

TOWN NOTES

News from La Plata Town Hall



MAYOR'S CORNER

A score and seven years ago, a family of four was looking to put down roots after moving many times due to military assignments and post military job opportunities. By chance they had an opportunity to visit La Plata and the search was over. The new developments under construction at the time, Clarks Run for this family, good schools and friendly neighbors made the choice easy. La Plata has changed in the past 27 years but in many ways it has retained the characteristics that were important in our original decision and are still important today.

I agreed to serve as Mayor until the May 2009 election because I believe strongly in our Town and the people who reside here. I am honored to serve in this office and I assure you that I do not take the duties and responsibilities of this office lightly. I will work with the Town Council and Town Manager to identify and solve the important issues that will keep La Plata moving forward and yet retain the atmosphere that is important to everyone.

My task is made substantially easier by the excellent Town Council and Town Staff. The Council has effectively dealt with many complex issues and will continue to do so. Our Town Manager has demonstrated that he can work

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Town Council Welcomes Mayor Hale



Mayor Hale taking the oath of office, administered by Sharon L. Hancock, Clerk of the Circuit Court for Charles County, Maryland.

On August 26, 2008, Roy G. Hale was elected by the Town Council and sworn in as Mayor to finish the remaining nine months in the vacant term of the office.

Mayor Hale brings with him a variety of government experience on both the local and federal level. Mayor Hale retired as a Navy Lieutenant after 24 years with the U.S. Navy, where he also became licensed as a Certified Public Accountant. In 1980, Mayor Hale was asked to serve on a national presidential election campaign. Over the next five years he held the positions of Acting Treasurer of the United States, Deputy Treasurer of the United States, Treasurer for The Fund For America's Future, and Deputy Treasurer and Controller of the Reagan-Bush Presidential Campaign. Having a strong desire to return to his former career as a Certified Public Accountant, in 1985 he opened an accounting office in Washington D.C. which he relocated to his Clarks Run home in 1987.

He began to serve La Plata in 1995 when he was elected by the Town Council to replace Ward 4 Councilman Jerry Dedman who had resigned his seat when moving out of La Plata. Mayor Hale ran for and was elected by Town registered voters to serve Ward 4 in May 1997 and reelected in May 2001. During his time on the Council, Mayor Hale served as the Council representative on the La Plata Planning, Parks and Recreation, and Beautification Commissions. He served as both the Vice President and President of the Southern Maryland Municipal Association and served as the District Vice President of the Maryland Municipal League for Southern Maryland as a member of the League's Board of Directors and Communications and Convention Planning Committee.

Mayor Hale is married to Ann, has two children, Steven and David, and three grandchildren. When he has spare time he enjoys traveling, reading, writing, boating and gardening.

Juanita Burnette thanked by Town Council



Mayor Hale and Jaunita Burnette

Jaunita Burnette, who served as Accounts Receivable Clerk from December 1980 through July 2008, was presented with a Town of La Plata Seal on August 26. Signed by the Town Council, the Town Seal expressed the Council's "sincere appreciation and recognition of your years of dedicated service to the Town of La Plata and the citizens that it serves. Your work ethic, friendly personality and the skilled manner in which you performed your duties were appreciated by all those you worked with and for, and by the citizens you served. La Plata is a better place because of your efforts and hard work."

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fire Prevention Week is October 5 – 11, 2008. This would be a good time to put fresh batteries in your smoke alarms.

Fall Craft Fair – the Ladies Auxiliary to the La Plata Volunteer Fire Department, 911

Washington Avenue, will be holding their Fall Craft Fair on **Saturday, October 4, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Enjoy a variety of crafts, baked goods, and more! If you are interested in being a vendor, please contact Wendy Latimer at wlatimer@comcast.net.

La Plata Volunteer Fire Department, 911 Washington Avenue, will be hosting a Fire Prevention Open House on Sunday, October

12, from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m., with fire safety/prevention demonstrations, an auto extrication demonstration, videos, free fire safety literature, fire truck rides, food and more. Sparky and McGruff will make appearances at this open house event.

CITIZEN SURVEY

It is hard to believe that it has been nearly a year since we conducted our first Citizen Survey. As a result of some of the citizens' concerns from that Survey we are forming a Citizen Academy for residents to educate them on the Town's water and sewer system. We have also hired a Special Events Coor-

dinator to enhance and increase the Town's special events.

We are in the planning stages of conducting another Citizen Survey in late November or December. The results of these surveys are very important in helping the Town Council plan for the future 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.

NOW OPEN IN LA PLATA AND COMING SOON TO LA PLATA

[This information is current as of September 8, 2008.]

The following businesses were issued Building Permits and/or Commercial Occupancy Permits during July and August 2008:

Ultimate Flooring
212 Rosewick Road

The Hair Cuttery
218 Rosewick Road

Town Hall Closed

The Town Hall will be closed on the following day:

Veterans Day	Tuesday, November 11, 2008
Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 27, 2008 Friday, November 28, 2008

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:

Jim Goldsmith Ward 1
Scot D. Lucas Ward 2
Paddy Mudd Ward 3
Vic E. Newman Ward 4

Town Manager:
Daniel J. Mears
Assistant Town Manager:
Michelle D. Miner
Town Clerk: Judith T. Frazier
Treasurer: Joseph W. Norris

Project Manager: Steven F. Schroeder
Director of Planning and Zoning:
Catherine N. Flerlage
Director of Operations: Robert F. Stahl, Jr.
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
Website: www.townoflaplata.org

MAYOR'S CORNER (CONTINUED)

efficiently with the Town Council while managing a diversified staff. A difficult blending of time and talent that is both unique and effective. The work accomplished by each Town employee, every day, contributes directly to the high level services that citizens expect and ultimately receive.

As my term in office is just beginning, so is the list of topics I will discuss in the weeks and months ahead. Please feel free to contact me at Town Hall (301-934-8421), by e-mail at rhale@townoflaplata.org, or by mail. If you spend the time to write to me, I will spend the time to respond.

The late comedian, Red Skelton, closed every performance with just two words, God Bless. The words are difficult to modify, yet effective and meaningful when applied to our Town and to each of you.

COUNCIL COLUMN

Councilman Jim Goldsmith Ward 1

The hot days of summer have gone and we are looking forward to the cooler days of fall and the changing of the leaves. There are many things going on in the Town as you can read from the other articles in this newsletter. We now have windows in the Park and Ride for additional safety for those using the facilities. We have four-way stop signs at Rosewick Road and Washington Avenue, to be replaced by a stoplight later in the year. The new Giant store will be open by now. Many positive things are happening in the Town. Hopefully you have been attending our Friday concerts and Saturday evening movie series during the summer and have noticed the new lawn and landscaping at the Town Hall. Once plants are established they will be further watered from the 10,000 gallon rainwater collection cistern placed in the ground. We are attempting to set the example with water conservation.

If you have any issues that concern you, feel free to contact me and voice your opinion. jgoldsmith@townofaplata.org.

Councilman Scot D. Lucas Ward 2

The national elections on November 4, 2008, are only weeks away and this time we will be making history. It is exciting to know that either the first African American will become President or the first female will become Vice-President of the United States of America. I'm not here to endorse a candidate or try to persuade anyone one way or another. I only ask that everyone get out and vote! We have an opportunity to do something many people in the world don't – the privilege of electing our leaders.

As stated on its web site, "The Port Tobacco River Conservancy (PTRC) works with businesses, residents, local and state governments, and other conservation groups to restore and protect the river and streams in the watershed. The PTRC balances restoration and protection with economic-development concerns and the value of its river and watershed to both the local and state economies. The PTRC envisions that the Port Tobacco River and its 30,000-acre watershed will be in a nearly pristine condition, as it was in the 1950s. The river will have clear and navigable waters, be rich in fish and wildlife, and safe to the thousands of residents and visitors that use the river and streams for swimming, water sports, hunting and fishing, or just enjoying the beauty of this natural and historical resource."

The Town Council recently adopted The Port Tobacco River Conservancy's vision. This continues our effort for the Town to be at the forefront of environmental issues.

Early feedback on the Speed Awareness Month has been terrific. By the end of the month, the police were reporting that the message had gotten out. People were doing the speed limit in neighborhoods. Another example of its success was the low number of speeders identified on the first day of school. The Charles County Sheriff's Office reported they only pulled over two cars which is highly unusual. I would personally like to thank Chief Gittings, Sheriff Coffey, Sheriff Evans, Sheriff Cameron, Lt. Stevens and Lt. Cedar and all of their officers from their respective departments for their help in this great cause.

Councilman Paddy Mudd Ward 3

Many, many thanks to Mayor Roy Hale for his professionalism and dedication to our town! It is my belief that this Council, our excellent staff and all our residents can proceed in a unified manner to make La Plata the town we want and know it can be.

A few words of explanation regarding growth in town: Previous Councils long before our time made the decisions for residential annexations to grow to a town of about 25,000 residents. This build-out has begun with Heritage Green and SteepleChase. Residential growth will be slow and limited to 100 school seats per year. The commercial annexations that we have approved and are considering are to provide services and hopefully job opportunities so that we do not become exclusively a bedroom community. We have received many comments about the Rosewick and Johel annexations. Let me make it perfectly clear that this commercial development would have happened anyway—just outside our town limits! Faison has provided much of the infrastructure needed including a well, help with upgrades to our treatment plant, etc., etc. and built a quality shopping center, Rosewick Crossing. I am confident that La Plata Crossing will be the same – with Kohl's and some medical and other office space.

Our next big project will be to restart the Vision Team. The "Vision Plan for Greater La Plata" final report in March 2000 was an excellent undertaking which was the cornerstone for our rebuilding after the April 28, 2002 tornado. Having this plan enabled us to apply for help immediately and to rebuild to the town we are today. Please volunteer

to be a member of this team if you are interested in helping us plan for our future.

Our new public works facility will be open in a few months and we have started to plan for our La Plata Community Center on the old public works property. Our Kent Corridor Partnership meetings are at 7:00 PM on the third Thursday of each month at the La Plata police station. Please join us with your ideas.

Councilman Vic Newman Ward 4

I recently accepted an appointment to the Maryland Municipal League's (MML) 2008-2009 Legislative Committee, which has the responsibility of working with the MML staff, the O'Malley-Brown Administration and members of the Maryland State General Assembly to analyze legislation for its impact on municipalities and to advocate on behalf of Maryland's 157 cities and towns. This committee will meet 17 times during the next year. Even though other committee members and I will forfeit paid vacation days to attend these meetings, we all agree that the work of this committee is important to our towns and cities. The 2009 Legislative Action requests as of September 2008 are: Vehicle Laws - Speed monitoring systems - Radar Cameras; Task Force to Study Municipal Government Revenue Structure; Municipal Corporations - Additional Revenue Options; Motor Scooters and Mopeds - Protective Headgear - Requirements; Assault Investigations - Suspect Identification - Requirements; Property Redevelopment - Impervious Surface Limitation - Reduced Requirement; Homeowner's Energy Efficiency Load Program; Homicide by Motor Vehicle - Charges and Penalties; Critical Areas - Local Assistance - Funding for Staff; and Task Force to Study Residential Property Overcrowding Issues. I will also ask that the Legislative Committee adopt another legislative request, that Maryland recognize a program that I am fostering and have discussed with representatives of the O'Malley administration called "Americans First", a simple legislation that addresses all Marylanders as "AMERICANS FIRST" then ethnicity. I have received positive feedback from many elected officials on this proposal and feel that it's time for such an action. I will also take on the issues of water conservation and how Municipalities and the State can work together to ensure future supplies.

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.: October 4, November 1 and December 6.**

The landfill is located at 12305 Billingsley Road East, Waldorf. For driving directions from your location, visit the Landfill's web page at <http://www.charlescounty.org/pf/sw/landfill/default.htm>. 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.*

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: \$11.75 for 5 minutes loading time; each additional minute is \$1.10. 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.*

Curbside Leaf Vacuum Service

The Town will provide curbside leaf vacuum service this year from mid-October to mid-December. You must call Town Hall to be put on a list for pickup, which will be done **as time permits**. Leaves must be dry, have no branches, rocks, or wire or other metal debris mixed in, and **must be raked to the curb**.

Trash Collection Schedule Adjustment

Due to Charles County Sanitary Landfill being closed on certain holidays, the following adjustment is necessary to the Town's refuse collection schedule:

If your regular trash collection day is:

Thanksgiving Day
Thursday, November 27

Trash will be picked up on:

Wednesday, November 26

LA PLATA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

On July 4th at the Town's annual Independence Day Celebration, the La Plata Business Association gave away 800 red, white, and blue popsicles to event attendees.

As of August 1, 2008 Jim DiMisa's term as President of the La Plata Business Association expired. Jim was the original president when the Association was created back in 2002 after the tornado. In the last six years Jim has served as president, vice president, and a Director. Under Jim's leadership the membership had grown to over 40 businesses and he made recommendations to the Mayor and Council regarding such legislation as the Smoking Ordinance, Design Review Guidelines, and Sign Ordinance. We are very pleased that Jim has agreed to stay on as a Director and continue to help guide the association. The members of the La Plata Business Association's Board of Directors for 2009/10 are: President - Cecil "Butch" Hunt, Vice President - Wayne Winkler, Secretary/Treasurer - Michelle Miner, Director at

Large - Jon Johnson, Director at Large - Debora Almasy, Director at Large - Jim DiMisa, and Council ex. Officio - Scot Lucas.

Membership renewals for the 2009/10 year have been mailed out. If you did not receive a renewal notice please contact Michelle.

Mid-Atlantic Builders Announces Opening of their SteepleChase Sales Center

Our legendary passion for design lead us to create some of the most innovative and luxurious townhomes in Charles County at **The Villages of SteepleChase**. As our first community in Charles County, we were inspired by some of the country's most treasured historical neighborhoods to suit this historical locale. Surrounding lush village greens, the classic Savannah and Charleston townhomes are perfect for family life. You'll feel intimately connected to the community while still preserving your own sense of private space. The Villages at SteepleChase is a place where people and nature can exist in harmony.

Elegant entryways, formal landscaping, deep courtyards, and 2-story porches are just some of the unique features of these lovely new townhomes.

Since 1979, Mid-Atlantic Builders has been recognized with a host of local and national awards, including the National Association of Home Builders **America's Best Builder** award. Our sales center is open daily from 11am to 6pm. Please call (301) 934-6616 for more information. Be sure to attend our Grand Opening on Saturday, October 18th. Call for details. **Directions to Sales Center:** We are located approximately 1 mile south of Md. Rt. 6 on Rt. 301 in La Plata. Turn onto Catalpa Drive and the Mid-Atlantic Builders Sales Center will be on your right.



OCTOBER 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market 9:00 a.m., Design Review Board meeting 7:30 p.m., Crime Watch Council meeting	2	3	4 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market
5	6 Special trash pick-up day (Call by 4:00 p.m. Fri., 10/3 to schedule)	7 7:00 p.m., Planning Commission meeting	8 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market 5:00 p.m., Parks and Recreation Commission meeting	9	10	11 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market
12	13	14 7:00 p.m., Town Council work session	15 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market 9:00 a.m., Design Review Board meeting	16	17	18 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market
19	20 4:00 p.m., Beautification Commission meeting	21 4:00 p.m., Town Council meeting with County Commissioners	22 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market	23	24	25 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market
26 noon to 5:00 p.m., Fall Festival and "Festival of Scarecrows" Kick off	27	28 7:00 p.m., Town Council regular meeting	29 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market	30	31 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Trick or Treat Evening	

NOVEMBER 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market
2 2:00 a.m., Daylight Saving Time ends. Set your clocks and watches back 1 hour.	3 Special trash pickup day (Call by 4:00 p.m. Fri., 10/31 to schedule)	4 7:00 p.m., Planning Commission meeting	5 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market 9:00 a.m., Design Review Board meeting 7:30 p.m., Crime Watch Council meeting	6	7	8 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market
9 1:00 p.m., "Salute to Veterans" Parade and Ceremony	10	11 VETERANS DAY – TOWN HALL CLOSED (No change to trash schedule)	12 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market 5:00 p.m., Parks and Recreation Commission meeting	13	14	15 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market
16	17 4:00 p.m., Beautification Commission meeting	18 7:00 p.m., Town Council work session	19 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market 9:00 a.m., Design Review Board meeting	20	21	22 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market
23/30	24	25 7:00 p.m., Town Council regular meeting	26 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market	27 THANKSGIVING DAY – TOWN HALL CLOSED (Thursday's trash will be picked up on Wednesday, Nov. 26)	28 TOWN HALL CLOSED (No change to trash schedule)	29 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market

Conservation Corner

With the rising cost of utilities, La Plata residents are looking for new ways to save on their energy bills. The best way to save on those bills is to conserve the amount of energy used on a daily basis. Take the time to think about ways you can reduce your energy consumption. There are many online resources to help. Appliances tend to be our largest consumers of electricity in our homes. When replacing an appliance, look toward replacing it with an EnergyStar product. At the website <http://www.energystar.gov>, there are many resources and product information to assist.

Locally, SMECO has many tips and services available to assist in conserving energy. Try out their online energy audit at <http://www.smeco.com>, under the Manage Your Energy section. In the meantime, try a few of the following:

- Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent or LED lighting.
- Put exterior lighting on a motion sensor to avoid high wattage lights being on all night.
- Reduce the wattage of lighting where you don't need it as bright.
- Conserve hot water and install low flow shower heads and faucets.
- Weatherize your home to seal leaks from windows, doors, and other openings.
- Add insulation to your ceilings and walls.
- Turn off electric devices when not in use.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Olde Tyme Holiday Gathering

Sunday, December 7, 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
La Plata Town Hall

Don't miss a variety of holiday musical performances, holiday story telling, holiday craft stations, light refreshments, Santa's arrival by fire truck and the lighting of the Town Christmas Tree. For more information contact Amy Peña 301-934-8421

Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 13
La Plata Town Hall

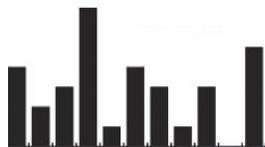
Children 10 years old and under are invited and are asked to bring at least one Christmas card (cards taken to the residents of nursing homes in La Plata.) Reservations accepted after November 24 for the following time slots: 8:15 a.m. - 9:00 a.m., 9:15 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., 10:15 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., and 11:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Early Reminder of the Christmas Decorations Contest

Monday, December 15 – lights on by 6:00 p.m.

The Town's Beautification Commission would like to give an early reminder that the annual Christmas Decorations Contest will be held on Monday, December 15, and ask that you have your lights on by 6:00 p.m. 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 or 301-870-3377) by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, December 12 if you want your outdoor Christmas decorations to be judged.

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. Click on the 'Events' link to find out more about La Plata events. The current question is:

As part of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, the La Plata community contributes to the pollutants that enter the watershed. Does the community adequately protect and address its storm water runoff that affects this watershed?

Website Poll Results from last issue of *Town Notes*

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

How often do you come to La Plata's Downtown?

5+ times per week – 49%

2-3 times per week – 16%

2-6 times per month – 9%

1 time per month – 5%

A few times per year – 7%

Less than once per year – 13%

La Plata's downtown is a place to be. From dining to shopping and working to living, more and more people are finding new reasons to come to downtown and to keep

coming back. Casey Jones, El Dorado, Greene Turtle, Arizona Pizza, Apple Spice Junction, and more are busy every day feeding residents and visitors to La Plata. Doctors, attorneys, and many other professionals have found convenient space to locate their businesses. Charles County's largest employers, Facchina, Civista, and Charles County Government are all located in our downtown. Our community events are also focused here, from La Plata's concerts and events, to charity run/walks, and seasonal decorations, there is regularly a reason to come downtown for something interesting and fun. Visit our small shops, take in lunch and dinner, and avail yourself of the many convenient services. It is all in Downtown La Plata. Thank you for your participation in the last online poll.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Fall Festival and "Festival of Scarecrows" Kick off

Sunday, October 26, noon to 5:00 p.m. Grounds of the La Plata Town Hall

Look for the exciting Fall Festival featuring the "**Taste of La Plata**" on Sunday October 26, from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Come out and enjoy samples from La Plata eateries, free children's activities and plenty of entertainment. In addition to this community celebration of food and family entertainment, this event also kicks off the "Festival of Scarecrows" hosted by the Charles County Chamber of Commerce, the Town of La Plata, the La Plata Business Association and Civista Health Foundation. Tickets for food samples are \$1.00 per ticket and free bottled water will be provided. For additional information, contact Amy Peña at 301-934-8421

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"Salute to Veterans" Parade and Ceremony

Sunday, November 9, 1:00 p.m.

The "Salute to Veterans" Ceremony will take place on the grounds of the La Plata Town Hall immediately following the parade. If you would like to participate in the parade please contact Amy Peña at 301-934-8421 for a registration form.

CITIZEN ACADEMY

The Town of La Plata is proud to offer a Citizen Academy for La Plata's Water and Sewer Systems. A Citizen Academy brings interested members of the community together to learn about a particular government service. Over the course of five short sessions, beginning at the end of October, residents will learn about the Town's water and sewer systems from an expert's point of view.

The Citizen Academy will help residents of La Plata better understand how these vital public services work and the resources it takes to provide them. Space is limited in the Academy. **To sign up for the Academy please call Town Hall at 301-934-8421 or email Donna at dshorter@townofaplata.org.** Sessions will all start and end at La Plata Town Hall. Session dates are set for:

Wednesday, October 29, 7:00 PM: Session on public water systems in general and La Plata's system in particular.

Saturday, November 8, 10:00 AM: Field trip – Tour of La Plata's wells and water storage tank.

Wednesday, November 12, 7:00 PM: Session on Sewer treatment facilities, collection systems, and elimination of Sanitary Sewer Overflows.

Sanitary Sewer Overflows.

Saturday, November 22, 10:00 AM: Field trip – Tour of La Plata's WWTP and at least one pump station.

Wednesday, December 10, 7:00 PM: Session on Operation and Maintenance of water and sewer systems, budgeting, and capital expenditures.

At the time of registration, please advise if any special accommodations are required for your participation. The Town looks forward to your participation, and the opportunity to share one-of-a-kind insight into the Town's operations.

TRICK OR TREAT EVENING

Trick or Treat evening in La Plata is **Friday, 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.

INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

La Plata is an old Town and so is much of the infrastructure that we all depend on. The water system was originally constructed in 1927 to serve less than 1,000 people. When the sewer system was built in 1955, there were still less than 1,500 people in the Town. The population of La Plata in 2008 is almost 10,000 people. While there were improvements made over the years, the backbone of both systems was still much the same as it was when they were originally built. In 2004, the Town Council launched an improvement program for both systems.

Water system improvements were driven by the need to maintain an adequate water pressure at the far ends of the system and to produce enough water to meet the peak demand during the high usage summer months. First, a 750,000 gallon ground level storage tank with computer controlled booster pumps was built on Box Elder Road to improve the pressure in the northeast quadrant. Next, a new 250,000 gallon elevated tank was built west of Washington Avenue and south of Rosewick Road to improve the pressure in the northern end of town. Both of these new storage tanks were brought on line in the spring of 2008. The Town can now store more than 2 million gallons of water, twice the average daily consumption, which helps improve the reliability of water service, and enhance pressure in portions of the Town that previously had lower pressure.

All of the Town's major water production wells are in the Lower Patapsco confined aquifer. The Town's two largest producing wells each had pump failure in the late fall of 2007 due to the age and design. To improve the efficiency, new submersible pumps were installed in Well 10, on Washington Avenue, and Well 8, on Box Elder Road last fall, enhancing ongoing reliability in water production. In addition to the upgrade of the existing wells, a new well has been drilled beside the new water tower off Washington Avenue. Well 11 will be put in service this fall, resulting in sufficient redundancy in production and greatly reducing the likelihood of water becoming unavailable. Emergency generators were installed at both Well 8 and Well 10 in 2008 to fur-

ther enhance La Plata's system reliability.

All major wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) in Maryland are required to meet ENR (Enhanced Nutrient Reduction) standards by 2010. La Plata's plant was upgraded to BNR (Biological Nutrient Removal) in 2001 when it was the only plant in Southern Maryland at that level. During major rain events, the flow through the plant is much higher than normal due to the amount of rain water that gets into the system through inflow and infiltration (I&I). I&I is clean rainwater or groundwater that gets into the sewer system through cracked sewer pipes, voids in manholes, or storm drains, down spouts, and sump pumps which have been improperly connected to flow into the sewer system. Most inflow comes from storm water and most infiltration comes from groundwater. Because of the I&I, Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO) may occur from one of the manholes in the system or overflow at the WWTP. An engineering firm has completed a feasibility study on options to meet the ENR requirements and increase the capacity of the plant enough to handle the peak flows that are experienced during major rain events. The Town has also implemented a major I&I reduction program for sanitary sewer overflows and reduce the volume of peak flows into the treatment plant.

I&I is undesirable and the Town is aggressively pursuing its reduction. The primary reason for the SSO from La Plata's system is the fact that the major trunk lines that were installed in 1955 are not large enough to handle the peak flows through the system at the present time. A number of major changes have been made in the last year. First, all of the sewage into the original WWTP arrived through a 12 inch sewer line from Route 301 in front of Pancakes Plus to the plant. That 12 inch line was replaced with a 24 inch pipe that is large enough to handle peak flows, even during major rain events.

Second, there was an opportunity to eliminate one of the Town's two original pump stations by connecting the Hawthorne sewer line to a gravity main on

Powhatan Court. Making this change not only got rid of the cost of operating and maintaining the Hawthorne Drive pump station but should eliminate the overflows that occurred in this area in the past. After the flow from Hawthorne Drive was removed from the Route 301 line during the spring of 2008, there was enough available capacity in that sewer main to divert the flow from the Mary Ball pump station out of the overloaded sewer line on Washington Avenue to Route 301.

Third, after extensive flow testing, it was determined that the overflows on Willow Lane were caused primarily by deterioration of the wet wells at the Willow Lane pump station. After rehabilitating these in the summer of 2007, the Town went almost a year before there were any overflows on Willow Lane, significantly reducing the amount of overflows.

Further, with the addition of emergency generators installed on the Town's water production wells, the Town has been installing emergency generators on pumping stations, improving the electrical systems and their reliability in the event of power outages. Emergency power was added to the Mary Ball, Rosewick Crossing, and Quailwood pumping stations during the past year, and connections for a mobile generator will be added to those without current backup generation. Three additional upgrades are in the planning stages and should be completed within the next year.

Water and sewer systems are very complex, but they are vital to the health of any community. La Plata's commitment to enhancing their reliable operation is paramount. While most of these changes are not readily visible to most of our residents, they have a significant impact on the most basic services the Town offers. The Town will be offering an educational series on the construction, operation, maintenance, and financing of these systems in La Plata beginning October 29. Please call the Town Hall at 301-934-8421 to enroll in the Citizen Academy described in another article.

WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES AND WHAT ARE THE TOWN'S RESPONSIBILITIES WHEN IT COMES TO REFUSE COLLECTION?

We all have responsibilities in order to keep our neighborhoods safe and clean. Below is a list of what residents should expect from the Town and what is expected by residents when it comes to all aspects of refuse collection in La Plata.

Town responsibilities:

- Residential trash collection occurs once a week and begins at 7:30 a.m. (Routes may change from time to time and your collection time may change).
- Containers will be emptied, lids secured and containers placed back where they were retrieved.
- All residential trash collection will be completed on the scheduled collection day.
- Recycling is contracted out to Waste Management. They pick up residential recycling on Wednesdays and begin their routes at 7:30 a.m. (Routes may change from time to time and your collection time may change).
- The Town will provide recycling containers at no charge to residents.

- The Town offers yard waste collection on your scheduled trash day, but at times it may be later in the week due to seasonal peaks of demand.
- The Town offers a bulk trash pickup the first Monday of each month should the need arise to dispose of large, non-hazardous items. There is a fee associated with this service.

Resident responsibilities:

- All trash must be in a refuse container made of metal or other suitable material, watertight, strong, durable, rodent- and insect proof, and have tight-fitting covers. They shall each have a capacity not to exceed thirty-two (32) gallons.
- Please have all approved containers out no later than 7:30 a.m. on your collection day.
- Containers shall be placed adjacent to and in back of the curb or adjacent to and in back of the ditch or street line if there is no curb.
- As soon as practicable after such containers have been emptied, they shall be removed to within or to the

rear of the premises and away from the street until the next scheduled time for collection.

- Have your recycling containers curbside on Wednesdays no later than 7:30 a.m. Please move emptied recycling containers to the rear of the property as soon as practicable.
- Call 301-934-8421 to arrange for a no cost recycling container.
- Residents should utilize recycling service to reduce the amount of material that ends up in the landfill.
- Yard waste must be put in brown bags or a separate container marked "yard waste". Please do not mix yard waste with household trash.
- Bulk trash pick up must be scheduled by the Friday prior to the first Monday of the month.

If we all do our part we can keep La Plata clean and beautiful, and reduce the amount of waste going to the landfill.

TESTING OF EARLY WARNING DEVICES/SIRENS

The Town is planning to test our early warning devices/sirens. The date has not yet been finalized, but we hope to schedule the test near the end of November or beginning of December. Look for an ad in the *Maryland Independent* and the signs that will be posted throughout Town for the date and time of the test. As has been done in the past, the test

will consist of both siren alerts and audible notifications, and is 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, and on Shining Willow Way next to the La Plata Volunteer Fire Department.

MEET THE TOWN STAFF



Jennifer Bartnick, Ricky Fields, Jonathan Maynard

Officer Jennifer Bartnick was born in Rhode Island and moved to Charles County 14 yrs ago. She is a graduate of Westlake High School and earned a degree in Criminal Justice from Kaplan College. She has always dreamed of becoming a police officer and giving back to the community where she grew up. She said she loves being an officer in the Town of La Plata and recently moved into Town. Officer Bartnick is excited to have a career in the Town and keep it a safe and inviting place to live.

Officer Ricky Fields joined the Department after serving 21 years in the United States Coast Guard. His last duty station was in the Washington, D.C. area and after retirement he and his family wanted to stay in the Southern Maryland area. He had always been interested in law enforcement – that’s one of reasons he joined the Coast Guard, to do law enforcement. Being able to work for a small department has always been a dream that has now become a reality. Officer Fields is married and has three children.

Officer Jonathan Maynard is a graduate of the University of Maryland with a BS degree in Psychology with a minor in Criminal Justice. He was an executive team leader for the Target Corporation before joining the La Plata Police Department. While he enjoyed working for Target he wanted a career where he could make a positive impact in the lives of the citizens of La Plata. He is excited to be with the Department and looks forward to a long and fulfilling career. He is married and has two children, with another baby due in November.



Terri Fischer

Terri Fischer joined the Town Staff in August as a Customer Service Representative. She has been a resident of Charles County for more than twenty years. For the last fourteen years, she has lived in the Town of La Plata with her husband and three children. In her free time, you will find her either on the field or sitting in an audience, as her children are active participants in baseball and softball along with local and school theater productions.

Amy Peña joined the Town Staff in August as the Special Events Coordinator. Born and raised in Southern Maryland, Amy and her husband David live in Leonardtown with three sons – Alex, 16; Matthew, 14 and Collin, 7. In her spare time, Amy enjoys crafts, gardening, baking and watching her three boys play baseball. Amy has been a graphic designer and event planner for over 15 years and looks forward to bringing some exciting new events to La Plata residents. Stop by and meet Amy at the Town’s Special Events and share your ideas with her.



Amy Peña

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 frrazier@townoflaplata.org.

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