



## **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR MONTHLY MEMO**

### **OCTOBER 2025**

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

#### **Bladensburg: A Town on the Move!**

It's hard to believe that autumn is already upon us—the leaves are changing, and with them comes renewed energy and focus across every corner of our community. October marks a season of momentum for the Town of Bladensburg. Our agenda this month reflects not only the progress we've made, but also the exciting opportunities ahead as we continue to strengthen our Town's foundation for the future.



October is also when we celebrate the founding of the Town on Saturday, October 18, 2025. We celebrated Bladensburg Day at David C. Harrington Park. I want to take a moment to thank our staff for their tireless efforts. Also of note, it's Breast Cancer Month, which is a cancer that has affected so many men and women in our community. I also want to recognize that during Code Enforcement Appreciation and Code Compliance Month, we have made significant strides this year in updating and addressing our property maintenance code.

As I shared in my annual overview last month, this fall represents a critical period of collaboration, planning, and growth. Together with the Mayor, Town Council, staff, and community partners, we are turning vision into action—advancing major capital priorities, investing in our neighborhoods, and aligning our goals for FY 2026 and beyond.

As we move into this next quarter, our collective efforts will remain focused on several key priorities that will continue to guide our progress and set the stage for Bladensburg's bright future. These priorities reflect our shared commitment to operational excellence, economic vitality, and community well-being:

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#### **Town Administrator | PRIORITIES – FY 2026 and Beyond**

- ✓ Moving forward the Legislative agenda and supporting capital priorities (new Town Hall and Town Infrastructure)
- ✓ Furthering Economic Development and Annexation Goals and expanding the tax base of the Town
- ✓ Collaborative review of departmental progress toward annual goals
- ✓ Supporting the development of the Town Hall Project through the release of an RFP/RFQ for the building development and finance opportunities

- ✓ Continuing Work and opportunities at Bostwick House and working with community Partners like the Aman Memorial Trust
- ✓ Revising and updating the Town's Strategic Plan 2016 – 2020. Noting the accomplishments and providing the Council with the next Steps.
- ✓ Assisting in the events and activities that will celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the USA with the State of Maryland
- ✓ Developing a balanced budget for FY 2027 Budget and Beyond
- ✓ Seeking and obtaining key grants and other funding to assist the Town in its needs
- ✓ Improving the overall Quality of Life for residents by enhancing civic spaces, creating new signage and wayfinding, upgrading infrastructure, and partnering with community organizations and municipal partners.
- ✓ Working with the other Port Towns Managers and Council on the implementation of the BCCE Port Towns Community Development Corporation (CDC).

Bladensburg continues to move forward because of the dedication, teamwork, and shared commitment of our leaders, staff, and residents. Every project we undertake—whether large or small—adds to the collective progress that defines who we are as a community. I am deeply grateful for everyone's continued partnership, creativity, and perseverance as we work to make Bladensburg stronger, more connected, and ready for the future.

Together, we are building momentum, strengthening relationships, and shaping a Town that we can all be proud to call home.



**Green Team Updates** | We met this month with the Green Team to update them on the America In Bloom (AIB) Report and my recent attendance at the National Conference in Michigan. The Town has learned a great deal from this group, and we outline how we plan to implement many of the reviewers' recommendations.

**Green Event: Green and Clean – Elevate the Space – October 25, 2025 – Community Clean-up – 9-11 AM – Town Hall Volunteers needed. For more information. Contact Ray Jefferies @ [rjefferies@bladensburgmd.gov](mailto:rjefferies@bladensburgmd.gov)**

**Reminder!** Leaf collection will begin in November, with all collected leaves delivered to Eco City Farms for composting and mulching. This supports the town's sustainability goals by recycling organic waste into usable materials. Communication about leaf collection will be reinforced in the town newsletter and on social media to reduce illegal leaf burning. The Team also spoke about the Tree City designation and the report that is due at the end of the year. The Green Team will meet again in November.

**Business Roundtable:** The Town will host the Business Roundtable on October 22, 2025, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. (lunch will be served) at Town Hall. This group promotes the support and sustainability of Local Businesses, which support the Town's Sustainable Maryland Plan. Join us to help us grow and support local businesses in Bladensburg.



### **America In Bloom Update | Bladensburg: Growing Together in Beauty and Community**

The Town of Bladensburg proudly continues its participation in America in Bloom (AIB), our second year in this national initiative that celebrates beautification, environmental stewardship, and community pride. In July 2025, two national evaluators visited Bladensburg to assess our progress in areas such as Community Vitality, Floral Impact, Landscaped Areas, Urban Forestry, Environmental Initiatives, Celebrating Heritage, and Overall Impression.

Since last year's review, the Town has made meaningful improvements in nearly every category—strengthening partnerships, expanding community involvement, and enhancing the natural beauty of our public spaces. Our participation in the AIB Conference in Michigan this summer provided valuable insights and practical strategies for continuing this positive momentum.

Looking ahead, we are particularly excited to focus on expanding Floral Impact through new baskets and planters across Town, enriching Landscaped Areas with partner support, and advancing urban forestry through ongoing collaborations with local organizations. These collective efforts reflect our commitment to making Bladensburg greener, more welcoming, and even more vibrant for both residents and visitors. Together, we're planting the seeds for a more beautiful Bladensburg—one that blooms with pride, progress, and a spirit of community.

### **Upcoming Community Events:**

- Business Roundtable – October 22, 2025 – Town Hall – 12 PM – 1 PM
- Green and Clean – Elevate the Space – October 25, 2025 – Community Clean-up – 9-11 AM
- Port Towns Quarterly Meeting – October 29, 2025 – Cottage City Town Hall 6 PM – 8 PM
- Trunk or Treat [PD]- October 30, 2025 – 6 – 8 PM
- Diabetes Awareness Event – November 8, 2025 – Town Hall 11 AM – 1 PM
- Veteran's Day – November 11, 2025 – Memorial Park

If you have any questions, I am here to answer them!

Best Regards,

**Michelle Bailey Hedgepeth,**

Michelle Bailey-Hedgepeth, Town Administrator