



TOWN ADMINISTRATOR MONTHLY MEMO

May 2024

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

Spring has finally sprung! The month of May is bringing several positive changes to the Town. We have been working hard at sprucing up things and refreshing items around town. It is also budget season, and we are working on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Budget. This year, our staff has completed a series of budget meetings, and materials from these meetings are available on the Town's website.

Things we have accomplished lately:

- Began replacing Gateway Signage throughout the Town
- Obtained Bids for 57th Avenue Light Project – under review for June Meeting
- Released Request for Proposals for the following items:
 - Bridge Repairs – Community Block Grant Funded Project
 - Sidewalk and Roadway Repair – Community Block Grant Funded Project
 - Town Facilities Janitorial Contract
- Bostwick House/ Technical Assistance Panel – April 2024, Final Report due in June.



America In Bloom: As I mentioned last month, the Town will participate in the America in Bloom program. This national initiative aims to improve and enhance municipalities through innovative greening and community planning. The evaluation team will visit Bladensburg in June 2-5, and we continue to make changes in preparation for their arrival. These steps are part of our commitment to keep Bladensburg Beautiful in the long term.



Bostwick House Updates: Last month, we planned a significant event for Bostwick House: hosting a Technical Assistance Panel event in collaboration with the DC chapter of the Urban Land Institute. On April 18, 2024, the panel presented an interesting report, which is available on the Town's website. We are awaiting the final report, which will be completed in June.

Green Updates: New Chargers at Town Hall! We are proud to announce that the high-speed charger at Town Hall is finally online. It has been several months in the making, but it will now allow electric vehicles in the area to get a more rapid charge. It is part of the EV Smart network.



The Town also hosted over 25 student volunteers on April 27, 2024, for the bi-annual Growing Green with Pride event sponsored by the Town and Prince George's County. The Town also participated in the Anacostia Watershed Society's event on Earth Day – April 20, 2024 at Bladensburg's Waterfront Park.



At the April 8, 2024, Council Meeting, the Green Team recommended an initiative called "No Mow April." The Town passed a resolution that promoted delayed mowing in April to encourage the health of pollinators like butterflies and bees. We are excited to note that 15 houses participated in this program, and we hope that more people will join this initiative next year.

Budget Time: The Town has begun its Budget Process for Fiscal Year 2025. We will hold a series of meetings in May and June. During the last two meetings, the Council reviewed the various departments and Town operations. The budget schedule will be highlighted in many publications and on our website. I desire transparency when answering any Council or resident questions during this process. We have included copies of the recent budget drafts and presentation notes. All meetings are available on the Town's YouTube channel.



Free Chromebooks: The Town has started the process and distributed over 75 laptops in the last month! There are only a few more laptops left for income-qualified Bladensburg residents. If you have questions about this program, please contact Jessica Amaya at the Town Hall at 301-927-7048.

Business Roundtables: On April 30, 2024, the Town held its second **Business Roundtable at the Town Hall**. 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. The next meeting will be held in July.

Legislative Affairs: Throughout the legislative session, the Town has worked closely with LA Perez, and we have watched and supported several Bills throughout the session. As the legislative session closes soon, we will have our consultants this summer to provide an overview and work on items for the next year. This year, we have collaborated and worked closely with other agencies.

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!



Port Town Sector Plan: On Saturday, May 18, there will be another community session for the Port Town Sector Plan in Colmar Manor at Larisy Park from 10 AM – 2 PM. These sessions are important because the County's plan is updated every 10 to 15 years to help gauge and determine future development and growth in the area. The Town of Bladensburg continues to work with Colmar Manor, Cottage City, and Edmonston to determine common goals and objectives; your assistance will help us shape this vital report. Please check out the town website for more details.

Celebrating Public Service! On a final and important note, please join me this month as we celebrate two of the town's most important departments.

- **National Police Week – May 12-18:** National Police Week is a week-long event held every May to honor law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty. The week coincides with National Peace Officers Memorial Day on May 15.
- **Public Works Week – May 19-25:** National Public Works Week is celebrated annually during the third full week of May to recognize the work of public works professionals and the importance of public works to society. The week highlights local communities' planning, building, and management that keep cities running smoothly.

I am so grateful for the great team we have here at the Town, and I wish them the best for these two weeks and all year!

Best Regards,

Michelle Bailey Hedgepeth

Michelle Bailey-Hedgepeth, Town Administrator