

2023



SUMMER EDITION

BLADENSBURG CHRONICLE

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG NEWSLETTER

New Adventures Await!

5

My Bladensburg App

6

Bladensburg Fireworks
Monday, July 3

7

Summer Tips

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
4229 EDMONSTON ROAD
BLADENSBURG, MARYLAND 20710

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

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

Mayor's Message

Happy Summer Bladensburg Family!

With the warmer weather comes optimism and a renewed appreciation for the outdoors. I encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity to enjoy our local parks, particularly the bike and walking trail at the Bladensburg Waterfront Park. Getting active is not only good for your physical health but also boosts your mental health, so I encourage you to take advantage of outdoor time during the warmer months.

The Town Council and staff has been hard at work on the FY 2024 budget to ensure we are fiscally responsible with your tax dollars in providing you with excellent Town services. We look forward to passing the final budget at the June Town Council Meeting. If you missed any of the past budget meetings, be sure to visit our YouTube channel or Facebook page to watch the meetings on demand and learn more about the budget.

There are lots of projects underway in the town including major construction on the Bladensburg High School Track and Field. Significant planning and design work has been underway for this project and you can now really see the construction is underway. In addition, the Town has been working with the Maryland Department of Transportation's State Highway Administration requesting work along SHA 796-C to address major drainage issues resulting in flooding along that stretch of roadway. This project is finally underway and we look forward to seeing the outcome of this project. The Bladensburg Library continues to get closer to completion and we join in the enthusiasm for this project's ribbon cutting in the late summer/early fall. Lastly the Town Council voted to take advantage of the opportunity to participate in the Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation's for a Flood Barrier Pilot Project. This \$13,000,000 project will provide barriers along the culvert that flows through Ward I and along Quincy Run behind the Bladenwoods Condominiums to stop flooding that causes devastation to nearby homes. The project funding will require a commitment from the Town of 25% of the design costs (estimated at \$500,000) with Prince George's County covering the remaining 75% (approximately \$1,500,000). The balance of the project will be funded by the State of Maryland through the loan programs called "" which is designed for communities with high environmental justice scores. We will be holding community meetings to share more information with residents and present the full scope of the project so please be on the lookout for those meeting announcements.

As always we appreciate the continued support and feedback from the community. Please stay in touch and stay engaged with the Town through our upcoming meetings and events.

Takisha D. James



Mayor
TAKISHA JAMES



Council Member
TRINA BROWN
Ward 1



Council Member
JOCELYN ROUTE
Ward 1



Council Member
MARYLYN BLOUNT
Ward 2



Council Member
CAROL MCBRYDE
Ward 2

BLADENSBURG REWIND

Former Bates Worker Graduates

On Saturday, May 27, Rehan Staton, a former Bladensburg Bates Trucking Company worker, earned his degree from Harvard Law School. He has gained national recognition for his outstanding work and dedication. His story made national headlines and caught the attention of media mogul Tyler Perry. Perry offered to pay for his law school education, and Staton began his studies in August 2020. While in school, Staton co-founded a non-profit called "The Reciprocity Effect" that raises money to support janitors and other support staff. We congratulate Rehan who was determined for greatness on his amazing accomplishments and are [#BladensburgProud](#) of him.

Peace Cross Soliders

On Monday, May 29, a Memorial Day ceremony was held at the Bladensburg Memorial Park to remember and honor all who have served and made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Recently, new solider sculptures were placed on the Peace Cross land. Last year, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's Lead Historic Preservation Office Edward Day worked with a sculptor from the United Kingdom named Jackie Lantelli. She created them out of chicken wire. The American Legion funded the soldiers and then M-NCPPC worked with the Royal Air Force and the U.S. Air Force to get them transported across the Atlantic to the United States.

Bladensburg Centenarians

In May, the Town of Bladensburg recognized our residents who are centenarians. Celebrating 100+ years of life is quite a milestone and an extraordinary achievement. We are blessed to have these residents be apart of our Bladensburg community. Cheers to many more memories to come!

Margaret Bussey - 103



Rosa Jones - 101



Mental Health Recap

On Saturday, May 6, we held a Mental Health Awareness Day event at the Bladensburg Community Center. Thank you to all of those that came out to support and to our partners for providing services at the event. The We Lead By Example Inc. Tae Kwon Do Ramblers were present to showcase a demonstration and Dr. Lisa Grillo spoke about the importance of youth mental health. This event also featured yoga, Zumba, smoothies, mindfulness activities, and skincare demonstrations. Be sure to check out Council Member Jocelyn Route's Fox 5 DC news coverage of the event and discussion on about mental health on our social media platforms.





J U N E T E E N T H

On June 19, 1865, nearly two years after President Abraham Lincoln emancipated enslaved Africans in America, Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas with news of freedom. More than 250,000 African Americans embraced freedom by executive decree in what became known as Juneteenth or Freedom Day. With the principles of self-determination, citizenship, and democracy magnifying their hopes and dreams, those Texans held fast to the promise of true liberty for all.

Emancipation Flag Meaning

The flag with a bursting star in the middle is the Juneteenth Flag, a symbolic representation of the end of slavery in the United States. The flag is the brainchild of activist Ben Haith, founder of the National Juneteenth Celebration Foundation (NJCF). Haith created the flag in 1997 with the help of collaborators, and Boston-based illustrator Lisa Jeanne Graf brought their vision to life.

The flag was revised in 2000 into the version we know today, according to the National Juneteenth Observation Foundation. Seven years later, the date "June 19, 1865" was added, commemorating the day that Union Army Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas, and told enslaved African Americans of their emancipation. For two decades now, communities around the country have held flag-raising ceremonies on Juneteenth in celebration of their freedom. Designing the flag and its symbols was a deliberate process, Haith said. Here's what each element of the flag represents.



The white star in the center of the flag has a dual meaning, Haith said. For one, it represents Texas, the Lone Star State. It was in Galveston in 1865 where Union soldiers informed the country's last remaining enslaved people that, under the Emancipation Proclamation issued two years earlier, they were free.

But the star also goes beyond Texas, representing the freedom of African Americans in all 50 states.

The bursting outline around the star is inspired by a nova, a term that astronomers use to mean a new star.

On the Juneteenth flag, this represents a new beginning for the African Americans of Galveston and throughout the land.

The curve that extends across the width of the flag represents a new horizon: the opportunities and promise that lay ahead for Black Americans.

The red, white and blue represents the American flag, a reminder that slaves and their descendants were and are Americans.

June 19, 1865, represents the day that enslaved Black people in Galveston, Texas, became Americans under the law.



Town of Bladensburg

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

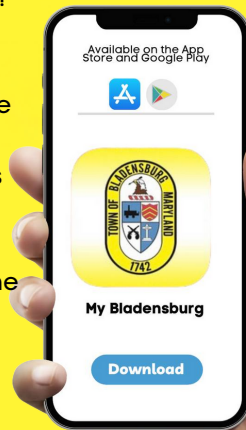
Hard copies of the applications are available at Bladensburg Town Hall.



TOWN NEWS & PROJECTS

My Bladensburg App

Download our new app TODAY!
Police tips? Requests?
Complaints? Compliments?
Events? Meetings? It's all in one place! Have the Town of Bladensburg at your fingertips and stay connected with your community. This app is now available on the App Store and Google Play.



Bladensburg Branch Library

The new Bladensburg Branch Library is scheduled to open in Fall 2023. In the meantime, check out this inside sneak peek. A portion of the brick from the 1925 building was salvaged and will be featured in the new building. A time capsule will be placed inside of the brick. Stay tuned for more construction updates!



Port Towns Walkable Watershed

The Walkable Watershed Initiative provides a community-based, green infrastructure planning tool to address flooding and resilience in the context of revitalization planning. The WW planning approach is unique in linking environmental and social equity goals. This integrated approach means that we can help local communities leverage more resources, work more efficiently to find new solutions, and increase the likelihood of success by acting on multiple fronts simultaneously. The result is a cohesive strategy to improve the overall health of the community that will continue to guide efforts to improve watershed and community health, strengthen local infrastructure, and leverage investment, resulting in improved quality of life and watershed health.

Bladensburg Employee Awards

Employee of the Year

Ray Jefferies - Marketing Specialist

Civilian of the Year

Yvonna Badon

Dispatcher of the Year

karina Cruz-Cornejo

Community Officer of the Year

Jerold Pickering- Acting Corporal

Instructor of the Year

Patrick Thompson - Sergeant

Investigator of the Year

Mahir Ayoub - Detective/Corporal

Officer of the Year

Colton Burnett

TOWN EVENTS

Town of Bladensburg

Juneteenth Cookout

On Thursday, June 15, The Town of Bladensburg hosted a Juneteenth Cookout at David C. Harrington park! It was a celebration of freedom, resiliency, and joy. We had delicious food, bumping music, and cultural face painting. Check out an event recap on our social media platforms.

Town of Bladensburg

Bladensburg Fireworks

We're going out of this world! This year, we are celebrating America's advancements in space and technology featuring Space Commander DJ Flava from 93.9 WKYS, food trucks, and amusements.

Monday, July 3

Rain date Friday, July 7

Bladensburg Waterfront Park

6:00p.m. to 9:30p.m.

4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg, MD 20710

Town of Bladensburg

Bladensburg International Day

Celebrating culture and traveling around the world in one day! Join us for food, music, and activities.

Saturday, July 22

David C. Harrington Park

1:00p.m. to 4:00p.m.

4229 Edmonston Road, Bladensburg, MD 20710

Town of Bladensburg

Senior SummerFest

Connect with other seniors while experiencing entertainment, food, games, and more!

Tuesday, September 12

Rain date Thursday, September 14

David C. Harrington Park

10:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.

4229 Edmonston Road, Bladensburg, MD 20710



CHIEF'S CORNER



A message from your
Bladensburg Police Department Chief

On Wednesday, June 7, I was honored to be the Inspirational Guest Speaker for the sixth grade promotional ceremony at Bladensburg Elementary School! As the kids from Bladensburg Elementary move on to middle school, we encourage them to continue to keep their focus on school and continue to do wonderful things. We know that they are ready and we are excited to continue to watch them grow and develop into young adults! Thank you Bladensburg Elementary School for inviting The Bladensburg Police Department to attend and the opportunity to share such a special occasion! Congratulations to the Class of 2023! We had an amazing turnout for our Movie in the Park event. We want to thank everyone who came out to enjoy Mario with us! Although the event had to be moved inside due to the poor air quality, we still were able to have a great time! Thank you to our amazing Community Action Team, Police and Town Staff, and our incredible Jr. Police Explorers for making sure the show still went on!

This Summer, make sure to follow our safety tips and for a reminder, fireworks are illegal in Prince George's County. Don't forget, if you see something, say something!

-Chief Tyrone Collington

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG SUMMER TIPS

SAFETY

- Be attentive near pools and beaches to prevent drowning
- New leave a child or pet in the car unattended
- Make sure to take water breaks and wear lightweight clothing when participating in outside activities.
- Use insect repellent products to avoid bug bites
- Ride bikes safely including helmets at all times and practicing road safety.
- Be knowledgeable on dangerous plants such as poison ivy, oak, and sumac
- Exercise caution with gasoline, torches, and lighter fluid.
- Invest in security systems and cameras.

TRAVELING

- Wear sunscreen
- Stay hydrated
- Book your flights in advance. The best days to buy tickets are Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and early morning and late evening flights are more affordable.
- Shop at grocery stores more often than eating out.
- Invest in anti-theft bags
- Wear comfortable clothing and shoes
- Visit local theme parks that are opening new attractions (Busch Gardens Williamsburg, Hersheypark, and Six Flags America)
- Understand the traveling rules and get familiarized with your destination country
- Avoid traveling alone in unfamiliar locations
- Invest in AirTags or other tracking devices to keep track of your luggage and other personal items.

BLAZIN' BELL



A message from your Bladensburg
Volunteer Fire Department Chief

**IMMEDIATE LIVE-IN, OUT OF
STATE, LOCAL AND EMS ONLY
OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE**

Looking to gain the experience
of a lifetime ?

Email membership@bv9fd.com
today to start the process.

- 70+ working fires
- 6,000+ calls
- Engine, Truck, Ambulance
- Less than 4 miles from the University of Maryland
- Renovated Bunk rooms and an in house Gym.
- Endless Training opportunities.

**SCHEDULE YOUR RIDE ALONG
TODAY!**

-Chief Dave Sumner



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

MOSQUITO SPRAY SCHEDULE

Thursday, June 15 is the first regular scheduled spray for Bladensburg, and the sprays occur every 3 weeks after that. The sprays are conducted at after dusk. The last spray will occur on Thursday, September 28.



TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
4229 EDMONSTON ROAD
BLADENSBURG, MD 20710

Local
Postal Customer

UPCOMING VIRTUAL WORK SESSION & COUNCIL MEETINGS

Monday, July 10

August Recess

Monday, September 11

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

Residents may view the meetings via
Zoom, Facebook, and YouTube.
Meeting agendas available on the website.
www.BladensburgMD.gov

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



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