

**TOWN CLERK/FRONT OFFICE REPORT
SEPTEMBER UPDATE
OCTOBER 2015 WORKSESSION**



Town Clerk/Front Office Report September 2015 Update

Meetings:

Ms. Griffin attended planning meetings for Port Town's Day.

Ms. Griffin and Ms. McAuley attended meetings of the B5 committee.

Ms. Griffin and Ms. McAuley met with the owner of Mango Café to plan Mr. Moss' retirement event.

Events:

Ms. Griffin put in a very long day, working at Port Towns' Day.

Ms. Griffin and Ms. McAuley attended the Moss Retirement Party.

Election:

Ms. McAuley coordinated with the Prince George's County Board of Election on election materials.

Ms. McAuley and Ms. Griffin responded to approximately 250 absentee ballot applications. Each packet sent out included a ballot, ballot envelope, return stamped envelope, instructions and Oath.

Approximately one half of the absentee ballot requested were used to actually vote.

Bostwick:

The window restoration project is complete. The contractor suggests some repairs to the frame and painting all the frames. We will move forward on this. (see attached pictures).

Invitations to Town Meetings

At Council Member Ficklin's request, Ms. McAuley sent out invitations to some of the Governor's Cabinet, to attend Council Meetings and other informational events to learn more about the Town and Port Towns.

Town of Bladensburg



COUNCIL MEMBERS
WARD I
TRINA BROWN
CRIS MENDOZA

COUNCIL MEMBERS
WARD II
WALTER FICKLIN
BEVERLY HALL

October 5, 2015

MAYOR
WALTER L. JAMES, JR.

Mayor and Council
Town of Bladensburg
4229 Edmonston Road
Bladensburg, Maryland 20710

Dear Mayor and Council:

We, the Board of Supervisors of Elections, Town of Bladensburg, certify that the vote count for the October 5, 2015 Election is as follows:

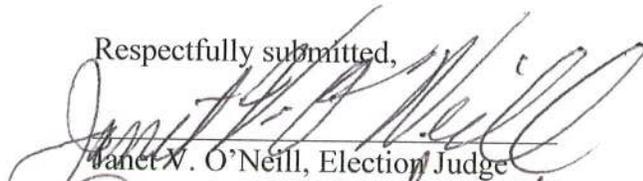
Position of Council Member, Ward I

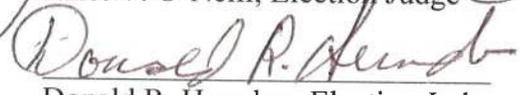
Selwyn Bridgeman	<u>153</u>
Trina Brown	<u>88</u>
Apria Gallman	<u>33</u>
Total	<u>274</u>

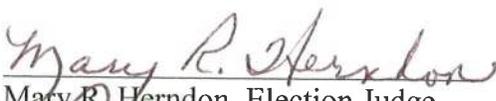
Position of Council Member Ward II

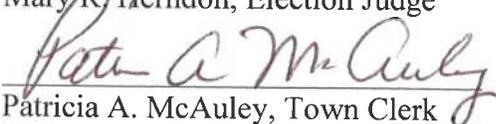
Landus Burroughs	<u>13</u>
Beverly Hall	<u>47</u>
Total	<u>60</u>

Respectfully submitted,


Janet N. O'Neill, Election Judge


Donald R. Herndon, Election Judge


Mary R. Herndon, Election Judge


Patricia A. McAuley, Town Clerk

BOSTWICK HOUSE (/)

[Home \(/\)](#)

[History \(/History.Html\)](#)

[Preservation \(/Preservation.Html\)](#)

[Archaeology \(/Archaeology.Html\)](#)

[Resources \(/Resources.Html\)](#)

[Images \(/Images.Html\)](#)

[News & Events \(/News--Events.Html\)](#)

BOSTWICK NEWS & EVENTS



Bostwick Window Project Completed!

September 2015

Bostwick's newly-restored window sashes have all been re-installed! Here are some views of the classroom and the chimney facade.



Re-Installation of Restored Windows Is Underway

September 2015

Work is underway on the re-installation of Bostwick's newly-restored window sashes. Workmen with Mozer Works, Inc. (<http://www.mozerworks.com>) are re-installing the windows this week. They look great!!



Windows Readied for Re-Installation

September 2015

The Bostwick window restoration is moving along nicely and all have been reglazed and are now being painted and readied for re-installation. Very exciting progress.



Window Restoration Continues

July 2015

Work continues on Bostwick's window restoration project. About 75% of Bostwick's windows are currently being restored at the workshops of Mozer Works, Inc., and will be reinstalled shortly, better than ever.



Window Restoration Project

July 2015

Work is underway on the Bostwick window restoration project. Workmen with Mozer Works, Inc. (<http://www.mozerworks.com> (<http://www.mozerworks.com>)) are removing the windows and will take them to their workshop for full restoration before bringing them back for reinstallation.



Roof Repair Complete, and Back Porch Painted

May 2015

Work has now been completed on the roofing repair begun earlier this month on the main house structure. The back porch of the main house structure has also been freshly painted.



Roof Repair

May 2015

As part of the ongoing restoration of Bostwick House, a roofing work crew arrived in early May to remove all the old shingles, replace the damaged roof decking structure, roof flashing, and shingles for the main house structure.



Bostwick Interpretive Signs

April 2015

Thanks to a grant from the National Park Service (NPS) and the Maryland State Highways Administration (MSHA)/National Scenic Byways program in partnership with Maryland Milestones and the Star Spangled Banner National Heritage Trail, Bostwick House has a series of five interpretive signs around the property to provide a little insight into the long history of the house within the Bladensburg community.

Bladensburg's Oldest Building Gets Bicentennial Face-lift

September 30, 2013



By Eric Goldwein

Bladensburg officials want to resurrect the town's oldest surviving structure — a house that played a crucial role in the War of 1812 — in time for next year's bicentennial commemoration. **Continue Reading** (<http://www.gazette.net/article/20130930/NEWS/130939993/1124/bladensburg-x2019-s-oldest-building-gets-new-repairs-for&template=gazette>)

Earthquake Chimney Repair

September 2013



(/uploads/2/3/3/8/23385276/6432189_orig.jpg)



(/uploads/2/3/3/8/23385276/5331803_orig.jpg)

Interdisciplinary Tour of Prince George's County
August 29, 2013

Organized by the University of Maryland's Collaborative Student Planning Committee, new students to the School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation were introduced to the area with a tour of Prince George's County. Sites included National Harbor, Fort Washington, the Glenn Dale Hospital Campus, and Riversdale House Museum among others. One of the sites visited will be the focus of a collaborative charrette in the spring. The tour concluded with refreshments at the Bostwick House.



& BUSINESS BY BUSINESS

General Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2015 ~ 11 am - Noon

Location: Town Hall

Attendees: Meg Kiernan, Kashmire (Tina's Liquor), Diane Griffin, Chris Melendez, Bernard Smadja, Steve Weitz, Cindy Cole, Garrine Laney, Christine Laney, Carlyncia Peck

Welcome to B5/Introductions/Adjustments to Agenda (5 min.) - New attendee Kashmire (Tina's Liquors)

- **Focus Area Updates**

- o Environmental and Community Health in Marian's absence - overview

- Introduction of the Clean Water Partnership/Corvias Solutions. Meeting with Chris Melendez and Carlyncia Peck went very well with many positive outcomes. Corvias is interested in talking with the business owners in Bladensburg and plans to host a Business Networking event in near future. They would like us to prepare a Wish List of things we hope our partnership with them and Prince Georges County can yield.

* Town tours (at least 2) to be scheduled with Corvias Solutions, Code, Block Captains, B5 Team. Diane Griffin will contact Code concerning tour date. Interest includes economic development, potential for mixed use housing (Port Towns Sector Plan) as well as the projected stormwater management improvement projects slated to take place countywide.

* Meeting scheduled with Adam Ortiz Friday, Oct., 2nd at 2pm; location: 1800 McCormick Drive, (see: email invitation from Ms. Shirley)

- **Letter and Debris Prevention and Removal**

- Mr. Weitz will give Ms. Diane listing of trash containers left in street; recommendation made to contact trash contractor directly through town staff to alert them of the issue. (contact Mr. Purnell Hall)

- Mr. Weitz suggested that we work through the Block Captains to call into Code about suspected violations in town regarding litter/debris. Diane Griffin shared that there's already an established complaint log she updates as complaints come in to the town office. Carlyncia Peck suggested we work through the Block Captains to receive information about these issues from their neighbors and report those as well as anything they notice to Diane Griffin to be added to the established town log.

- **Business Development & Enhancement - Hearing from our business owners/residents**

- o What's working?

- There are 80,000 vehicles passing thru Bladensburg daily.



& BUSINESS BY BUSINESS

- Location - on main thoroughfare/visibility.
- Leverage of Town assets:
 - EcoFarms
 - Bladensburg Waterfront Park
- o What needs improvement?
 - Mr. Bernard reported
 - improvements needed with facades coming into the Town - more beautification of the streets - better stores - businesses need to be responsible to clean their store fronts.
 - negative image associated with Bladensburg/security risks unattractive to business owners - less profitable.
 - less than attractive types of businesses; too many body shops (industrial businesses); limits upscale businesses who are looking for common interests to be represented.
 - limits business opportunities in Port Towns such as taxes, location options, potential growth
 - Town neighbors the Gateway Arts District with new development but represents the 'old' and 'abandoned' district where no progress happens.
 - Kashmir (Tina's Deli & Liquors)
 - only has part-time employee
 - problems with clientele - drunkenness; homelessness; disorderly conduct; high service calls to the police.
 - has security (off-duty Bladensburg Police Department) seven days a week with no real solution to problems.
 - plans to clean up and renovate his business (\$60,000 on interior); Garrine suggested cleaning the place up so undesirables are not comfortable to frequent their business; Carlyncia reiterated the need for openness and visibility into their deli from the outside to deter undesirables from any disorderly conduct and perhaps offering a larger menu of food items decreasing the alcohol offered to attract better clientele; the group also offered posting "No Loitering" signs that our police can enforce. Carlyncia will call and set up a meeting between Officer David Calloway, Kashmir and her to discuss the changes needed for the positive imagery of their store.



& BUSINESS BY BUSINESS

- Discussion was started about Beyond potentially coming and the King Pawn that is not the image we want associated with our town. Cindy opposed this view stating there being a successful business making money. Clients coming from other areas and overall connotation of pawn shops, liquor stores, thrift stores and too many convenience stores being havens for crime and the like was discussed. Chris L. added that our insurance costs are directly tied to our zip code, median income and crime stats connected to the types of businesses represented here. Carlyncia shared having called to make an appointment with the State of MD Insurance Commissioner relating to her auto insurance rates increasing for the second time in one year. Garrine shared there is an income bias. Bernard suggested accentuating the asset of EcoFarms by having the Farmers Market hosted in Joe Rodriguez's parking lot (Ward 1). Garrine, who frequents the market, expressed that she's suggested that to the staff there and that their reasoning to not hosting the market in Ward 1 is that they were primarily designed to provide healthy food choices to those in Autumn Woods. In addition, they don't have funding for signage. Garrine shared with them how educative efforts are the only way those in Autumn Woods would learn about better food choices. Further, there is limited attendance and the location of the farm is hidden from mainstream community members who would support their efforts. Carlyncia will reach out to Margaret Hubbard to consider alternately hosting the market in each Ward.
- Resident input
 - no fine grocery stores or suitable sit-down restaurants.
 - no planning committee for town so any development seems to be accepted as a result. Meg suggested contacting Riverdale Park's MUTC committee who is designated to oversee planning of their town as well as work with the community to agree on what types of businesses are allowed to come to Riverdale Park. She will give us contact information so we can invite them to an upcoming meeting.
- o What challenges do our local business owners face? (see Bernard's input above)
 - parking
 - better, larger stores, space
- o What needs improvement?
 - Mr. Kashmir reported: Tina's Liquor Store will have a makeover starting with the inside in about a six month period. There are meetings with contractors at this time. Suggestions made to help him enforce drunken behavior with Resource Officer. Carlyncia will coordinate this meeting and contact Mr. Kashmir with date/time officer is available and will meet to discuss the proposed renovations for their business projecting a more positive community image.



& BUSINESS BY BUSINESS

• Funding Updates

- Meg explained the international social integration grant opportunity she'd applied for through fellowship. She shared that we did not get the funding. There was international competition including several less fortunate countries that can do so much more with the \$5000 award. Meg used the "Broken Window Theory" but believes we must state more clearly in our messaging what we are doing and why we are doing it. This has been a wonderful learning opportunity useful for future projects such as our work with Corvias Solutions.

• New Opportunities

- Attain Wish List for Corvias
- Focus Groups participation on Saturday, October 24th,
- Continue to log in complaints (Tilden Road - Varnum)
- Upcoming Events: Reschedule Podia Training for Core Team
- talk with Riverdale concerning Planning Committee (Meg will share contact information to invite MUTC to an upcoming meeting)

• Upcoming Events/Announcements

- o Next B5 Initiative General Meeting, Wednesday, September 30, 2015, 11 am, Town Hall
- o Block Captain Orientation Wednesday, September 30, 2015, 6:30 pm, Town Hall
- o Block Captain Tech Training #1 ~ Saturday, October 3, 2015, 10 am, Location TBA
- o Business Roundtable ~ Thursday, November 5, 2015 with David Harrington, Town Hall

• Other Announcements

- o Port Towns Day, September 19, 2015, 12-7 pm, Bladensburg Waterfront
- o Community Forum, September 26, 2015, 10 am, Town Hall
- o "Meet the Candidates" Forum, September 28, 2015, 7 pm, Town Hall
- o Mr. Moss' Retirement Party, Wednesday, September 23, 2015, Mango Cafe, RSVP
- o Strategic Planning for the Community, Saturday, October 24, 2015, 10a -12p

Diane Griffin, Co-Chair