

TOWN NOTES

News from La Plata Town Hall



MAYOR'S CORNER

Summer has passed and it is now fall, which means colder weather and the inevitable raking of leaves. I believe nature furnishes all the leaves to provide a means to get us into shape for the long winter months. Speaking of outdoor activities, we have completed another successful summer concert series, the Fall Festival and Taste of La Plata was a huge success, and the Veterans Day Parade and program were wonderful. Thanks to all who attended and a special thanks to the Town Staff who put in long hours to ensure that the events are enjoyed by all. We all look forward to the series of Holiday programs, and new activities of the coming months.

The Town was presented its Banner Town Award from the Maryland Municipal League at a recent Council meeting. Sidney Katz, President of the MML, and Scott Hancock, the Executive Director, presented the award. La Plata is one of a very few towns in Maryland to receive the award consisting of a plaque and flag. This award recognizes the participation of La Plata's elected and appointed officials in MML functions and various workshops over the course of the past year, as well as its commitment to municipal education in the community.

Even in a period of economic downturn, La Plata is still witnessing several ongoing construction projects. The new County Courthouse is moving ahead as well as the Starbucks Coffee Shop and the new PNC

Continued on page 2



Carol Rollins and Daniel Mears

Carol Rollins thanked by Town

Carol Rollins, who served as the Town's Development Coordinator, and who worked for the Town of La Plata from February 3, 2003 through October 23, 2008, was presented with a Town of La Plata Seal on October 22, 2008. Signed by Town Manager Daniel Mears, the Town Seal expressed the Town's "recognition and appreciation of your dedicated service to the Town of La Plata and the citizens that it serves. La Plata is a better place because of your efforts and hard work."



Joe Norris thanked by Town

Joe Norris, who served as Treasurer from July 2002 to November 2008, was presented with a Town of La Plata Seal on October 28, 2008. Signed by the Town Council, the Town Seal expressed the Council's "recognition and appreciation of your dedicated and exceptional service to the Town of La Plata and the citizens that it serves. La Plata is a better place because of your efforts and hard work."

And a Good Time Was Had By All...at the Fall Festival – Taste of La Plata event



The Town's "green" Scarecrow, decorated by members of the La Plata Beautification Commission, conveyed the message that "La Plata Is Going 'GREEN.' Working for a 'GREENER' environment one location at a time!"

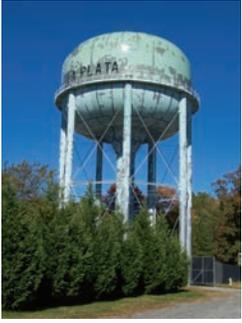
The 2008 **Fall Festival – Taste of La Plata** event was a great success. With beautiful fall weather and nearly 3,000 attendees, a great time was had by all. The festival kicked off with the scarecrow awards presented by the Charles County Chamber of Commerce and was followed by the kids' Halloween Costume Contest. The judges had some tough choices to make with all of the creative and unique costumes that the kids wore!

Attendees were treated to delicious treats provided by local eateries participating in the Taste of La Plata. They were Apple Spice Junction, Arizona Pizza Company, Barnes Country Confections, Brasas Rotisserie & Grill, Charles Street Bakery, Dominos Pizza, Dove Chocolate at Home, Quiznos Sub, Red Hot & Blue, and World of Wings Café. Charles Street Bakery won First Place for Best Display, Brasas Rotisserie & Grill won Second Place for Best Display and Quiznos Sub won Third Place for Best Display. Brasas Rotisserie & Grill won the coveted People's Choice Award.

Throughout the day, there was music from the band "Declined," amazing jump rope performances from the Greenbelt S.I.T.Y. Stars, and exciting dance performances from Judy's Studio of Dance. Entertainment also included a petting farm, free kids' crafts, free popcorn and cotton candy, and fun inflatable rides and a rock wall.

We look forward to next year's Fall Festival!

WATER TOWER MAINTENANCE



The water storage tower before completion of maintenance.

The Town's largest elevated water storage tower on Dorchester Avenue has recently undergone some maintenance. The tower holds 750,000 gallons of water to provide pressure and emergency water supply. Built in 1989, the tower was due for maintenance. The tower was in great shape, with no rehabilitation required on the inside of the tank. The exterior of the tank has been cleaned, and repainted to inhibit rust from forming on the tank and compromising our water storage.

The **Crime Watch Council** meets on the first Monday of each month, at 7:30 p.m., in the La Plata Police Station, 101 La Grange Ave. Residents are encouraged to attend.

The **Kent Corridor Partnership** meets on the third Thursday of each month, at 7:00 p.m., in the La Plata Police Station, 101 La Grange Ave.

NOW OPEN IN LA PLATA AND COMING SOON TO LA PLATA

[This information is current as of November 10, 2008.]

The following businesses were issued Building Permits and/or Commercial Occupancy Permits during September and October 2008:

Centennial Street Café
103 Centennial St., Ste. E

Candy Clark Boutique
305 Centennial St.

Office for Psychology Practitioners
616 Charles St., Ste. 103

Law Offices of Kurt Wolfgang
9375 Chesapeake St., Ste. 113

Sharon's Studio of Dance
205 Kent Ave.

Giant Fuel
102 Rosewick Rd.

Dry Cleaners
210 Rosewick Rd.

Lemon Drop
220 Rosewick Rd.

MAYOR'S CORNER (CONTINUED)

Bank branch, both on Route 301. More shops continue to open at the Rosewick Crossing shopping center to augment the two anchors, Lowe's and Giant Food. Chick-fil-A continues to prepare its site on property just south of the Texas Roadhouse. All these commercial businesses will provide the residents of La Plata with more shopping and dining choices closer to home.

The Citizens Academy was recently launched in Town to provide citizens with an opportunity to receive vital information on Town projects and the management of scarce resources. Our first academy covered water and sewer infrastructure. Exit surveys by attendees were very positive and fully supportive of this new approach to communicating critical information to our citizens. There will be more sessions so I strongly recommend that you call the Town and sign up for the next Citizen's Academy. Your time will be well spent.

The Town's Water and Sewer Advisory Committee is moving ahead on planning improvements to these vital systems and the Council recently appointed a Green Building Committee that will look at environmentally friendly approaches in the management of our natural resources. The Council will work closely with both groups in the weeks and months ahead.

As your Mayor, I will always welcome your comments, be they positive or critical. You can reach me at the Town Hall (301-934-8421) or at home, (301-934-4850).

Town Hall Closed

The Town Hall will be closed on the following days:

Christmas Eve	Wednesday, December 24, 2008
Christmas Day	Thursday, December 25, 2008
New Year's Day	Thursday, January 1, 2009
Martin Luther King Day	Monday, January 19, 2009

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

Treasurer: Robert W. Oliphant

Assistant Town Manager:

Michelle D. Miner

Town Clerk: Judith T. Frazier

Project Manager: Steven F. Schroeder

Police Chief: Cassin B. Gittings

Director of Inspections:

Jorge A. Thompson

Director of Municipal Development:

David M. Jenkins

Director of Planning and Zoning:

Catherine N. Flerlage

Director of Operations: Robert F. Stahl, Jr.

Director of Public Works:

Stephen A. Murphy

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

COUNCIL COLUMN

Councilman Jim Goldsmith Ward 1

It is the time of year when we look to “family.” We have Thanksgiving coming and then the Holiday Season for Christmas, Hanukkah, or any other religious holiday you may choose to celebrate. That is the great thing about our country, we get to choose. Even though we may be in bleak economic times, we can all count our blessings for the family and friends we have in our everyday life activities. Look for the positives in all situations. It will make your life more rewarding.

“*Going Green.*” This is a hot topic today. The Town has already done much to do just that. Our Town Hall was built to meet Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED). We have passed legislation that set a policy that all new construction and major renovations of Town-owned or Town-funded buildings will meet LEED certification. We have installed a water collection system at Town Hall to capture rain water for irrigation of our landscaping. We are encouraging builders and developers to utilize LEED and other Green Building techniques in their design and construction. As we take on any new project the Town is looking at the impact on our environment. We need to lead by example. We encourage each of you to look at your home and daily way of living to find ways to conserve: use less water, recycle, plant more native shrubbery, and look for and help correct any wasteful actions you see.

We are not unique in these efforts. The next Maryland Municipal League convention in 2009 has set as its theme “*Going Green.*” I am on the committee to develop agenda and speakers. All towns and cities have to do their part to improve our environment, or at least not harm it any more than we already have.

The Town is coming up to its budgeting cycle. We will be taking serious looks at the objectives of the Town and the limited financial resources to accomplish those objectives. Our objectives are derived from what we hear the citizens telling us from personal contact and the survey results received from all of you. Please tell us your priorities. There is not an unlimited pot of money and some hard decision will have to be made. I am sure not everyone will be happy with the results. We will do our best with what we have.

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

Councilman Scot D. Lucas Ward 2

I hope everyone had a chance to experience the recent events in the Town, the Fall Festival – Taste of La Plata and the Salute to Veterans Parade and Ceremony. Both events were successful and widely attended. The Fall Festival – Taste of La Plata had a unique small town feel with its costume contest, dance routines from Judy’s Dance Studio, and several food vendors. It was wonderful to see residents interacting, smiling and having a great time. The Salute to Veterans Parade was equally impressive with the Budweiser Clydesdales there. If you did not get a chance to attend one or either event, please try to do so next year. They are just a few of the many reasons why I love to live in the Town of La Plata.

On November 7, 2008, we said happy trails (retirement) to a dear friend and all-around wonderful person, Joe Norris. I would like to personally thank Mr. Norris for his years of dedication to the Town. For those new to the Town, in addition to Mr. Norris being the

Treasurer he also assumed the responsibility of Town Manager when it was left vacant by our previous manager. He led the Town with honor and a love of the Town. Although he is retiring I know he will be only a phone call away. His knowledge and commitment to the Town will be sorely missed.

Last, I recently had the opportunity to attend the MML Fall Conference in Cambridge, Maryland. I am proud to report I have finished the required courses to obtain my certificate in Municipal Government. I hope to be able to use this education to serve the citizens of La Plata for years to come.

Councilman Paddy Mudd Ward 3

Many, many thanks to our entire staff for a job well done with our Fall Festival – Taste of La Plata. The weather cooperated and a great time was had by all! The first phase of our Beautification Commission’s landscaping project was completed in time for the event and we look forward to continuing the work with the next phase in early spring. Our contract with Melwood for maintenance has been very successful.

We have welcomed several new faces to our staff. I believe that at this time we have a team that will work with the Mayor and Council to make La Plata a great place to live.

Good wishes to Joe Norris on his retirement – though we know he will continue to be an active participant in Town affairs and here for advice when we need it.

Please come out and enjoy all of La Plata’s holiday activities. See the schedule for Breakfast with Santa and our Olde Tyme Holiday Gathering. Stop by the Town Hall to see the decorations and visit with us.

LA PLATA POLICE OFFICERS’ ACTIONS SAVE LIFE

On October 11, 2008, at approximately 10:39 a.m., La Plata Police Officers responded to La Plata Manor Apartments, 1 Hickory Lane, for the report of a fire. Upon arrival they were told a resident of one of the apartments needed help. Officer First Class Harold Cunningham and Corporal Mark Powers responded and

had to force entry into the apartment, where they were confronted by a wall of thick, black overpowering smoke. Officer Cunningham crawled into the apartment and, while feeling his way, found the unconscious resident on the floor. He pulled the resident to the safety of the hallway, then he and Cpl. Powers carried

the victim down the stairway to safety. The victim was transported by Medevac to Prince George’s Shock Trauma, where he was treated and released. The fire, which was apparently caused by food left on the stove, caused no structural damage to the building.

TESTING OF EARLY WARNING DEVICES/SIRENS

The Town of La Plata will be testing our early warning devices/sirens on **Saturday, December 6, 2008, at approximately 10:00 a.m.** The testing will last about a half hour. The tests will consist of both siren alerts and audible notifications. This test will be conducted in conjunction with the Charles County 911 Communications Center, which controls and operates the system for the Town. *The text of the pre-recorded message that accompanies the*

siren can be found on the Town’s website under Siren Testing.

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.

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.

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. The last collection day for this year is December 6.** 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. 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>. *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.*

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:

Trash will be picked up on:

Christmas Day
Thursday, December 25

Wednesday, December 24

New Year's Day
Thursday, January 1, 2009

Wednesday, December 31

LEGISLATION RECENTLY ENACTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL

(Full text copies of legislation are available at the Town Hall, 305 Queen Anne Street, or on the Town's web page at www.townoflaplata.org under "Legislation".)

- Ordinance 08-12 Purchasing – Competitive Bidding – Amends the list of entities from whom the Town may make certain purchases that are exempt from certain competitive bidding and advertising requirements, to include a purchasing cooperative or alliance that bids procurements on a volume basis for state and local governments.
- Ordinance 08-13 Parking Violation Fines – Increases the amount of fines for parking violations.
- Resolution 08-5 Support of Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program/possible financing for acquisition/rehabilitation of La Plata Manor – Expresses support of Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program and possible use of these funds for acquisition/

rehabilitation of La Plata Manor.

- Resolution 08-7 La Plata Village Center Fast Food Restaurants – Expresses the concurrence of the Town Council that the development of a fast food restaurant on Lot 3A in the La Plata Village Center would not be inconsistent with the terms of a certain Annexation Agreement, and determining that the development of a fast food restaurant on Lot 1RR within the La Plata Village Center would violate the terms of that Annexation Agreement.
- Resolution 08-9 Support of Community Parks and Playgrounds Program grant funding assistance for acquisition of land for Community Park – Expresses support of the Community Parks and Playgrounds Program grant funding assistance for acquisition of land for a Community Park; authorizing the Chief Executive Officer of the Town to execute and deliver on behalf of the Town documents related to the Community Parks and Playgrounds Program grant funding.

- Resolution 08-10 Vacancy – Office of Mayor – Provides for filling a vacancy in the office of Mayor of the Town resulting from the resignation of Mayor Gene Ambrogio.
- Resolution 08-11 Port Tobacco Watershed Restoration Action Strategy – Endorses the Port Tobacco River Watershed Restoration Action Strategy (June 20, 2007).
- Resolution 08-13 Employment Agreement between the Town of La Plata and Robert W. Oliphant – Approves an Employment Agreement, dated September 16, 2008, between the Town and Robert W. Oliphant, and authorizes the Town Manager/Chief Executive Officer of the Town to execute and deliver on behalf of the Town said Employment Agreement.
- Resolution 08-14 Participation in Maryland Municipal League (MML) Geocache Trail – Approves the participation of the Town in the MML Geocache Trail program.

DECEMBER 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Special trash pick-up day (Call by 4:00 p.m. Fri., 11/28 to schedule)	2 7:00 p.m., Planning Commission meeting	3 9:00 a.m., Design Review Board meeting 7:30 p.m., Crime Watch Council meeting	4	5	6
7 3:00 p.m., Olde Tyme Holiday Gathering and Tree Lighting	8	9 7:00 p.m., Town Council work session	10 5:00 p.m., Parks and Recreation Commission meeting	11	12	13 Breakfast with Santa
14	15 6:00 p.m., Christmas Decorations Contest	16 7:00 p.m., Town Council work session	17 9:00 a.m., Design Review Board meeting	18 7:00 p.m., Kent Corridor Partnership meeting	19	20
21	22	23 7:00 p.m., Town Council regular meeting	24 <i>Christmas Eve – Town Hall Closed</i> (No change to trash schedule)	25 <i>Christmas Day – Town Hall Closed</i> (Thursday's trash will be picked up on Wednesday, 12/24)	26 <i>Curbside Christmas tree pick-up begins</i>	27
28	29	30	31			

JANUARY 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 <i>New Year's Day – Town Hall Closed</i> (Thursday's trash will be picked up on Wednesday, 12/31)	2	3
4	5 Special trash pickup day (Call by 4:00 p.m. Fri., 1/2 to schedule)	6 7:00 p.m., Planning Commission meeting	7 9:00 a.m., Design Review Board meeting 7:30 p.m., Crime Watch Council meeting	8	9 <i>Curbside Christmas tree pick-up ends</i>	10
11	12	13 5:30 p.m., Town Council facilitated session- budget priority setting	14 5:00 p.m., Parks and Recreation Commission meeting	15 7:00 p.m., Kent Corridor Partnership meeting	16	17
18	19 <i>Martin Luther King Day – Town Hall Closed</i> (No change to trash schedule)	20 7:00 p.m., Town Council work session (may be cancelled or rescheduled)	21 9:00 a.m., Design Review Board meeting	22 5:30 p.m., Town Council facilitated session- budget priority setting	23	24
25	26 4:00 p.m., Beautification Commission meeting (rescheduled from 1/19)	27 7:00 p.m., Town Council regular meeting	28	29 5:30 p.m., Town Council facilitated session- budget priority setting	30	31

Conservation Corner

Each year La Plata gets approximately 40 inches of rain. That translates to over 4,830,000,000 gallons of water which washes over our community every year. The rain helps to nourish our plants, keep our soils moist, inhibit wind erosion, and clean the air. All of this water also washes dirt, wastes, garbage, pesticides, fertilizers, petroleum, and other contaminants from our properties and roadways. The contaminants flow over ground and through existing storm water pipes into our creeks and streams. The water continues into the Potomac River and eventually the Chesapeake Bay, along with the grit and wastes that we leave on the ground.

One of the simplest things you can do to help is to secure your trash. Ensure your trash and recyclables do not blow out of their containers by using trash cans with lids that are securely fastened, or placing heavy items on top of lighter material in your recycling container. If there is trash on the ground, either in your neighborhood or where you walk, take a moment to pick it up. Many walkers in La Plata bring a small bag with them to pick up items as they walk. Debris blows throughout our community and eventually ends up in lower areas where streams carry it further out. This pollutes our waterways.

Most importantly, do not litter. Cigarette butts, food wrappers, beverage containers, and plastic bags are among the most common items seen on the ground. These come from members of our community who may not think about where the trash will end up. It not only makes our community unsightly, but it has an environmental impact as well. Use a trash receptacle in your neighborhood, carry your trash to home or work and dispose of it there, do not throw anything out of your car window or as you walk through the community. Respect for your neighbors and community leads to respect of the larger environment.

Thank you for your help in keeping pollutants out of the storm water system and our environment.



MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT WORKS MONTH – NOVEMBER 2008

Working Together Anything is Possible!

Since 1993, Cities and Towns throughout the state have been celebrating Municipal Government Works Month in an effort to educate citizens about the role and function of the government closest to them. To help

promote municipal government awareness, the Town Council issued a Proclamation on October 28, 2008 proclaiming November as Municipal Government Works Month. In addition, throughout November, Mayor Hale made presentations about

municipal government to local 4th grade students in an effort to promote student recognition and understanding of the government in their community. This exercise will help students to become informed, responsible and involved citizens.

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:

La Plata's recent investments in water and sewer infrastructure were needed and should be continued to preserve the quality and reliability of these vital municipal utilities.

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:

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?

- Strongly Agree – 6%
- Somewhat Agree – 18%
- Neither Agree nor Disagree – 16%
- Somewhat Disagree – 12%
- Strongly Disagree – 16%
- Don't Know – 31%

The amount of storm water control throughout the Town of La Plata varies, depending on when a particular area or property was developed. Over the years the laws relating to storm water management from the Federal and State government have become more stringent, ranging from nonexistent to today's regulations providing for detention and

managing the flow from newly developed property. The Town of La Plata has enforced these regulations on new development over the years.

The Town of La Plata does not maintain storm water control structures on private property. That responsibility falls to the individual property owner. Combined with the variety of storm water requirements and the variety of ongoing maintenance, the response to this question is understandably fragmented. Non-point source pollution resulting from storm water runoff is a significant challenge for the ultimate protection of water quality for the Chesapeake Bay. The Town funds the maintenance of both its water and sewer infrastructure; however, the storm water infrastructure requires the maintenance from property owners in the Town. Thank you for your participation in the last online poll.

HOLIDAY EVENTS – 2008

Olde Tyme Holiday Gathering and Tree Lighting

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

The Town Council will be hosting the 4th annual Olde Tyme Holiday Gathering at the Town Hall. There will be entertainment inside and outside, including holiday story telling, holiday craft stations, miniature train rides, Santa's arrival by fire truck, lighting of the Town Christmas Tree, and light refreshments. **All who are attending are encouraged to bring a canned food item, which will be donated to an area food bank.** 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 to have Breakfast with Santa at the La Plata Town Hall. Each child is asked to bring at least one Christmas card. Handmade cards are encouraged, and children may bring as many cards as they wish. The cards are taken to the residents of the nursing homes in La Plata.

Reservations are required and spaces are limited to 25 per time slot. Please choose one of 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. Call Town Hall by noon on Friday, December 12, so Santa's helpers will know when you'll be here. For more information contact Amy Peña 301-934-8421.

Christmas Decorations Contest

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

The Town's Beautification Commission will again be the judges in our annual Christmas 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 or 301-870-3377) by 4:00 p.m. by Friday, December 12 if you want your outdoor Christmas decorations to be judged. You may also register a neighbor's home that you believe should be in the contest. **Please have your lights on by 6:00 p.m.**

Christmas Tree Disposal

The Town will pick up Christmas trees **Friday, December 26, 2008, through Friday, January 9, 2009.** Pickup will be on your regular trash day or the day after – just put your tree out with your trash cans on your regular trash day. The trees are taken to the County's compost-

ing facility at the County Landfill to be ground into mulch. **They require that you do not leave the tree in a plastic bag if you use one to remove the tree from your home, and that you remove all lights, decorations and the tree stand.**

Charles County has drop-off sites for Christmas trees, the closest one being on Radio Station Road, across from the entrance to Laurel Springs Park. **They will be open 24 hours a day starting Friday, December 26, through Saturday, January 10.**

La Plata for the Holidays

This Holiday Season, when we get together with our family and friends, look to the Town of La Plata for opportunities for entertaining. Holiday shopping and dining out are popular things to do with family, friends, and out of town guests. Look to the many options right in La Plata for stores, restaurants, accommodations, and other services that you may need. From major retailers to unique retail establishments found only in La Plata there are many great options to satisfy everyone on your shopping list.

Bring your family out to explore downtown, view the holiday decorations and visit the unique stores and one of a kind merchandise they have to offer. There are many destinations in Town worth checking out. All of the cooking and leftovers will certainly enhance your need to eat out and let someone else do both cooking and clean up, so try some of the great dining establishments La Plata has to offer. The Town of La Plata encourages your support for our local businesses and small business owners. There are many to choose from and whether you support an independent business or a chain, often the owners of the business live right in our community.

By shopping and dining in La Plata you help to support your neighbors and your community. Your help maintains the character and vitality that all our establishments provide to the Town. Thank you and Happy Holidays.

MEET THE TOWN STAFF

David M. Jenkins

David M. Jenkins joined the Town Staff in November as Director of Municipal Development. He has been a resident of La Plata for 22 years with his wife, Diane and their three children (Jennifer, David, Beth.) David comes to the Town with diverse experience in city and regional planning, transportation planning and economic development in both the private and government sectors. He has been a member of the Maryland Army National Guard for over thirty years. In his free time he enjoys his family, running and fly fishing. He looks forward to contributing to the Town's comprehensive planning and infrastructure efforts.



Robert W. Oliphant

Robert W. Oliphant joined the Town staff in November as Treasurer. Bob has a degree in Accounting and has passed the CPA exam. He has worked in public and government accounting and came to the Town from the City of Hyattsville, where he served as their Treasurer. Bob also has a degree in Landscape Architecture and worked as a Registered Landscape Architect for about eight years prior to going back to school to get a degree in Accounting. Bob and his wife have lived in Charles County for over twelve years, and for enjoyment they like to travel and camp.



TOWN OF LA PLATA ELECTION 2009

Primary and General Election Information Mayor and Wards I, II, III and IV Councilmen – 4-year terms of office

Qualifications of Mayor [*Town Charter, Article IV, § C4-1.*]

The Mayor must have resided in the Town for at least one (1) year immediately preceding his election and must be a qualified voter of the Town.

Qualifications of Councilmen [*Town Charter, Article III, § C3-2.*]

Councilmen shall have resided in the Town for at least one (1) year immediately preceding their election and shall be qualified voters of the Town. A candidate for Councilman shall reside in the ward from which he seeks to be elected at the times of nomination and election. A Councilman shall reside in the ward from which he is elected continuously during his term of office. Removal of residency from a ward disqualifies a person from seeking or holding the office of Councilman from that ward. A person appointed to fill a vacancy in the office of Councilman shall fulfill the same qualifications as a person elected to that position.

Primary Election

If more than two (2) candidates file for any one of the five Town Council offices up for election, a Primary Election will be held on Monday, March 16, 2009, at the La Plata Town Hall, 305 Queen Anne Street, La Plata, Maryland, between the hours of 12:00 noon and 8:00 p.m. For each office requiring a Primary Election, the two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be named and considered as nominees at the General municipal election following.

General Election – Tuesday, May 5, 2009

The Town of La Plata will hold a General Election on Tuesday, May 5, 2009, at the La Plata Town Hall, 305 Queen Anne Street, La Plata, Maryland, between the hours of 12:00 noon and 8:00 p.m. Beginning with the 2009 Elections, the Mayor and Councilmen will no longer serve staggered terms and all qualified voters of the Town will be able to vote for candidates for all of the five Council seats, to serve 4-year terms of office.

Filing Deadline – 4:00 p.m., Monday, March 2, 2009

All Certificate of Nomination forms (bearing original signatures) must be filed with the Town Clerk in the La Plata Town Hall no later than 4:00 p.m., Monday, March 2, 2009. Certificate of Nomination forms are available at the La Plata Town Hall, Monday through Friday, between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., and on the Town's web page at <http://www.townoflaplata.org>.

Eligibility to Vote

Town Charter Sections C-7-1 and C-7-5 provide information for registering to vote with the Board of Supervisors of Elections of Charles County ("the County Board of Elections") **OR** with the Board of Supervisors of Elections of the Town of La Plata ("the Town Board of Elections") in the Town's supplemental system of registration. **If you are a Town resident and are already registered to vote with the County Board of Elections, you are eligible to vote in Town elections.** Registering to vote with the Town Board of Elections in the Town's supplemental system of registration is for Town residents who wish to vote only in Town elections and are not already registered to vote with the County Board of Elections. Pursuant to Town Charter Section C7-1.B., "*A person may not vote in a town election if the person is not registered with the Board of Supervisors of Elections of Charles County or the Town of La Plata on or before the fifth Monday preceding any town election.*"

To vote in the Primary Election, if one must be scheduled (on Monday, March 16, 2009), **you must be registered to vote with the County Board of Elections or with the Town Board of Elections by Monday, February 9, 2009.** *NOTE: A person may register with the County Board of Elections after the February 9, 2009 deadline but may only vote in the General Election scheduled for May 5, 2009.*

To vote in the General Election (on Tuesday, May 5, 2009), **you must be registered to vote with the County Board of Elections or with the Town Board of Elections by Monday, April 6, 2009.**

Registration forms will be mailed to you upon request. For your convenience, registration forms are placed in the lobby of the La Plata Town Hall and at the Charles County Board of Elections, 201 East Charles Street, La Plata, Maryland.

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

SNOW REMOVAL

The Town has an emergency snow removal plan to clear Town streets. **Snow removal** will begin when 2" of snow has accumulated on roadways; 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. Residents are asked not to park vehicles on any street. Please only park on the side of the street as a last recourse, and only if your street is not one on which parking is prohibited during snow emergencies. **Salt distribution** will be determined based on certain criteria and priority: difficult intersections (stop lights and stop signs), streets with hills, main collector streets and major residential roads. Courts and cul-de-sacs may not receive salt treatment. **Clearing sidewalks:** Town crews are responsible for clearing sidewalks at public facilities, Town Hall and Town Parks. Property owners are responsible for keeping all sidewalks along their property clear and free of snow and ice.

To view the Town's snow removal policy, visit the Town of La Plata's website at <http://www.townoflaplata.org> and click on the "Town Snow Removal Policy" link on the left side of the web page.

CITIZEN ACADEMY

Participants in La Plata's Citizen Academy received a unique look into the water and sewer infrastructure of the Town. If you were unable to attend the first Academy, based upon response and interest, the Town will sponsor another session. Please keep a lookout for future dates and times.



Citizen Academy participants get a first hand look at the operation of Well #8 during a tour of La Plata's water production and distribution infrastructure.



Participants in La Plata's first Citizen Academy were flushed with excitement as they observed a demonstration of hydrant testing in Wills Park on November 8th.

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:
Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25

Trash will be picked up on:

Wednesday, December 24

New Year's Day

Thursday, January 1, 2009

Trash will be picked up on:

Wednesday, December 31

LA PLATA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Featured Business

Island Music Company

600 Charles Street
Keith Grasso and Nicola Haverstick, owners

Mom & Pop Shops Still Rockin' in Southern Maryland

Even with the implosion of our economy, the freefall on Wall Street and the dreaded gas crisis, there is still a place in Southern Maryland for Mom & Pop shops. Island Music Company opened its door for business Monday, October 6, 2008 in the heart of La Plata. Island Music will be Southern Maryland's one stop musical supply shop. Specializing in hard-to-find, rare and vintage guitars, Island Music also offers a full line of

new and used musical instruments and accessories. "We buy, sell, and trade most musical instruments," says Keith Grasso the store owner. "We are extremely excited to bring personal service back to the Southern Maryland music scene. With all of the big-box stores, the internet, and even Best Buy getting into the music retail business I think people are longing for that personalized service where the owner knows what instrument you play or always seeing the same faces when you walk in for a pack of strings."

Keith has been in the music business for over 12 years. He has played a major role in some of the most respected Mom & Pop musical instrument retailers on the East Coast, such as Bill's Music House (Catonsville, Maryland) and

Ralon Music Company (Waldorf, Maryland.)

"Having worked at Ralon and at Bill's Keith truly believes in family-owned businesses. Not so much for the economic value, but for the sense of community that it builds," says Keith's fiancée, Nicola Haverstick.

Island Music Company carries a huge selection of new and used instruments and accessories by high-quality brands like Fender, Gibson, ESP, Yamaha, Seagull, Godin, Ibanez, Epiphone, Peavey and many more. You can find Island Music Company at 600 Charles Street in La Plata. You can check them out on the web at www.islandmusicco.com or give them a call at 410-394-9140.



Season's Greetings



All of us join in wishing you a happy Holiday Season
and a prosperous New Year.

Town Council and Staff
Town of La Plata

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

TOWN OF LA PLATA
305 Queen Anne Street
P. O. Box 2268
La Plata, Maryland 20646-2268

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL
PAID
U.S. POSTAGE
LA PLATA, MD
PERMIT NO. 131