

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR MONTHLY MEMO



March 2026

Message from the Town Administrator
Town of Bladensburg

Dear Mayor and Council, Residents, Business Owners, and Employees,

March Outlook and Administrative Priorities

March arrives like a hinge between seasons. Winter loosens its grip, and the Town begins stretching toward spring projects, fresh plantings, and renewed energy. Even in transition, the work continues.

This month also marks a personal transition. My last day serving as Town Administrator will be **Friday, March 13, 2026**, as I move on to a new professional opportunity in College Park. This decision was thoughtful and not without emotion. Serving Bladensburg over the past **two years and eight months** has been both meaningful and transformative.

Bladensburg is resilient, determined, and full of promise. I leave confident that the initiatives we have advanced will continue forward. Over the coming weeks, I have worked closely with the Mayor and Council to ensure continuity of operations, stability in leadership transition, and sustained progress on our key priorities.

Thank you for the trust you placed in me. It has truly been an honor.

Bladensburg in Bloom | Growing a More Vibrant Community

The Town is proud to launch **Bladensburg in Bloom**, a local initiative aligned with our continued participation in the national America in Bloom program.

This effort centers on:

- Beautification and placemaking
- Environmental stewardship
- Civic pride and volunteerism
- Sustainable practices

As we prepare for our 2026 evaluation, residents will see expanded landscaping, new plantings, and seasonal enhancements in public spaces. Initiatives include:

- **A Yard of the Month** recognition program

- Continued collaboration with the Town's Green Team
- Ongoing efforts to maintain our **Sustainable Maryland certification**
- Community art and public bench installations, building on the Juneteenth unveiling

Bladensburg in Bloom belongs to the community. Participation opportunities will be shared throughout the spring.

Green Team and Environmental Progress

Our partnership with the Prince George's County Department of the Environment continues to yield tangible results.

This season, the Town will plant **over 480 additional trees** in rights-of-way and public spaces. Since the Green Team's reformation, we have planted **more than 600 trees** across parks, neighborhoods, and residential properties.

These trees are not decorative footnotes. They are infrastructure. They strengthen our canopy, improve stormwater absorption, reduce heat, and enhance quality of life.

Residents interested in joining the Green Team may contact clerk@bladensburgmd.gov.

Business Roundtable – February 13, 2026

The February Business Roundtable was a productive step in strengthening communication between the Town and its commercial stakeholders. While attendance is still building, momentum is growing.

Special thanks to our economic development consultant, Jared Hawkins, for his leadership in organizing and facilitating these quarterly meetings. Business Roundtables will continue every quarter as part of our long-term economic vitality strategy.

Strategic Plan Closeout

One of the most meaningful accomplishments in recent months was the formal closeout of the **2016 to 2021 Strategic Plan**. Despite pandemic disruptions and leadership transitions, the Town completed a significant number of initiatives and formally documented outcomes.

This closeout positions the Town to develop its next roadmap toward 2030 or 2035 with clarity, accountability, and confidence.

Bostwick House and Historic Preservation



Few projects have been as personally meaningful to me as the continued progress at Bostwick House.

Working alongside the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area and the dedicated volunteers of the Aman Memorial Trust has been a privilege. Thank you to John Sowers, Sam Parker, and the many volunteers who continue to safeguard this landmark.

Special recognition is also due to architect Will Kaywood for assembling multiple RFP packages that allowed the Town to advance funding and planning milestones.

Historic preservation is slow, careful work. But it is essential work.

A Personal Note of Gratitude

This final memorandum would not be complete without acknowledging the people who made this journey extraordinary.

Administrative Team

Vito, Tina, Ray, and Jessica. You have been the operational backbone of this organization. Your professionalism, steadiness, and commitment carried us through complex budgets, grants, audits, and daily demands.

Public Works

Mr. Hall and team, your work is visible in every resurfaced road, every painted curb, every improvement across Town. The beautification progress over the past two years speaks for itself.

Code Enforcement

Sean Reinhardt and team, thank you for advancing the Property Maintenance Code and for your institutional knowledge. You are a walking archive of Bladensburg's history and development.

Police Department

To the men and women who serve day and night, thank you. Acting Chief Frishkorn, your steady leadership during transition has been invaluable. Officers, I have always felt welcomed

and supported. The professionalism you demonstrate daily matters more than most will ever see.

Mayor and Council

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. Your trust allowed us to pursue grants, implement policy reforms, modernize processes, strengthen financial transparency, and move key capital projects forward.

Residents

To every resident who offered praise, critique, questions, or accountability, thank you. Constructive criticism sharpened decisions. Encouragement sustained momentum.

Closing Reflections

There are projects I wish I could see through to completion. That is the nature of public service. We plant seeds knowing others may harvest.

During my tenure, we:

- Advanced strategic priorities
- Strengthened financial oversight
- Expanded environmental initiatives
- Increased beautification efforts
- Elevated transparency in governance
- Moved historic preservation forward
- Reinvigorated business engagement

The Town has momentum. The foundation is strong. The next Town Administrator will inherit opportunity, direction, and a community ready to continue rising.

Bladensburg has been sweet to me. I leave with gratitude, pride, and just a touch of wistfulness. I am not far away, and I will always cheer for this Town's success.

With appreciation and respect,

Michelle Bailey-Hedgepeth

Town Administrator
Town of Bladensburg