



TOWN ADMINISTRATOR MONTHLY MEMO

December 2023

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 fairly short time. Over the last few months, we have brought the Council the following items.

- Contracts for On-Call Engineering, Grant Writing, and Economic Development Services
- 57th Road Work completed
- New Grant Funding for Bridge Repairs and Roadways
- Updates and Contract for the Bostwick House and the building stabilization process
- Establishing the Beautification Program in Public Works



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;

- **Town Tree Planting:** In the new year, 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." As the project progresses, we will provide residents with updates and construction information.

Town Food Distribution: The Town held two food distributions in November and December; we will be working with local non-profits for future events.

Grant Funding: The Town has funding for various Capital and improvement projects. We are excited about this award from Prince George's County; more updates will be coming soon! We recently received a grant that provides "free" computers to low-income households.

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. There are two Bills for the Town Hall (\$500,000 and \$300,000) and one \$500,000 bill for Bostwick House. In December, the Council will review additional opportunities to move the Bostwick House project with Technical Assistance Panel with the Urban Land Institute. In the winter, the Town will hold 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 on the Sector Plan update over the last few months. 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 determine common goals and objectives; your assistance is needed to help us shape this vital report. The kick-off was held on **December 6, 2023, and there will be a series of meetings over the next two years.**

Again, Happy Holidays!

Regards,
Michelle Bailey-Hedgepeth, Town Administrator