

2023



WINTER EDITION

# BLADENSBURG CHRONICLE

## TOWN OF BLADENSBURG NEWSLETTER



# Winter Wonders Await

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**Swearing-in Ceremony**  
**Tuesday, December 5**

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**Yule Log**  
**Friday, December 1**

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**Pedestrian Safety**

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG  
4229 EDMONSTON ROAD  
BLADENSBURG, MARYLAND 20710

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

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

# Mayor's Message

## Happy Holidays Bladensburgers.

It is hard to believe that another year is quickly going by and the holidays are upon us again. We finally completed the 57th Avenue repaving project just before the start of the 2023 school year. We worked with our fellow Port Towns communities to host a meeting with Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller on October 17th to share our legislative priorities. This offered a unique opportunity to advocate for our collective and individual priorities and request the necessary state resources for support.

The Town of Bladensburg celebrated its 281st anniversary on Sunday, October 29th. I hope you feel a sense of pride in the progress our community has made since it was initially chartered in 1742. While we have come a long way, we must continue to move forward with our goals to make our community more economically and environmentally sustainable.

On October 27, the long-awaited ribbon cutting ceremony for the NEW Bladensburg High School Track and Turf Field. This project taken several years and experienced numerous delays. Thanks to the strong support from Senator Malcolm Augustine (District 47),



Former CEO of the Prince George's County Public School, Dr. Monica Goldson, Mr. Will Smith (Project Management Supervisor, PGCPs Capital Programs) and Principal Lisa Faulkner-Jones, this project was finally completed. This new track and turf field represents investment of \$5.2 million.

I encourage community members to take every opportunity to come out and attend sporting events at the high school to support student athletes and let them know their community is standing strong with them. I'm equally excited to share the news that a ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the Bladensburg Branch Library on November 1st. The Town Council and staff were honored to be invited to attend this special ceremony. I was incredibly humbled to be able to speak in the ceremony along with County Executive Angela Alsobrooks and Prince George's County Council Member Jolene Ivey. They were huge advocates for this project and I'm so grateful that this project has been completed and will formally open soon.

Finally, in the spirit of giving this holiday season, the Town distributed food baskets to 400 families for the Thanksgiving holiday. May God bless you and Happy Holidays from the Town of Bladensburg!

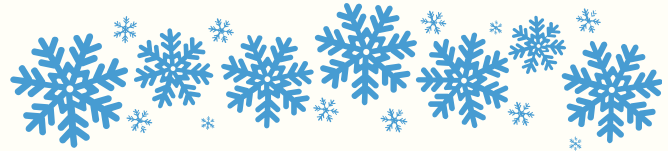
*Kalisha D. James*



**Council Member  
TRINA BROWN  
Ward 1**



**Council Member Elect  
KALISHA DIXON  
Ward 1**



**Council Member  
CARROL MCBRYDE  
Ward 2**



**Council Member  
MARYLIN BLOUNT  
Ward 2**

## SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

**COUNCIL MEMBER WARD 1 - KALISHA DIXON  
COUNCIL MEMBER WARD 2 - MARYLIN BLOUNT**

- **Tuesday, December 5**
- **6:00pm**
- **Bladensburg Town Hall**





# Administrator Alley

Dear Town Council, Residents, Business owners, and Employees of the Town of Bladensburg;

**Happy Holidays!** It's hard to believe it's that time of year already. The Town has accomplished much in a reasonably short time. Over the last few months, we have brought the Council the following items.

- Completed Contracts for On-Call Engineering, Grant Writing, and Economic Development Services - Completed 57th Avenue Road Work - Updated The Council on Bostwick House and The Building Stabilization Process - Established the Beautification Program in Public Works - Established a Special Assignment Team in our Police Department - Implemented Equipment for Mobile Camera Towers (that will deter crime in critical areas of the Town) - Obtained Grants Funds and Expanding Our Services to Residents

**Green Initiatives:** We continue to work on 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) and Joe's Movement. The Chesapeake Bay Trust funds this project to provide shade in urban areas.

**Flood Channel Project:** Over the last few months, the Town and the County have presented on the Quincy and Edmonston Road Channel project. The County will begin the project's next phase with area homeowners regarding the "right of way entry agreement." We will provide residents with updates and construction information as the project progresses.

**Grant Funding:** The Town is seeking funding for various improvement projects. We are excited about this award from Prince George's County; more updates will be coming soon! We have recently been awarded a grant for Computers for low-income residents. More information on this program will be coming out shortly.

**Security Camera Reimbursement Program:** The Town started advertising the program in early August, and information is on the website. We have also posted announcements on the Town's social media. The program is funded with \$50,000 in ARPA funds. This is estimated to assist 50 households in each ward. Please make sure to apply today!

**Capital Grants (Bond Bill Funding):** Currently, the Town has three projects totaling \$1.5 Million. There are two \$500,000 Bills for the Town Hall and one \$500,000 bill for Bostwick House. In November, the Council approved services related to the Bostwick House Stabilization. In the winter, the Town will be holding public meetings on the planning process for our Public Safety and Town Hall facilities.

**Port Town Sector Plan:** We have been working with M-NCPPC over the last few months on the Sector Plan update. This is important because the County's plan is updated every 10 to 15 years to help gauge and determine future development and growth in the area. The Town of Bladensburg will work with Colmar Manor, Cottage City, and Edmonston to set common goals and objectives; your help will help us shape this vital report. The kick-off is planned for December 6, 2023.

**Join us for our vibrant events this winter!** Town staff works hard on trying to keep our community active. Throughout this newsletter, you will find events of interest. Please join us! Again, Happy Holidays, and I wish you the best for 2024!

## A LOOK INTO THE New Year

- Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service - January 15
- Black History Month Event - February 2024
- Women's History Month Event - March 2024
- Eggstravaganza - March 2024
- Earth Day Event - March 2024

For updates, visit [www.BladensburgMD.gov](http://www.BladensburgMD.gov)



## SECURITY CAMERA REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

To apply:  
[www.bladensburgmd.gov/community/scrp.php](http://www.bladensburgmd.gov/community/scrp.php)


## You're invited !

### Public Safety Community Meeting

January 20, 2024  
10:00am - 11:00am

Bladensburg Town Hall





**Town of Bladensburg**

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**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)  
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

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**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](http://www.bladensburgmd.gov/community/arpa_eap.php)

 **SCAN ME**

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





## JOE'S GREENWORKS TREE TEAM

Prince George's County residents can register to receive professional tree planting services for their home or business.

Scan QR to register



COLMAR MANOR • COTTAGE CITY  
EDMONSTON • BLADENSBURG

## Port Towns Sector Plan and SMA

# Kickoff Meeting

Wednesday, December 6, 2023  
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Colmar Manor Town Hall

3701 Lawrence St, Colmar Manor, MD 20722



Join us in person for refreshments, giveaways, and fun activities!

Register at [porttownskickoff.eventbrite.com](https://porttownskickoff.eventbrite.com)

# BLADENSBURG *Holiday* MEAL DISTRIBUTION



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2023  
10:00AM TO 12:00PM

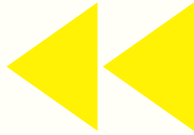


BLADENSBURG HIGH SCHOOL  
4200 57TH AVENUE, BLADENSBURG, MARYLAND 20710

VISIT [WWW.BLADENSBURGMD.GOV](http://WWW.BLADENSBURGMD.GOV) TO REGISTER

Scan QR to register





# BLADENSBURG REWIND

## Mexican Independence Day



Saturday, September 9

## Bladensburg High School Athletic Field Ribbon Cutting



Friday, October 27

## Fallapalooza



Friday, October 13

## Bladefest



Saturday, October 28

## Haunting of Town Hall 2



Friday, October 13

## Bladensburg Branch Library Ribbon Cutting



Wednesday, November 1

*\*Stay tuned for an official public opening date*

## Visit From Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller



Tuesday, October 17

## Veterans Day Ceremony







Saturday, November 11







# TOWN OF BLADENSBURG DECEMBER EVENTS

DEC <b>1</b>	<b>YULE LOG</b> BLADENSBURG TOWN HALL & DCH PARK 5:00PM TO 8:00PM
DEC <b>5</b>	 <b>TOWN COUNCIL SWEARING-IN CEREMONY</b> BLADENSBURG TOWN HALL 6:00PM 
DEC <b>6</b>	<b>SENIOR GALA</b> BLADENSBURG COMMUNITY CENTER 11:00AM TO 2:00PM
DEC <b>6</b>	<b>PORT TOWNS</b> SECTOR PLAN AND SMA MEETING COLMAR MANOR TOWN HALL 6:00PM TO 8:00PM
DEC <b>9</b>	<b>BLADENSBURG MEAL DISTRIBUTION</b> BLADENSBURG HIGH SCHOOL 10:00AM TO 12:00PM   <i>Holidays</i>

## CHIEF'S CORNER



A message from your  
Bladensburg Police Department Chief

We hope everyone had a great Fall season! Thanks for coming out to our Fallapalooza and Dia de Coco events. For Veterans Day, we took the time to honor all veterans who served our military and those who are currently serving. We thank you for your hard work, dedication, and commitment to keeping our country safe. As a veteran, I want to acknowledge our very own Bladensburg Police Department veterans who have served or currently serve our country; Sergeant Corsey, Officer Young, Officer Burnett, and Officer Tapscott.

We look forward to spreading some holiday joy with our Shop with a Cop and Night with Santa events. Remember, if you are planning to participate in holiday shopping, do not carry large sums of cash. If you are using credit cards, pay close attention to the card reader to ensure that scammers/thieves have not placed credit card readers onto the legitimate card readers to steal your identity. Lastly, if you are refueling your vehicles at gas stations, be sure to remove your keys from the ignition and take your valuables off the seats and lock your doors. From the men and women of the Bladensburg Police Department, we wish everyone a safe and happy holiday and remember to celebrate responsibly.

**B** -Chief Tyrone Collington

## TOWN OF BLADENSBURG PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

- Wear reflective clothing to increase visibility at night.
- Cross the street at designated crosswalks or intersections.
- Be cautious of icy or slippery surfaces
- Be aware of your surroundings and avoid distractions; such as a phone or music
- Be cautious of vehicles turning or backing out of driveways



**Remembering  
Jemilat Amope  
Tiwalde Fatuga  
1950-2023**

A candlelight vigil was held in honor of Ms. Fatuga who was a victim of a fatal hit and run accident. On October 18, 2023, at approximately 6:58am, Ms. Fatuga was attempting to cross Annapolis Road to board a metro bus when she was struck and killed by a speeding car who failed to remain at the scene. The Bladensburg Police Department along with other jurisdictions have found the suspect and made an arrest.

The entire Bladensburg community sends their heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Ms. Fatuga. She will forever be remembered.

## BLAZIN' BELL



A message from your Bladensburg  
Volunteer Fire Department Chief

Wednesday, November 1st, marked the 19th Anniversary of the department becoming 100% Volunteer. In April of 2004 the members of Bladensburg decided to make an offer to the county to have the career personnel removed. This was a cooperative effort between both PGFD and our leadership, in order to help the county alleviate some of the budget issues. We would also like to thank the leadership of The Kentland Volunteer Fire Department for allowing us to use Engine 331 in order to put a second crew up while ours are out for repairs.

Be on the lookout for more details regarding Santa Claus' trip to Bladensburg! If you would like to become a part of the future of Bladensburg send an email to [membership@bv9fd.com](mailto:membership@bv9fd.com) and schedule a ride along today!



-Chief Dave Sumner



## PUBLIC WORKS

### LEAF COLLECTION

- Leaf collection will take place from November 26 to January 5: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.
- Please rake leaves to the curb line, and away from cars and storm drains. Do not block piles of leaves with your car. The leaf vacuum cannot reach around cars.
- Remove tree limbs, rocks, trash, and other debris from leaves to be collected. They can damage the equipment and cause delays.
- No bagging is necessary during the leaf vacuum collection period.
- Your service will occur weekly according to the scheduled day for your area. Visit [www.BladensburgMD.gov](http://www.BladensburgMD.gov) to check out the map. There will be NO collections on holidays.
- Pardon our noise and dust that may be noticeable due to dry conditions.
- If you bag your leaves, please use paper yard waste bags.

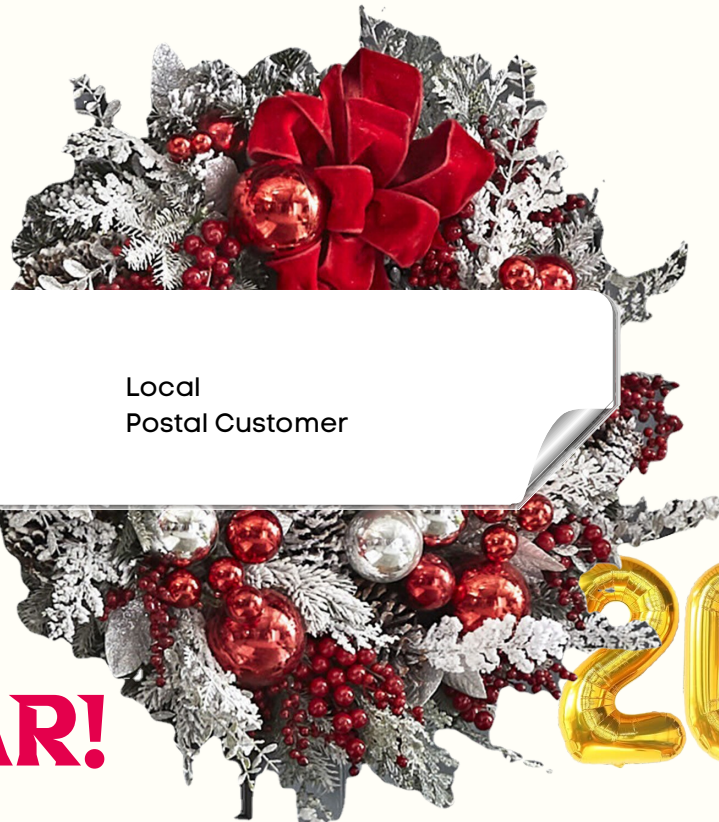


## CODE ENFORCEMENT

### WINTER PREPARATION

- Please remember to winterize your outdoor water faucets by shutting off the indoor water supply line that feeds to the outdoor faucet.
- Open the outdoor faucet and allow dripping until it stops. Continue to leave open until the spring, then reverse the process.
- While grass and weeds are in hibernation, we must deal with fallen leaves, clogged drains, and gutters and in front of your residence, and abutting property.
- Placing cones and other barricades in the streets to reserve parking spaces is prohibited by Town ordinance.
- When the snow does arrive, remember to remove the snow and ice from your sidewalk, and abutting properties within 24 hours following a snow or freeze.
- Please check on your elderly neighbors and assist them with snow removal if you can. We are all in this together!

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG  
4229 EDMONSTON ROAD  
BLADENSBURG, MD 20710



# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

# 2024

## UPCOMING WORK SESSION & COUNCIL MEETINGS

**Monday, December 11**

**Monday, January 8**

**Monday, February 12**

**Monday, March 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](http://www.BladensburgMD.gov)**

## COMMUNICATIONS

### **The Port: Weekly Update**

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

### **Download**

**My Bladensburg App**  
**Today!**

**Escanee para ver  
la versión en  
español.**



[Admin@BladensburgMD.gov](mailto:Admin@BladensburgMD.gov)



**@BladensburgMD**



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