



TOWN ADMINISTRATOR MONTHLY MEMO

July 2024

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

I am honored to have just celebrated my one-year anniversary as your Town Administrator. It has been an exciting and busy first year, and as we move into year two, there are several things to do!

Construction Projects: During the June meeting, the Council approved three projects that are underway:

- Sidewalks—The pedestrian ramps near Bladensburg High will be replaced, and a sidewalk will be added near Emerson House. These should occur in late July, and I will provide more updates closer to the start.
- Phase 1 – 57th Avenue Lighting – We have met with the contractor and completed the site survey. We will let you know when the installation of this project will begin.
- Asphalt Replacement – Upshur Street – This project should begin in early August. The staff has met working with this contractor.

All of these projects are grant-funded!

Council Agenda Items– July 15, 2024: This is a packed agenda with various items. Since the Council recesses in August, we are trying to bring several items to the council for approval so that staff can move forward on the following items.

- Public Works Emergency Ordinance – *A 7/4/24 Hit and Run Strike has damaged our Building*
- Legislative Sessions Update
- Auditor Contract
- Red Light Camera Contract
- Asphalt Replacement – Public Safety Annex
- Bostwick House Study
- Bostwick House Window Repair
- Fire Support Resolution

Eco Farms – OPEN House– July 19, 2024: The Green Team and the Town of Bladensburg are excited to support this program, which is open to all residents to provide them with more information on the Farm and local Food options. The Town also supports residents in learning more about the CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) Program, which offers affordable Bladensburg Grown food to residents. Please join us at the Bladensburg Farm Open House – Eco City Farms –6100 Emerson Street -Friday, July 19 - 6:00 pm to 9:30 pm.

Sustainable Maryland Certification: The Town recently completed its application to recertify as part of the Sustainable Maryland Program. This free, voluntary certification program helps Maryland municipalities become more sustainable, save money, and improve their quality of life. The program collaborates with the University of Maryland's Environmental Finance Center (EFC) and the Maryland Municipal League.



Bostwick House Updates: This month, I am proud to have two important action items on the agenda regarding Bostwick House. The approval of an MOU with Aman Memorial Trust to begin work with Encore Sustainable Architects on Engineering and Site studies will help the project to move forward. The second item is a contract for the repair and replacement of windows. Both of these projects will improve the overall upkeep and maintenance of the property and are not possible without the collaboration of the Trust has been a key factor in our success.

Free Chromebooks: The Town has successfully distributed the Town distribution of free laptops over the last few months. If you have signed up, we are still waiting to see if the other Port Town members can take their allocation. All names are being kept on a waiting list, and we will notify people on a first-come, first-serve basis.



Business Roundtables: On Tuesday, July 30, 2024, the town will hold our next **Business Roundtable at Bostwick House**. These meetings allow local business owners to network and work with Town officials on ways to improve the business climate and build economic development within the Town.

Legislative Affairs: Throughout the legislative session, the Town worked closely with LA Perez, and we watched and supported several bills. During the July 15, 2024, Council Meeting, our legislative team will update the Council and residents of Bladensburg.

Security Camera Reimbursement Program: The Town started advertising the program in early August, and information is on the website. We have also posted announcements on the Town's social media. The program is funded with \$50,000 in ARPA funds. This is estimated to assist 50 households in each ward. *Please make sure to apply today!*



Best Regards,

Michelle Bailey Hedgepeth

Michelle Bailey-Hedgepeth, Town Administrator