

TOWN NOTES

News from La Plata Town Hall



MAYOR'S CORNER

As summer draws to a close, school is back in session and we look forward to fall and all it has to offer, the work of your Town Council and Town Staff continue on many important issues and projects. While we have much to be thankful for in La Plata there is still considerable work to accomplish.

I would be remiss not to thank the Town Staff and especially Colleen Wilson, our Special Events Coordinator, for another outstanding Friday night concert series. This concert program continues to be the highlight of our special events program and is enjoyed by all, young and not so young alike. From the end of May to the end of September the place to be on Friday night in La Plata is in your folding chair or on a blanket on the lawn of Town Hall listening to a variety of good music and enjoying the good food and companionship of family and friends. This series is an integral part of the La Plata experience and I trust will continue to be for generations to come.

The La Plata Crossing annexation with its Super Wal-Mart component has not yet been resolved. The appeal of the lower court decision by the Town of La Plata, that the referendum on the issue was invalid, has not been scheduled for a hearing at the time this column is written. We trust that a hearing will be held soon so that we can bring this matter to a close. Once again I think it is important to state that the Town Council voted unanimously to appeal the lower court decision to uphold the rights of our citizens to hold a referendum on the

Continued on page 3

2012 Citizen Survey

The last Citizen Survey was conducted in 2010. The results of these surveys are very important in helping the Town Council plan for the future, service delivery, and budgeting.

A randomly selected group of 1,200 Town of La Plata residents will receive the National Citizen Survey questionnaire. The questionnaire will be asking for feedback on the quality and usefulness of Town services. Residents who receive the survey are encouraged to complete and return it. Prenotification postcards will be delivered the week of October 8, 2012 with the 1st wave of surveys being delivered the week of October 15, 2012. The second wave of surveys will be delivered the week of October 22, 2012. Surveys will need to be completed and mailed back not later than November 12, 2012.

There will be three new questions on the 2012 survey. They will ask if speed cameras would be an effective deterrent for speeding in school zones; if you would support an increase in the property tax rate to recover the lost funding from the State for local road maintenance; and which of the Town Council's major initiatives are of the greatest priority to be addressed. For additional information about the Town Council's Major Initiatives, please see the related article in this newsletter.

"This citizen survey is a convenient and effective way to enhance communication between the Town of La Plata and citizens who can't come to meetings, but vote, pay taxes and make decisions for their families," said Mayor Roy Hale, "I encourage everyone that receives a survey to complete it and make sure your government knows what you want as a resident."

Trick or Treat Evening

Trick or Treat evening in La Plata is **Wednesday, October 31**, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. As an alternative to door-to-door trick or treating, the Town continues to encourage community parties as a means of providing safe fun for our children. However, for those who allow their children to go door-to-door, we ask that you limit this to the 12 and under age group, and encourage you to accompany your children as chaperones and keep your children in their own immediate neighborhood. We encourage these safety precautions for all children who go out trick or treating:

- ⇒ **Wear reflective tape or other reflective material on your costume so you are visible as you walk along the streets.**
- ⇒ **Use a flashlight to help light your way.**
- ⇒ **Don't wear a mask that would keep you from being able to easily see vehicles or other hazards as you walk from house to house.**

All who are driving through Town during Trick or Treat Evening on October 31st are asked to be especially careful of the children walking through the neighborhoods.



Town of La Plata



Conservation Corner – Insulation



With the coming of colder temperatures, our homes will soon be a refuge from brisk winds, and chilly dampness. The feeling of a warm home is comforting and is essential for living in this climate during the winter. Keeping our homes warm can be a challenge because of high utility bills. One of the best ways to reduce your energy costs and keep your home warm all winter is to insulate your home well.

The best place to start is by contacting SMECO through <http://www.smeco.coop>. SMECO provides Home Comfort Consultations and lots of energy efficiency recommendations through the Save Energy to Save Money portion of its website.

According to SMECO, 75% of your electric bill goes toward heating and cooling your home, and heating water. In order to make sure the temperatures are maintained, insulation can help keep your home cool in the summer, warm in the winter, and your water warm longer.

- Wrap your water heater with a water heater blanket to keep the water warm. Your water heater keeps a supply of water warm ready for your use, so when you are not using it. The heat leaves the water heater resulting in more energy use.
- Wrap your hot water pipes to reduce heat loss within walls or along crawlspaces. Special insulation is designed specifically

for this purpose, and is simple to install on exposed pipes.

- Attic insulation is essential for keeping heat in the home. Since heat rises, a properly insulated attic keeps heat from escaping from the living area. For La Plata Energy.gov recommends attic insulation of R38 to R60.
- Use Insulation Contact rated lights and fans in the ceiling so insulation can be added around fixtures without creating a fire hazard.
- Consult a professional to add insulation to your existing walls, floors, or attic. Spray foam insulation adds a higher R value in areas that are difficult to access with lower thicknesses.
- On exterior walls add switch plate and outlet insulators to insulate the electric boxes.
- Ensure your ducts are all sealed to prevent conditioned air from escaping into the spaces between your walls and ceilings.
- If you cannot upgrade your windows, consider using window insulation film to add an additional barrier between your home and the outdoor cold.
- Seal the gaps in your home with caulk and weather-stripping. Look for areas where there are holes around pipes or wires coming into the home and around windows, doors, and vents.
- Let the sun shine in during the day, but close blinds, drapes and curtains at night.

Insulation is an improvement that lasts and will provide benefit for years to come. Consider adding insulation to not only reduce your energy bill, but to benefit the environment by reducing energy needs.

COUNCIL COLUMN

Councilman Wayne Winkler, Ward 1

La Plata Town Staff has been working diligently over the past couple of years to make life better for all of us while saving us money when water problems occur. Let me tell you what improvements were made and how they affect you. New water meters. These are really great. If you have a water leak an alert notifies Town staff after 96 hours and they can contact you. Please make sure Town Hall has your current phone number and email. If your bill doesn't seem right they can tell you how many gallons you used throughout the day. Several years ago my mother had a leak and the bill was \$3,000.00. The new meters would have caught this. The year before last, I had a leak and it cost me \$600.00. The new meters would have prevented that. What a great deal.

Another area of improvements, new trash containers. Three sizes to better accommodate your needs. Why have a large one that fits all if you recycle and don't have

that much trash. Second, wheels to make it easier to move. Third, a lid that doesn't blow away. Public Works also installed trash container lifters on all trash trucks so they make it faster to pick up, thereby not blocking traffic on major road arteries.

Recycle bins. The Town is researching new bins that will have lids and prevent recyclables from blowing all over the place. Three hundred will be available later this year or next year.

Upgraded sewer lines. This gives the Town more capacity as we grow. It also gets waste to the plant quicker and prevents backups and overflows.

Moving on to more pleasant subjects; the opening of Tighman Lake. You probably never heard of it and don't know where it is. When I was young we had a National Guard site on Radio Station Road. That's where the ugly townhouses were that were recently torn down. Near there was this ugly old lake that they never maintained. Eventually they gave it to La Plata. For years it sat there and was not used by anyone. Times are now

different. Town Staff spend many hours and days cleaning it up. A fence separated the lake from Laurel Park. It was opened up and now there is a walking trail connecting the lake and park. Public bathrooms are now installed at the site. We are putting in a parking area this fall and will open the lake to the public with a ribbon cutting event. We have a fish catch and release program. The Cub Scouts have installed a really nice pier. When complete, this should be a fun place to take the family and have a picnic.

We still have our concert series with great turnouts, Fourth of July watermelon bashes, quarterly yard sales at Town Hall, Memorial Day Celebration, Veterans Day Celebration, Christmas with Santa, and many more events.

Finally, in La Plata we have our Town Police, Charles County Sheriff, and Maryland State Police making La Plata a great and safe place to live. With nearly 70 years of living here I never plan on leaving and hope you don't either.

Are you a senior or person who needs assistance with your trash? The Town of La Plata offers house side collection of your trash for qualifying seniors and individuals with disabilities. Please contact Carolyn Johnson at (301) 934-8421 or cjohnson@townoflaplata.org for additional information.

NEW EMPLOYEES



In August the Public Works Department welcomed TeeJay Short as a Public Works Technician I. TeeJay was born and raised in Bryans Road, MD. He is a graduate of Lackey High school and in his free time he enjoys playing basketball and spending time with his family.

Town Hall Closed

The Town Hall will be closed on the following days:

Veterans Day	Monday, November 12, 2012
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 22, 2012
Day After Thanksgiving	Friday, November 23, 2012

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
 Paddy Mudd 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

Project Manager: Steven F. Schroeder

Police Chief: Cassin B. Gittings

Director of Planning and Community

Development: David M. Jenkins

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

Website: www.townoflaplata.org

MAYOR'S CORNER (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

issue once a sufficient number of signatures were certified.

Work on Willow Lane replaced a major sewer line. The new line will solve many of the sewer related problems that have occurred in this area of Town. Following the completion of the sewer line Willow Lane will be resurfaced. Work also continues on our wastewater treatment plant to upgrade its efficiency and hopefully future expansion.

Discussions are still ongoing with GP Homes as they related to the development of Heritage Green, the annexation that was approved by referendum in 1989, as to the possibility of amending the annexation agreement to remove the requirement to build an 18-hole golf course on the property prior to the construction of any homes. The requirement to build a parkway from Willow Lane to Heritage Green Parkway with a railroad crossing will remain unchanged. The opportunity to obtain over 100 acres of land, currently designed as a golf course, for parks and recreation use by the Town as well as the new development, is a key issue that drives the debate. A decision on this matter should be made soon.

The Town's Vision Plan, developed over ten years ago, is under careful review by the La Plata Town Centre Corporation, a non-profit redevelopment corporation that was formed to provide the ability to move the Vision Plan forward. The downtown area west of Washington Avenue, east of Kent Avenue and north of Charles Street is the area addressed in the Vision Plan and currently under review by the redevelopment corporation. The whole purpose of this venture is to place the Town in a position to move forward when opportunities arise and the state of the economy permit.

The Town's storm water management program is undergoing a major review. New federal and state storm water requirements and many storm water issues in our community has prompted the Town to establish a storm water management fee as part of our utility billing and to seriously address storm water issues as they arise.

All residential storm water management ponds will be the responsibility of the Town when proper easements are secured and they will be placed under a stringent inspection and management program.

As your Mayor, I will always be receptive to your comments, either favorable 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 pickup 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 will be included on your quarterly utility bill.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection



**CHARLES COUNTY
HOUSEHOLD
HAZARDOUS WASTE
COLLECTION**

Household hazardous waste collection days for 2012 are on the first Saturday of each month through December from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the parking lot of the 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 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 15, 2012 to December 14, 2012. 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 with your mower and letting it biodegrade naturally as fertilizer for 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 due to weather and leaf drop:

October 15, 2012 – October 19, 2012 and November 12, 2012 – November 16, 2012

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

October 22, 2012 – October 26, 2012 and November 26, 2012 – November 30, 2012

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

October 29, 2012 – November 9, 2012 and December 3, 2012 – December 14, 2012

Clarks Run

There will be no pick-up the week of November 19, 2012.

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

Trash Collection Schedule Adjustment

If your regular trash collection day is:

Veterans Day
Monday, November 12, 2012

Thanksgiving
Thursday, November 22, 2012
Friday, November 23, 2012

Trash will be picked up on:

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Wednesday, November 21, 2012
Wednesday, November 21, 2012

Recycling Collection Adjustment

Recycling for Wednesday, November 21 will be picked up as scheduled.

Yard Waste Pick Up Schedule Adjustment

There will be no Yard Waste pick up on Monday, November 12 or Friday, November 23.

OCTOBER 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Yard Waste Pick Up Special Pick Up (please call Town Hall before 4:00 p.m. 9/28)	2 Planning Commission Meeting; 7:00 p.m.	3  Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Design Review Board Meeting; 9:00 a.m. Crime Watch Council Meeting; 7:30 p.m.	4	5 Yard Waste Pick Up	6 Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Community Yard Sale; 8:00 a.m. to noon 
7	8 Yard Waste Pick Up Columbus Day	9 Mayor and Council Work Session; 7:00 p.m.	10  Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting; 5:00 p.m.	11	12 Yard Waste Pick Up	13  Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
14 Yard Waste Pick Up *Loose leaf pick up begins	15 Yard Waste Pick Up *Loose leaf pick up begins  Beautification Commission Meeting; 4:00 p.m.	16 Mayor and Council Work Session; 7:00 p.m.	17  Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Design Review Board Meeting; 9:00 a.m.	18	19 Yard Waste Pick Up	20  Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
21	22	23 Mayor and Council Business Meeting; 7:00 p.m.	24  Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	25	26 Yard Waste Pick Up	27  Harvest Halloween Party; 10:00 a.m. to noon Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
28 Fall Festival; noon to 4 p.m.	29 Yard Waste Pick Up	30	31  Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Trick or Treat night; 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	*See schedule on page 4 for loose leaf pick up schedule		
						

SPECIAL EVENTS

Summer Concert Series

Thank you to all who attended the Summer Concert Series! Special thank you to Chick-fil-A of La Plata for providing the meals for the bands and raffle prizes each week. We look forward to seeing you next summer.



End of Season Summer Concert Survey

We hope you have enjoyed your experience during the summer concert series. Your opinion matters to us and the Town wants the community to have an enjoyable experience so please take a few moments and tell us what you think. The survey is available on the Town's website under the Events page.

Chili Cook-Off



The annual Chili Cook-Off was held on Saturday, September 8 and a fun time was had by all! With 28 different kinds of chili to sample, moon bounces, face painting for the kids and live music from the Three Sixty Band, there was something for everyone to enjoy. Thank you to all the chili participants for making this event a success!



2012 Winners

Traditional Chili

- 1st place – Good Butt Chili – Missy Reynolds
- 2nd place – Moose's Wingman – Justin Mosiman
- 3rd place – Black Bear Grill – Lewis Ratchford, Jr. and Sacred Heart Church – Ruth Runyan

Non-Traditional Chili

- 1st place – Dan's Devils – Dan Merrick
- 2nd place – Los Pollos Hermanos – Philip Jones
- 3rd place – Sacred Heart Church – Ruth Runyan and Team "Chilly" Rita's of La Plata – Aileen Rose

Vegetarian Chili

- 1st place – Team Chili – Charles Priddy
- 2nd place – La Plata Fire Department – Jay Johnson
- 3rd place – The Spice is Right – Kenia Alvarado

People's Choice

Good Butt Chili – Missy Reynolds

Weirdest Ingredient – Traditional

Stonewall's Chili, Soli Deo Gloria Church, and Moose's Wingman

Weirdest Ingredient – Non-Traditional

Team "Chilly" Rita's of La Plata

Spiciest Chili

Nomad Gourmet – Bill Hayden

For the full list of winners in each category please visit the Chili Cook-Off page under Events on the Town's website www.townoflaplata.org.

Upcoming Special Events



The next community yard sale is scheduled for Saturday, October 6th from 8 am to 12 pm. Applications for the October sale are available at www.townoflaplata.org under the Events page.

In conjunction with the Fall Community Yard Sale, the Town of La Plata will hold a "Costume Swap" at La Plata Town Hall at the October 6 yard sale. Tables will be set up in the Town Hall Parking lot where parents can drop off old Halloween Costumes. Costumes should be clean and in usable condition with no tears of holes – unless that's part of the costume. Anyone – whether or not they have brought a costume – will be allowed to take what they need for this year's Halloween.



Join us on Sunday, October 21st for the Fall Festival at Town Hall. Enjoy live music from the band "The Wise Guys", kids' activities, craft and food vendors. Vote for your favorite scarecrow as part of the "Festival of Scarecrows" hosted by the Charles County Chamber of Commerce. Stop by for an afternoon of free family fun!



Stop by the Town Hall on Saturday, October 27th from 10 am to 12 pm for the Harvest Halloween Party. Come in costume and enjoy crafts, snacks, and treats for the little ones.



Come out on Sunday, November 11th at 1 pm for the Salute to Veterans Parade. Watch the parade make its way to Town Hall down Charles Street and La Grange Avenue.

Parade registration form is available at the Town's website under the Events page.

Save the date for the Town's Holiday events.

Olde Tyme Holiday Gathering

Sunday, December 2nd from 3 pm to 6 pm
Celebrate the season with music, children's activities, refreshments, and visit from Santa.

Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 8th
4 time slots: 8-8:45 am, 9-9:45 am, 10-10:45 am and 11-11:45 am
Town residents can register for time slots starting Wednesday, November 7th and general public registration will open Monday, November 19th. To register, call Town Hall at (301) 934-8421.

For more information on the Town of La Plata's special events please visit www.townoflaplata.org under the Events page or contact Colleen Wilson, Special Events Coordinator at cwilson@townoflaplata.org or (301) 934-8421 ext. 142.

WEBSITE POLL

Visit the Town of La Plata's website at <http://www.townofaplata.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:

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? La Plata has a good reputation for conservatively preparing a budget, given its revenue.

Strongly Agree

Somewhat Agree

Neither Agree nor Disagree

Somewhat Disagree

Strongly Disagree

August Website Poll Results

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

How should La Plata fund road maintenance in the future?

Wait for the State Legislature to return Highway User Revenue to La Plata – 33%

Increase property taxes – 19%

Discontinue another municipal service – 17%

Let roads deteriorate – 6%

Seek authority from Maryland Legislature for a new local source of revenue – 25%

Governments across the country are dealing with similar issues. Revenue is inadequate to meet the demands for service. When this occurs, the community must decide what the most appropriate course of action is. Should taxes or fees be raised to continue providing the service? Should another service be restricted? Should the service be scaled back, or even discontinued?

For local governments across Maryland, road maintenance was paid for by the motor fuel taxes you pay at the pump. The State of Maryland collected the funds and distributed them to local governments. Unfortunately, the State took those Highway User Revenues from the Transportation Trust Fund four budgets ago and is using those to fix its budget problems. By taking the money from local governments, the problem is now shifted to La Plata to resolve.

For the past few budgets, the La Plata Town Council has wrestled with the question of what to do with road maintenance. In the 2010 Citizen Survey, residents were asked if they would support a property tax increase in order to replace the lost revenue the State took. At that time just 38% of respondents supported funding road maintenance with property taxes. This snap poll shows that respondents feel the solution to road maintenance in La Plata needs to be resolved at the State level. 58% of respondents either want the State Legislature to return High-

way User Revenue to local governments or find another revenue

source to pay for road maintenance. Just 36% felt La Plata should raise property taxes or discontinue other services to pay for road maintenance.

Without an indication of support from the community, La Plata has worked within its budget without raising property tax rates. Annual road maintenance has been significantly impacted, resulting in the overall quality of the road infrastructure to deteriorate each year. Next spring a decision will need to be made again by the Town Council; impact La Plata to fund road maintenance, or let the roads deteriorate another year.

There will be another winter of freezing and thawing, expanding the cracks and potholes in the road. With little growth in the economy, the State of Maryland will likely hold on to the Transportation Trust Fund dollars to use on other State projects. La Plata will be left to decide again if the roads deteriorated enough over the winter to require some action besides waiting for the State to uphold its responsibility.



WATER CONSERVATION MINI-GRANTS

Great conservation projects are ones that can not only conserve resources, but save money as well. The November round of Conservation Mini-Grants will focus on **WATER CONSERVATION**. By replacing fixtures or appliances with ones that reduce water demand, you can save water and reduce water bills.

Small businesses, consider putting in a waterless urinal. Replace sink faucets in public spaces to ones that automatically shut off. Scouts could do a project to provide low flow shower heads to the community.

Homeowners can replace an old washing machine with a front loader that uses less water. In order to help turn some of your ideas on helping our environment into reality, the Town offers Conservation Mini-Grants. Several grants of up to \$500 for projects that reduce water consumption are available for the November 19, application deadline.

Find a way to inspire action, educate the community, or directly benefit our environment. This is a great outlet for Home Owner Associations, school projects, scout groups, civic organizations, individuals, businesses,

and other community members to do something that benefits you, the Town, and the environment. Grant applications are available for download from the Town's website, or you may get them directly from Town Manager Daniel Mears at (301) 934-8421 or dmears@townofaplata.org. Successful grant applications will receive up to \$500 to help implement the idea. Thank you for your interest in helping our community conserve water, and the Town can help you make that happen.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4,
CLOCKS ARE SET BACK ONE HOUR.

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHICH COUNCIL WARD YOU ARE IN?

The Town is divided into four (4) councilmanic wards. The qualified voters of the entire Town elect council members from each ward.

A street listing by ward is provided below and also on the Town web site www.townofplata.org.

Councilman Wayne Winkler - Ward I



Address:
214 Washington Avenue
La Plata, Maryland 20646
Telephone: (301) 934-0025
Email: wwinkler@townofplata.org

Baltimore, Bluejay, Bobwhite, Captain Newport, Cardinal, Caroline, - *off of Washington; excluding La Plata Garden Apartments at 310 Caroline, which are in Ward III*, Cecil, Chesapeake, Church, Crain Highway - *north of*

Charles to Town limits north of Heritage Green Pkwy, Curley Hall, Discovery, Drury, Finch, Godspeed, Goldfinch, Harford, Hawthorne *East and West*, Hawthorne Greene, Heritage Green Parkway - *west of Washington*, Kent - *west of the railroad tracks*, Laurel Wood, Lee - *part of*, Lelia, Lodge, Magnolia, Mallard, N. Maple, Martin, Morris, Oriole, Osprey, Partridge, Pender, Pheasant, Pine, Pocahontas, Port Tobacco - *north side*, Powhatan, Prospect, Quail Court, Quail Lane (*East and West*), Quailwood - *both sides: from 115 Quailwood Pkwy. south to Rt. 6*, Scroggins - *part of*, Shining Willow - *west of Washington to Crain*, Spruce, Susan Constant, Talbot, Tanager, Teal, Thrush, Walnut Hill, Washington - *from Charles north to and including 814 Washington; then only the west side of Washington*, Waxwing, Winjon, Williamsburg, Woodduck

Councilman Keith Back - Ward II



Address:
1046 Norfolk Drive
La Plata, Maryland 20646
Telephone: (301) 392-3775
Email: kback@townofplata.org

Agricopia, Barley, Bath, Bran, Box Elder, Canterbury, Chaff, Cheshire, Cornwall, Cornwall, Cover Crop, Don Sinsel, Dulles, Eastbourne, Fescue, Fescue, Gleaning, Hayfield, Junction, Kennedy, Lancashire, Leeds Way,

Leicester, Llano, Madison, Maidengrass, Middlesex, Millet, Myrtleleaf, Norfolk, Northampton, Northchase, Oats, Oliver Run, Peachleaf, Piney Branch, Piscataway, Pollen, Pomonkey, Popes Creek, Reaping, Rutland, Rye, Sandbar, Savanna Court, Savanna Drive, Sheffield, Shining Willow - *east of Washington*, Silo, Wiltshire (*South and North*), Sorghum, Station, Suffolk, Sweetgrass, Tallgrass, Thomas Jefferson, Vintage, Wales, Washington - *from the northern boundary line of 814 Washington north to Town limits; east side of Washington only*, Westmorland, Wheatfield, Whistlestop, Wildflower, Wiltshire, Zekiah Run

Councilwoman Paddy Mudd - Ward III



Address:
P.O. Box 821
301 Queen Anne Street
La Plata, Maryland 20646
Telephone: (301) 934-4804
Email: pmudd@townofplata.org

Anne Arundel, Asbury, Buckeye, Calvert, Caroline - *off of Kent*, Caroline - *off of Washington: including only La Plata Garden Apartments, 310 Caroline*, Carroll, Catalpa, Cedar, Centennial,

Charles - *south side from Crain, east to railroad tracks; north side from railroad tracks to and including 1010 Charles*, Charleston, Crain Highway - *south of Charles*, Derby, Dolly, Dorchester, Edelen Station, Firehouse Alley, Forest, Frederick, Glen Albin, Glen Oak, Goose Creek, Haldane Court, Haldane Drive, Hibiscus, Holly, Howard, Jennie Run, Kalmia, Kent - *east of railroad tracks*, La Grange, Laurel, Linden Lane, Little Creek, Live Oak, S. Maple, McPhee, Monteiro, Nanjemoy, North Oak, Old Stagecoach - *only part of north side*, Palmetto, Patuxent, Port Tobacco - *south side*, Potomac, Prince Georges, Queen Anne, Queen Victoria, Severn, Simms, Spanish Moss, Starkey, St. Mary's, Steeplechase, Sycamore, Wesley, Wills

Councilman Joseph Norris - Ward IV



Address:
P.O. Box 1947
La Plata, Maryland 20646
Telephone: (301) 934-9230
Email: jnorris@townofplata.org

Alder, Arlington, Aspen, Burning Bush Court, Burning Bush Place, Butternut, Chestnut, Clarks Run, Concord, Cottonwood, Crabapple, Curran, Delray, Dogwood, E. Patuxent, Garrett, Graves, Heather, Hemlock,

Hickory Circle, Hickory Lane, Huckleberry, La Plata - *west side from Charles to and including 10250 La Plata Rd.*, Martin, Oak, Persimmon, Prince Charles - *in Clarks Run Subdivision*, Quince, Redbud, Redwood, River Birch, Scarlet Oak, Silver Linden, Somerset, Wicomico, Willow, Winterberry, Worcester

Mayor Roy G. Hale



Address:
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Represents entire Town.

MAJOR INITIATIVES

For a functioning local government there are many different types of tasks. Some tasks like collecting trash, responding to emergency calls, reviewing building plans, maintaining well pumps, and processing accounts payable are routine tasks that occur daily. Other tasks are much broader in nature and require special planning, funding, and action to undertake them. They are also important for meeting the long term goals of the community. In La Plata, some of these broad tasks are called Major Initiatives. There are twelve Major Initiatives in La Plata that are often referred to internally in just a few words, but convey a project or a goal that is very large, complicated, expensive, or time consuming to complete.

Some of La Plata's Major Initiatives are simply goals to be worked on in the future, some have specific triggers for when they will begin, and others have been worked on, and progress is made each year. In the 2012 Citizen Survey, the Town Council will be asking residents which Major Initiative is of the greatest priority to residents. This article will provide a brief description of each to provide some context in advance of the survey.

Comprehensive Plan Projects

In 2009 La Plata updated its Comprehensive Plan, which is required by the State every six years. Created by the Planning Commission the Plan guides the Town on decisions related to Land Use, Transportation, Economic Development, Housing, Sensitive Areas, Water Resources, Open Space and Recreation, Municipal Growth, and Review and Regulation.

Projects outlined in the Comprehensive Plan are often triggered by development plans submitted to the Town; however others recommend changes to the Town Code that require staff time, research, and policy review and discussion to update the rules under which the Town operates.

Downtown Square

Prior to the tornado in 2002, the Town developed a Vision Plan to guide the long term vision for the Town, and developed a plan for the redevelopment of downtown La Plata. The Town has sought input from citizen groups to guide downtown redevelopment and recently formed a separate not for profit corporation to guide the redevelopment efforts to create a downtown square in the area of Washington, Charles, Talbot and Maple.

Parks and Recreation / Community Center

In 2011 the Town Council adopted the Town's first Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This document is similar in nature to the Comprehensive Plan; however it focuses on the long term parks

and recreation goals of the Town. Plans for future parks, trails, a community center, and recreational activity areas are all covered in this guiding document. To date parks and recreation improvements have been funded with park fees and State grants.

Pedestrian Safety

A walkable downtown is one of the goals of the Town. With State Route 6, Charles Street, bisecting the downtown, pedestrian safety is vital for people crossing that road to access different parts of downtown. The road is maintained by the State of Maryland. It is a common route for traffic traveling east of La Plata to get through Town. Tasks for pedestrian safety could involve improving pedestrian markings, crossing systems, or traffic calming.

Public Works Needs Assessment

The Public Works Department is responsible for many of the basic services provided to the Town, including water utility maintenance, road repair, trash collection, landscaping, and other tasks. With a growing community, it is important that this aspect of the Town be able to keep up with the changes. In 2008, the Town prepared a Public Works Needs Assessment to guide changes within that department. One task resulting from the assessment was the acquisition of a new Public Works Facility south on 301 to serve the future space needs of the department.

Roads

The Town is responsible for the maintenance of all local roads. Historically motor vehicle fuel taxes was the source of funding for ongoing maintenance. Since the State of Maryland has taken most of that funding away from local governments, roads have been inadequately maintained for the past four years. Deciding how to fund and maintain roads in La Plata will be critical as roads surfaces deteriorate over time.

Sidewalk Maintenance

Creating a walkable environment is essential to overall community health and pedestrian access. In La Plata, sidewalk maintenance is a responsibility of an abutting property owner. Like roads, deciding how to fund and maintain sidewalks in La Plata will be critical as sidewalks deteriorate over time.

Staff/Facility Expansion

La Plata is a growing community and many of the services provided require employees of the Town to carry them out. Whether it is Police, Public Works, Planning, Inspections, or Administrative staff, it is important that this aspect of the Town be able to keep up with the changes. As work demands grow,

the Town actively works to find efficiencies in its operations, yet additional staff and space for them is critical over time.

Storm Water Utility

Concerns about water quality in the Chesapeake Bay have prompted the EPA and State of Maryland to impose new requirements on local governments to ensure a reduction in nutrients conveyed through waterways by storm water. Significant new requirements have required many local governments to form storm water utilities just as La Plata has done. La Plata will be required, along with other local governments, to reduce nutrient levels in storm water in the coming years, requiring significant investment in treatment.

Technology Investment

Service demands in La Plata outweigh the available resources to provide them. In order to better leverage the available people and resources to provide government services, the Town actively seeks to use technology to improve efficiencies in operations, and enhance customer service. Recent projects have included RFID trash collection, remote read water meters, GIS mapping, online utility payments, and agenda management software. Additional efficiencies can be found through wise additional investments in technology.

Transportation Plan Projects

In 2009 the Town completed its first Transportation Plan. The Plan includes a complete assessment of the transportation system within La Plata, with goals for improving pedestrian accessibility and improving the road network. Projects contained within this plan provide for improvements for people to move more efficiently throughout the community.

Waste Water Treatment Plant Expansion

Treating dirty water is not only desirable; it is also a mandate from the State. As a growing community, La Plata will generate more dirty water that will need to be made clean to increasingly stringent standards. To accommodate the additional water, in the coming years the Town will need to increase its treatment capacity by a million gallons per day. Funding for this expansion comes from a Major Facility Fee charged to new construction based upon the amount of water needed by the development.

Please look for this year's citizens survey, coming late this fall. If you have any questions about these twelve major initiatives, please contact La Plata Town Manager, Daniel Mears, at dmears@townoflaplata.org or (301) 934-8421.

HALLOWEEN SAFETY

Trick or Treat evening in La Plata is **Wednesday, October 31**, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. As an alternative to door-to-door trick or treating, the Town continues to encourage community parties as a means of providing safe fun for our children. However, for those who allow their children to go door-to-door, we ask that you limit this to children 12 and under, and encourage you to accompany your children as chaperones, and keep your children in their own immediate neighborhood.

All who are driving in Town during Trick or Treat Evening on October 31st are asked to be especially careful of the children walking through the neighborhoods.

Halloween is a fun time for kids, but it is also an important time to be extra vigilant for possible safety hazards so that your children have a fun and safe Halloween. Some tips from the La Plata Police Department to make Halloween safe include:

Costume safety

- Choose a costume made of flame retardant material
- Costumes should be short enough so that they don't cause trips and falls
- For visibility, add reflective tape to the costume or treat bag or choose a costume made of bright material

- Masks should fit securely and not hinder visibility
- Face paint should be nontoxic and hypoallergenic
- Props should be made of a flexible material, so that they don't pose a hazard if fallen on

Trick-or-Treating safety

- Children should be well supervised by an adult when trick-or-treating. Older children should trick-or-treat in large groups in well known neighborhoods
- Carry a flashlight
- Stick to well lit houses in familiar neighborhoods
- Avoid shortcuts across backyards or alleys. Stick to the sidewalks of well lit streets

Candy safety

- Instruct children to bring all candy home before eating it so that you can inspect it for tampering. Children shouldn't snack while they're out trick-or-treating, before parents have a chance to inspect the goodies. To help prevent children from munching, give them a snack or light meal before they go
- Tell children not to eat anything that isn't commercially wrapped
- Throw out treats that are homemade,



unwrapped, or if they appear to have been tampered with (pinholes in wrappers, torn wrappers, etc.)

- Parents of young children should remove any choking hazards such as gum, peanuts, hard candies or small toys
- Wash all fresh fruit thoroughly, inspect it for holes, including small punctures, and cut it open before eating

General safety tips

- Homeowners should prepare for trick-or-treaters by removing obstacles from the front yard, restraining pets, and lighting the house well
- Provide treats that are individually wrapped candy or offer kids nonfood treats, such as stickers and erasers
- **Report Any Suspicious Activity to the Police Immediately**

TOWN CLERK RECEIVES CERTIFIED MUNICIPAL CLERK DESIGNATION



When Danielle Mandley was hired in June of 2009 she agreed to actively participate in training provided by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) to receive the designation of Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC).

The CMC program is designed to enhance the job performance of the Clerk in small and large municipalities. To earn the CMC designation, a Municipal Clerk must attend extensive education programs. The CMC des-

ignation also requires pertinent experience in a municipality. The CMC program prepares the applicants to meet the challenges of the complex role of the Municipal Clerk by providing them with quality education in partnership with institutions of higher learning, as well as State and National Associations.

The requirements for obtaining the CMC designation include: (1) Be a clerk or a deputy clerk or perform the duties as defined by IIMC (2) Be an active member of IIMC for two years (3) Affirm and practice the IIMC Code of Ethics (4) Perform the core duties of a municipal clerk by serving a Legislative Government Body (LGB) in an administrative capacity with management respon-

sibilities, which would include four of the following: General Management; Records Management; Elections; Meeting Administration; Management of by-laws, Articles of Incorporation, ordinances or other legal instruments; Human Resources Management; Financial Management, and; Custody of the official seal and execution of official documents. (5) Attain 60 points in the Education category (6) Attain 50 points in the Experience category.

After completing all of the requirements, Danielle was awarded the designation of Certified Municipal Clerk on August 2, 2012.

Commercial Building Permits issued 7/1/12-8/31/12

Qdoba Mexican Grill – 234 Rosewick Road

Roy Rogers – 6370 Crain Highway

Commercial Occupancy Permits issued 7/1/12-8/31/12

Hue Hair Color Salon – 105 D & E Drury Drive

Hunan Star (expansion) – 6277 Crain Highway

Sweet Frog – 105A Drury Drive

Phoenix Hair Studio – 6541 Crain Highway

Clair's Day Care – 700 Charles Street

TOWN OF LA PLATA

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