

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Brian Wood, Interim Town Administrator

DATE: September 10, 2026

RE: Monthly Report — July–August 2026

This memorandum provides the Mayor and Town Council with a summary of Town activities, decision points, and items of Council interest across July and August 2026.

\$3.0M Bostwick House Barn & Parking — Phase 1	80 Properties Identified for Annexation Review	27+ Families Supported — Victory Grace Center
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CITY OPERATIONS

- **BCCE Grant Coordination:** Staff finalized the scope of the FY27 façade improvement and other grants with fellow BCCE Town Administrators, allowing the scope to be drafted and executed, and identified what each town intends to pursue in the upcoming FY28 grant cycle (closed August 6).
- **Maryland Department of Energy — EV Grants:** Staff met with MDE to resolve a misunderstanding regarding eligibility requirements for two previously awarded electric vehicle grants; the vehicles the Town intends to purchase do qualify. A revised grant agreement will reflect that the awards — totaling just over \$100,000 — will fund a street sweeper and a 15-passenger bus.
- **America in Bloom Evaluation:** Two advisors/judges visited the Town July 20–21 for a two-day evaluation, meeting with every Town department, touring the Town, and meeting with Amen Trust representatives and the legislative team. They reviewed the Town's green initiatives, including Public Works' efforts around Town Hall (the canoe, bridge, and flower bed installations) and the planters along 57th Street. The final evaluation report is expected within a few weeks, and the Town will participate in a Port Towns ride-along as part of the America in Bloom national conference in Alexandria, VA this fall.
- **Annual Audit:** The Mayor has authorized the auditing firm to officially begin the FY2026 annual audit in late August/September. The Finance Department, with cross-department support, is focused on preparing for the audit and closing out the FY2026 books.
- **Victory Grace Center Partnership:** Staff met with Antoinnette of Victory Grace Center, which has provided weekly meals and services to Edmonston-area residents for several years; participation has declined since January, likely due to resident concerns about ICE activity. With surplus food available, Victory Grace Center offered weekly food boxes to families in need. Staff identified more than 27 eligible families.
- **Stop Sign / School Zone Camera Enforcement — Legal Review:** As the stop sign camera enforcement program enters its final stages, staff are working with Town Council to clearly define the school zones eligible for camera enforcement.
- **Grants and Bond Bill List:** Staff worked to complete a comprehensive list of the Town's grants and bond bills. This living document will continue to be updated and will be shared with Council alongside future monthly reports.

Additionally, staff are working to create a real-time dashboard that will give residents greater transparency into the Town's grants and related efforts.

- **New Veterans-Focused Event:** Staff met with Councilwoman McBryde to discuss her vision for a veterans-focused event centered around Veterans Day week in November. The concept is still being developed, with healthy eating and related supports as a critical component.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS & DEVELOPMENT

- **Bostwick House — County & Community Engagement:** The Town, project consultant, and Amen Trust representatives met with County Councilwoman Stafford-Adams to brief her on the property's vision and the investment secured to date. A property review focused on the barn was subsequently completed, with recommendations drafted and reviewed with the Amen Trust on July 29.
- **Bladenwoods Update:** Representatives from the Police Department, Code Enforcement, the Town Administrator's Office, Councilwoman Dixon, and the County Councilwoman's office met on-site to review renovation efforts addressing 12 units deemed uninhabitable due to fire and water damage. Roof repairs began August 12 and are expected to take up to one month; a revised damage assessment will follow, with full condo renovations anticipated to take up to eight months afterward.
- **Autumn Woods:** The team responded to concerns shared with Mayor James regarding pest infestations at Autumn Woods. Code Enforcement contacted the resident and management company, outlined a plan of action, and will follow up to ensure improvement.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

- **Town Hall / Police Station:** Staff met with Ms. Hartsfield of Urban Design to review the December 2025 final report outlining a draft design and tentative cost for a new Town Hall/Police Station. Staff also connected with the State's capital financing agency at the MML Alternative Capital Symposium and met with Darrell Connelly (DHCD) and LGIF on August 11 to discuss funding and bonding options. A questionnaire to guide Council's prioritization and needs assessment was developed and next steps around scoping will take place in October.
- **Bostwick House:** A review of the property, together with recent engineering assessments, identified a clear path to renovate the barn and create approximately 50 parking spaces on the eastern portion of the campus. This Phase 1 effort is projected to cost approximately \$3,000,000 and would make the site usable and activated. A team led by Jarryd will meet with the Congressional delegation on September 18 to provide a project update and property tour.

PERSONNEL

- **Police Chief Search:** The search process was finalized at the Council retreat. The position closes September 11, 2026, followed by a panel interview, a Council interview, and a final hiring decision.
- **New Police Officer:** The Police Department has made two new hires: one has started the academy, and the other will begin comparative compliance training.
- **Interim Town Administrator 90-Day Review:** The Interim Town Administrator's 90-day review was completed in August 2026.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

- **Fall Legislative Informational Session:** Planning is underway for the Town of Bladensburg's fall legislative informational session for state and federal delegation members.

- **One-Page Legislative Priorities Summary:** Following the Council retreat, staff developed a one-page summary of the Town's 3–5 year strategic priorities for use in legislative meetings beginning August 2 and continuing through the Town's official legislative session. The Mayor presented these priorities to Senator Augustin on August 1 and shared a revised one-pager per his request.

CONFERENCES

The Mayor served as moderator at the Maryland Municipal League's one-day Alternative Capital Symposium, where staff connected with the State's capital financing agency to discuss funding and bonding opportunities for the Town Hall project.

COUNCIL RETREAT

The Town Council held a two-day retreat on July 23–24 centered on visioning, planning, and strategizing for the Town's future, covering operational staffing, policies and procedures, key personnel searches (Police Chief and Town Administrator), the New Town Hall and Bostwick House capital projects, financial policy review, and retention and liability policy changes. Thank you to all Council members for their attendance, participation, and willingness to put in the work despite competing professional and personal commitments.

JULY–AUGUST EVENTS

- **America in Bloom Judging Visit:** July 20–21 — two-day evaluation of the Town's civic beautification and community engagement efforts. Special thanks to the Communications/Community Engagement team and Public Works for their support throughout the visit.
- **Town Council Retreat:** July 23–24 — two-day strategic planning retreat that laid the groundwork for the Town's upcoming strategic plan, as well as operational reviews and team-building among Council members.
- **National Night Out:** August 4 — a great success, with more than 200 residents in attendance. Highlights included a tug-of-war competition, a mechanical bull, a car show, and more.
- **Back to School Event:** August 15 — a great success, with more than 300 backpacks distributed to Bladensburg students.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Senior Gathering on the Waterfront:** September 8, 2026.
- **Federal Delegation Meeting:** September 18, 2026 — Bostwick House briefing and property tour for Congressional delegation representatives.
- **America in Bloom National Meeting/Tour:** September 24–26, 2026.
- **Bladensburg Day:** October 3, 2026.