

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR MONTHLY MEMO

March 2025

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



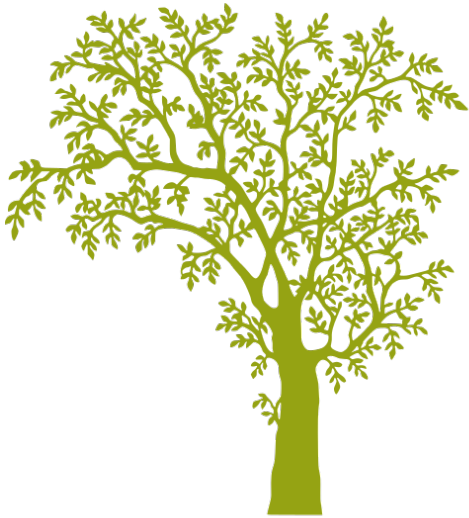
It's Almost Spring! They say that March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb, I hope that we get less lion this year. Staff has been working hard on getting the Town ready for Spring and I can't wait to see some of our areas bloom again.



Budget Calendar | The last month of economic and political changes may affect our local budget. We have been seeing increases in the cost of goods and services, as well as planned utility rate increases. With this in mind, I have been working on our budget to reflect additional frugality while balancing the needs of quality of life issues for our residents. Here is a rundown of the remaining Budget Hearings and dates, as we preview the FY 2026 Budget.

- **Budget Session #2 | Introduction and Public Safety**
 - On **March 10, 2025**, the Town Council will receive an Introduction to the revenues and a review of **all budget areas**, with revenue projections and estimates.
- **Budget Session #3 | Finance, Clerk, and Town Administrator**
 - On **March 18, 2025**, a **Special Council Meeting** will be held to review budget requests from the **Finance Department, Town Clerk, and Town Administrator**.
- **Budget Session #4 | Special Budget Meeting | Public Works and Public Safety**
 - On **April 1, 2025**, another **Special Council Meeting** will focus on budget requests from the **Public Works** and review **Public Safety** items discussed in March.
- **First Reading of the Budget Ordinance**
 - On **April 14, 2025**, the **First Reading** of the Budget Ordinance will occur during the Town Council Meeting.
- **Tax Rate and Constant Yield Hearings (if needed)**
 - On **April 14, 2025, or May 12, 2025**, the Town Council Meeting would meet to set a new tax rate or conduct a Tax Rate or Constant Yield Hearing. This is a separate meeting
- **Budget Session #5 | Special Council Budget Meeting**
 - On **April 29, 2025**, the Town Council will hold a **Special Budget Meeting** for any remaining discussions and adjustments.

- **Proposed Budget Adoption – Second Reading**
 - On **May 12, 2025**, during the Town Council Meeting, the **Proposed Budget** for FY 2025-2026 will be presented for **Adoption**.
- **Alternative Budget Adoption Date – June 9, 2025 (if needed)**



Green Team Update | The Town of Bladensburg's Green Team is making great strides in advancing our commitment to sustainability! Our next meeting is March 13, 2025, to prepare for the Spring Events! The Green Team is instrumental in developing policy and keeping

TREE CITY USA! The Town of Bladensburg has recently been accepted into the Tree City USA Program. In November 2024, the Town passed a resolution to adopt the principles, and in December, the Town passed its tree ordinance. The Green Team will act as the Tree Board, and the Town will dedicate 1% of its budget to planting trees and tree maintenance. We will have more announcements about our Arbor Day and Tree Planting efforts.

COG Updates: As Town Administrator, I remain active in the WCOG meetings as we gather monthly to discuss regional issues. In the March 5th meeting, we met to discuss the Homeland Security Funding and impacts on the local government's budget from the effects of the recent Federal reductions in force. These meetings are helpful to get a gauge on where things are going and what we can expect. Recently our Town Clerk attended the COG Procurement Officers meeting and got some useful information on purchasing contracts. We will continue to participate in these meetings and update the community on the value of this membership.

RFP Updates: The Town has two requests for proposals out on our website for the following services:

- **Janitorial Services:** The Town has issued a new RFP for cleaning Town Administrative and Public Safety offices. The contract will be two years long with an optional one-year renewal.
- **Stop Sign Camera:** The Town has issued a new RFP for implementing a Stop Sign Camera Program within a .5-mile radius of local schools. The state of Maryland has recently approved this program. The contract is for a two to three-year contract with an optional one-year renewal.

Bostwick House Event | Discover Bostwick – May 3, 2025: The Discover Bostwick event will highlight the historical and cultural significance of the Bostwick property while engaging the local community in a family-friendly, interactive outdoor event. Activities will primarily focus on

the lawn and include tours of the orchard and exterior displays showcasing the property's history.

Event Offerings:

- Vendors – Artisans/Makers: Small, local businesses and makers will offer items for sale.
- Food Options: Local food trucks will be on-site, and necessary applications and health inspections will be coordinated in advance.
- Music: Performances from musical artists, DJs, or school groups will be featured.
- Arts: Collaborative arts-related activities in partnership with local arts organizations.
- Local/Cultural Organizations: Participation from local nonprofits and groups, including the library, Anacostia Watershed Trust, Eco City Farms, UMD, M-NCPPC Port Towns team, and Sankofa Arts on a Roll.
- Children's Activities: Games and activities designed to engage young attendees.

Trade School Update: The Town of Bladensburg is actively advancing its commitment to workforce development by establishing a new trade school. The town received a \$1 M earmark for developing a trade school. In collaboration with EMPLOY Prince George's, efforts are underway to implement programs.

Town Annexation Update: The Town of Bladensburg is currently working on a resolution for Hospital Hill and we are actively pursuing annexation to expand its municipal boundaries. We aim to enhance services and foster community growth. Annexation allows adjacent property owners and residents to become part of Bladensburg, benefiting from dedicated municipal services, improved public safety, and various community programs. This strategic expansion is vital for influencing economic growth, environmental protection, quality of life, and the Town's fiscal well-being. Bladensburg remains committed to thoughtful expansion and will continue to provide updates, keeping residents engaged throughout the process.

Best Regards,

Michelle Bailey Hedgepeth.

Michelle Bailey-Hedgepeth, Town Administrator