

# TOWN ADMINISTRATOR MONTHLY MEMO

## February 2026



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

### February Outlook and Administrative Priorities

February is a time of both reflection and momentum for the Town of Bladensburg. As we move through the winter season and prepare for spring, the Town continues to advance key administrative priorities focused on community engagement, sustainability, economic vitality, and transparent governance.

This month is also a personal milestone for me. As many of you are aware, I will be departing my role as Town Administrator, with my **last day being Friday, March 13, 2026**, as I transition to a new professional opportunity in College Park. While this decision was not easy, I leave with deep appreciation for the residents, staff, Mayor, and Council who have supported me throughout my tenure.

Bladensburg is a resilient and forward-looking community. I am confident that the Town is well positioned to continue doing great things in the months and years ahead. Over the coming weeks, I will work closely with the Mayor and Council to ensure continuity of the initiatives and administrative priorities we have worked so hard to advance, so that this progress continues uninterrupted.

Thank you for the trust, collaboration, and kindness you have shown me. Serving the Town of Bladensburg has truly been an honor.

### Bladensburg in Bloom: Growing a More Vibrant Community

The Town of Bladensburg is pleased to launch Bladensburg in Bloom, a local initiative developed as part of our continued participation in the national America in Bloom program. This effort highlights community pride, environmental stewardship, beautification, and civic engagement.

As we prepare for our 2026 America in Bloom evaluation, Bladensburg in Bloom will showcase the creativity and commitment of our residents. Planned initiatives include a “Yard of the Month” recognition program, continued collaboration with the Town’s Green Team, and efforts to maintain our Sustainable Maryland certification.

Residents may already notice new trees, plantings, and landscape improvements throughout Town. Additional enhancements are expected this spring, following planning efforts completed last fall, including seasonal plantings in key public spaces.

Bladensburg in Bloom is a true community effort. Residents are encouraged to participate through volunteer opportunities, community art projects, and the creation of additional public benches—building on the success of those unveiled during last year’s Juneteenth celebration. Residents interested in participating may contact Town staff for more information.

Together, we can continue to make Bladensburg greener, more welcoming, and more beautiful.

### **Green Team Updates and Preparing for Earth Day**

The Town continues to partner with the Prince George’s County Department of the Environment's Tree Program, and tree-planting activities are now underway throughout Bladensburg. Additional information on these efforts is available on the Town’s website.

Through our Tree City designation and other green initiatives, the Town remains committed to sustainability and environmental stewardship.

### **We Need YOU!**

The Green Team is always looking for new members with ideas for beautifying the Town and making Bladensburg more environmentally friendly. If you are interested in joining, please email [clerk@bladensburgmd.gov](mailto:clerk@bladensburgmd.gov).

### **Business Roundtable – February 2026**

The Town will host a **Business Roundtable on Friday, February 13, 2026, from 12:00–2:00 PM at Town Hall**. All business owners are encouraged to attend to learn more about Town initiatives, upcoming activities, and opportunities for collaboration.

### **Port Towns CDC Collaborative Update**

The Town continues to engage with the **Port Towns Community Development Corporation** on collaborative initiatives focused on economic development, placemaking, and shared regional goals. Updates on these efforts will continue to be provided as projects advance. The CDC Board will meet in February and will continue to meet throughout the year.

### **Citizen Academy: America 250 Civic Education Program**

In recognition of the **250th Anniversary of the United States**, the Town of Bladensburg is proud to introduce a new **Civic Education Program** as part of the national **America 250** initiative.

Under the leadership of **Mayor Takisha James**, an active member of the Maryland Coalition for America 250, Bladensburg will host a **Citizen Academy session on February 17, 2026, from 6:00–8:00 PM at Town Hall**. This program is designed to inform, engage, and inspire residents of all ages.

The Civic Education Program will offer:

- Civic education sessions for adults and students
- Opportunities for students to earn service-learning hours
- Discussions on how local, state, and federal governments function
- Practical tools for civic participation and engagement

Participants will also have opportunities to interact with elected officials and subject-matter experts while exploring the foundations of democracy and civic responsibility. Additional programming will continue throughout the spring.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out. I am always here to assist.

Best Regards,

*Michelle Bailey Hedgepeth.*

Michelle Bailey-Hedgepeth, Town Administrator