

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR MONTHLY MEMO

August / September 2025

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



As I mark two years serving as your Town Administrator, I am proud of the progress we've made together and energized by the vital work ahead. The September 2025 agenda reflects several significant initiatives that continue to move Bladensburg forward.

We are pleased to announce new state and federal grant awards that will strengthen our services to residents, and we are preparing to launch our 2026 Legislative Priorities to ensure that Bladensburg's voice is heard at the state level. This fall will also see the long-awaited start of the BCCE Port Towns Community Development Corporation, a regional initiative that has been several years in the making. At the same time, we continue advancing the design and scoping of the new Town Hall complex, while maintaining strong day-to-day operations for our community.

The fall season is always a busy and productive time. In this memo, I want to take the opportunity not only to highlight what's coming up, but also to reflect on the many accomplishments of the past two years that demonstrate how far we have come as a Town.

Accomplishments of Town Administrator

Michelle Bailey Hedgepeth | July 2023 – August 2025



Strategic Leadership & Governance

- ✓ Transitioned into the Town Administrator role (July 2023) and built collaborative relationships with the Mayor, Council, and staff.
- ✓ Introduced improved practices for **strategic planning, performance measurement, and project tracking** across departments.
- ✓ Developed new **Council reporting process and meeting agenda software** to improve efficiency and transparency.
- ✓ Strengthened policy development and interdepartmental coordination to support long-term community priorities.



Financial Management & Transparency

- ✓ Directed **FY 2025 and FY 2026 Budget** processes, aligning resources with Council goals.
- ✓ Oversaw completion of **FY 2023 & FY 2024 audits**, ensuring compliance with state and federal standards.
- ✓ Enhanced financial reporting and reimbursement systems, including **CDBG requests and ARPA closeouts**.
- ✓ Supported implementation of **new financial software** and launch of **online payment/credit card acceptance**.



Capital Projects & Infrastructure

- ✓ Led **57th Avenue Lighting Project** through redesign, permitting (Sept 2024), and installation phase; secured **\$100,000 for Phase 2** via CDBG funds.
- ✓ Delivered roadway resurfacing, ADA sidewalk ramps, curb painting, and **new gateway signage**.
- ✓ Coordinated Town Hall, Police Department, and Annex **facility upgrades**.
- ✓ Completed and secured new funding for **Bostwick House stabilization projects**.
- ✓ Expanded EV infrastructure with a **Level 3 charging station** and funding for additional chargers.



Public Safety & Community Initiatives

- ✓ Supported Police Department in expanding **safety technology and community programs** (Stop Sign/Red-Light Cameras, K-9, community events).
- ✓ Advanced **tree maintenance and sustainability**, earning **Sustainable Maryland Certification** and **Tree City USA**.
- ✓ Led Town's participation in **America in Bloom** (2024 & 2025).
- ✓ Guided Port Towns' renewal of **DCHD Sustainable Maryland designation**, qualifying for new state funding.



Organizational Development & Personnel

- ✓ Promoted **professional development** through APWA, GFOA, ICMA, and MML networks.
- ✓ Strengthened **communications** through enhanced newsletters, social media, and external reporting.



Economic Development & Planning

- ✓ Advanced the **Kenilworth Avenue Corridor Annexation Plan (2025 Revised Extension)** after the Hospital Hill settlement.
- ✓ Managed business leases and inquiries, positioning the Town for growth.
- ✓ Continued **Quarterly Business Roundtables** and expanded ties with County redevelopment agencies.
- ✓ Helped form the **BCCE Port Town CDC**, drafting governing documents.
- ✓ Provided input on the **PGDGA Gateway Project** and its final report.



Partnerships & Grants

- ✓ Built stronger ties with MNCPPC, COG, Prince George's County, Chesapeake Bay Trust, and neighboring jurisdictions.
- ✓ Advanced multiple **grant applications and reimbursements** supporting infrastructure, outreach, and environmental restoration.
- ✓ Expanded partnerships with the **Aman Memorial Trust, Anacostia Watershed Society, and Port Towns municipalities.**

UPCOMING PRIORITIES – FY 2026 and FY 2027

- ❖ Legislative agenda development for FY 2026 capital priorities
- ❖ Furthering Economic Development and Annexation Goals
- ❖ Mid-year review of departmental progress toward annual goals
- ❖ Continuing the Town Hall Project
- ❖ Continuing Work and opportunities at Bostwick House
- ❖ Revising the Town's Strategic Plan
- ❖ Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the USA
- ❖ FY 2027 Budget and Beyond

Green Team Update | The Town continues work on several green initiatives and projects that support our Sustainable Maryland agenda. We will be working with the Anacostia Watershed on more partnerships and opportunities in the future.

We're grateful for the growing support from residents and community partners and look forward to continuing our sustainability work together throughout the year. If you are interested in joining the Green Team, contact the Town Clerk @ clerk@bladensburgmd.gov.



Business Roundtable: The Town will postpone the Business Roundtable, originally scheduled for late July 2025, until early October. This will give us more time to provide additional Updates on the Port Town CDC and other items that we have been working on to enhance economic development activities. This group promotes the support and sustainability of Local Businesses, which support the Town's Sustainable Maryland Plan.

I am excited to continue to do valuable work in this position and look forward to serving the Bladensburg Community.

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

Best Regards,

Michelle Bailey Hedgepeth.

Michelle Bailey-Hedgepeth, Town Administrator