and ships. The

Anacostia River is one the most polluted river in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. It is time to write a new chapter in Bladensburg/Anacostia history. Thus the Town has embarked upon a revolutionary grassroots model to protect the Anacostia River, stimulate the local economy while providing new “green job” opportunities for local residents by building a “Green Street.”

### What Is a “Green Street?”

“Green Street” is a “shovel ready” project that encompasses .6 mile community revitalization effort along the Route 450 corridor that includes the Peace Cross area that addresses the need for road and sidewalk revitalization and light synchronization in the immediate area due to the coming centennial commemoration for the War of 1812 as well as stormwater management issues related to the proximity of the roadway to the Anacostia Watershed. The project incorporates significant cutting-edge concepts such as the use permeable surfaces, energy efficient LED lighting, alternative energy usage, and efficient bioretention facilities for advanced stormwater management. The project will also provide green jobs for State of Maryland residents as well as a potential connectivity to the local public school vocational educational system, as well as those transitioning back into society, to provide alternative job opportunities. At this time, there are many supporters and interested parties. Please watch this space for more.





### Quick Bits



### Cinco de Mayo

The Annual Cino de Mayo signature event was held on Saturday May 1<sup>st</sup>, on the Town Green. The event was supported by a number of Town businesses that provided eight complete musical acts on a raised stage, two moon bounce's and face painting for the little ones, and a variety of food vendors. Many current elected and local luminaries appeared alongside our vibrant Mayor and Council to include **Maryland State Delegate Victor Ramirez, Clerk of the Court Ms. Peggy Magee, Prince George's Council Member Andrea Harrison, former Prince George's County Execuitve Wayne Curry, Ms. Nina Smith** representing Governor O'Malley's Office, as well as many others running for political office. To top things off, the **Mexican Consulate** also dropped by for a few words. The event was also broadcast live on Latino radio station. Fun was had by all.

### Did You Know?

The Town of Bladensburg has a **Career One Stop Job Center** located in the Autumn Woods Apartment Complex. If you are a job seeker looking for work, this is the place to start! The center, located in the 5030 block of 57th Avenue is the place to find a job, assess your skills, and work on your resume. For more information, **contact the Autumn Woods rental office at (301) 779-6777** for the operating hours of the center.



### Watch Out: Children at Play

Residents and drivers, it is summer time. Respect the community speed limit and please drive carefully. Watch out for children at play.

### 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

PRSRST STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
MAILED FROM  
ZIPCODE 20710  
PERMIT NO. 2132

RESIDENT

Bladensburg, Maryland  
20710

*Port of Bladensburg Shopping Center*



**Contact Information**

**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 Offices**

301-927-7048

**Code Enforcement**

301-927-0330

**Police Department**

301-864-6080

**Public Works**

301-927-1452

**Responsible & Responsive Government**