



# TOWN OF BLADENSBURG

## MONTHLY MAYOR'S REPORT FOR MARCH 2019



**Photos descriptions from the previous page:**

Row #1- Photo #1.) Senator Malcolm Augustine (D-47), States Attorney Aisha Braveboy (Prince George's County) and Dr. Monica Goldson during District 47 Night in Annapolis, Maryland. Photo #2) Mayor James, Former Mayor James, Ms. Herndon and Miss. Perdomo.

Row #2-Photo 1.) County Executive Angela Alsobrooks speaking at the Womens History Luncheon. 2.) Mayor James and Council Member Vivian Jackson (Colmar Manor) at the luncheon.

Row #3-Photos of Mayor James, Council Member Lundy, Ms. Cortney Brooks (COPS Unit) with students from the International High School at Langley Park along with other evaluators.

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## Summary of Community Activities & Meetings

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**March 1: If I Were Mayor Contest organized by MML** | Ms. Diane Griffin and I worked together to contact the local elementary schools to encourage their students to participate in this annual program. Maryland Municipal League (MML) organizes this program for 4<sup>th</sup> graders and asks them to identify an issue in the Town they would like to change. Applicants must also share how they would get the community and elected officials onboard to address the issue. Thanks to Ms. Griffin, we were able to secure entries from Bladensburg Elementary School and Port Towns Elementary School. The entries were due by March 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Worked with DC Tours on Printer Donations for Port Towns Elementary School** | Former Mayor Walter L. James, Jr., on behalf of DC Tours & Transportation reached out to the Town in order to donate three gently used printers to a local school. I was able to contact Principal Michelle Marek (of Port Towns Elementary School) and secure all three of the computers for her school. On behalf of the students and administration at Port Elementary School we sincerely appreciate the generosity of DC Tours & Transportation!

**March 5: Radio Interview on The Daily Drum hosted by Harold Fisher, WHUR** | In honor of Women's History Month, Mayor Tracy Farrish-Gant (Town of Edmonston) and I were invited to be guests on The Daily Drum. This program has been a part of Howard University radio for nearly 40 years. We shared our experiences with being the first African American female mayors in our communities and shared lessons regarding overcoming negativity in the political world. It's been very humbling to hear positive feedback from Bladensburg residents and other Prince Georgians who were able to tune in and listen to the show!

**March 16: Ice Cream with a Cop organized by the Bladensburg Police Department's COPS Unit** | It was great to see the Bladensburg team support the Police Department's first Ice Cream with a Cop event. The COPS unit did a wonderful job as usual! Ice Cream with a Cop drew a diverse group of residents together and provided a positive opportunity for them to talk with our police officers in an effort to continue building positive relationships. This event also provided a unique opportunity for residents to meet each other as well. Congratulations A/Cpl Brown, Officer Tanksley and Ms. Brooks on a wonderful event!!

**March 17: 500 Women in White Celebration** | Reverend Doctor Yvonne Wallace-Penn, the pastor of First United Methodist Church of Hyattsville, invited me to be a part of their celebration in honor of Women's History month. The service was a beautiful celebration of family, faith and the many contributions of historic women.

**March 18: District 47 Night in Annapolis** | The Town of Bladensburg was well represented at this year's District 47 Night! It was great to attend this annual event with many residents, my daughter, my husband (Former Mayor Walter L. James, Jr.), Town Administrator Sandlin, Deputy Chief Collington, Chief Stone, Council Members Dorsey, Lundy and Mendoza. We appreciate Senator Malcolm Augustine, Delegates Fennell, Fisher and Ivey for taking the time to address us with updates on their work in the General Assembly. We also were able to hear from Congressman Anthony Brown, County Executive Angela Alsobrooks, Senator Joanne Benson, Prince George's County School CEO Dr. Monica Goldson, States Attorney Aisha Braveboy and members of the District Council.

**March 20: Brothers & Sisters Program** | The police department, Ms. McDowell, Ms. Brooks, Council Member Lundy and I continued with this important mentoring initiative and focused the lessons on building high self esteem and overcoming negative peer pressure. We also worked with students to create skits to demonstrate ways to overcome negative peer pressure. This was a wonderful learning experience for the mentors and the mentees.

**March 21: 34th Annual Women's History Month Luncheon hosted by Prince George's County**

**Executive Angela Alsobrooks** | This event offered an opportunity to be inspired by the good work of women in Prince George's County. We were also treated to keynote remarks from award winning journalist April D. Ryan. Ms. Ryan has served as a White House correspondent since the Clinton Administration and is a regular contributor on cable news networks offering "unique urban and minority perspective in news." (Reference [www.aprildryan.com](http://www.aprildryan.com))

**March 21: Town Council Closed Session** | The Town Council held a closed session to discuss a personnel matter regarding staff. There were no actions taken as a result of the discussion.

**March 21: PGCMA** | The monthly meeting featured Mel Franklin (Prince George's County At Large Council Member), Ms. Ola Hill (Municipal Liaison for the Alsobrooks Administration), and Mr. Stan Early (Director of Management and Budget). Council Member Franklin share information about his desire to support growth of small and minority businesses in the county. He also partnered with PGCMA to organize a networking event to this end. Ms. Hill introduced Mr. Early and he walked the membership through the FY 2020 Proposed Budget. As stated in the overview "This budget maintains our proven strategy of prioritized focus on education, providing safe neighborhoods, economic development and improving the quality of life for County delivery of critical core government services." In summary the FY2020 budget for all funds is \$4.21 billion and increase of \$106 million or 2.6% over the FY 2019 budget.

Some of the highlights for the proposed budget are:

- Funding of 15 new positions for the Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement (DPIE). These positions would be for the Third-Party Review Inspection program, support of small wireless facilities permitting process and the short-term rental program.
- Funding five new police recruitment classes, two Fire/EMS classes, two correctional officer classes and resources to fully fund all Deputy Sheriff positions.
- Increased resources to support expansion of the Summer Youth Enrichment Program (SYEP). The County Executive has set a goal of employing 6,000 county youth, so this funding will provide the much needed support for this program.
- 2.09 billion in funding for the Board of Education. This level of funding will support smaller class sizes and universal pre-kindergarten, and other programs.

**March 22: PEPCO Meeting** | Officer Roger Rinehart, Purnell Hall, Ms. Sandlin and I met with our government representative for PEPCO and his colleagues to receive updates on the utility. They can assist with retrofitting street lights with LED bulb. , Staff will identify and recommend the most critical areas to begin with or to install new light posts in an effort to reduce crime and provide additional visibility for residents. They also shared information about one of their newer initiatives called "Small Business Quick Energy Checkup (QEC)". This offers free quick energy checkups to assess areas for energy efficiency improvements. Additionally, some qualified organizations may also qualify for financial assistance to implement some of these solutions.

We informed the Pepco team about the July 6<sup>th</sup> Fireworks and encouraged them to consider coming out and staffing an information table to provide information to residents about the energy and money saving programs they offer. Additionally, with spring upon us they asked the Town of Bladensburg encourages residents and business owners to report power outages online:

(<https://www.pepco.com/Outages/ReportAnOutage/Pages/default.aspx>) or on the mobile app at (<https://www.pepco.com/MyAccount/Customersupport/Pages/MobileApp.aspx>).

**March 22: Senior Portfolio Presentation of the first graduating class of International High School,**

**Langley Park (IHSLP)** | Ms. Keshia Thorpe, AP Literature and AP Capstone Seminar Teacher invited Town representatives to participate in presentation evaluations of senior students. The presentations represented a culmination of the hard work senior students produced over the past six months in ELA class. Students showcased their progress and development in writing and speaking in the English language as they continued working toward graduation and ultimately going off to college and work where they will transfer these skills.

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**Please join us for the following upcoming events and meetings:**

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**Saturday, April 20, 2019 from 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM**

Join the Bladensburg COPS Unit for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Egg Eggstravanza which will be held at the David C. Harrington Town Hall Park.

**Saturday, May 4, 2019 from 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Prince George's County Growing Green with Pride**

Make plans to participate in this county-wide initiative by County Executive Alsobrooks to clean up our county. Come out and join us for a day of cleaning, weed removal and mulching. The Town of Bladensburg will focus on the area Quincy Run as well as 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Following the cleanup effort, participants are invited to join County Executive Alsobrooks for a celebration at Watkins Regional Park (301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro) from 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM.

**Monday, May 13, 2019: Town Council Meetings**

Council Work Session begins @ 5:30 PM | Televised Council Meeting begins at 7:00 PM at Town Hall

**Saturday, July 6, 2019 | 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bladensburg Fireworks**

Make plans to join us for this year's event from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM at the Bladensburg Waterfront Park! More details will be shared in the coming weeks.