

# TOWN NOTES

*News from La Plata Town Hall*



## MAYOR'S CORNER

There are three important dates to remember concerning upcoming events in the Town of La Plata.

They are: Saturday, April 28, 2007; Tuesday, May 1, 2007; and Monday, May 28, 2007.

For those who are unfamiliar with La Plata's recent history, five years ago the town experienced a tornado that devastated the downtown area and surrounding community. The residents, businesses and government have shown much enthusiasm and have worked extremely hard to build back the town. A neighborhood garden, commemorating the victims of the tornado, was developed by the La Plata Community Garden Club and will be dedicated at the upcoming "Celebrate La Plata" Spring Festival on Saturday, April 28, 2007 at 11:00 a.m.

Ward 1 and Ward 2 Council seats will be up for election this spring. Councilman Wayne Winkler and Councilman Keith Back have decided not to return to the Council as representatives of Wards 1 and 2. Many thanks to Councilman Winkler for his five years of dedicated service and to Councilman Back for his contributions to the Town of La Plata.

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## 12th Annual Run/Walk for Wellness

**Sunday, May 20, 2007**

Sponsored by Civista Health Foundation, this annual event attracts hundreds of runners and walkers from Maryland, DC, Virginia, and beyond and features a 5K (3.1 mile) course through the streets of La Plata and around Civista Medical Center.

Again this year, the route starts and finishes on La Grange Avenue in the heart of La Plata and will be held rain or shine. All participants are eligible to win terrific door prizes, and top finishers and winners in other special categories will receive prizes. Participants can pre-register with an early bird \$25 donation to the Civista Health Foundation paid and/or postmarked by April 30, or a \$30 donation after the deadline. Packet pickup will be Saturday, May 19, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the La Plata Town Hall, located at the end of La Grange Avenue. On race day, registration begins at 7:30 a.m. at the La Plata Police Station, 101 La Grange Avenue, and the race start time is 8:30 a.m.

To pre-register, please send a check payable to *Civista Health Foundation*, P.O. Box 1701, La Plata, Maryland 20646, or visit [www.civista.org](http://www.civista.org) to download a race brochure. For additional race or sponsorship information, call the Civista Health Foundation, 301-609-4132.

## Memorial Day Ceremony

**Monday, May 28, 11:00 a.m.**

The Town will host the annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Monument at the La Plata Town Hall. There will be guest speakers, a wreath laying ceremony, and musical entertainment by the Port Tobacco Players Encore Kids. Refreshments will be provided following the ceremony.

## Town Hall Closed

The Town Hall will be closed on the following days in observance of the holidays listed:

**Good Friday** Friday, April 6, 2007

**Memorial Day (observed)** Monday, May 28, 2007

If you have a **water or sewer emergency** after hours, call 301-934-8421 and follow the instructions given to report your emergency. The automated response system will alert the appropriate department to respond to you.

## NEWS FROM THE LA PLATA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Spring and warm weather bring out families and visitors to our Town who enjoy the benefits of a walking community. Along with the warming of the weather, numerous events are being finalized to be held in and around the downtown area. These events increase pedestrian traffic along streets and crosswalks. The officers of the La Plata Police Department will once again be busy educating drivers and pedestrians about Maryland's pedestrian laws. Here are several tips to ensure safe passage:

- ❖ Drivers **MUST** stop for a pedestrian in a marked crosswalk.
- ❖ Drivers turning right on red shall yield the right of way to pedestrians lawfully within a crosswalk.
- ❖ Pedestrians crossing a roadway should always use a crosswalk, or cross at an intersection if possible.
- ❖ Pedestrians should utilize the orange flags that have been placed at several crosswalks within the Town. This will help motorists to see the pedestrians who are crossing within marked crosswalks.
- ❖ Pedestrians are required to use a sidewalk where one is provided. Walking in a roadway is not only dangerous, it is illegal.

Officers of the La Plata Police Department are also busy planning activities for our annual participation in the "Maryland Chiefs Challenge" program during the months of May and June. This program challenges law enforcement agencies throughout the State to promote the use of seatbelts and child safety seats. The La Plata Police Department has won this award for the past six years. Our officers' efforts, and especially those of Lieutenant Wathen, have made the La Plata Police Department the example for other small departments to follow. The current seatbelt use rate within the State of Maryland is ninety-one percent; however, surveys conducted in the Town of La Plata reveal that the seatbelt use rate in La Plata is at ninety-six percent.

The month of May will bring several activities to coincide with National Police Week (May 13-19.) The La Plata Police Department is planning to host a sunset memorial service and a blessing of the fleet on Thursday, May 17, 2007. We will hold our first open house of the new police station on Saturday, May 19, 2007, from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. We invite the public to come and see our new facility, located at 101 La Grange Avenue.

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Charles County House and Garden Pilgrimage

**Saturday, April 21, 2007, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., rain or shine**

The tour includes eight beautiful homes dating from the 17th century through 2005, and is one of the events that are part of the celebration of Charles County's 350th Anniversary. Tour sites: The Berkley Smallwood Home, Berry's Contrary, Mt. Air, Westwood Manor, Norwood House, Maiden Point Farm, Mt. Victoria, Huntleigh, and Christ Church Wayside.

Information Headquarters: La Plata Town Hall. Tickets are \$25.00 and may be purchased in advance by calling Sybil Alger at 301-934-8036. Tickets may also be purchased on the day of the event at the La Plata Town Hall or at individual homes.

Bus Tour packages are available for \$65.00 by advance reservation only and include the tour ticket, lunch, transportation, amenities, hostesses, and visits to every site during the tour. Mail check payable to CCGC (with your phone number/e-mail address) by April 6 to: Bus Tour, P.O. Box 1556, La Plata, MD 20646. Guests with reservations meet at 9:00-9:30 a.m., on April 21, at Christ Episcopal Church Hall, La Plata, prior to boarding buses. Park behind the County Courthouse. Please note groups to be seated together. Contact Betty Levering at 301-934-8487 or e-mail AprilTour07@aol.com for additional information. Visit [www.mhgp.org](http://www.mhgp.org) for more information.

*Please – no high heels or smoking, no pets, food or drinks in houses.  
No photographs of house interiors allowed.*

### Dedication of the Star Memorial Courtyard and Garden

**Saturday, April 28, 2007, 11:00 a.m.**

The La Plata Community Garden Club will dedicate the Star Memorial Courtyard and Garden at the Charles County Fire Museum Building on Firehouse Street in La Plata, on Saturday, April 28, 2007, at 11:00 a.m. The garden is dedicated to those who restored and rebuilt our town following the tornado five years ago. The garden is located at the site of the original town water tower and star. The Museum Building will be open to the public and the 1929 Seagrave fire truck will be on display. The community is invited to join us for the dedication, followed by a Firehouse Street party with refreshments.

# LA PLATA TOWN SERVICES

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The Charles County Sanitary Landfill accepts household hazardous waste products the **first Saturday of each month during April through December, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.:** April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4, September 1, October 6, November 3 and December 1. The landfill is on Billingsley Road East, between Piney Church Road and Rt. 5. Items accepted free of charge include pesticides, herbicides, fertilizer, gasoline, motor oil, antifreeze, paint, cleaning supplies, pool chemicals, batteries, expired prescription medicines and other poisons that are around your house. They advise that you should keep the materials in their original containers whenever possible, and bring the items to the collection site in cardboard boxes for ease in unloading. *If you need more information, please call the Charles County Dept. of Public Facilities at 301-932-3599 or 301-870-2778, or the Landfill information service at 301-932-5656.*

## La Plata Farmers' Market

The Farmers' Market offers for sale fresh produce, flowers and handcrafted

items. It is located in the back rows of the parking lot behind the Charles County Courthouse. The Market is open on Wednesdays, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and on Saturdays, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

## Special Trash Pickup

Bulk items are picked up the first Monday of each month, or the following Monday if the first one is a holiday. Large amounts of loose material (such as brush) should be bundled or bagged in such a manner that the weight is less than 50 lbs. The Town reserves the right not to pick up items too heavy to safely handle. General construction cleanup and hazardous materials are not eligible. Items must be at curbside by 7:30 a.m. on pickup day. Call Town Hall before pickup day to be placed on the list. Minimum fee: \$11.00 for 5 minutes loading time; each additional minute is \$1.00. A fee of \$6.00, or the current Landfill disposal fee, shall be

charged for each tire collected. *Billing for special trash pickup is included on your quarterly utility bill.*

## Yard Waste Pickup

Containers of yard waste ONLY — leaves, grass and shrub clippings, brush or branches - may be put out on your regular trash day for pickup that day **or the next day.** The containers must be marked "Yard Waste." Brush or branches must be bundled, weigh no more than 50 lbs. per bundle, and the branches may not be larger than 4 inches in diameter or more than 4 feet long. *Plastic bags are not allowed — if you bag yard waste you must use paper bags.*

**Friendly reminder: Please have your trash cans out at curbside by 7:30 a.m. on your scheduled trash pickup day.**

**Thank you.**

## Trash Collection Schedule Adjustment

<b>If your regular trash collection day is:</b>	<b>Trash will be picked up on:</b>
<b>Memorial Day (observed)</b> Monday, May 28	Tuesday, May 29

# "CELEBRATE LA PLATA" SPRING FESTIVAL

Saturday, April 28, 2007

12:00 noon – 4:00 p.m.

12:00 noon – 4:00 p.m.: Street Fair: Children's activities will include moon bounce, giant slide, and petting zoo.

12:30 p.m.: Port Tobacco Players Encore Kids

1:30 p.m.: Judy's Studio of Dance

2:30 p.m.: High Energy Magic and Illusion of "Speed n Thro"

Displays: Ambulance, Fire Truck, Hazmat Truck

*For information on any of the above events, please contact Gayle Curry at 301-934-8421, ext. 133.*

# LA PLATA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION



The Association (LPBA) has been working on ways in which to promote member businesses. In March we purchased a full page ad listing members in the *Maryland Independent*. We will also be putting an ad in the *Pennysaver* and *Town Notes*, inserting a flyer in the Chamber of Commerce's *Business* newsletter, as well as planning a merchant fair in the near future. In addition, LPBA will be sponsoring ice cream for the children at the Independence Day activities in July, and the First Aid Station at the Charles County Fair. Look for us also at the Chamber's Business to Business Expo in the fall.

The slate of officers for the 2007-2008 year was approved at the February member meeting. They are President James DiMisa; Vice President Butch Hunt; Treasurer/Secretary Michelle Miner; Directors Darlene Fairfax, Jon Johnson, and Wayne Winkler. Marketing plans were presented to the attendees at that meeting. "La Plata Businesses: Where a Smile Still Comes Standard" is the advertising campaign theme. We discussed our future partnership with the county's Economic Development Department. Mayor Gene Ambrogio spoke to the group and responded to questions. LPBA has been working toward having the sign ordinance, specifically concerning banners, more equitable for La Plata businesses.

We bid a fond farewell to Sycamore Accents as it closes after serving the extended community for several years. Calvin Bowling has been a faithful member of the La Plata Business Association since its formation five years ago. Although the business is closing, Calvin will be busy crafting fine furniture. We wish Calvin and Mrs. Bowling our very best wishes and good health as they enter this new phase of their "retirement".

If you are not yet a member of the La Plata Business Association, contact Michelle Miner, 301-934-8421 or stop by the La Plata Town Hall for an application. Dues are \$100 a year per business. We are a 501C not for profit organization. Meetings are held approximately six times a year, often with guest speakers. In addition, we often highlight member businesses in this newsletter, *Town Notes*. If you join now, your membership will be good until June 30, 2008.

## COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS RECEPTION

On Tuesday, January 30, the Mayor and Council held a reception to express their appreciation to all of the volunteers who serve as members on Town commissions and boards. Each member was thanked for their volunteer service to the Town, and given a red tote bag with "Town of La Plata" embroidered on the front.



*Farmers Market Commission: Mayor Ambrogio with Chairman Joe Harrison, who is also the Market Master of the La Plata Farmers Market.*

*La Plata Planning Commission: Cathy Flerlage, Director of Planning and Zoning/ staff liaison, with Commission members Debra Posey, Mark Rose, and Councilman Keith Back, ex officio member.*



*Parks and Recreation Commission: Councilman Vic Newman, ex officio member, with Commission members Bob Jacobs, Chairman Tom O'Farrell, Joe Keys, and Gayle Curry, Administrative Assistant/staff liaison.*

*Design Review Board: Councilwoman Paddy Mudd, ex officio member, with Board members Jim Goldsmith, Chair Cheryl McGuire, and Bob Turgeon.*



# APRIL 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Special trash pick-up day (Call by 4:00 p.m. Fri., 3/30 to schedule)	3 7:00 p.m., Planning Commission meeting	4 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market 9:00 a.m., Design Review Board meeting 7:30 p.m., Crime Watch Council meeting	5	6 GOOD FRIDAY – TOWN HALL CLOSED (No change to trash pickup schedule.)	7 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market
8	9	10 7:00 p.m., Town Council work session	11 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market 5:00 p.m., Parks and Recreation Commission meeting	12	13	14 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market
15	16 5:00 p.m., Beautification Commission meeting	17 7:00 p.m., Town Council work session	18 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market 9:00 a.m., Design Review Board work session	19	20	21 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market
22	23	24 7:00 p.m., Town Council regular meeting	25 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market	26	27	28 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market 11:00 a.m., Dedication of Star Memorial Courtyard and Garden 12:00 noon – 4:00 p.m., "Celebrate La Plata" Spring Festival
29	30					

# MAY 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m., TOWN GENERAL ELECTION, Wards I and II	2 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market 9:00 a.m., Design Review Board meeting 7:00 p.m., Planning Commission meeting (Rescheduled from 5/1.) 7:30 p.m., Crime Watch Council meeting	3	4	5 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market
6	7 Special trash pick-up day (Call by 4:00 p.m. Fri., 5/4 to schedule)	8 7:00 p.m., Town Council work session	9 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market 5:00 p.m., Parks and Recreation Commission meeting	10	11	12 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market
13	14	15 7:00 p.m., Town Council work session	16 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market 9:00 a.m., Design Review Board work session	17	18	19 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Open House - La Plata Police Department
20	21 5:00 p.m., Beautification Commission meeting	22 7:00 p.m., Town Council regular meeting	23 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market	24	25 7:00 p.m., Concert – <i>Smith Tucker Band</i>	26 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market
27	28 MEMORIAL DAY – TOWN HALL CLOSED (Monday's trash will be picked up on Tuesday, May 29.) 11:00 a.m., Memorial Day Ceremony	29	30 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market	31		

# TOWN OF LA PLATA ELECTION 2007

GENERAL ELECTION – TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2007,

12:00 NOON TO 8:00 P.M.

WARDS I AND II COUNCILMEN

## General Election – Tuesday, May 1, 2007, 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m.

The Town of La Plata will hold a General Election on Tuesday, May 1, 2007, at the La Plata Town Hall, 305 Queen Anne Street, La Plata, Maryland, between the hours of 12:00 noon and 8:00 p.m. This election will give registered voters in Ward I and Ward II the opportunity to vote for Ward I and Ward II Councilmen to a 2-year term.

## Candidates

As of the filing deadline, 4:00 p.m., Monday, March 5, 2007, there are two candidates for the office of Councilman, Ward I, and there is one candidate for the office of Councilman, Ward II. **The candidates for Councilman, Ward I are: James Goldsmith and Reginald Kearney. The candidate for Councilman, Ward II is: Scot D. Lucas**

## Voting Machines

The Town will be using touch screen voting machines provided by the Board of Supervisors of Elections of Charles County.

## Absentee Ballots

According to Town Code § 17-7 *Procedure*, a qualified voter desiring to vote at any election as an absentee voter shall make application, in writing, to the Board for an absentee ballot, which application must be received not later than seven (7) days before the election. Town Code § 17-5 *Qualifications*, provides for voting by absentee ballot by:

- A. *Any qualified voter who may be unavoidably absent from Charles County for any reason on any election day.*
- B. *Any qualified person as defined in Subsection C of this section.*
- C. *Voting by ill and disabled persons; emergency absentee ballots.*

*(1) Any qualified voter whose physical disability prevents or will prevent him from being present and personally voting at the polls on an election day shall also be entitled to vote as an absentee voter under this section. Such voter should make application for an absentee ballot as provided in § 17-7 of this Article. The application shall be filed in the office of the Board of Supervisors of Elections not later than seven (7) days prior to any election. Upon receipt of the application, the Board shall mail to the voter entitled thereto an absentee ballot.*

*(2) Within seven (7) days of an election and on the day of the election prior to the time the polls close, any person registered and otherwise qualified to vote may apply for an emergency absentee ballot if, as a condition of employment, he is required to be absent from Charles County on the day of the election or is unable to be physically present at the polls as a result of illness or accident occurring after the time of making application for an absentee ballot. The application shall be made under penalty of perjury but without formal oath, setting forth the reason why the voter is unable to be present at the polls on the day of the election, and shall be accompanied by a statement, under oath, by the voter's employer stating that the voter will be unable to vote on election day because of absence caused by his employment or a certificate from a duly licensed physician stating that the voter, because of illness or injury, is confined to the hospital or bed and will be unable to vote in person at the polls, whichever is applicable. Upon receipt of the application, the Board, if satisfied that the person cannot, in fact, be present at the polling place on the day of the election, shall issue to the applicant or his duly authorized agent an absentee ballot, which shall be marked by the voter, placed in a sealed envelope and returned to the Board. If the applicant does not apply in person, the application shall designate a voter registered in the Town of La Plata as agent for the purpose of delivering the absentee ballot to the voter, and the agent shall execute an affidavit, under penalty of perjury, that the ballot was delivered to the voter who submitted the application, was marked by the voter in the agent's presence, was placed in a sealed envelope in the agent's presence and returned, under seal, to the Board by the agent. Any emergency absentee ballot received by the Board after the time for closing of the polls shall not be counted.*

*(3) Any otherwise qualified voter who is blind, physically disabled or who has impaired vision and is, for one of these reasons, unable to mark his absentee ballot and sign the required oath may be assisted in voting by any person selected by the voter. Any person rendering assistance pursuant to this subsection shall execute the certification set forth in § 17-11.*

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# TOWN OF LA PLATA ELECTION 2007 (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

## Deadline for Making Application for Absentee Ballot – 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Written application for an absentee ballot for the General Election to be held on May 1, 2007 must be in the office of the Board of Supervisors of Elections by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 24, 2007. Applications are available at the La Plata Town Hall, 305 Queen Anne Street, and at the Charles County Board of Elections, 9320 W & W Industrial Road, La Plata, Maryland. After verification has been made that the applicant is a qualified voter, an absentee ballot will be mailed to the applicant. **The absentee ballot voter is responsible for assuring that the ballot is received by the Town of La Plata Board of Supervisors of Elections prior to the closing of the polls (8:00 p.m.) for the General Election on Tuesday, May 1, 2007.**

For additional information, or if you wish to verify what voter ward you reside in, you may call the Town Hall during normal business hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday: 301-934-8421.

## SCREEN ON THE GREEN

Back by popular demand, "Screen on the Green" – movies on the lawn of the Town Hall, under the stars. Refreshments available for purchase. All movies are free and begin at 8:30, and have a rain date of the following Saturday night.

June 9 *Barnyard* (Rated PG; 90 minutes; Animated Feature)  
Otis and his misfit farm friends normally have their fun by playing tricks on their humans. When everyone leaves, Otis, who normally leads the pranks, must take responsibility for the things to be done around the barn. (Rain date: June 16)

June 23 *Akeelah & the Bee* (Rated PG; 112 minutes)  
In this heart-warming film, precocious eleven-year-old Akeelah from south Los Angeles is found to have an affinity for spelling. Despite her mother's objections, Akeelah enters a contest and eventually finds herself at the National Spelling Bee. A mysterious teacher and a cast of colorful characters from her neighborhood help her along the journey. (Rain date: June 30)

July 21 *Open Season* (Rated PG; 80 minutes; Animated Feature)  
Boog is a happily domesticated 900-pound grizzly bear who has his comfortable world as the star of a local nature show turned upside down when he is stranded out in the woods at the beginning of hunting season. He must join forces with a fast-talking wild mule deer named Elliot until Beth a local forest ranger, can find them. (Rain date: July 28)

August 11 *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants:* (Rated PG; 119 minutes)  
Based on Ann Brashares' best selling novel, this film takes us through a very special summer for a group of 16-year-old girls who are separated for the first time. They find a magical pair of jeans that fits each of them perfectly and they use this enchanted outfit as a way to keep in touch. (Rain date: Aug. 18)

August 25 *Ant Bully* (Rated PG; 88 minutes; Animated Feature)  
Lucas is in a new city and having trouble making friends. His only enjoyment is terrorizing the ants in his back yard. When the ants take revenge and shrink him down to their size, he becomes a part of their society and learns valuable lessons about friendship, compassion, teamwork and loyalty. (Rain date: Sept. 1)

September 8 *Charlotte's Web* (Rated G; 113 minutes; Animated Feature)  
This classic story based on the beloved book by E.B. White brings us the charming tale of Fern and her young pet pig Wilbur. Just as Wilbur learns of his impending fate on the chopping block, he meets a very special spider in the barn who begins to weave messages in her web such as "Some Pig," "Radiant," and "Terrific." The messages make Wilbur famous and ultimately save his life in this story of friendship and loyalty. (Rain date: September 15)

## TOWN OF LA PLATA OFFICIALS

Mayor: Gene Ambrogio

Council:

Wayne Winkler . . . . . Ward 1

C. Keith Back . . . . . Ward 2

Paddy Mudd . . . . . Ward 3

Vic E. Newman. . . . . Ward 4

Acting Town Manager:

Joseph W. Norris

Assistant Town Manager:

Patricia L. Bembe

Assistant Town Manager:

Michelle D. Miner

Town Clerk: Judith T. Frazier

Project Manager: Steven F. Schroeder

Director of Planning and Zoning:

Catherine N. Flerlage

Director of Public Works:

Stephen A. Murphy

Police Chief: Cassin B. Gittings

305 Queen Anne Street,

La Plata, Maryland 20646

Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Telephone: 301-934-8421 / 301-870-3377

La Plata Police Department: 301-934-1500

Email: [mminer@townoflaplata.org](mailto:mminer@townoflaplata.org)

Website: [www.townoflaplata.org](http://www.townoflaplata.org)

# COUNCIL COLUMN

## Councilman Wayne Winkler Ward 1

By the time you read this we should be in the spring season and a lot of construction should be starting in La Plata. We have two apartment buildings (48 units) on St. Mary's Avenue, plus some townhouses. On Route 301 we will soon have a Popeye's near True Value and we will be getting a Texas Roadhouse, Chick-Fil-A, and a Bob Evans. Eight new stores will be going in north of Safeway and construction has started. I talked with the developers of the Lowe's and Giant center and they hope to be complete by fall of next year. Also, Target is moving along and should open this year. Stagecoach Crossing, Steeplechase, and GP Homes are moving along, and Steeplechase has pulled nearly 200 grading permits. These three developments will add about 5000-6000 housing units. Growth is inevitable, but I will always question water allocations, sewer capacity, and traffic. Some days on Route 301 traffic is deadlocked between stop lights on Route 301. We need the Waldorf bypass to also bypass La Plata. I will be attending an all-day "Southern Maryland Coordinated Transportation Planning Forum" on March 22 and that will be my message: "BYPASS LA PLATA."

As I leave office in May of this year, I will be active with the La Plata Business Association, the La Plata Town Council, the Planning Commission, and the Design Review Board, so if you want to know what's happening in La Plata send me an email to winklerw@verizon.net and I will put you in a group email. I am not dying and going away – just taking a breather.

As I bid farewell, all I can say is that it's been a pleasure serving you. So Long, Stay Loose, and Stick with God – He's our Friend.

## Councilman Keith Back Ward 2

It has been my pleasure to serve the residents of La Plata first on the Plan-

ning Commission (including a term as the Chairman) and then as the Councilman from Ward 2. After serving this community for the past 7.5 years, I will not be seeking another term as Councilman. I am looking forward to spending more quality time with my family and volunteering in other areas.

Over the past 7.5 years I have met many people, made many new friends and, as happens in any public office, a few enemies. I learned very quickly that you can never make a decision that will please all of the people all of the time. There will always be a vocal opposition to all decisions made by local government. This happens no matter how small the issue or how well meaning the decision is for the good of the Town as a whole.

If I can offer one bit of advice to the two new incoming Councilmen, it would be to always stay true to what you feel is best for all of the citizens of La Plata. Do not fall victim to the trap many officials find themselves in of jumping on the issue of the day based on who they talked to that morning or of never taking a stand because they do not want to offend anyone. Keep the bigger picture in mind and keep moving toward it. You may never hear from the majority of the people who agree with your decision, but always know that they are out there.

I want to thank the Town staff for all of the help they have provided over the years. The citizens of La Plata may not always realize it, but we are lucky to have such dedicated employees working at Town Hall. And I will close by thanking my wife and daughters for providing the support and understanding I needed to do this job.

## Councilwoman Paddy Mudd Ward 3

La Plata will celebrate the fifth year of our recovery from the tornado on April 28th. I say "celebrate" because we have so much to be proud of and thankful for in our town 5 years later. The Tornado Memorial Garden is completed and is a beautiful memorial to both the 1926 and 2002

disasters that hit our town. It is my belief that we have accomplished – with a lot of help from our friends – a great recovery.

I have proposed that we once again redo the landscaping at the Town Hall – including top soil, grass, trees and flowers, the environmental pond and drainage areas, picnic tables etc. to make a true family walking town. This would include a maintenance contract until we can hire a person in the new budget to maintain all our parks, including the Train Station and Town Hall grounds.

Another proposal that I hope to accomplish is to keep the Kent Ave. Town Shop property as a park and community center. We have a community group working on this and would appreciate any ideas or help from all.

While these things are not as important as infrastructure – such as water and sewer, roads, etc. – I believe they are important to the spirit of our community. We have wasted money from grants, etc. by not maintaining what has been planted, insisting on repair to the lamp posts, etc. Help us by bringing your concerns to the Council.

## Councilman Vic E. Newman Ward 4

The facilitated portion of the Council's budget process has ended. Areas that were reviewed and possible funding voted on were:

- \* Public Works – Priorities for FY2007
  - ❖ Refuse Collection
  - ❖ Road Maintenance – I will continue to work with the Council to ensure our roads are maintained accordingly. Several roads will be paved this year.
  - ❖ Parks and Recreation – Continue to modernize play equipment and look for other areas to build.

Continued on page 9

# COUNCIL COLUMN (CONTINUED)

\* Water and Wastewater – Priorities for FY2007

- ❖ Complete comprehensive assessment of health of system and implement.
- ❖ Complete a Town Water Management Plan.
- ❖ Identify long-term water sources (work with County and State.)

\* Community Development

\* La Plata Services to the Community

The Council has proactively increased personnel and equipment of your Police Department. Due to this increase

we are striving to put more foot and bicycle officers in and around our business and residential communities. Your Officers are constantly working hard to make La Plata a safe place to live. On another note, please be very careful at crosswalks. There are still a lot of motorist not stopping when pedestrians are crossing. Let's not have a La Plata citizen be one of those violators; we must set an example for all who pass through our Town.

This year we expect more and more retail wanting to build in La Plata. Although we cannot tell a land owner what they can build, you can be assured that the Council, Planning Commission, and the Design Review

Board will work together to ensure that developers/land owners adhere to the high standards that we expect here in La Plata.

The Water and Sewer Advisory Committee continues to address our water and sewer issues. They have started by addressing some of the problems that La Plata has had for years, and are working with developers to ensure that future growth is not a hodge-podge of systems but one system that will intertwine throughout La Plata to provide the services we require for years to come.

## 2007 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

All concerts are free and open to the public. Concerts begin at 7:00 p.m. Please bring a lawn chair or a blanket. No pets or alcohol. Refreshments available for purchase.

May 25	Smith Tucker Band
June 1	Country Memories (Meet and Greet the Mayor and Council; free ice cream)
June 8	25th Hour Band
June 15	Roadhouse
June 29	U.S. Naval Academy Band
July 6	Wicked Jezebel
July 13	to be announced
July 20	to be announced
July 27	Special Blend Band
August 3	U.S. Navy Band "The Cruisers"
August 10	Jimmy Rhythm & the Rhythm Breakers
August 17	to be announced
August 24	to be announced
August 31	U.S. Navy Band "Sea Chanters"
September 7	to be announced

Mayor's Corner Continued from page 1

I strongly encourage those residents who live in Wards 1 or 2 to make a concerted effort to vote for your new council representatives on Tuesday, May 1, 2007 at Town Hall during the hours of 12:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Our annual Memorial Day Ceremony will take place at Town Hall on Monday, May 28, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. On this special day we remember all those who have sacrificed their lives for our freedom. Please join us as we pay tribute to these heroes.

## Meet the Town Staff — Joseph Murphy



Joey has worked for the Town since 1988. He is currently the Parks and Recreation supervisor. Joey married Cindy in November of 2006. He and Cindy live in Mechanicsville, and they have five children in their blended family. Joey's hobbies include bowling and hunting.

## COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

### Commercial Building Permits issued January – February 2007

Office Space, 102 Centennial Street, Suite 103

Wal-Mart renovations, 40 Drury Drive

Office and Retail Space and Apartments, 11 South Maple Avenue

### Commercial Occupancy Permits issued January – February 2007

Lancaster Insurance, 105 Centennial Street, Suite B

Avision, 105 Centennial Street, Suite J

Zekiah Home Loanz, 320 Charles Street

Metro Home Technologies, 406 Charles Street

Custom Woods, 600 Charles Street

Illusion Salon, 600 Charles Street

Mathnasium of La Plata, 9375 Chesapeake Street, Suite 117

Compel Construction, Inc., 9375 Chesapeake Street, Suite 205

Mystic Art Studio, 6620 Crain Highway

**Town Notes** is a publication of the Town of La Plata. If you would like to submit a Community Announcement item (subject to Town approval and space availability), please send it by e-mail to [jfrazier@townoflaplata.org](mailto:jfrazier@townoflaplata.org).

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