

2023



SPRING EDITION

BLADENSBURG CHRONICLE

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG NEWSLETTER

Old Port of Bladensburg Community Park
Photo: Alison Beckwith, The Hyattsville Wire

Spring Into Action!

2

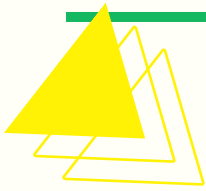
Women's History Month

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Eggstravaganza



Mayor's Message

Happy Spring Bladensburgers! Let's bloom with good vibes this season. I wanted to provide a few updates about our sublime Town. The Town of Bladensburg, Prince George's County's oldest municipality, has announced the funding for a new ambulance vehicle for the Bladensburg Volunteer Fire Department using funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. After many years of service and increased calls for service due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a need for an ambulance upgrade. I'm so grateful for the unanimous support for my request of the Town Council to fully fund a new ambulance for the Bladensburg Volunteer Fire Department. This strong support by the Council is due to the outstanding service our volunteers continue to provide for Town residents.

Additionally, I'm pleased to share the Town Council decided to advocate for rent stabilization through the Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA). Our collective efforts and the unified voice of 27 municipalities led to the passing of CB-007-2023 The Rent Stabilization Act of 2023. We appreciate the Prince George's County Council taking swift action to protect renters in Prince George's County from price gouging. Another victory for our community was successfully advocating for the County Government to work with the Town on our Master Plan for redevelopment of Route 450/Annapolis Road. We are grateful for agreement to collaborate on bringing the Town's vision to fruition through our continued partnership with the County.

As always, we would like residents to stay engaged with the Town of Bladensburg as we work to redevelop our community with the goal of being the best place to live, learn, work, and play! We encourage residents to check out our monthly work session and council meetings for awareness of Town updates, news, and projects. We hope you are getting prepared to vote in October for our Town election. Stay tuned for more details and don't forget, discovery starts here.


 Jekisha D. James

Photo: Prince George's Suite Magazine



Celebrating WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



We celebrate women’s contributions to history, culture and society in the month of March. The Town of Bladensburg has made history by having its Mayor and Council led by all Black Women. Mayor Takisha James is also the first Black female Mayor in Bladensburg's history.

After the Town of Bladensburg was established in 1742, Women were not a part of the decision-making group, nor were African Americans who were viewed as only labor workers. While the Town has developed over decades and incorporated itself as a municipality, it has reached a new historical moment.

Since in office, the Mayor and Council have been working on continuous improvements in the Town, such as public safety, economic development, roadways, schools, and the environment. They continue to build partnerships with government agencies, collaborate with local businesses, churches, schools, and promote community engagement. They know that such actions help to continuously improve the quality of life for the community. Putting the Town residents first is their number one priority.

They pay homage to all women who have paved the way for this Mayor and Council to serve as public leaders, elected by the Town's residents. The Town of Bladensburg congratulates the extraordinary achievements of women of every race, class, and ethnic background as we continue to celebrate Women's History Month.

MAYOR

Takisha James

WARD 1

COUNCIL MEMBER

Trina Brown

COUNCIL MEMBER

Jocelyn Route

WARD 2

COUNCIL MEMBER

Carrol McBryde

COUNCIL MEMBER

Marilyn Blount

CELEBRATING
BLACK HISTORY
 IN BLADENSBURG



Charles Ball

Enslaved Black man from Maryland who fought in the War of 1812 and Battle of Bladensburg.

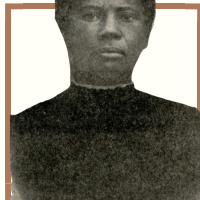
1814



Phillip Reid

Enslaved Black man and Bladensburg foundry worker who casted the Statue of Freedom on the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

1863



Sarah Plummer

Enslaved Black woman who founded the St. Paul's Baptist Church congregation in Bladensburg.

1873



David C. Harrington

First Black Mayor of the Town of Bladensburg.

1995



Keisha Thorpe

Bladensburg teacher and first Black woman to win \$1 million Global Teacher Prize.

2021

Thanks to all of you who participated in our Celebrating Black History in Bladensburg event. It was a day filled with empowerment, honor, and fun! Special thanks to the Bladensburg Community Center, Public Works, Bladensburg High School Dynasty Divas, Cecile & Brian Cunningham, and volunteers who made this possible.

Congratulations to Dr. Barbara Bottoms for being the 2023 Town of Bladensburg Distinguished African American Award recipient.

Dr. Bottoms has served the Prince George's County Public Schools for 30 years, of which 18 years were at Roger Heights Elementary School as Principal. She continues to enhance the quality of education and make an impact in our Bladensburg community.

She was surrounded with love from family, friends, colleagues, and the Bladensburg community. She also received proclamations from the Maryland Legislative District 47 and the Town of Edmonston, a true testament to how much she is appreciated.

Thank you, Dr. Bottoms.



ARPA EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



T o w n o f B l a d e n s b u r g

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

RENTAL - MORTGAGE - UTILITIES

The Town of Bladensburg has received funding via the American Rescue Plan Act program (ARPA) to provide assistance to households in arrears on their rent, mortgage, or utilities due to economic constraints from the COVID-19 pandemic.

BLADENSBURG BUSINESSES

In addition, we are providing assistance to businesses and non-profits in the Town of Bladensburg due to economic constraints from the COVID-19 pandemic.

APPLY TODAY!

www.bladensburgmd.gov/community/arpa_eap.php



SCAN ME



Hard copies of the applications are available at Bladensburg Town Hall.



TOWN NEWS & PROJECTS



Inside of Bladensburg Branch Library

Take a sneak peek of the inside of the new Bladensburg Branch Library that is scheduled to open Summer 2023! Pictured here is the construction of the ship's bow, which is the entryway of the new children's room. The theme of the children's room is Discovery Harbor, which was chosen to commemorate the Town of Bladensburg's rich maritime history.

The prow of a sailing ship guides children into the area with nautical arrangements abound. Children can then guide the ship with the authentic ship's wheel, sit inside reading niches, or lay on a wooden dock and count the colorful waves hanging from the ceiling. We are excited for residents to check out this enchanting experience. Stay tuned to our social channels for an opening date!

Town Budget Sessions

- Monday, April 17:** Budget Work Session #1
5:30p.m. - 7:00p.m.
- Monday, April 24:** Budget Work Session #2
5:30p.m. - 7:00p.m.
- Monday, May 8:** Budget Discussion
5:30p.m. - 6:15p.m.
- Tuesday, May 16:** Budget Work Session #3
5:30p.m. - 7:00p.m.
- Monday, June 5:** Budget Work Session #4
5:30p.m. - 7:00p.m.
- Monday, June 12:** Final Budget Review
5:30p.m. - 6:15p.m.

Future Town Projects

- Bostwick House Restoration
- New Bladensburg Municipal Center
- Sectional Map Amendment (SMA)
- Bladensburg Trade School
- Electric Charging Stations
- New Town Signage
- State Highway Administration (SHA)
Project 769-C: Temporary Walking Path
- Tree Planting
- Rain Barrel Project

Condensed list of projects, stay tuned for more to come.

Bladensburg Growing Green With Pride: Clean-up & Green-up

Celebrate earth day with us, clean-up and green-up! Bladensburg Town Hall - 4229 Edmonston Road, Bladensburg, MD 20710

Saturday, April 22
8:00a.m. to 12:00p.m.
Tree planting & litter pick-up

9:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.
Residents dump bulk trash, pet clinic, & paper shredding

Sunday, April 23
9:00a.m. to 12:00p.m.
Residents dump bulk trash

***BLADENSBURG RESIDENTS ONLY!**
Must provide proof of residency

***www.bladensburgmd.gov for volunteer opportunities and event updates/changes.**

TOWN EVENTS



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Bladensburg Police Department

Eggstravaganza

Egg Hunt, games, photos with the Easter Bunny, prizes and MORE!

Egg Hunt Times

2-5 years old: 10:00am

6-9 years old: 10:15am

10-12 years old: 10:45am

***Bring your own basket**

Saturday, April 8

David C. Harrington Park

10:00a.m. to 1:00p.m.

4229 Edmonston Road, Bladensburg, MD 20710

Bladensburg Police Department

Bike Olympics

Bring your 'A' game and come ready to compete. This event is for ages 10+ and registration is required. We cannot wait to see which adventurous champion takes home the grand prize!

Saturday, April 22

10:00a.m. to 1:00p.m.

Location to be determined. Check website for updates and registration.

Town of Bladensburg

Mental Health Awareness Day

It's ok not to be ok. Join us for a day filled with health, wellness, smoothies, yoga, and MORE!

Saturday, May 6

Bladensburg Community Center

Time to be determined. Check www.bladensburgmd.gov for updates.

4500 57th Avenue, Bladensburg, MD 20710

Bladensburg Police Department

Movie in the Park

The Super Mario Bros. Movie

Mamma mia! Here we go! Bring out those lawn chairs/blankets and join the Bladensburg Police Department for Movie in the Park.

Thursday, June 1

David C. Harrington Park

6:30p.m. to 8:30p.m.

4229 Edmonston Road, Bladensburg, MD 20710



CHIEF'S CORNER



A message from your Bladensburg Police Department Chief

On Saturday, March 11, we were proud of our Community Action Team and Town of Bladensburg Marketing Specialist Ray Jefferies for organizing an amazing Women's Rose Awards Breakfast to honor Bladensburg women for their outstanding work and achievements.

Officer Moon received the prestigious Life-Saving Award from the America Red Cross for providing life saving measures to an unconscious, women who did not have a pulse at the time he arrived . He immediately began chest compressions until the paramedics arrived on the scene. We are excited to report that she survived and is well.

In an effort to curb crime across the state, the Bladensburg Police Department took the lead on creating a regional investigators meeting with allied law enforcement agencies from across the State of MD and Washington, D. C. The goal of the meeting is to afford investigators an opportunity to share information from their case files in an effort to link cases together and hold suspects accountable. With a spike in auto thefts involving Hyundai and Kia vehicles, the Bladensburg PD partnered with both car makers to distribute free steering wheel locks to our Bladensburg residents on Wednesday, March 15. We want to remind our residents that if you see something, say something. You can always remain anonymous. For emergency calls dial 911 or 301-864-0400 and for non-emergencies dial 301-864-6080.

-Chief Tyrone Collington

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG SPRING TIPS

SPRING CLEANING

- Declutter and minimize household inventory
- Dust ceilings
- Wash walls and baseboards
- Wash windows and blinds
- Wash your shower curtains and bath mats
- Vacuum furniture and curtains
- Clean grout
- Wash bedding and clean mattress
- Replace or clean HVAC filters
- Clean outdoor furniture
- Deep clean the refrigerator and freezer
- Work room by room
- Break big tasks into small chunks
- Don't start projects you don't have time to complete
- Focus on practical organizing

SPRING BREAK

- Book a reputable hotel
- Finalize transportation plans before departing
- Always check the weather forecast
- Sunscreen, Sunscreen, and SUNSCREEN!
- Be cautious at ATMs
- Social media: avoid posting personal details and whereabouts
- Keep your valuables safe, including your passport and other identification.
- Use the buddy system and stay in groups
- Learn the laws of the country you are visiting and memorize some emergency words
- Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday are the slowest travel days throughout the week
- Stay hydrated and do not neglect sleep

BLAZIN' BELL



A message from your Bladensburg Volunteer Fire Department Chief

RIDE ALONGS ARE BACK!

VOLUNTEER NOW

JOIN US

FIREFIGHTERS, EMTS, & LIVE-IN MEMBERS

WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER:

- BECOME EXPERIENCED
- EXCELLENT LEADERSHIP
- WORKOUT ROOM
- TREMENDOUS CALL VOLUME
- AND MUCH MORE...

JOIN OUR DEPARTMENT TODAY

EMAIL MEMBERSHIP@BV9FD.COM



CODE ENFORCEMENT

Roger (Shaun) Rinehart
Code Enforcement Supervisor
301-927-0330
rrinehart@bladensburgmd.gov

For general information please email us at:
code@bladensburgmd.gov


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!

Wednesday: Recycling

Friday: Household Trash & Bulk Trash

Call (301)773-2069 on Thursday before 2:00 pm for Friday bulk trash pick-up. maximum (4) items.

Call 301-952-7630 for replacement/repairs for recycling bin.



WATERFRONT ART FESTIVAL

Sat, May 20, 2023
12-5pm, FREE!

Amid the scenic atmosphere of this urban waterfront park, enjoy an afternoon of creativity and imagination!

Featuring live entertainment and an art marketplace, art workshops, art demonstrations, a kids creative zone, river boat tours, tasty food, and more!

ARTISTS!
 Would you like to showcase your art/craft at the event?
 Email BladensburgWP@pgparks.com for an application!

WATERFRONT ART FESTIVAL


 live more, play more
 pgparks.com



live more, play more

Senior Day Party

Friday, April 7

9:00am to 4:00pm

Bladensburg Community Center
 FREE EVENT! Wellness walk, bingo, lunch, line dancing, sip & paint, and more!

Learn How to Bike

Friday, May 5

6:00pm to 8:00pm

Bladensburg Community Center
 FREE EVENT! Ages 5-12, register in-person or at pgparksdirect.com.

Arts & Crafts - Basketball Skills - Martial Arts: Kickboxing - Self Defense (Seniors) - Tae Kwon Do - Zumba - Line Dancing

Contact BladensburgCC@pgparks.com or visit pgparksdirect.com for full spring class list.

Anacostia River Paddle Sport Tour - Bicycle Nature Tour - Boat Tour - Campfires - Canoe Lessons - Cycling - Fishing - Girls in Nature - Goose Chase Game - Kayak Lessons - Nature Discovery Walk

- Nature Education - Yoga in the Parks

Contact BladensburgWP@pgparks.com or visit pgparksdirect.com for full spring class list.

Bladensburg Waterfront Park - 4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg, Maryland 20710 - (301) 779-0371
 Bladensburg Community Center - 4500 57th Avenue, Bladensburg, Maryland 20710 - (301) 277-2124

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
4229 EDMONSTON ROAD
BLADENSBURG, MD 20710

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S.POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM Retail

Local
Postal Customer

UPCOMING VIRTUAL WORK SESSION & COUNCIL MEETINGS

Thursday, April 13

Monday, May 8

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Port: Weekly Update

Subscribe to receive
weekly email updates.
Thursdays at 7:00p.m.

Escanea para ver
la versión en
inglés



Admin@BladensburgMD.gov



@BladensburgMD



www.BladensburgMD.gov

D I S C O V E R Y S T A R T S H E R E