



Agenda Item Summary Report

Meeting Date:
January 12, 2026

Submitted by:
Mayor Takisha D James
Michelle Bailey Hedgepeth, Town Administrator

Item Title: Information Memo | United States 250th Anniversary | Update January 2025

A Report on the United States' 250th Anniversary items and the State and the Town actions.

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

Documentation Attached:
Facilitators Guide

Recommended Action:

Mayor James will provide an update on recent actions and meetings.

Item Summary: The Town will recognize the 250th Anniversary of the United States in 2026 and the importance of engaging its citizens, businesses, educational institutions, and various organizations in celebrating the U.S. Semiquincentennial and fostering a greater understanding and appreciation of American history, culture, and achievements.

Here are some updates:

- The 250th Anniversary Steering Committee met in November and December to advance the planning for Bladensburg's participation in the U.S. Semi-quincentennial and Maryland250 celebrations.
- The team confirmed key 2026 events, including the Bladensburg Waterfront Park fireworks on July 2, 2026, featuring the Sankofa Mobile Museum and outreach to the Star-Spangled Banner Mobile Museum. Mayor Takisha James is coordinating with University of Maryland historians to strengthen storytelling and historical engagement.
- The committee also discussed developing a self-guided audio tour of historic Bladensburg sites and enhancing video documentation of Bostwick House, with archival research underway to highlight early entrepreneurs and culturally significant figures.
- The Civics Academy curriculum is moving toward council review and a January–February 2026 launch, connecting civic education to the anniversary celebration. Partnerships with Eco City Farms, university experts, and the Maryland250 Commission remain central to coordinating events, funding, and educational outreach leading into 2026.

Attached is the Facilitator's Guide that was distributed at the November Council meeting. As noted above, the Civics Academy will begin in mid to late January 2026; dates and locations will be announced shortly.

If there are any questions, the Town administrator or the Mayor can answer them.

Budgeted Item: Yes [] No [] NA
Budgeted Amount:
One-Time Cost: NA
Ongoing Cost: NA

Continued Date:

Council Priority: Yes [] No []

Approved Date: