



Agenda Item Summary Report

Meeting Date:
January 12, 2026

Submitted by:
Michelle Bailey Hedgepeth, Town Administrator

Item Title: Information Memo | Town Events 2026: An overview of Town Events for Calendar Year 2026.

Town Events | 2026: A discussion and overview of Town Events for Calendar Year 2026

Work Session Item [X]
Council Meeting Item [X]

Documentation Attached:

1. PowerPoint
2. Community Events from Admin

Recommended Possible Action:

Some of the possible Council actions:

1. Provide directions to staff on the overall direction for the town events
2. Provide specific directions on the remaining FY 2027 Events
3. Provide direction on calendar year 2026 Events as outlined by staff
4. Direct staff to research and bring back more information
5. Other, the Council provides thoughts and direction on any related matter

Item Summary: Over the past several years, staff have provided the Mayor and Council with a month-by-month overview of projected Town events for the upcoming calendar year. Attached for your review is the proposed Calendar Year 2026 Town Events schedule, which spans both Fiscal Year 2026 and Fiscal Year 2027.

Town staff have worked collaboratively to develop a balanced slate of events that both reflect Council priorities and respond to community interests. In recent years, this has included the introduction and expansion of health-focused events and environmentally themed initiatives that support the Town's Sustainable Maryland certification. We have also continued to host events that highlight the historic Bostwick House and support ongoing efforts to advance that project.

For 2026, staff is specifically seeking Council input and guidance regarding events throughout the year to ensure the calendar is fully representative, intentional, and aligned with policy goals. This input will also be critical as staff prepares for the FY 2027 budget process, so that planned events are appropriately reflected and funded.

An important consideration for 2026 is the United States Semiquincentennial (250th Anniversary). As a result, the Town's Independence Day celebration is expected to be larger in scale than in prior years. Building on the sponsorship program developed last year, staff will again pursue sponsorships and fundraising opportunities, with a particular focus on supporting the Independence Day event, which remains the Town's largest annual event.

Additionally, the Police Department continues to host a series of community-focused events through its Community Services Division. Staff will continue to coordinate closely with the Police Department to support these events and enhance cross-promotion where appropriate.

Lastly, during the past year, the Town successfully hosted a Thanksgiving food giveaway at Town Hall. Staff recommends repeating a scaled-down version of this event in 2026 and further evaluating whether to offer an additional holiday-related initiative, either for Christmas or earlier in the following fiscal year.

This calendar is presented to solicit Council input, recommendations, and to provide tentative dates for review, allowing Councilmembers to assess alignment with their schedules.

Should you have any questions, the Town Administrator or Mr. Ray Jefferies can provide additional information. Mr. Jefferies has been an integral member of the team, contributing significant creativity and leadership in the planning, coordination, and marketing of Town events.

Budgeted Item: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA Budgeted Amount: One-Time Cost: NA Ongoing Cost: NA	Continued Date:
Council Priority: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Approved Date: