



# NEWSLETTER

## IS YOUR DREAM ALIVE?



**Council Member Walter Ficklin**

In August 28, 1963, at the Lincoln Memorial, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King gave his famous speech “I have a Dream.” In that famous oration, he challenged the crowd, “Let us not wallow in the valley of despair. I say to you today, my friends, that in spite of the difficulties and frustrations of the moment, I still have a dream.”

We are living in some extremely difficult times but the Town of Bladensburg is continuing to build the dream. We have been able to maintain our current staffing of Town Employees without furloughs. We have been able to keep our grant program for non-profit organizations in Town. We see the Town crime rate is decreasing annually. We take pride that our Police Department has one of the best response times in the County. Our Public Works Department continues to maintain our parks, streets, and Town’s landscape. Their efforts during last winter’s back-to-back blizzards kept our streets continuously plowed and treated for the safety of our residents, it is an exceptional

and regionally recognized accomplishment. Our management staff has provided extraordinary leadership, using best practices to keep our Town on the cutting edge.

Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. also said “In a sense we have come to our Nation’s Capital to cash a check.” In the Town of Bladensburg, we have, in a sense, “cashed in the check”, by continuing to provide support to our youth, schools, senior citizens, and businesses with the support and services they need. Furthering this theme of support and encouragement, the Town has created a partnership with Autumn Woods Apartments for a Prince Georges County One Stop Employment Center to host an **employment access center** at the Magic Johnson Computer Center, located at 6001 Logan Way #A5 Tel. 301-864-8888. As Town leaders we urge those not employed or underemployed to use this facility to attain suitable employment for your skills and interests.

The dream realizes the ability of the people to collaborate and partner, to attain greater success. Thus, the Town hosted, with strong community support from local business people, a variety of Community Networking Meetings

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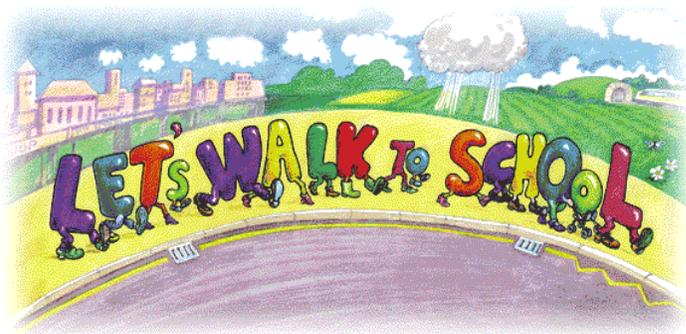
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- Green Projects Keep Rolling
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- Community Day of Service



### Contact Us

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(Complete information list on back)



Driving residents are reminded that our “youngest” residents are now back in school. As the daylight time shorten, be very aware that many our children walk to school. Please take extra caution to drive safely and look for children who may be in or crossing the street.



### **New Fall Leaf Pick-Up Process**

The Town has embarked on a new fall leaf pick-up process. **Each resident will receive 100 Green stickers that will identify leaves that have been bagged.** These bags will then be picked up by the Bladensburg Public Works Department, not the trash company.

Please note: ( **DO NOT RAKE LEAVES TO THE CURB**). Please help us keep the Town of Bladensburg safe, by cleaning up the leaves, so residents will not have to walk in the street.

For more information, please contact the Office of Code Enforcement, at 301-927-0330.

### **Dream Continued From Page #1**

with the goal that we not only share information but collectively begin to seek answers to larger community issues and problems. In attendance were many business and local community organizations to include the Bladensburg Local Development Corporation members, the Port Towns Community Development Corporation, local political leaders, the Faith Based Community, Port Towns’ Youth Council, members of Choices For Success, Prince George’s Community College, and many more.

During this recession, we need to continue to support each other. To quote the late President John F. Kennedy, “And so, my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.” I would like to challenge you, ask not what the Town of Bladensburg can do for you; ask what you can do for your Town.”

During the most recent Presidential Election Campaign, President Obama used the slogan, “Yes We can!” as both a motivation and an affirmation that we can achieve better. Our motto in the Town of Bladensburg is collectively:

- To provide better opportunities for our unemployed and under employed residents, **Yes We can!**
- To provide better opportunities for our businesses, schools, senior residents and Faith Based Community, **Yes We can!**
- To recognize the value and importance of all of our residents, so that we can live in peace and harmony within our community, **Yes We can!**

Yes, we can, because together, we have a dream!

Council Member Walter Ficklin, Ward II



## You Should Know.....



### NO Cell Phones While Driving

Maryland Senate Bill 321 has been signed into law by Governor O'Malley. The new law will prohibit all Maryland drivers from using a cell phone without a "Hands Free Device" while operating a motor vehicle.

In addition the new law will prohibit "a holder of a learner's instructional permit or provisional driver's license who is 18 years of age or older from driving a motor vehicle while using a handheld telephone".

The fine for a first offense will be \$40 and subsequent offenses will be \$100. The new law will be a secondary offense, meaning that a driver must first be committing a primary offense such as speeding or reckless driving before they can be ticketed for a cell phone offense.

### Ms. Alma Holloway Named Honorary Mayor

On Saturday August 14<sup>th</sup> 2010 Ms. Alma Holloway, long time resident of the Parkview Senior Living Residences in Bladensburg, was honored for her years of service and dedication to the community. The day was indeed festive as Ms. Holloway was joined by a host of "friends and family" from the Parkview community. During this occasion a special proclamation was given to Ms. Holloway as well as the Key to the Town by the Mayor and Council.

Ms. Holloway was (*almost*) speechless, but rallied to accept the honor. She give a heartwarming thanks to all who contributed to the day as well as her life in the Town.

### Would You Like to Receive Free Emergency Community Updates?

You can! The Town is now a member of NIXLE.

Nixle is a Community Information Service dedicated to helping you stay connected to the information that matters most to you, depending on your physical location. You stay connected to your local police department, your children's schools, your local community agencies and organizations, and the important information from other locations throughout the country, that are relevant to you. Our service is built on the most secure, reliable, and high-speed distribution platform, ensuring that you receive trusted and immediate, geographically relevant information. Information is immediately available over your cell phone, by text message, by email, and over the web. Your account can be customized so you receive the information that matters most to you. Whether it is where you live, work, or have friends or family throughout the country, the information is immediately available to you over your mobile phone, email and computer.

Just go to the Town's website ([www. Bladensburg.com](http://www.Bladensburg.com)) and click in the NIXLE button. Register and you are done!



**BOO! Sunday October 31, 2010 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm**, are the official times for the goblins and ghouls to visit the Town of Bladensburg. Trick-o-treaters are reminded to wear items that are reflective and/or carry a flashlight so that they can be clearly seen at night. *Keep your porch light on if you want to see them!*





## Burglary Prevention

by Chief Charles Owens



**Your home is your castle...or is it?** Your home is considered a sanctuary where you should feel safe. However, according to the FBI, a burglary occurs somewhere in the United States every 15.4 seconds. A burglary can leave a family feeling vulnerable and violated. It is important to know that you can do something to avoid being a victim by following these simple tips.

Statistics tell us that 70% of the burglars use some amount of force to enter a dwelling, but their preference is to gain easy access through an open door or window. Ordinary household tools like screwdrivers, channel-lock pliers, small pry bars, and small hammers are most often used by burglars. Windows have latches, not locks and therefore should have secondary blocking devices to prevent sliding them open from the outside. Inexpensive wooden dowels and sticks work well for horizontal sliding windows and through-the-frame pins work well for vertical sliding windows.

Be a good neighbor. Good neighbors should look out for each other. Get to know your neighbors on each side of your home and the three directly across the street. Good neighbors will watch out for your home and you will watch out for theirs. You may also consider joining our Neighborhood Watch. For more information on this or our crime prevention programs please contact Sgt. Davis, Community Resources, at 301-927-8126

Remember; make your home more difficult to enter. The burglar will simply bypass your home if it requires too much effort or requires more skill and tools than they possess. Make certain that you have good locks...and use them!

## THIS IS LITTER TOO.



The Town of Bladensburg, Maryland is partnering with the local affiliate of Keep America Beautiful to reduce cigarette litter. Local businesses Crossroads, Mexico Lindo, Bladensburg Volunteer Fire Department and the Police department were excited to join Keep Prince George's County Beautiful (KPGCB) in educating citizens on the impact of cigarette litter and its affect on the environment. KPGCB along with the town and volunteers promoted the Cigarette Litter Prevention Program (CLPP) by scanning designated areas for cigarette litter and then placed receptacles in those areas to promote the proper disposal of cigarette butts. Congratulations to the Town of Bladensburg for their participation in KAB's national CLPP program.




# Gorgeous PRINCE GEORGE'S DAY



Help build a green neighborhood by planting flower bulbs and trees.

Join your neighbors, citizens and residents in a day of beautifying the County!

**Volunteers Needed!!!!**

Date: October 16, 2010

Please Contact: Council Member Cris Mendoza

Phone: (301) 927-7048



### Town's Green Projects Keep Rolling

Last edition we told our readers about the **Green Street** Initiative on Annapolis Road. This exciting project continues to move forward on a healthy clip.

We also told you about the **electronic recycling** opportunity at Town Hall. That event was a great success. We were able to collect hundreds of pounds of broken computers and appliances that will not end up in the Prince George's County landfill.

We are also happy to report that two very important "green" initiatives have been completed through grant funding applied for by the Town.

The Town Hall/Police Department now has a large grid of **solar panels** on its roof that will turn the sunlight into an energy source to make a great impact on our energy use and costs at our government center. This project was a part of a large collaboration among a number of municipalities in our community with assistance from the University of Maryland, Prince George's County, and the Department of Energy.

Bostwick, the historic home and grounds owned by the Town, now has a **new emergency driveway** for fire apparatus and ambulances. This project was funded by State and Federal Grant programs. However, don't spend time looking for a ribbon of asphalt from the new entrance to the house! The new driveway is made up of interlocking pervious grids covered with sand and topped with grass sod. It looks like a beautiful lawn and is a project aimed at hindering runoff of pollutants into the Anacostia river.

The Town is applying for more grants and opportunities to green its infrastructure and buildings. Stay tuned for more.

## Candidates' "Meet and Greet" Came to Town!

There was plenty of action on the early evening of August 24th, at Crossroads Restaurant, but the draw was not the music. The big attraction was the large contingency of candidates who were on the ballot, when our citizens voted in the September Primary Elections. Politicians running for local, regional and Statewide positions were invited by the Town to participate in a "Meet and Greet" with the citizens of the Port Towns, to give voters an opportunity to meet the candidates, engage them in "one-on-one" conversations and hear very brief words about their individual platforms.

The management of Crossroads decked the entrance and venue with red, white and blue balloons and streamers to go along with the theme and purpose of the event. The Town worked with staff at the restaurant to provide an elegant buffet of finger foods to help fuel the political dialogue. The evening was a success, and will hopefully be a catalyst for other such events to help keep our residents involved and informed about what our elected leaders stand for and what they are accomplishing at all levels of government.





### **BRIDGE DEDICATION TO THE LATE SENATOR GWENDOLYN BRITT**

Gwendolyn T. Britt was more than a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and second-term state senator. She was a civil rights hero, who left a legacy of courage and a quiet will to tackle discrimination and inequality. On Tuesday September 7, 2010, her memory and legacy were honored in the Town of Bladensburg by the naming of the CSX overpass in her honor. Mayor Walter James and Council joined Governor O'Malley, and a host of other dignitaries in commemorating the occasion.

### **GOVERNOR O'MALLEY VISITS EMERSON HOUSE**



Governor Martin O'Malley took an opportunity to visit the seniors at the Emerson House Senior living facility on Tuesday September 7, 2010, to share important information about the progress of the State of Maryland as well as hearing firsthand from the residents their issues and concerns. There was much vibrant conversation and dialogue as the residents were briefed by Governor O'Malley on issues ranging from the state of the local economy to healthcare concerns for seniors.



### **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT.....A SUCCESS!**

The now Annual National Night Out, hosted by the Bladensburg Police Department on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, was yet another smashing success. Over several hundred Town residents came to the Town Green and enjoyed the festivities of music, food, fun and prizes for the night out against crime. Residents had a great time mingling with each other as well as the fine officers of the Bladensburg Police Department.

### **Port Towns Day 2010**

On Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Port Towns Day was held. Each year the Port Towns of Bladensburg, Colmar Manor, Cottage City, and Edmonston, come together to celebrate the unity of their combined effort which has resulted in several major accomplishments, to include new schools, parks, the CSX Overpass, and sustainable life programs. For more information or to volunteer contact the Port Towns CDC @ 301-864-1093.





## Community Day of Service

*Committing to and Cleaning our Community.*

On September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010, the Town welcomed 1,000 students from George Washington University to the “Day of Service” sponsored the Anacostia Watershed society as an ““Ex-Stream Make-over” of Upshur Street. Due to the sizable number of participants, the event and also included the clean up sites of the Bladensburg Waterfront Park and the grounds of the Bostwick.

The day began as Mayor James gave a rousing welcome from the Town followed by Prince George’s Council member Andrea Harrison and AWS Executive Director Mr. James Foster. The event was a great success with bags equaling to tons of debris, brush and rubbish removed from all of the sites. Plantings were also placed along the rail road track area of Upshur to beautify the area.



### 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

## ¡2010 - Mexico Celebrates Its Bicentennial!

Each year on the night of September 15 at around eleven in the evening, the President of Mexico rings the bell of the National Palace in Mexico City. After the ringing of the bell, he repeats a cry of patriotism (a Grito Mexicano) based upon the "Grito de Dolores", with the names of the important heroes of the Mexican War of Independence and ending with the three fold shout of *Viva Mexico!* This year this event was commemorated in the Town of Bladensburg on the Town green by the Mexican Consulate. This marks the second year that the Town has received



this momentous honor. The day was filled with music, festive costumes, dancing, food, and fun for all ages. Special acts included a mariachi band, local musical entertainers and local vendors sharing their products.

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

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20710*

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*Ms. Alma Holloway  
Honorary Mayor of Bladensburg*



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 .....301-379-4774

**Administrative Offices**

301-927-7048

**Code Enforcement**

301-927-0330

**Police Department**

301-864-6080

**Public Works**

301-927-1452

*"Responsible and Responsive Government"*

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