



# TOWN ADMINISTRATOR MONTHLY MEMO

## October 2024



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

It is October, and it is hard to believe we are in the middle of Fall. On October 26, 2024, the Town will celebrate the 282nd Anniversary of Bladensburg. This year's event will be at Town Hall and feature a Parade and activities for residents of all ages. I encourage you to attend this signature event for the Town.

Here are a few things that I want to keep you updated on that occurred in September 2024.

- **Bridge Repairs:** The Council approved the new contract in September, and work will begin at the end of the month. After revising the project scope, we will repair bridges on Varnum, Upshur, and Spring Road. This project will address some long-standing issues identified during a previous inspection.
- **Lighting Update:** We have completed the permitting process with the County, so the program can begin and be completed before the end of December. We will continue to keep the community informed as the project progresses.

We appreciate your patience as these improvements take shape and look forward to delivering these enhancements to benefit all residents.

**Walkable Watersheds Rain Barrel – DIY Session** | On September 24, the Environmental Finance Center held a DIY Rain Barrel Event at the Bladensburg Town Hall. This event excited residents to participate in environmental conservation while benefiting their homes. The Town will have future events in the spring, during which residents will be provided with free rain barrels. These barrels are perfect for collecting and storing rainwater, which you can use to nourish your garden.



### **Why a Rain Barrel?**

Did you know that using a rain barrel helps keep your garden lush and vibrant and plays a crucial role in reducing water runoff into the Chesapeake Bay? By capturing rainwater, you're saving water and contributing to our local waterways' health.

Don't miss this chance to impact your home and the environment positively. We look forward to seeing you there and working together to create a greener, more sustainable community!

If you are interested in this program, please contact our Town Clerk by emailing [clerk@bladensburgmd.gov](mailto:clerk@bladensburgmd.gov).

Let's make every drop count!



**Board of Supervisors of Election (BOSOE) Meeting Update | September 2024 Meetings:** The Town of Bladensburg Board of Supervisors (BOSOE) convened two times in the month of September to address several crucial topics related to election management and campaign regulations. Here are the key highlights from the meeting:

**1. Final review and updates to Internal Procedures and Documentation:**

- The board completed its thorough review of internal procedures and documentation. Revisions were proposed for the candidate handbook and the BOSOE process document to enhance clarity and efficiency in election operations. These updates were done to prepare for an update with the Town Council on recommended improvements to the following:
  1. Candidate Documents
  2. Internal Procedures
  3. Next Steps

**2. Upcoming Meetings:**

- The next BOSOE meeting is scheduled for **November 2024**. These session will focus on finalizing the Election Judges Handbook and any items returned by the Town Council.

The recent meetings have underscored the board's commitment to ensuring a smooth and compliant election process. For further details or to access updated documents, please visit the town website or contact the Board of Elections Supervisors. Stay informed and engaged as we approach these crucial milestones in our election cycle in 2025!

**Green Update | Upcoming "Growing Green with Pride" Event:** The "Growing Green with Pride" event will be held on Saturday, October 19, from 9 AM to noon at the Town Hall, featuring community cleanup and beautification projects. Please join us for this Annual Event where the Town partners with the County to promote community pride and environmental stewardship. Volunteers are available for teens who need community service hours to participate. Please get in touch with Ray Jefferies at the Town for more information.

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**Bostwick House | Updates and Action Items:** At this October 8, 2024, Council meeting, I will present a project update on the recent awards to the contractors. Below are some of the updates.

- WMG has removed and repaired the first-floor windows at their shop.
- Encore has developed some floor plan schemes for potential uses.
- The Town continues seeking funding for Bostwick House through the Capital Grants for FY 2025.
- The Town has submitted invoices for grant reimbursements

We will inform the community as we progress with these exciting developments at Bostwick House.

**Business Roundtable | October 29, at 8 AM:** Join us for the next Business Roundtable on Tuesday, October 29, 2024, at 8:00 AM, hosted at the Town Hall. This meeting is a fantastic opportunity for local business owners to connect with fellow entrepreneurs and engage directly with Town officials. Event Highlights:

- Networking Opportunities: Meet and network with other business owners in the community.
- Collaborative Discussions: Come and work with Town officials to explore strategies for enhancing the local business climate.
- Economic Development: Contribute to initiatives to build and boost economic development within the Town.

Whether you want to share ideas, seek advice, or connect with other local businesses, this roundtable is the perfect platform to voice your thoughts and collaborate on solutions.

We look forward to seeing you there and working together to create a thriving business environment in our Town!

We encourage all residents to attend the October 8th Council Meeting to learn more about these actions in the Town and how they benefit Bladensburg. Your input and participation are vital as we move forward.

Best Regards,

*Michelle Bailey Hedgepeth*

Michelle Bailey-Hedgepeth, Town Administrator