

TOWN CLERK/FRONT OFFICE REPORT FEBRUARY 2019

Bladensburg Planned Black History Month Events

The Black History Month event team met weekly to coordinate plans for the Black History Month Movie night and the “Celebrating Women in Leadership” event.

For the “Celebrating Women in Leadership” event, Ms. Melanie Turpin, the Community Center’s Event Coordinator, Mayor James, Ms. McDowell and Ms. Griffin met concerning the logistical set up for Bladensburg Community Center.

Ms. Griffin was instrumental in securing the Bladensburg Community Center for the Black History Month event. She and Ms. McDowell coordinated the decorations, menu, and music. Ms. Griffin set up a separate meeting with the caterer to do a “walk-through” at the venue.

Battle of Bladensburg Consortium

Anacostia Trails Heritage Area has received a State grant to support part time staff whose tasks will be to rekindle interest in and promotion of the Port Towns’ history, including the War of 1812.

Ms. McAuley was one of the three initial members of the Battle of Bladensburg taskforce, appointed by Mayor Walter James, to develop an action plan to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the event.

ATHA hosted a meeting of the taskforce (which Ms. McAuley attended) in January 2019 to meet the new staff person and introduce her to the role each member played in the commemoration. There were also new persons interested in participating in this collaboration. There will be continued meetings to strategize on making our area a destination for history buffs, families, educational groups, and D.C. tourists interested in side trips.

Bostwick

Ms. McAuley filed an “intent to apply” for a Maryland Historical Trust grant. she plans to apply for funding for a structural engineer’s design for reconstruction of the South Buttress.

The Aman Trust is contracting with Dorman Construction to complete the work on the front porch. This firm was recommended by architects at the Neighborhood Design Center and received excellent reports from vendors and clients. Aman Trust Board members visited a home the firm is restoring in Mt. Rainier to see work in progress.

Maryland Energy Administration and Community Legacy Grants

Ms. McAuley continues to work with the Town’s contractor, Alison Miller, ensuring the Town keeps its commitment to the collaboration of more than 19 municipalities. Currently the Town coordinates energy saving improvements for single family homeowner clients in the collaboration.

Clients are required to meet an income level threshold for this program.

This program is complemented by a Community Legacy grant for residents who own a home in a “Sustainable Community”.

Unfortunately, the Port Towns’ collaborative grant application for the next round of securing MEA funds was not awarded to the Town of Edmonston, who had applied for a MEA funding for the Port Town collaboration. An appeal has been submitted to the Director of the Maryland Energy Assistance Department. As part of a TNI area, eligible Town residents will still be able to apply for assistance from this program through other channels.

We are investigating whether the agencies in our region who did receive 2019 funding through MEA will be able to assist our residents through this grant program.

Ms. McAuley, Ms. Miller and Ms. Sandlin are finalizing the purchase of Big Bellies through the \$50,000 Community Legacy grant. It is projected that each of the other Port Towns will receive one Big Belly refuse/recycling station.

Ms. McAuley and Ms. Miller met to discuss upcoming grant opportunities for the Town. They will focus on grants which complement the Town's Strategic Plan.

Front Office Volunteer

Mr. Joseph Harris, a resident of Emerson House, continues to volunteer as an assistant in the Front Office.

Street Improvements

CDBG PY 43: Ms. McAuley met with staff from the Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development and E&R, contractor for the Tilden Road Sidewalk Improvements. The purpose of the meeting was to clarify 70% of the work was actually for sidewalks and replacement of curbs and gutters, and was a necessary part of the project. Reimbursement costs are forthcoming.