

# TOWN NOTES

*News from La Plata Town Hall*



## MAYOR'S CORNER

Another year is coming to a close. As we look forward to 2015, with new challenges and opportunities, we can also look back on 2014 as a year in which some major projects were accomplished that will benefit the Town for many years. I believe we are well situated for the coming year to address the issues as they arise. Keeping La Plata a premier community is the primary goal of the Town Council and Town Staff, each and every year.

Our recent Veterans Day Parade was once again a major success. Thanks to all who participated and attended this important event. It is with pride that we recognize our active duty military personnel and all veterans and thank them for their service to this country. I am proud to have been a participant in this event for many years and I am confident this parade will remain one of La Plata's premier annual events.

This was an election year as was evident by the ubiquitous political signs that covered our Town and countryside. I would like to congratulate the winners in the election and, for that matter, all who agreed to be a candidate in the election process. Being willing to serve in a public office is not an easy choice for many individuals and all who answer this challenge should be favorably recognized. We look forward to working with the new Board of County Commissioners and the Charles County Delegation in the new-year and well beyond.

The State of Maryland withheld the majority of the highway user funds from municipalities, monies used to maintain

Continued on page 3

## Stay in La Plata for the Holidays

La Plata businesses invest a lot to serve this community. When considering where to do business, it is important to support La Plata businesses with shopping, dining, and service dollars.

Our local businesses are a big part of the La Plata community and contribute to our daily lives and our sense of place. When faced with a choice of where to shop or where to dine, please consider La Plata businesses first. By investing in La Plata, these businesses add to property values and keep the tax base strong. The resources from local businesses help support law enforcement, utilities, special events, parks, and other valued municipal services. The choice to spend your money in La Plata gets the added benefit of investing back into the community.

La Plata businesses are where you see the friendly faces of friends and family doing business in your hometown. Bring out of town guests with you to enjoy the unique places in La Plata. There are many great options to satisfy everyone on your shopping list. There are many businesses to choose from whether you support an independent business or a chain; the owners and employees of the businesses often live right in our community.

By shopping and dining in La Plata you help to support your neighbors and your community, keeping and multiplying our resources locally. The success of our local businesses helps maintain the success of our community. It adds to the character and vitality that all our establishments provide to the Town. Thank you and Happy Holidays.

*It's just around the corner...*

## Holiday Decorations Contest

**Monday, December 15 – lights on by 5:00 p.m.**

The Town's Beautification Commission will again be the judges in our annual Holiday Decorations Contest. All businesses will be considered, but individual homes must register to have their outdoor decorations judged in this contest. Call Danielle Mandley at the Town Hall (301) 934-8421 by 4:00 p.m. Friday, December 12 if you want your outdoor Holiday decorations to be judged. You may also register a neighbor's home that you believe should be in the contest.

There are 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners in each of the following categories:

- Residential – Traditional
- Residential – Whimsical
- Commercial



## COUNCIL COLUMN

### Councilman Wayne Winkler, Ward 1

As this year is coming to a close I want to take a moment and say that I hope each of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends and I hope you enjoy Christmas equally as well.

As I look back at 2014 we were to have two major housing developments, Heritage Green and Stagecoach Crossing, that Town Staff really worked hard on to make sure they were going to be an asset to La Plata and provide the citizens with super nice parks, club houses, walking trails, etc. Because of the economic turndown neither project got off the ground. Town Staff has the water and sewer infrastructure now in place and, hopefully, the future will bring greater prosperity to this area and these projects will get started.

Another interesting thing that happened was a referendum on the Walmart annexation. The Mayor and Council voted for this project which triggered the residents to gather enough signatures to move the ref-

erendum forward and allow the citizens to vote for or against the project. As we know it was voted down and I am really glad the people had the opportunity to vote. If the project comes forward again I will make sure I vote the way Ward 1 residents want me to.

Another project that came to the forefront was getting into the position so that people living in apartment buildings now have the opportunity to recycle. The State passed a law to make this start in October but, La Plata Staff, as usual, was already looking into how to do this and we were in position ahead of schedule. We are still trying to figure out how to do commercial recycling and if you have any ideas please let us know.

Looking forward to 2015 we have some new County Commissioners and a new Governor. I truly hope the Commissioners and Commissioner President work well together and find a way so that when they look back after four years in office they can say they found a way to reduce property taxes so that we are not the most expensive County, in the State of Maryland, to live in. I believe, as La Plata has found out and embraced, technol-

ogy can play an important role in reducing expenses. We can work harder but we must work smarter.

One problem La Plata, as well as all towns and Counties, has had in the past was a loss or major reduction in Highway User Funds. This is the money we receive from gas tax to maintain our roads. For the past several years this money was redirected to other needs in the State and now our roads are in great need of repair. Governor Elect Larry Hogan specifically told us, when he came to La Plata in the summer, that, if elected, he would restore these funds. Hopefully he will be able to fulfill that promise, but, he is coming into office with about a \$500 million deficit so it may take time. We also need to roll back some of the tax increases to attract more businesses to improve our tax base and give us better shopping opportunities.

I look forward to 2015 and will work really hard to continue to make La Plata a great place to live and I can assure you that the Mayor and Council and all Staff will do the same. God Bless and please keep Christ in Christmas where He belongs.

## WEBSITE POLL

Visit the Town of La Plata's website at <http://www.townoflaplata.org> to participate in an online poll. Click on the 'Snap Poll' link on the left side of the web page to go to the poll and see the results to date. The current question is:

How long do you plan to live in La Plata?

- Less than one year
- 1 - 2 years
- 3 - 5 years
- 5 - 10 years
- 10 - 20 years
- The rest of my life

### October Website Poll Results

Below are the website 'Snap Poll' results from the last issue. The question and results are:

The larger recycling container on wheels has enabled me to recycle more.

- Strongly Agree - 74%
- Somewhat Agree - 17%
- Somewhat Disagree - 0%
- Strongly Disagree - 6%
- I did not request a larger container yet - 3%
- I don't recycle - 0%

La Plata has had a single family residential recycling program for many years, and the participation rate has regularly exceeded State and National recycling participation rates. The State of Maryland's Department of the Environment has set a goal to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle Nearly All Waste Generated in Maryland by 2040. You may see the draft plan by going to <http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Marylander/Pages/ZeroWastePlan.aspx>.

Associated with that goal, there have been changes to State Law to encourage more recycling. Counties are now mandated to increase recycling participation up to 35%. Additionally, the State has mandated that apartments, condominiums, and multifamily dwellings provide recycling to their residents. The Town of La Plata has done its part to comply with this requirement by requiring all multifamily residential buildings to demonstrate participation in a recycling program, or participate in the Town's recycling program.

Beginning on October 1<sup>st</sup> of 2014, all residential properties in La Plata must have

recycling services. All residential properties pay for recycling in their utility bill. If you do not participate, and need a recycling container, simply call the Town at (301) 934-8421 to request a recycling container.

While participation in recycling has a positive benefit for the environment, it also serves a very practical benefit to the Town and its residents. By diverting waste to the recycling centers, the amount the Town must spend on landfill costs decreases with every ton of waste being recycled instead of landfilled.

Source waste reduction, increased recycling, organics diversion, and other practices will become more prevalent in future years. Please do your part to contribute to the recycling and waste reduction efforts of the community.



## LA PLATA POLICE OFFICERS IN THE COMMUNITY:

La Plata Police officers and some of their spouses along with members of Explorer Post 1888 participated in the Special Olympics Tip-A-Cop Fund Raiser at the Red Robin in Waldorf.

The 9th annual Tip-A-Cop® fundraiser is part of a national campaign by Special Olympics, Red Robin, and law enforcement to raise funds for local Special Olympics programs.



Standing left is Cpl. Cunningham, staff of Red Robin, Officer Plater, and kneeling Cpl. Norris



Please like the Town of La Plata's Police Department page on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/LaPlataPD>.

## TOYS FOR TOTS



The La Plata Police Department at 101 La Grange Avenue and the Town Hall at 305 Queen Anne Street will be drop off locations for Toys for Tots. If you would like to give please drop off a new unwrapped toy. All of the toys will be picked up by the Waldorf Jaycees and will be distributed by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve to less fortunate children in Charles County for Christmas. The last day to drop off a toy is December 28, 2014 (this date has been verified and is correct).

Toys for Tots Foundation, 501(c)(3) is a non-profit organization.

### Town Hall Closed

The Town Hall will be closed on the following days:

<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>Wednesday, December 24, 2014</b>
<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>Thursday, December 25, 2014</b>
<b>New Years Day</b>	<b>Thursday, January 1, 2015</b>
<b>Martin Luther King's Birthday</b>	<b>Monday, January 19, 2015</b>

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.

## TOWN OF LA PLATA OFFICIALS

Mayor: Roy G. Hale

Council:

Wayne Winkler ..... Ward 1  
C. Keith Back ..... Ward 2  
Lynn D. Gilroy ..... Ward 3  
Joseph W. Norris ..... Ward 4

Town Manager:

Daniel J. Mears

Treasurer: Robert W. Oliphant

Assistant Town Manager:

Michelle D. Miner

Town Clerk: Danielle Mandley

Police Chief: Carl H. Schinner

Director of Planning,

Jeremy D. Hurlbutt

Director of Operations: Robert F. Stahl, Jr.

Director of Public Works:

Jeffrey S. Garner

Senior Planner: Theresa C. Dent

Manager of Inspections: James Q. Yates

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)

our streets and roads, for several years. However, this trend has been reversed in the past two years and while we have not yet been returned to the level of past years, we will once again be able to begin addressing our most urgent road and street repairs in the new-year. The recent repair to the railroad crossing on Charles Street, long promised and now in place, is a major improvement for our main street. The new sidewalks along Route 6, installed by the Maryland Department of Transportation, are also a move in the right direction toward a more pedestrian friendly downtown.

Annexation requests continue to be received by the Town. Some petitions may be quite controversial as demonstrated by the one associated with a Super Wal-Mart store. All annexation requests are vetted through public hearings and the public will always have the opportunity to voice their opinion on each proposal.

We added a new Chief of Police and a Director of Planning in the past year. Both positions received numerous applications and we are very fortunate with the outstanding individuals who were hired for these two important senior level positions within our Town Government.

The La Plata Business Association has been reenergized in 2014 and this is an important accomplishment. We look forward to working with the Association on mutual projects in the coming year and feel that with the flower basket program, Christmas decorations, and our continuing review of sign issues that we have demonstrated our willingness to be a strong partner to the business community.

I hope you have an opportunity to attend our Holiday events at Town Hall and I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful but bountiful new year.

As your Mayor, I am always receptive to your comments, be they positive or critical. You may reach me at Town Hall (301) 934-8421 or at home (301) 934-4850.

# LA PLATA TOWN SERVICES

## 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. Billing for special trash pickup is included on your quarterly utility bill.

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Household hazardous waste collection is on the first Saturday of each month, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the parking lot of the Charles County Department of Public Works building, located at 10430 Audie Lane, off of Radio Station Road in La Plata. Household hazardous waste collection is a contracted service and items cannot be accepted when the contractor is not on site.

Items accepted free of charge include pesticides, herbicides, fertilizer, gasoline, motor oil, antifreeze, paint, cleaning supplies, pool chemicals, batteries, expired prescription drugs, and other poisons that are around your house. Please keep



CHARLES COUNTY  
**HOUSEHOLD  
HAZARDOUS WASTE  
COLLECTION**

the materials in their original containers whenever possible, and bring them to the collection site in cardboard boxes to ease unloading. For more information, call the Charles County Department of Public Facilities, Environmental Resources Division at (301) 932-3599.

## Yard Waste Pick Up

Residential yard waste pickups will only take place on Monday and Fridays. Containers of yard waste ONLY – leaves, grass and shrub clippings, brush or branches may be put out on Mondays and Fridays. The containers must be marked “Yard Waste”. Brush or branches must be bundled, weigh no more than 50lbs. per bundle, and the branches may not be larger than 4 feet long. *Plastic bags are not allowed – if you bag yard waste you must use paper bags.*

## Loose Leaf Pick Up Schedule

The Town of La Plata Public Works Department will be offering loose leaf collection from October 13, 2014 to December 12, 2014. The crews will be picking up this year on the same schedule as last year, so there will be no

need to contact the Town Hall for pick-up service. The Town would like to ask our residents to support our going green program by mulching your leaves and using it to fertilize your yards. For our residents who wish to bag their leaves, the pick-up will be on our yard waste schedule of Mondays and Fridays.

The loose leaf pick up schedule will be as follows and is subject to change:

October 13, 2014 – October 17, 2014 and November 10, 2014 – November 14, 2014

Kings Grant, Agricopia, Quailwood, Port Tobacco Road, West Hawthorne Drive and adjacent side streets.

October 20, 2014 – October 24, 2014 and November 17, 2014 – November 21, 2014

St. Mary’s Avenue, Oak Avenue, Washington Avenue, Charles Street, Hickory Ridge and adjacent side streets.

October 27, 2014 – November 7, 2014 and December 1, 2014 – December 12, 2014

Clarks Run

There will be no pick-up on Tuesday November 11, 2014 and the week of November 24, 2014

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Public Works Department at (301) 934-8421 or [mtrollinger@townoflaplata.org](mailto:mtrollinger@townoflaplata.org).

## Trash Collection Schedule Adjustment

### If your regular trash collection day is:

Wednesday, December 24, 2014

Thursday, December 25, 2014

Thursday, January 1, 2015

Monday, January 19, 2015

### Recycling Collection

Recycling for Wednesday, December 24, 2014 will be picked up **Wednesday, December 24, 2014.**

Recycling for Wednesday, December 31, 2014 will be picked up on **Wednesday, December, 31, 2014.**

### Yard Waste Pick Up Schedule Adjustment

There will be no Yard Waste pick up on:

Monday, January 19, 2015

### Christmas Tree pick up

Friday, December 26, 2014 through January 9, 2015

### Trash will be picked up on:

Tuesday, December 23, 2014

Friday, December 26, 2014

Friday, January 2, 2015

Tuesday, January 20, 2015

# DECEMBER 2014

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Yard Waste Pick Up Special Pick Up (call by 4:00 pm 11/26/14)	Planning Commission Meeting; 7:00 p.m.	Design Review Board meeting; 9:00 a.m. Crime Watch Council meeting; 7:00 p.m.		Yard Waste Pick Up	Yard Waste Pick Up	 Early Warning Siren test; 10:00 a.m.
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Older Tyne Holiday; 3:00 p.m.	Yard Waste Pick Up	Mayor and Council work session; 7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation meeting; 5:00 p.m.		Yard Waste Pick Up	 Breakfast with Santa
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Yard Waste Pick Up	Holiday Decoration Contest (have lights on by 5:00 p.m.)	Mayor and Council work session and Regular meeting; 7:00 p.m.	Design Review Board meeting; 9:00 a.m.	Yard Waste Pick Up		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
 Winter Begins	Yard Waste Pick Up	Trash Pick Up for 12/24	Town Hall Closed No Trash Pick Up (pick up 12/23) Recycling Pick Up as normal	Town Hall Closed No Trash Pick Up (pick up 12/26)	Trash Pick Up for 12/25 Yard Waste Pick Up Christmas Tree Pick Up begins	
28	29	30	31			
Yard Waste Pick Up	Yard Waste Pick Up		Recycling Pick Up as normal			



## SPECIAL EVENTS

# LA PLATA Fall Festival

It was a perfect fall day for the Town's Fall Festival on Sunday, October 12. With over 50 craft and food vendors to explore, there was something for everyone to enjoy. Live music was provided by the Sara Gray Band. Children decorated pumpkins at the art tent, visited the petting zoo, and took the pedal cars for a spin. The Charles County Chamber of Commerce sponsored the Annual Scarecrow Festival and people had the opportunity to vote for their favorite scarecrow at the Fall Festival. Thanks to all who came out to support the event!



## HARVEST HALLOWEEN PARTY



Princesses, super heroes, pirates, and many more came out to enjoy candy and crafts at the Harvest Halloween party on Saturday, October 25th.

## Town of La Plata "Salute to Veterans" Parade

Thank you to all the parade participants especially the Veterans and service members who marched on Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Joann Worden and our volunteers for manning the food tent at the parade. The weather was perfect for an old-fashioned, home town parade!



## Olde Tyme Holiday Gathering

Sunday, December 7th from 3 pm to 6 pm  
Celebrate the season with music, children's activities, horse-drawn carriage rides, refreshments, and a visit from Santa.

### Schedule of Events

Horse Drawn Carriage Rides  
3:30 pm to 5 pm

### Activities in the Tent

Crafts for children  
3 pm to 6 pm

Story time with the Charles County Public Library  
3:30 pm to 3:55 pm and 4:30 pm to 4:55 pm

Meet and Greet with Holiday Characters: Gracie's Guys and Gals Show Troupe  
4 pm to 5 pm

### Entertainment in the Council Chambers

Port Tobacco Players Encore Kids  
3:15 pm to 3:45 pm

The St. Maries Minstrels  
4 pm to 4:40 pm

John the Fifer Colonial Holiday Music  
4:50 pm to 5:10 pm

Holiday Sing-Along  
5:15 pm (outside)

SANTA ARRIVES at 5:30 pm!

## Breakfast with Santa

Visit with Santa at the Town Hall on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>

4 time slots: 8-8:45 am, 9-9:45 am, 10-10:45 am (FULL) and 11-11:45 am

Each child is asked to bring a homemade card for nursing home residents or a canned good for the Sacred Heart Church Food bank.

Space is limited and reservations are required. To register, call Town Hall at (301) 934-8421.

# TOWN OF LA PLATA SNOW POLICY



County Plowed Roads	Town Plowed Roads	State Plowed Roads
<p>Glen Albin Road</p> <p>St. Mary's Avenue from Frederick Drive to Rt. 301</p> <p>Washington Avenue from Route 301 to Route 6</p> <p>Radio Station Road</p>	<p>St. Mary's Avenue from Rt. 6 to Frederick Drive</p> <p>Quailwood Parkway from Hawthorne to Route 6</p>	<p>Route 301</p> <p>Route 6 - Charles Street</p> <p>Route 225 - Hawthorne Drive west beginning at Route 301</p> <p>Route 488</p>

## Snow Preparation Procedures

- Snow removal crews will be put into action at the call of the Director or Asst. Director of Public Works
- Snow removal will begin when 2" of snow has accumulated on roadways.
- Snow removal efforts will be ongoing during the event and will continue until all streets in the Town are cleared.
- It may be necessary to pile snow in front of mailboxes, especially in smaller courts and cul-de-sacs.

## Plow Routes

- The Town will normally plow to provide better access to the higher traveled streets first (Primary Roads, Collector Streets and Major residential roads). In addition, the Town has agreed to provide snow removal and salting for treatment of ice accumulation from all roadways, parking areas, vehicle entrances, sidewalks, and bus stop location at the MTA lot located on Washington Avenue.
- Secondly secondary streets and municipal buildings are plowed.
- Lastly cul-de-sacs and dead-end streets are plowed.

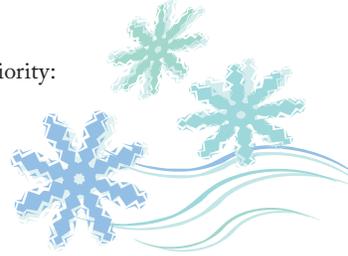


## Icy Conditions

- Salt distribution will be determined based on the following criteria and priority:

- Main Collector Streets
- Streets with Hills
- Difficult intersections – stop lights and stop signs
- Major residential roads

- Cul-de-sacs and courts may not receive salt treatment



## Sidewalks

- Town crews are responsible for clearing sidewalks at public facilities, Town Hall and Parks.
- Town of La Plata property owners are responsible for keeping all sidewalks along their property clear and free of snow and ice.

## Parking

- Residents are asked not to park vehicles on any street.
- If you must park on the street park as close to the curb as possible and on one side of the street.

## Examples of Street designations:

Primary Roads	Collector Streets	Major Residential	Secondary
Agricopia Drive	St. Mary's Avenue	Llano Drive	Baltimore St.
East Patuxent Drive	Washington Avenue	Martin Drive	Cecil St.
Oriole Lane	Heritage Green Pkwy.	Laurelwood Court	Calvert St.
Shining Willow Way			Howard St.

## Snow Emergency Routes

Parking of vehicles on marked snow emergency routes is prohibited when the snow emergency plan is in effect for Charles County. Parking shall continue to be prohibited until the snow emergency plan has been cleared. Any vehicles that are illegally parked, that are obstructing traffic, or interfering with the clearing of snow and/or ice are subject to a parking violation or the vehicle being towed at the owner's expense.

## Mailbox Replacement Policy

Please contact the Public Works Department at (301) 934-8421, if your mailbox is damaged during snow removal. The Public Works Department will investigate the claim to determine if the damage was caused by the Town or contracted equipment making physical contact with the mailbox. If it is determined by the Public Works Department that the mailbox damage was at fault of the Town or contracted equipment the following options are available.

1. Replacement by the Town of existing mailbox with a standard wooden post and mailbox.
2. Property owners may be reimbursed at a flat rate of \$45.00. It will be the responsibility of the property owner to replace the mailbox.

Mailboxes damaged by snow flowing from plows will not be replaced or reimbursed.

## Efficiency Corner

### Making La Plata More Efficient

With resources strained by challenges in the economy, it is vital that the Town explore ways to make its operations more efficient to save money, time, and add value to the services provided. Town staff is charged with finding new ways to improve services, and the Town regularly invests in technology or implements process changes to drive efficiencies.

### Asphalt paving

Over the past few years there have been many mentions in this newsletter about the large reduction in funding from the State for road maintenance because of the utilization of the gas tax Highway User Revenue to fund other State priorities, than repairing local roads. Since 2008, La Plata has only been doing asphalt patching to limit road deterioration. The Town also pooled multiple years of the limited revenue received to repave Willow Lane in 2012, and this fall began limited resurfacing from two one-time grants of road maintenance funding from the State.

The resurfacing of roads was based on roads in the most need of repair, that are also more heavily traveled. In these circumstances, the limited funding was extended by resurfacing just the portions of roads in the most need of repair. For example, Kent Avenue was resurfaced just from the railroad crossing north, where the road subsurface deteriorated faster than portions south of the crossing.

This spring will be a critical time for local government road funding. With a new Governor presenting a budget, it will be up to that administration to present a return of the Highway User Revenue to local government, and it will be up to the State Legislators to support and adopt it. Absent a return of State funding, the Town will need to look at other methods of funding road maintenance, or a continuation of minimal maintenance alternatives. Crack sealing, chip sealing, slurry sealing, patching, and other mitigating options would all be considered.

## EMPLOYEES HIGHLIGHTS



### Thomas Yates

Thomas Yates joined the Town Staff in September as a Public Works Technician I. Thomas was born and raised in Charles County and is a graduate of La Plata High School. In his spare time, Thomas enjoys going to the race track and spending time with his family.



### Nicholas Manning

Nicholas Manning joined the Town Staff in October as a Public Works Technician I. Nicholas was born and raised in Charles County and is a graduate of McDonough High School. In his spare time, Nicholas likes to watch football, play video games, and work on cars.



### Jeremy Hurlbutt

Jeremy Hurlbutt joined the Town of La Plata Staff at the end of September as the Director of Planning. Jeremy has Bachelors in Environmental Design and a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Colorado. Jeremy has worked for the past nine years for the City of Rockville, Maryland and is member American Institute of Certified Planners, as well as an active member of Urban Land Institute. Jeremy was born and raised in Colorado and is always excited to talk about his home state.

### Employee Promotions:

Katherine Winstead, the Accounts Payable clerk has assumed the new position of Administrative Assistant II at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Katherine provides administrative support and assistance in coordinating the activities and operations of the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Terri Fischer, the Customer Relations/Cashier/Planning and Zoning support clerk was promoted to the Accounts Payable Clerk position. Terri is responsible for overseeing the Town's accounts payable process as well as providing customer service assistance.

## 2ND GRADE VISIT



On October 17 Mayor Hale hosted Mrs. Weinberg's second grade class from Grace Lutheran Church and School. The students visited the Town Hall and learned about local government as part of their Local Community Curriculum. They also visited the La Plata Police Department and the Train Station.

## Siren Testing



The Town of La Plata will test early warning devices/sirens on **Saturday, December 6, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.** Testing is done twice per year in early May and early December. The testing lasts about a half hour. The tests consist of both siren alerts and audible notifications. The tests are conducted in conjunction with the Charles County 911 Communications Center, which controls and operates the system for the Town.

The devices are installed at the following locations:

- On Charles Street in front of the Charles County Courthouse
- On Curley Hall Road at the Town's Wastewater Treatment Plant (near Quailwood Subdivision)
- In Clarks Run Subdivision
- In King's Grant Subdivision
- On Shining Willow Way next to the La Plata Volunteer Fire Department

Emergency Management Officials remind you that in the event of a real emergency to stay tuned to local radio stations for more information, to have emergency supplies on hand - including a radio which can be operated during a power outage, and to know where the safe haven is in your home. It is everyone's responsibility to plan for an emergency.

# CUB SCOUT GOOD TURN RUN



And they are off.....

It was a beautiful Fall morning at Tilghman Lake, **Perfect for a Run!** On Sunday, November 9, 2014, Pack 1799 hosted their First Cub Scout Good Turn Run. Pack 1799 is chartered by Grace Lutheran Church and School in La Plata, Maryland.

There were over 35 registered runners/walkers/hikers and just as many volunteers that came out to support the event. Race Director Chris Zabriskie and Pack Treasurer

Wendy Latimer said, "It was a successful event, great Location, great sponsors and amazing participants – we would love to host this again!"

**Congratulations to all of our Participants who came out and did their best!!**

**Race Results:** In the Cub (12 and Under Category) 1<sup>st</sup> Place Christopher Braschler, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place James Horning, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place William Crooks. For Males 20-29 Category 1<sup>st</sup> Place Matt Dugan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Tyler Latimer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Wesley Harris For Males 30-39 Category 1<sup>st</sup> Place Jason Hendricks, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Alton Kinsey, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Dan Mattock. For Men's Masters 40+ 1<sup>st</sup> Place Tim Wilcox, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Augustus Proctor, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place John Toliver. For Daisy (12 and Under) 1<sup>st</sup> Place Eva Britto, Females 20 -29, 1<sup>st</sup> Place Eliana Wilcox, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Shannon Suban, Females 30 - 39 1<sup>st</sup> Place Amanda Crooks, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Jessica Britto, For Women's Masters 40+ 1<sup>st</sup> Place Melissa Carey, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Olga McPhee, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Sandy Latimer. **Congratulations!!**

**Special Thanks To Event Sponsors, We couldn't have done it without you!**

**Gold** – Business Training Works, Chick Fil A La Plata, Dash In, Greene Turtle La Plata, Grace Lutheran Church and School, KNC Marketing, and SECURIS **Silver** – Mark Hochman, DDS and K. IVAN CUNNINGHAM M.R.C.V.S., P.C. (ANIMAL CLINIC OF LA PLATA) **Bronze** – Sheriff's Electronics "In Loving Memory of Billy Sheriff", Maryland Orthodontics, County First Bank, Southern Solutions, Michelle Yip-Young Tolbert, DDS, PA **Other donations and Thanks to:** UTZ Potato Chips, World Gym, Lifetime Fitness, Coca Cola, Archbishop Neal School, and Charles County Rescue Squad

**To get information about future participation, volunteer opportunity, or sponsorship, Like On Facebook at - Annual Cub Scout Good Turn Run – La Plata, MD**

## SOUTHERN MARYLAND MARTIAL ARTS & FITNESS EXPANSION AND OPEN HOUSE:

Southern Maryland Martial Arts & Fitness has recently expanded in La Plata and currently reside at 140 Drury Drive. They are a full scale fitness center and also a Martial Arts School, providing instruction in Taekwondo starting at age 3 and up. An open house will be held on December 6<sup>th</sup>, which will have demos of all group exercise classes as well as Taekwondo with fun giveaways and discounted memberships.

## Congratulations on your 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



**Joson Fine Jewelry & Home Boutique**  
113 B La Grange Avenue

## WILLS PARK IMPROVEMENT SUGGESTIONS

Your opinion matters to us and the Town wants the community to have an enjoyable experience at Wills Park, so please take a few

moments to let us know any suggestions you have for the park. Please email [mmminer@townoflaplata.org](mailto:mmminer@townoflaplata.org) with your suggestions.

## Code Corner

### 128-5 - Door-to-door salesmen.

Any vendor engaged in the sale of goods or services by soliciting orders door to door within the town and not having a fixed place of business within the town shall first secure a proper license or permit before beginning the solicitations. Such vendors may not solicit business at locations prohibited by the conditions of their license nor where the owner or resident of the property has indicated that such vendors are not desired on the premises. The license or permit for such vendors may be revoked for cause at any time by the Chief Executive Officer.

Please note that as of this article being written in the second week of November, there has never been a permit issued to a door to door salesman in La Plata. If you have ever had one come to your home, they had been conducting business without a valid permit.

If someone comes to your door without you asking them to come, you should be very cautious about their intent. While not everyone going door to door is a criminal, there are many different types of scams that are conducted in this manner. They may either be after your credit card information, be attempting to sell stolen merchandise or inferior products, they may intend physical harm, or they may be casing your home for a later burglary. It is best to be careful in circumstances of an unsolicited solicitor, you don't know what their true intentions are.

Call the La Plata Police. Chances are the solicitor does not have a valid permit. Be prepared to give a full description of the person who came to your door, what vehicle they were driving, and what direction they went. Please call for anyone in your neighborhood who appears suspicious.

While you may not be taken advantage of yourself by an unscrupulous individual, please call the Police to help protect a neighbor who may not understand they are being taken advantage of. Unfortunately, residents of La Plata have been victimized before. By calling the Police, you may be helping your neighbor avoid being harmed.

## FANNING LAW, LLC

*Focusing on Family Law Matters because Families Matter Most.*

# KIDS' ART CONTEST

A National Art Contest for Children ages 4 to 12

## \$100 GRAND PRIZE!

Three \$25 prizes will be awarded for the best artwork in each of three age groups:

Ages 4 - 6

Ages 7 - 9

Ages 10 - 12

2014 THEME:

**FUN TOGETHER,  
FAMILY FOREVER!**

## CONTEST GUIDELINES

All artwork must be on an 8½ by 11 inch sheet of paper and include the child's name, age, mailing address, and parent's name and phone number.

### ENTRY DEADLINE:

All entries must be submitted by 4 pm Friday, December 5, 2014. Winners will be announced December 10, 2014. Winning artwork will be displayed in our office and featured on our website and Facebook page.

### COPYRIGHT LAWS:

Any artwork that depicts copyrighted images will be rejected. All artwork must be original ideas and created entirely by the student. Sorry, artwork can not be returned.

### JUDGING CRITERIA:

All submissions will be reviewed by our judges according to age category based on the following criteria: Interpretation of the theme, Technical skill, and Originality.



2013 Grand Prize Winner

### Mail entries flat and unfolded to:

Art Contest, c/o Fanning Law, LLC  
P.O. Box 398, La Plata, MD 20646.

### Local entries may also be dropped off at our offices:

Fanning Law, LLC, 201 Centennial St., Suite 2-A, at the corner of Centennial Street & St. Mary's Avenue, La Plata, Maryland. Tel: 301.934.3620



[WWW.FANNINGLAWLLC.COM](http://WWW.FANNINGLAWLLC.COM)

# TOWN OF LA PLATA

305 Queen Anne Street  
P. O. Box 2268  
La Plata, Maryland 20646-2268

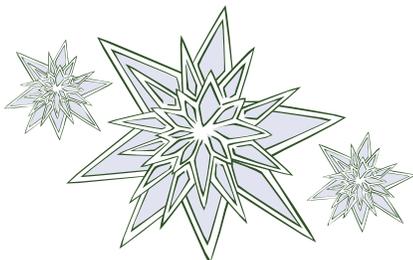
PRESORTED  
FIRST CLASS MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
WALDORF, MD  
PERMIT NO. 10131



**Town Notes** is a publication of the Town of La Plata.

## TOWN POSTS SNOW EMERGENCY ROUTES:

Old man winter is just around the corner, this means the possibility of snow. The Public Works Department has posted snow emergency routes throughout the Town. Parking will be prohibited on these streets while a snow emergency plan is in effect for Charles County. Vehicles parked along these roads will be ticketed or towed at the owner's expense during a snow emergency. To aid snow removal crews and improve safety, please do not park along streets when winter weather is in the forecast. Instead park in your garage, driveway, or designated parking space. The following is a list of the Town's snow emergency routes:



- Agricopia Drive
- Bath Drive
- Clarks Run Road
- Cornwall Drive
- East Patuxent Drive
- Fescue Circle
- Garrett Avenue
- Hawthorne Drive (between Rt. 301 and Washington Avenue)
- Heritage Green Parkway
- Hickory Circle
- Hickory Lane
- Kent Avenue
- La Grange Avenue
- Llano Drive
- Magnolia Drive
- Norfolk Drive
- Oak Avenue
- Oriole Lane
- Quailwood Parkway
- Queen Anne Street
- Redwood Circle
- Savanna Drive
- Shining Willow Way (between Rt. 301 and Washington Avenue)
- Somerset Street
- St. Mary's Avenue
- Suffolk Drive
- Wales Drive
- Wicomico Street
- Willow Lane

