



## TOWN ADMINISTRATOR MONTHLY MEMO

November 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
- 57<sup>th</sup> Road Work completed
- Updates on Bostwick House and the building stabilization process
- Establishing the Beautification Program in Public Works
- Establishing a Special Assignment Team in our Police Department
- Purchasing Equipment for Mobile Camera Towers that will deter crime in critical areas of the Town
- Obtaining 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." As the project progresses, we will provide residents with updates and construction information.

**Town Food Distribution:** On November 18, 2023, the Town held a successful food distribution at Bladensburg High School. This event gave away 400 baskets and allowed over 70 local student volunteers to earn service hours. The Town will hold another Holiday event on Saturday, December 9, 2023, from 10 AM – 12 PM at Bladensburg High; pre-registration is encouraged! Check out the Town's website for more information.

**Grant Funding:** The Town is seeking 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 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 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 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 determine common goals and objectives; your assistance is needed to 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 Thanksgiving!

Regards,  
Michelle Bailey-Hedgepeth, Town Administrator