

2023



FALL EDITION

BLADENSBURG CHRONICLE

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG NEWSLETTER

A Festive Fall

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Town Election
Monday, October 2

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
4229 EDMONSTON ROAD
BLADENSBURG, MARYLAND 20710

8

Haunting of Town Hall 2
Friday, October 13

WWW.BLADENSBURGMD.GOV
SOCIAL MEDIA: @BLADENSBURGMD
TV CHANNELS: XFINITY 71, VERIZON 19

8

Bladefest
Saturday, October 28

MON-FRI 9:00AM TO 5:00PM
(301) 927-7048
ADMIN@BLADENSBURGMD.GOV



Mayor's Message



Dear Bladensburg Residents and Community Stakeholders, the summer months have been extremely busy for the Town of Bladensburg! The Town completed the repaving of 57th Avenue (between Annapolis Road and Emerson Street) which is a major access point for metro buses, Ward 2 residents as well as traffic to four schools (Bladensburg High School, Elizabeth Seton High School, Port Towns Elementary School and Rogers Heights Elementary School). Construction of the new track and football field for Bladensburg High School and the new Bladensburg Library are nearing completion. Both projects are expected to be complete this fall.

Additionally, the State of Maryland's Department of Transportation, State Highway Administration has started major work on SHA 769-C also referred to as 48th Street and Quincy Place. On the segment closest to Annapolis Road, 48th Street, underground pipes were replaced and the roadway was resurfaced. With the heavy rains we experienced during the summer months the work on 48th Street has already begun to make a major difference. To continue the work, we advocated for measures to slow down traffic along this stretch of roadway by making it a one-way street, as well as requested a walking path for residents, especially our students.

With the start of a new school year, I encourage the community members to support our student athletes by attending and supporting their sports activities. Having strong community support for our students during the fall sports season will help them feel supported and boost their confidence. Let's help the next generation by showing our support. Just visit the school websites for the sports schedules.

The Town also held several community events over the summer to engage with residents including the annual Juneteenth Celebration, the 4th of July Fireworks Event, Celebration of Former Mayor David Harrington's Life, and the Prince George's County Office of Storm Drain Maintenance (Department of Public Works and Transportation) presentation on the Pilot Flood Barrier Project. Please be on the lookout for information regarding the next opportunity to hear about the Flood Barrier Project and ask questions.

Please also remember the Town elections are coming up on October 2, 2023. Please take the time to learn about the candidates to help inform your decisions.

Finally, on behalf of the Town Council and Staff, please continue to stay connected with the Town of Bladensburg. We are excited about the opportunity to continue making our community a beautiful and safe place to live, learn, work, and play!

Sakisha D. James



Council Member
TRINA BROWN
Ward 1



Council Member
MARYLIN BLOUNT
Ward 2



Council Member
CARROL MCBRYDE
Ward 2



Celebrating



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

The Town of Bladensburg embraces the vibrant colors, rhythms, and flavors of Hispanic Heritage Month in Bladensburg. We celebrate the rich culture, traditions, and contributions of our Hispanic community. From captivating dances to mouthwatering cuisine, let's come together to honor and appreciate the diversity that makes our town thrive.

September 15 - October 15

★ MEET THE ★ CANDIDATE

Election Day: Monday, October 2

Bladensburg Town Hall

7am - 7pm

S. DONNIE BRIDGEMAN - COUNCIL MEMBER WARD 1



47yo son of West Indian Immigrants, resident 13yrs, Mortgage Banker/Business Manager, Councilman (2019), 2021 Mayoral Contender, (Founder) Bladensburg Reform Movement. Bladensburg needs champions that understand complex factors influencing and determining how much money we spend to live, and our quality of life. Progress: Since 2011, has successfully advocated for policies that build a better Bladensburg. From tax cuts for homeowners, renters, and businesses, to increased investment in our Fire Department, Police, recreation and sanitation, Donnie has stood stoically in the face of tremendous opposition for progress. Environmental sustainability, water mitigation, solar streetlights, reduced carbon footprint,

composting, and so much more are the next progressive frontier for a Bridgeman Administration.

As a community of working families, our greatest progress is in our upward mobility as we build better lives for ourselves and a safer and more secure Bladensburg.

As a Progressive Capitalist, Councilman Bridgeman believes the economy works best when corporations aren't managed for the narrow interests of Shareholders, but the comprehensive interests of all Stakeholders in a community, to include labor, environmental and civic groups. Bladensburg housing assets and real estate are extremely undervalued. Keen management of our town resources will prime the engine of wealth creation enabling generational prosperity.

ABDOUL DIAKITE - COUNCIL MEMBER WARD 1



Originally from Niger, I have lived in the area for seven years, purchasing our first home in Bladensburg in 2020. My wife, Jessica, and I are proud parents of two young boys, welcoming our youngest this spring. I hold a Bachelor's in Economics from Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada. I currently work as a professional youth soccer coach, pursuing my passion of soccer and working with youth. I serve as a camp director and travel soccer coach at DC Soccer club and coach junior varsity at St. Albans school. As a new resident, see great potential in the town's prime location, transportation proximity, and natural and historic sites.

My goal is to work with residents to unlock this potential and encourage economic revitalization and begin to implement pieces of already developed plans and studies. Safety is a critical foundation to achieving these goals. We need to ensure our police department has the latest crime fighting tools. We also need to continue improve our infrastructure to ensure residents and children can safely get to school and work and allow residents to take advantage of recent investments, such as the new library and waterfront park.

★ MEET THE ★ CANDIDATE

Election Day: Monday, October 2

Bladensburg Town Hall

7am - 7pm

KALISHA DIXON - COUNCIL MEMBER WARD 1



With a dedication to lifelong learning, Kalisha Dixon has achieved a remarkable academic journey, encompassing an associate degree and a bachelor's degree, and is currently pursuing a master's degree in public health with a primary focus on infectious diseases. This academic commitment reflects her passion for understanding and addressing critical challenges. In addition to her academic pursuits, Kalisha Dixon is a devoted Youth Minister who provides spiritual guidance and mentorship to young individuals seeking guidance and purpose. Beyond her ministry role, she actively engages in mentoring, offering unwavering support and inspiration to the next generation.

As a Notary for the state of Maryland, Kalisha Dixon holds an official capacity to certify documents and administer oaths, demonstrating her commitment to upholding legal standards and serving her community. Kalisha Dixon's journey enriched by her extensive travels, which have taken her to numerous countries. These experiences have broadened her horizons and deepened her understanding of diverse cultures and the global challenges faced by different communities. Her profound commitment to witnessing the success of others. Her genuine belief in individuals' potential to overcome obstacles and achieve greatness is a driving force in her mission to empower and uplift those she encounters.

MARYLIN BLOUNT - COUNCIL MEMBER WARD 2



Marilyn Blount was born and raised in Washington DC. On December 9, 2019, she was sworn in as the Ward 2 Council Member in the Town of Bladensburg. She attended DC Public Schools and grew up in the era, where the village helped raise the child. As a child, Ms. Blount participated in several activities sponsored by the Courtesy Patrol and YMCA where she learned many hobbies and life skills. Ms. Blount's hobbies include sewing and fashion design. She teaches sewing classes in the Ward 8 section of Washington D.C. and has a Stop the Violence Clothing Collection, which highlights the many challenges the inner-city young

adults are faced with. A few notable accomplishments include served as a Field Aide leader at the National Girl Scout office, Camp Director at Happyland, and served as the President of the Maryland Chapter National Service Coordinator Organization. Marilyn has been a Resident Services Coordinator in Bladensburg for over 23 years, providing one-on-one services to senior citizens, with hopes they are able to remain independent and with little assistance. Her core values include bringing people together through community engagement and empowering all residents to reach within themselves to follow their dreams



ADMINISTRATOR ALLEY

Dear Town Council, Residents, Business owners, and Employees of the Town of Bladensburg;
As the newly appointed Town Administrator, I am proud to work in the Town of Bladensburg. Since my appointment in July, I have been working hard to complete several projects and tasks.

To provide some background, I am an experienced local government professional who has worked in many localities and agencies in Maryland and throughout the country. My specialty and passion are local government operations and problem-solving. My mission here at the Town of Bladensburg is to revive and enact some long-standing projects and move the Town forward. I cannot do this alone, so with your help and that of our team, I look forward to tackling issues and showing results.

What to expect from me? I am a transparent manager and will provide monthly updates on Town actions. I will use our website and social media to share more frequent news and events so that you are fully informed. How can you provide feedback? If there are items that you notice or see missing, there are two avenues that you can use to bring these matters to my attention or get them resolved by staff.

1. MyBladensburg App: The Town has developed this application to track citizen issues and areas of concern. The application is mobile phone-based, and it can be downloaded using Google Play or the Apple Store for FREE.

2. Contact me directly: If there are issues or matters, please call me at 301-927-7048.

Michelle Bailey Hedgepeth, Town Administrator

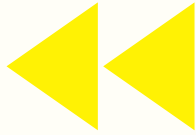
Beautification is on my mind: As I walk through the Town, I want to make this a place that makes everyone proud. Over the next few months, we will begin a Town Beautification Team to help maintain our right of way and update the monument and gateway signage. This process will take place over the fall and next spring. An item was approved in September, and the concept is hiring part-time labor to enhance our current public works teams during the fall and spring to give us some additional "people-power" as we close the year. ARPA funds will fund this vital project. This team will focus on commercial corridors to spruce up our curb appeal.

Flood Channel Project: On August 2, 2023, the Town and the County met with residents at Bladensburg Elementary. Residents raised some significant issues, and we have been collaborating with the County to ensure we address their concerns. We are working hard with the County to provide information on the flood channel project. We have another presentation scheduled at the September 11, 2023, Council Meeting so residents can learn more about this vital project.

New CDBG Funding: On September 8, 2023, the Town was notified that we are being awarded \$155,000 in PY 48 CDBG Reprogramming Funds to repair bridges and infrastructure throughout the Town. Staff will be working on getting these projects out to bid this Fall for repairs in the early Spring of 2024. We are excited about this award from Prince George's County; more updates will be coming soon!

769C Construction Update: Work is almost completed on this project. The State had a slight delay when they had to order a different kind of barrier, which will be installed later this month. The work done will improve access and pedestrian safety in the area. The Town will send information updates on Social Media and the Port.

Election Update: Remember, Election Day is October 2, 2023, and polls open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Please follow the Town website, social media, and email notices as election day draws nearer.



BLADENSBURG REWIND

Bladensburg Fireworks



Monday, July 3, 2023

Bladensburg International Day



Saturday, July 22

National Night Out



Tuesday, August 1

57th Avenue Re-pavement



August 2023

TOWN NEWS

Thanksgiving Meal Distribution

SAVE THE DATE!

Gobble up Bladensburgers, It's giving season! The Bladensburg Thanksgiving Meal distribution is coming soon for Bladensburg residents.

Saturday, November 18, 2023



Look out for details on our Town website and social media; pre-registration is required.

Security Camera Reimbursement Program

This program creates a reimbursement for residents and businesses to purchase and install a security camera on their property and who agree to share the footage with the Bladensburg Police Department to assist in an investigation. This program is intended to deter crime and assist law enforcement with investigations. This program is funded by American Rescue Plan Act Funding.

Visit www.BladensburgMD.gov to apply today!

Green Initiatives

In preparation for the Town's Sustainability certification renewal, we have been working on a few items to place Bladensburg at the forefront of Maryland Communities. Below are some items that the staff has been working to implement;

- **Join the Green Team!** As part of our sustainability project, we will need your help on our Green Team. Members assist the Town in making Green Policy decisions and help us to spread the word about our events and initiatives.

- **Town Tree Planting:** In the fall, the Town will work on a Tree planting project with CKAR (Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization: Community Development Corporation). The Chesapeake Bay Trust funds this project to provide shade in urban areas.

- **Rain Barrels:** The Town is working on a joint project to fund and teach residents how to install Rain barrels at their residences.

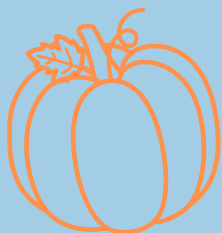
- **New Charing Station Update (PEPCO):** The newly installed rapid charging station is in progress; we have contacted Pepco to set up a date for a small ribbon cutting this fall. This will add two more charging spaces to the Town Hall and allow vehicles to charge faster than our existing stations.



TOWN EVENTS

Fallapalooza

All things FALL! Pumpkins, moon bounce, and lots of CANDY!



Friday, October 13

David C. Harrington Park

5:00p.m. to 7:00p.m.

4229 Edmonston Road, Bladensburg, MD 20710

Haunting of Town Hall 2

Get ready for a thrilling night at Haunting of Town Hall 2! Returning with double the thrills and twice the chills on Friday the 13th. Haunted attraction, glow party, and funnel cakes! Come dressed in your 80's fits and bring your scream team. Let's have a spooktacular time! See you in the fog...



Friday, October 13

Bladensburg Town Hall/David C. Harrington Park

7:00p.m. to 9:30p.m.

4229 Edmonston Road, Bladensburg, MD 20710

Bladefest

The rebirth of Bladensburg Day! Join us for a parade, music, amusements, food, and more!

Saturday, October 28

Bladensburg High School

4200 57th Ave, Bladensburg, MD 20710

Parade

10:00a.m. to 11:00a.m.

Festival

11:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.

Yule Log

Let's get into the holiday spirit with karaoke, food, movie in the park, bonfire, and more!

Friday, December 1

Bladensburg Town Hall/David C. Harrington Park

5:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.

4229 Edmonston Road, Bladensburg, MD 20710



A message from your Bladensburg Police Department Chief
We hope everyone had a great Summer! The Bladensburg Police Department has been hard at work in protecting the community. We continue to use 21st-century police engagement to ensure safety is our top priority. Over the last few months, we have been active in our Community Action Team, in a series of community events, including.

- **National Night Out** - Our event was highly successful and it was great to see so many people at David Harrington Park enjoying the food, fun activities, and other community agencies that partnered with us as we took back the night.
- **Car Show Event** - This was the 3rd year of this event, and it has grown exponentially. We appreciate our community partners, and we were so glad to bring this unique event to the residents of Bladensburg
- **Ice Cream with A Cop** - This year we served over 450 ice cream delights to residents young and old with our event this August, it was so great to get out into the community and beat the summer heat.
- **Summer Jam** - Backpack and School Supply Giveaway - It is wonderful to support students and parents as the school year begins. This event is always popular and this year, we again saw record attendance.

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG FALL TIPS

SAFETY

- School is back in full swing, which means that there's more traffic on the roads in the morning and late afternoon. Be alert when you're crossing the street or driving in a school zone.
- Falling leaves can pose a hazard, no matter if you're driving or walking. Leaves can be very slippery, which is a big trigger for autumn slip and falls.
- Be prepared for unexpected temperature changes.
- Test your batteries and replace them if necessary. Make sure you have backups on hand in case of power outages or other emergencies.

WELLNESS

- Get prepared for Daylight Savings Time: November 5
- Buy in-season food: pumpkin, squash, eggplant, etc.
- Moisturize your skin with body cream instead of lotion
- Stay active! Raking leaves and walks around the Bladensburg Waterfront Park counts!
- Ensure you have your winter tools and preparation plan
- Keep a schedule. The fall season can get very busy and festive!
- Boost your immune system: drink plenty of water, wash your hands often, and eat nutritious foods



A message from your Bladensburg Volunteer Fire Department Chief

IF WE CAN'T YOU CAN'T

It's that time of year again when our community scholars return to school to learn, grow and live healthy lives. But this is not possible if we as drivers ignore basic rules. If a school bus is stopped with its red light on you must stop. This includes the fire department. Fire department, even in an emergency, cannot go around a school bus unless the red lights on the bus are turned off. It should never be acceptable to accept an increased risk of injuring or worse losing a young life. Scholars struggle with enough troubles in the world and they should not accept drivers who disobey the law. According to a report on Good Morning America, "In 2020, 235 child pedestrians (0-14 years old) died in roadway crashes and 81 died in incidents on driveways or private lots. An additional 245 pedestrian deaths were older teens (15-19 years old)".

School Bus Zone & Danger Zone

School bus safety tips for drivers:

- Prepare to stop when a slowing bus has its overhead yellow lights flashing
- Stop at least 20 feet away from buses when red lights are flashing, unless driving in the opposite direction on a divided highway
- Slow down in or near school and residential areas
- Look for clues-such as safety patrols, crossing guards, bicycles, and playgrounds-that indicate children might be in the area
- Watch for children between parked cars and other objects

School buses are like traffic signals:

- When overhead lights are flashing yellow: Prepare to stop
- When overhead lights are flashing red: Stop
- When hazard warning lights are flashing: Proceed with caution

Remember to do what's right as a responsible adult and stop for all school buses when the red lights are on.

PUBLIC WORX



WASTE, RECYCLING & PICKUP INFORMATION

Monday: Yard waste must be placed into paper yard waste bags or a trash can marked with an X. Brush has to be tied up in a bundle weighing no more than 25-30LBS per bundle.

Tuesday: Household Trash, & building materials generated by homeowners only! 2 X 4's etc. must be tied in a bundle No longer than 4ft. weighing NO more than 25-30LBS per bundle. Plywood must be cut in half No longer than 4ft. NO bricks or concrete.

Wednesday: Recycling

Friday: Household Trash & Bulk Trash (301) 773-2069

CODE ENFORCEMENT

LEAF PREPERATION

It is important to know that the Town will pick up leaves generated from your residents on the designated pick-up day which will be posted in your neighborhoods. The leaves can also be collected by placing them in approved yard waste containers, and, or paper bags. The weight regulation is no more than 25 lbs.

·NOTE: It is also important to know that failure to adhere to the regulations could result in Warnings and fines.

MATRESS DISPOSAL

·Please remember that all Mattress and box springs must be covered with plastic to prevent possible Bedbug transmission. Please remember there is a weekly bulk trash removal, and you items must be called in at least a day prior to the pickup day which is Friday. Please call Bates Trucking (301 773-2069), before 2pm Thursdays.

While grass is in hibernation, we must remember that fallen leaves can clog drains and gutters. We request that if you desire to dispose of your leaves they must be placed in approved paper leaf recycling bags. You can purchase them at Home Depot & Lowes.

Lastly, **Save the date for the Town of Bladensburg Clean-up & Green-up event at Bladensburg Town Hall: Saturday, October 21.**

Check www.BladensburgMD.gov for more details.

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
4229 EDMONSTON ROAD
BLADENSBURG, MD 20710

Local
Postal Customer

UPCOMING VIRTUAL WORK SESSION & COUNCIL MEETINGS

Monday, October 9

Monday, November 13

Monday, December 11

Work session: 5:30p.m.
Council meeting: 7:00p.m..

Residents may view the meetings via
TV, Facebook, and YouTube.
Meeting agendas available on the website.

www.BladensburgMD.gov

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