



TOWN OF BLADENSBURG NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 2017 NEWSLETTER

THE MAYORS *Address...*

Mahatma Gandhi once said that “the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others”. These words ring so true and real to me and my family and should ring real for our entire community.

From early on in life I was taught our greatest successes comes from helping others and that our contributions in life are not measured by what we have, but by doing something that is far greater than ourselves. This invaluable lesson has been instrumental in shaping who I am, from being a humble servant in our community, to being a dedicated and committed husband and father. I genuinely believe as a community we owe it to ourselves to serve and care for our neighbors, and more importantly, we have a responsibility to lead by example.

One may ask who is my neighbor, your neighbor is anyone who you may come into contact with; it could be someone you meet walking out your front door, a person shopping in a local store, or a member of your place of worship. Any one of these can be an opportunity to step up and serve. As Mayor, I challenge each of you to find someone to serve, whether you chose to volunteer in an organization that speaks to your passion, or simply helping your neighbor carry their groceries; go out into your community today and make a positive difference through service.

As we begin our new fiscal year, there are many fun and exciting things happening in our community. In collaboration with the community we recently adopted our five (5) year strategic plan that will guide resource allocation and serve as our roadmap as it relates to public safety, attracting economic/ **CONTINUED ON PAGE 3 ->>**



NEWLY UPDATED TOWN PARK: Named After Former Mayor David Harrington

The Mayor and Town Council unanimously approved renaming the recently updated Town Park located at 4229 Edmonston Road after former Mayor David Harrington during the May 8, 2017 Town Council meeting.

Mr. Harrington has served our community for more than a decade as Mayor, a County Council Member, and as a Maryland State Senator. Mr. Harrington currently serves as the President and CEO of the Prince George's County's Chamber of Commerce. The update to the park was the result of Lt. James Flynn applying for and receiving grant funding through the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and community Development Block Grant funds the PGCDHCD. Lt. Flynn served as the Project Manager and played a key role in the success of this project.

Lt. Flynn was committed to providing an enjoyable outdoor recreational amenity for everyone living, doing business and visiting the Bladensburg community; when you visit the park, you will see first-hand the pride he took in providing you with a top rated park.

The David Harrington Park has been updated to include a variety of amenities to include:

- **NEW pavilion with picnic tables & a new grill to have cookouts on.**
- **NEW cushioned walking path, designed to be easier on the knees & feet when you are walking.**
- **NEW covered picnic area next to the playground to provide parents with shade while their children are playing in the playground area.**
- **NEW exercise equipment stations to provide the community with an enjoyable exercise experience.**



David Harrington Town Park is located at Bladensburg Town Hall 4229 Edmonston Road, Bladensburg, MD 20710



STRATEGIC PLAN

The Mayor and Town Council recently adopted a five-year Strategic Plan to guide the future economic sustainability of the Town. The Plan includes the following: **Vision, Mission Statement, Core Values, and Strategic Goals.**

Vision

The Town of Bladensburg is a vibrant and exciting destination that offers superior services and opportunities to all community stakeholders in a clean and safe environment, promoting redevelopment, investment and diversity.

Mission Statement

Bladensburg is an ethical and responsive government that provides high-quality customer service committed to creating a culturally and economically viable community.

Core Values

Bladensburg CARES

exemplifies the values we hold in the delivery of excellent public service to residents, property owners and stakeholders of the Town.

Collaboration - We value effective partnerships.

Accountability - We recognize our individual and collective roles and responsibility for service and program delivery.

Responsiveness - We value prompt customer service.

Ethics and Efficiency - We are ethical and efficient in our operations.

Service Excellence to the Community - We value efficient, high quality service in everything we do.

Strategic Goals

1. Economic Development

Position the Town to be a competitive destination for future economic development/ redevelopment opportunities in the Prince George's County and Greater Washington, D.C region.

2. Police and Public Safety

Ensure that public safety services and operations meet and exceed the needs of the public and national standards.

3. Infrastructure and Roads

Promote multi-modal access to and within the Town and provide well maintained public infrastructure.

4. Collaboration & Partnerships

Develop effective local, regional and national partnerships to enhance the sustainability of the Town.



Town of Bladensburg MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

October 2, 2017

at Town Hall from 7A.M. - 7P.M.

ELECT THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

- Mayor - FOUR YEAR TERM
- Council Member, Ward I - FOUR YEAR TERM
- Council Member Ward II - FOUR YEAR TERM

ELECTION DEADLINES:

- LAST DATE TO FILE AS A CANDIDATE INCLUDING A FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FORM:
August 18, 2017
5:00 P.M.
- FIRST DATE TO OBTAIN AN ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION:
August 18, 2017
9:00 A.M.
- LAST DATE TO REGISTER TO VOTE:
September 2, 2017
12 MIDNIGHT
- LAST DATE TO APPLY FOR AN ABSENTEE VOTING:
September 25, 2017
5:00 P.M.
- LAST DATE TO TURN IN AN ABSENTEE BALLOT:
October 2, 2017
7:00 P.M.
- ELECTION DAY:
October 2, 2017
7:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Mayors Address... CONTINUED FROM FRONT COVER ->> redevelopment investment opportunities, enhancing infrastructure throughout the Town, cultivating and growing existing community partnerships, and encouraging historic preservation.

The Town of Bladensburg has long been recognized as a leader in developing fiscally sound policies and being good stewards in how our resident's tax dollars are invested. As we wrap up the FY18 budget process, which begins on July 1, 2017 and runs until June 30, 2018, I am proud to say we have developed a budget that maintains the fiscal sustainability of the Town while maintaining and improving upon the services and programs our community has come to expect. Many thanks to those residents, who sent emails, called and came out to all of our community budget meetings. I firmly believe that because of the involvement and input from the Town of Bladensburg community, we were able to deliver a budget that ensures we continue to move our town forward. As Mr. Jim Coleman, the President and CEO of the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation always says, "Everything that is supposed to be up is up and everything that is supposed to be down is down." Town of Bladensburg Community, we could not have done this without you, so we thank you.

Summer is upon us and I know our students and their families are extremely excited about spending time together and having some fun in the sun. As you plan your summer activities, remember there are so many great outdoor activities right here in our very own community. Whether you enjoy relaxing at one of our town parks, rowing at the Bladensburg Waterfront Park or taking a bike ride on our beautiful trail, there is something for everyone to do right here in Bladensburg. Let's make some beautiful memories this summer.

If I could leave you with one thought, we must remember that no man, woman, boy or girl is an island. It takes each of us working together to make a positive difference in our community.
"I AM BECAUSE WE ARE".

Yours in Service,
Walter Lee James, Jr.
Mayor

PUBLIC WORKS

Town of Bladensburg residents, the season has come again to keep your grass cut and do some outdoor cleaning. The Town of Bladensburg Public Works advises for all residents to place all yard waste in heavy duty yard waste bags for collection on Wednesdays. Here are a couple more tips about keeping your property looking beautiful:



- Grass must be kept below 12 inches (2.5 to 3.5 inches is a good grass height)
- Tree Limbs/Yard Waste must be tied in small bundles NO longer than 3-4ft in length. Yard Waste includes weeds, leaves, tree limbs, grass, flowers, soft plants and trimmings.
- Keep the community clean by simply picking up any trash or litter on the curb of your property.



Upcoming Summer MEETINGS/EVENTS

Mayor & Council Worksession

Monday, July 10, 2017

5:30 PM

at Bladensburg Town Hall

Town Council Meeting

Monday, July 10, 2017

7:00 PM

at Bladensburg Town Hall

National Night Out

Tuesday, August 1, 2017

at David Harrington Town Park
located at Bladensburg Town Hall

21st Annual Port Towns Day

Saturday, September 16, 2017

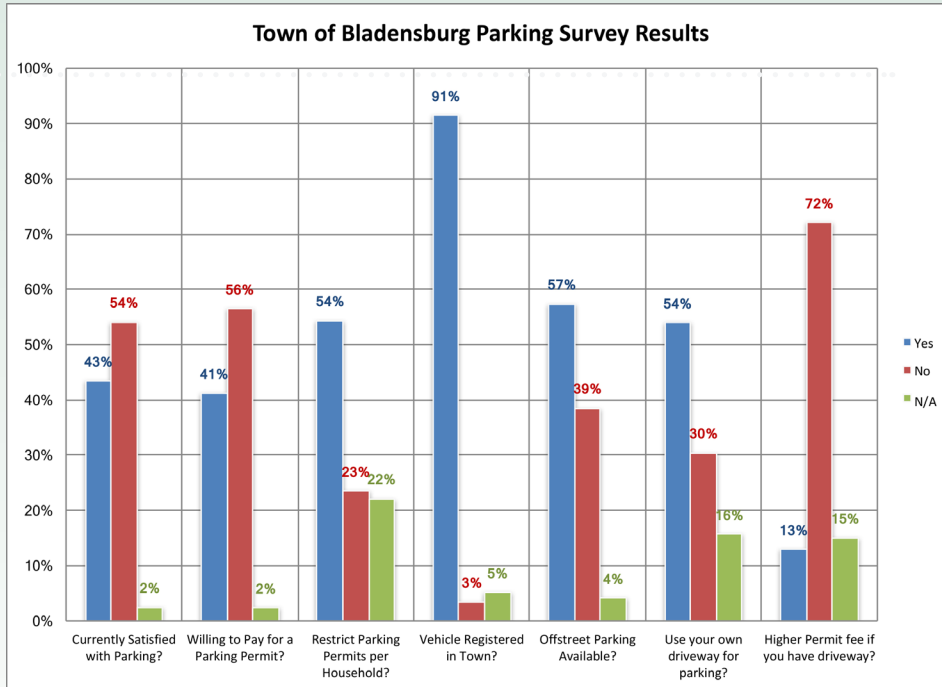
7:00 PM

at Bladensburg Waterfront Park

Port Towns Day is where Bladensburg, Colmar Manor, Cottage City and Edmonston collectively come together to celebrate their efforts create a livable, sustainable community that is a better place to work and live for all in our Port Towns.

If you would like a copy of the newsletter in Spanish, please contact Town Hall at
301-927-7048 or e-mail cdureke@bladensburg.net

Parking Survey Results



The above chart is a breakdown in responses by percentages.

The Town of Bladensburg recently sent out a parking survey to the all residents of Bladensburg asking for input on addressing parking concerns in the Town. **The Town received 255 responses to the survey.**

Survey Questions Included:

1. Are you currently satisfied with your parking situation?
2. Are you willing to pay for a parking permit?
3. If yes, would you be in favor of restricting the number of parking permits per household?
4. Do you have off-street parking such as a driveway available to use?
5. If so, do you use your driveway for parking?
6. If you do not use your driveway, would you be willing to pay a higher permit fee to park on the street?

Thank you to all who participated!



TREASURER'S CORNER

- from Vito Tinelli

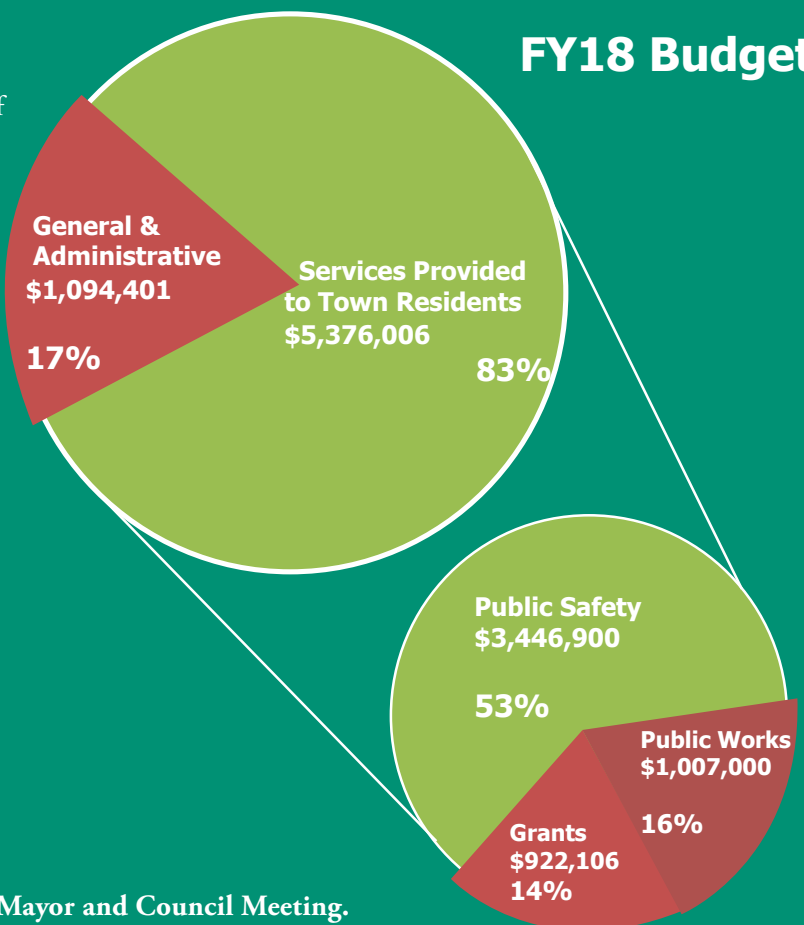
Last month, the Mayor and Council wrapped up the last of their Budget Work Sessions for final adoption. Some of the budget highlights are as follows:

- Tax rates for real estate and business personal property remain unchanged for over a decade
- Staffing increased to provide essential services to include additional Police Officers, Code Enforcement personnel, Dispatchers, and a Public Works Director.
- General and Administrative expenses remained almost constant compared to prior year
- Capital Purchases funded through our fund balance for items such as new police cruisers, outfitting expansion of Public Safety offices, new Town of Bladensburg gateway signs, and also for road improvements.
- Very lean general and administrative expenses of 17% to include the Mayor and Council, Town Administrator, Treasurer, and Town Clerk Departments
- 83% of total budget provides a service to the Town.

The FY18 Budget is set for adoption at the **June 2017 Mayor and Council Meeting**.

For more please see the full **FY18 Budget Book** located on our Town's website under the Treasurer's Page.

FY18 Budget



Message From the Chief of Police

At the April meeting of the Mayor and Town Council I was appointed Chief of Police for the Town of Bladensburg. I want to thank Mayor James and the Town Council for this opportunity.

Since 1983, when I began my career with the Bladensburg Police Department, I look forward to continuing to work with the community and the men and women of the Bladensburg Police Department as we continue to advance our community policing efforts.



As we move forward I hope you notice an increased police presence in the community and an increased effort by our members to determine the concerns that you, the community, have regarding crime and law enforcement in the Town of Bladensburg.

We will also be increasing our use of email, social media, etc, in an effort to keep you informed in a timely manner. ***We are currently on Nextdoor.com and will be on Facebook and Twitter in the near future.*** We have created an ***email list to distribute public safety notices and alerts*** related to the Town of Bladensburg.

Notices may include:

- **serious crimes**
- **missing person look-outs**
- **road closures**
- **power outage information**
- **general public safety** announcements and more. If you would like to be added to this list please send an email to **tstone@bladensburg.net**.

On Tuesday, August 1st, we will be hosting **National Night Out at the David Harrington Town Park**, behind Town Hall. We'll provide activities for the kids, refreshments, crime prevention information and an opportunity for you to meet our police officers and other staff members.



If you have a comment or concern that you would like to discuss with me please feel free to call **301-864-6080** or e-mail **tstone@bladensburg.net**.

MAYOR & Town Council

Mayor

Walter James

wjames@bladensburg.net

Ward II Council Members

Council Member Hall

bhall@bladensburg.net

Ward I Council Members

Council Member Bridgeman

sdbridgeman@bladensburg.net

Council Member Ficklin

wficklin@bladensburg.net

Council Member Mendoza

cmendoza@bladensburg.net

Town Administrator

Debi Sandlin

dsandlin@bladensburg.net



CODE ENFORCEMENT CORNER

As we reach the end of another school year, this means more of our youth will be out and about exploring the Town. They may not always pay attention to their surroundings or what is going on around them. So please use caution while traveling around the community by watching out for our younger residents playing on their phones or riding their bikes and remember to stay hydrated in the summer heat.

Did you know?

Yard Sales require a permit?

- A General purpose permit must be obtained before sponsoring a yard sale. Each residence is limited to three General purpose permits per year.

- The placement of any signage on utility poles or trees is prohibited.

BULK TRASH

- That the town picks up to 4 items of Bulky Trash every Friday.

- Call **301-773-2069** and schedule an appointment before 2:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to your Friday Pick up.

For more information please contact Bladensburg Code Enforcement Dept. at 301-927-0330 or e-mail at **code@bladensburg.net**

New Website Update !

A brand new, fresh and interactive website Town of Bladensburg is expected to go LIVE this summer 2017. The new website will be moving to a new web address **www.bladensburgmd.gov**

Town of Bladensburg website will not longer be **www.townofbladensburg.com** The new site will be designed and organized in a manner that will allow visitors to easily access information about the services or programs provided by the Town.





TOWN OF BLADENSBURG

4229 Edmonston Road Bladensburg, MD 20710

Information: 301-927-7048

Fax 301-927-5257

townofbladensburg.com

POSTAGE
CLEAR
ZONE

FOLLOW US ON:

 facebook.com/bladensburgmd

 twitter.com/bladensburgmd

 instagram.com/bladensburgmd

COMMUNITY LED

TNI (Transitioning Neighborhood) Team

In April of 2012, County Executive Rushern Baker launched the **Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative (TNI)**. The purpose of TNI is to improve the quality of life of neighborhoods, while identifying ways to improve service delivery throughout the county for all residents. This initiative focuses on partnering with communities to uplift neighborhoods in the county that face significant economic, health, public safety and educational challenges.

The goal is to achieve the County Executive's Vision of a Thriving Economy, Great Schools, Safe Neighborhoods and High Quality Healthcare by targeting cross-governmental resources to neighborhoods that have significant needs.

The Bladensburg/East Riverdale communities were one of five community areas designated as a TNI area. Due to the continued drop in crime over the past five (5) years and the increase in property values, the County notified the Town in June of 2016 they would be transitioning the Bladensburg/East Riverdale TNI from a County led initiative to a community led initiative effective January 1, 2017. In February 2017 a Town of Bladensburg TNI Team was formed representing the community to include:

- A resident from Ward I & a resident from Ward II
- An HOA from Ward I & an HOA from Ward II
- A business representative from the Town of Bladensburg

- A community organization from the Town of Bladensburg
- Chief Stone from the Bladensburg Police Department
- Shaun Rienhart, Code Enforcement Supervisor from the Town of Bladensburg
- Linda Turner, Manager, Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative (TNI), County Exec. Office
- Jeffrey Swilley, Assistant Director of Business Services Prince George's County's Economic Development Corporation- Workforce Services Division
- Debi Sandlin, Town Administrator, Town of Bladensburg

The Town's TNI Team held their initial meeting in February and identified **four (4) goal areas to focus on over the next year**. The four goal areas identified include:

- 1. Jobs and Workforce Training**
- 2. Rebranding Bladensburg**
- 3. Environment**
- 4. Identify Partnerships**

The TNI meetings are open to all residents living in the community and businesses located in the Town. We encourage everyone to attend and participate in the discussions and work with the TNI Team to improve the quality of live for everyone living and doing business in the Town of Bladensburg.

For more information on TNI contact Debi Sandlin at dsandlin@bladensburg or **301-927-7048**