

TOWN NOTES

News from La Plata Town Hall



MAYOR'S CORNER

As we enter the winter months and the holiday season, it is a good time to reflect on 2007 and welcome the new year ahead. Although things can seem bleak at times, I believe we live in the greatest country in the world. La Plata residents and businesses enjoy opportunities and freedoms that are often taken for granted in our town, county and country. In gratitude for our many blessings and freedoms, please remember those members of our community who may be suffering or have extra needs during this time of the year. It truly is more blessed to give than to receive and we should open our hearts and give of ourselves to help others as much as possible. This can be done on a personal basis, or by volunteering or donating to the various civic and religious organizations whose mission it is to assist those in need. May you have a wonderful Christmas and a healthy New Year!

Councilman Vic Newman receives "Academy for Excellence in Local Governance" Certificate



Councilman Vic Newman recently received an "Academy for Excellence in Local Governance" certificate, after completing training provided over a 2-year period by the Maryland Municipal League. Coursework topics included economic development, municipal issues in court, the new critical area law, Maryland State grant assistance, municipal budgeting, and structure of municipal government.

The Academy is provided as an educational response to the professional education needs of Maryland local government officials. Local governments are increasingly asked to do more, often with fewer resources. The downsizing of the federal and state government has placed more decision making at the local level and, at the same time, reduced the training and technical support available to local officials. Often officials are called on to understand and make decisions on highly complex issues with grave implications to their jurisdictions. Citizen distrust, accountability mandates, and public apathy complicate an already difficult situation. The Academy's curriculum is designed to help local officials, especially newly elected officials, meet the challenges of their role.

By providing enhanced educational opportunities, the Academy will train informed and responsible local officials to give Maryland jurisdictions the leadership needed to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Specific objectives are (1) to increase understanding of local government and how it functions; (2) to promote high ethical standards in public service; (3) to provide an informational base for more informed policy making; (4) to develop capacity of local officials to govern effectively; and (5) to recognize local officials for their educational efforts.

Town Hall Closed

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

Christmas	Tuesday, December 25, 2007
New Year's Day	Tuesday, January 1, 2008
Martin Luther King Day	Monday, January 21, 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.



COUNCIL COLUMN

Councilman Jim Goldsmith Ward 1

As we head into the holiday seasons it is a good time to sit back and take note of the things we have to be grateful for. I see one of those is to be living in the Town of La Plata. This was highlighted on October 28th by the Fall Festival event. I brought my grand-boys to the festival to enjoy the rock climbing wall, slide, bounce, petting zoo, and the various performances. The Raptor Show was very educational. The Taste of La Plata was a special treat that allowed us to sample some of the good food of our local eateries. This was just one of the many things done to reinforce the "small town" atmosphere. Even though we will be growing significantly in the next 10 to 15 years, every effort will be made to keep the intimate small town feeling.

As we are facing this heavy growth, I am concerned about our environment and energy resources. We are looking at ways in which to build "green." For our Town Hall we installed geothermal heating/cooling systems. The Baldus building was also built with geothermal. General projections are that the cost of the system, which was significant, will be recaptured in seven to eight years. At our Town Hall we will also be installing a water recapture system where we will use a cistern to capture rainwater to provide irrigation of our landscaping. I am looking at any and all options to reduce our water and energy use. I feel it is our responsibility to ensure our grand-boys have the energy resources

and a clean environment for them and their grandchildren. Sometimes we may have some hard decisions to make. Just as we will be a leader as we will be providing the effluent from the wastewater treatment plant to the Mirant power plant at Morgantown, thereby eliminating the need to discharge any effluent into our Port Tobacco river system.

Are there other things we can do? A gray-water recapture system for new homes? Use storm water runoff for additional irrigation for our community? I have been to several conferences and presentations and read several articles that provide good ideas of what can be done to reduce our use of energy and other resources. I think we should look at them all to see if we can implement any in our Town.

If you have any ideas or thoughts, please send me an email at jgoldsmith@townoflaplata.org.

Councilman Scot D. Lucas Ward 2

At the time of this writing, the Town of La Plata has been fortunate to have received some much needed rain. Although we received several days of rain, we are still not clear of this terrible drought. We are asking citizens to conserve water. I'm amazed to see people watering their grass in the middle of the day – or even worse while it's raining! As the citizens of other areas have learned the hard way, potable water is not in infinite supply. Please do everything you can to save water. Even

simple ideas like capturing the water in your shower can make a difference. Most showers I know take a minute or so to heat up to optimal temperature. Instead of wasting that water, capture it so you can use it for watering your houseplants.

The Town of La Plata continues to grow. Some people have complained about the growth. When I ran for this position, one of the things I wanted to do is keep La Plata the small town I remember growing up. Sadly, as I have found out, many of these plans for growth were developed and approved 15 to 20 years ago. Most of the Council is against growth just to grow. We are diligently trying to help La Plata maintain that "small town feeling" while still working within the parameters set in the earlier agreements.

In my vision of a small town, you drive down Charles Street and wave to your neighbors. It is hard to do that while traveling at 40 mph or more, so please slow down! The number one complaint I receive is about speeders. If drivers continue to speed in your neighborhood or on your street, please call the La Plata Police Department whose officers are dedicated to keeping our town safe. I'd also appreciate e-mail and/or call so I can ensure follow-up.

I hope everyone had the chance to enjoy the Veterans Day Parade and the Taste of La Plata.

Councilwoman Paddy Mudd Ward 3

The La Plata Fall Festival and Taste of La Plata event was a great success! Many thanks to Michelle Miner and the Town staff for all the hard work. I would like to suggest a rain delay to the Chamber of Commerce for the beginning of the Festival of Scarecrows. Many of the scarecrows were put together in the rain and not judged because they were covered in plastic. Since the festival lasts for two weeks, it would have been easy to contact the participants and have the judging later after the drenching rain had stopped.

TOWN OF LA PLATA OFFICIALS

Mayor: Gene Ambrogio

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 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

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LA PLATA TOWN SERVICES

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The Charles County Sanitary Landfill, on Billingsley Road East, between Piney Church Road and Rt. 5, 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 1.** 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 ask that you keep the materials in their original containers whenever possible, and bring the items to the collection site in cardboard boxes for ease in unloading. *For more information call the Charles County Dept. of Public Facilities: 301-932-3599 or 301-870-2778; Landfill information service: 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: \$11.00 for 5 minutes loading time; each additional minute is \$1.00. A fee of \$6.00, or the current Landfill disposal fee, shall be charged for each tire collected. *Billing for special trash pickup is included on your quarterly utility bill.*

Yard Waste Pickup

Containers of yard waste ONLY - leaves, grass and shrub clippings, brush or branches - may be put out on your regular trash day for pickup that day **or the next day.** The containers must be marked "Yard Waste." Brush or branches must

be bundled, weigh no more than 50 lbs. per bundle, and the branches may not be larger than 4 inches in diameter or more than 4 feet long. *Plastic bags are not allowed - if you bag yard waste you must use paper bags.*

Snow Plowing on Town Streets

The Town has an emergency snow removal plan to clear Town streets. If it snows enough that Town snow plowing crews must be called out, we ask that you **park in your driveway.** Clearing the streets of snow is made easier if you park in your driveway rather than on the side of the 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. Your patience and cooperation with our snow plowing crews will be very much appreciated.

Trash Collection Schedule Adjustments

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

If your regular trash collection day is:

Trash will be picked up on:

Christmas

Tuesday, December 25

Wednesday, December 26

New Year's Day

Tuesday, January 1, 2008

Wednesday, January 2, 2008

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

Holiday Design Show - the La Plata Community Garden Club is hosting a floral design show, shabby chic sale and a silent auction on **Saturday, December 1, from 10:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.**, in the Christ Church parish hall, 112 East Charles Street, La Plata. Handmade items including stained glass, jewelry, handbags, artwork, and note cards will be available for purchase, along with historic home plates. A portion of the proceeds from this event will be used to maintain the Star Memorial Garden. Call Carole Raucheisen at 301-392-9736 for tickets, or buy a ticket at the door the day of the event.

LA PLATA POLICE DEPARTMENT WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEES

The La Plata Police Department welcomes three new employees, Jennifer L. Bartnick, Ricky Fields and Jonathan D. Maynard. They will be attending the twenty-six week Entrance Level Training Program at the Southern Maryland Criminal Justice Academy beginning November 10th. Graduation will be May 9, 2008.

COUNCIL COLUMN (CONTINUED)

I have been told that the Route 301 light at Oriole Lane is entirely in the hands of the State Highway Administration. My plan is to still have a vote from the Council and a letter sent. Several residents of Hawthorne Greene and Quailwood have voiced their support for a small neighborhood shopping area with a Nick's of Clinton or Trader Joe's and NO LIGHT!

The Kent Corridor Partnership group met on Thursday, November 15th at 7 PM, at the La Plata Police Station. (Regular meetings will be the third Thursday of each month – there will be no meeting in December.) Lifestyles, Inc has contributed so much in helping to bring the neighborhood together and residents out to participate. Our purpose is to provide a safe, clean and healthy environment for all. Membership is open to anyone who lives in the area or provides supportive services to the residents. This began as a partnership between the Sheriff's Department Community Services Section, the La Plata Police Department and the Town. We welcome all residents, church groups, etc, to come out and express your ideas and concerns. We especially welcome families who wish to make our community a special place to live.

Come out for the Olde Time Holiday Gathering on December 2nd and bring the kids to Breakfast with Santa on December 8th.

Councilman Vic Newman Ward 4

My article in the August-September edition of *Town Notes* addressed how the

Council was dealing with the important issue of Water and Sewer within our town, and the progress which we are making. This next section talks about how we must participate as an important member in a statewide effort. Councilman Goldsmith, Cathy Flerlage and I recently attended a conference that discussed an important issue on Managing Maryland's Growth, that being the Water Resources Element (WRE). The purpose of the WRE is to ensure that future county and municipal comprehensive plans reflect the opportunities and limitations presented by local and regional water resources. WREs are intended to improve the local jurisdiction's contribution to the protection of state land and water resources; to the protection of public health, safety and welfare; and to meeting local and state smart growth policies. The Models and Guidelines section will help La Plata prepare our WRE in a manner that will not only meet the requirements of the law but will strengthen our planning efforts by ensuring that water resources will be adequate to support growth.

While a great deal of Marylanders rely on surface water from reservoirs and rivers, Southern Maryland relies much on aquifers. These aquifers all share a common feature: they have limits on how much water each can safely yield. Since the aquifer that supports La Plata and much of Southern Maryland is slowly resupplied from outside our borders, I asked if Maryland was working with other states to ensure that our aquifers' sources were not being impeded by outside influences – to my surprise, the State is NOT working

with contiguous states to ensure that land development not interrupt these vital lines of water replenishment. It is only common sense that if these areas are disturbed and not protected, our aquifers do not stand a chance in any revitalization effort. I have taken this challenge to bring this oversight to State levels where I hope there becomes some sort of dialogue among our neighboring states.

One section that will dominate future growth in La Plata is the "Drinking Water Assessment". A statement that we all should take heed to was made in the July 2006 Interim Report of the Advisory Committee on the Management and Protection of the State's Water Resources: "Clearly the era when the availability of water could be taken for granted is over." Our comprehensive plan must address the adequacy of existing water supplies, identify adequate sources and infrastructure for future needs and identify steps that need to be taken to protect existing and future water sources. Once these assessments are complete, our WRE will outline a roadmap. The Council will have to outline policies that connect water adequacy findings to implementation policies, tools and actions. The Council will need to provide mechanisms that may modify or produce new ordinances pertaining to water supply verification, land use, development, and capacity allocations. All of these steps must be undertaken by October 2009.

TESTING OF EARLY WARNING DEVICES/SIRENS

The Town of La Plata will be testing our early warning devices/sirens on **Saturday, December 8, 2007, 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 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.

DECEMBER 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 3:00 p.m., Olde Tyme Holiday Gathering and Tree Lighting	3 Special trash pick-up day (Call by 4:00 p.m. Fri., 11/30 to schedule)	4 7:00 p.m., Planning Commission meeting	5 9:00 a.m., Design Review Board meeting 7:30 p.m., Crime Watch Council meeting	6	7	8 Breakfast with Santa
9	10	11 7:00 p.m., Town Council work session	12 5:00 p.m., Parks and Recreation Commission meeting	13	14	15
16	17 6:00 p.m., Christmas Decorations Contest	18 7:00 p.m., Town Council regular meeting (rescheduled from 12/25)	19 9:00 a.m., Design Review Board work session	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25 CHRISTMAS DAY – TOWN HALL CLOSED (Tuesday's trash will be picked up on Wednesday, Dec. 26.)	26 <i>Curbside Christmas Tree pick-up begins</i>	27	28	29

JANUARY 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		NEW YEAR'S DAY 1 – TOWN HALL CLOSED (Tuesday's trash will be picked up on Wednesday, Jan. 2.)	2 9:00 a.m., Design Review Board meeting 7:00 p.m., Planning Commission meeting (rescheduled from 1/1) 7:30 p.m., Crime Watch Council meeting	3	4	5
6	7 Special trash pickup day (Call by 4:00 p.m. Fri., 1/4 to schedule)	8 5:30 p.m., Town Council facilitated session- budget priority setting	9 5:00 p.m., Parks and Recreation Commission meeting	10	11 <i>Curbside Christmas Tree pick-up ends</i>	12
13	14	15 5:30 p.m., Town Council facilitated session- budget priority setting	16 9:00 a.m., Design Review Board work session	17	18	19
20	21 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY – TOWN HALL CLOSED (No change to trash schedule.)	22 7:00 p.m., Town Council regular meeting	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

CONSERVATION CORNER

This year with a significant drought in our area, water conservation is a popular topic of discussion. To help improve our community's water conservation efforts, some data may help you identify ways to conserve water.

The least amount of water is consumed during the winter. The January-February-March billing cycle typically has the least amount of water used. The most water is typically consumed in the July-August-September quarter. In 2007 55% more water was consumed in the summer quarter than in the winter quarter. With higher seasonal water use customers have a good opportunity to conserve water in the summer months. Watering lawns and plants, washing vehicles, and pressure washing are significant contributors to seasonal water use.

This winter look to reduce the need for watering by landscaping your property with native plants through BayScaping. An Internet search on BayScaping will provide all of the resources you need. Or go to <http://www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay/BayScapes/bsresources/bs-nativeguides.htm#Bay> for a publication on native plants. Also, look into using rain barrels or another method to capture rainwater to use for irrigation.

In the winter billing quarter La Plata customers averaged using 230 gallons per day. In the summer quarter that climbed to an average of 325 gallons per day. To calculate your average use per day, get your La Plata utility bill. In the USAGE column is the number taken from your meter. Multiply that number by 100, to get the total gallons used, and then divide it by the number of days in the billing period. For your July-August-September bill that was 92 days.

If your usage reads 299 multiply by 100 to get 29,900 gallons used over three months. Divide 29,900 by 92 days to get 325 gallons per day. If you have more than that amount, you are in the top half of water customers in town.

Thank you for your help in conserving water.

SHOP LA PLATA

This Holiday Season please don't forget to explore your hometown and support La Plata businesses. Holiday shopping has never been easier, with new stores and restaurants that have opened downtown and along Crain Highway. From major retailers to unique retail establishments found only in La Plata, there are many great options to satisfy everyone on your shopping list.

Take a day to explore downtown and some of the unique one-of-a-kind stores and one-of-a-kind merchandise they have to offer. Take a break from your walk with lunch in one of several great restaurants. Giving gift certificates to La Plata stores and restaurants is a great way to encourage friends and family just outside of La Plata to come see for themselves what our great community has to offer, and to encourage more support for our local businesses.

By shopping and dining in La Plata you help to support your neighbors and your community, and help maintain the character that all our establishments provide to the Town. Good luck in your Holiday gift giving.

NOW OPEN IN LA PLATA AND COMING SOON TO LA PLATA

[This information is current as of November 1, 2007, and correct to the best of our knowledge. For more information, please contact Carol Rollins, Development Coordinator, Town of La Plata, at crollins@townoflaplata.org or 301-934-8421, ext. 116.]

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

AB Consultants Construction
317 Charles St.

Carol's Place Apts. & Condos
101 Carol's Pl.

Charles County Board of Elections
201 Charles St.

Crazy for Ewe (yarn shop)
118 St. Mary's Ave.

La Plata Bail Bonds
6525 Crain Hwy.

Lowe's
300 Rosewick Rd.

PNC Bank
304 Charles St.

PNC Bank
6315 Crain Hwy.

Popeye's Chicken
6591 Crain Hwy.

Rosewick Crossing Shopping Center
Rosewick Rd.

Sun Beauty Supply
118 Drury Dr.

Steeplechase Development
Catalpa Dr. & Buckeye Cir.

Texas Roadhouse
103 Drury Dr.

The Curved Closet (consignment shop)
6261 Crain Hwy.

Walgreens
6300 Crain Hwy.

La Plata Plaza North
Route 301 and Shining Willow Way

Moe's Southwest Grill
9 Shining Willow Way

FedEx/Kinko's
11 Shining Willow Way

Three Brothers Pizza
13 Shining Willow Way

CitiFinancial
15 Shining Willow Way

PETCO
19 Shining Willow Way

ATVs, POCKET BIKES, GOLF CARTS, OH My!

Information provided by Charles County Sheriff's Office

A pocket bike, all-terrain vehicle or golf cart might seem like a fun and inexpensive way to get around town or around the streets of your neighborhood but by law, many of these and similar modes of transportation can only be operated on your own property.

The following is information regarding what vehicles can and cannot be driven on roadways: *Maryland vehicle law defines motor vehicles as vehicles that are self-propelled or propelled by electric power obtained from overhead electrical wires and are not operated on rails.

*Under this definition, mopeds and motor scooters are not considered motor vehicles.

*Any vehicle that is not registered in the state of Maryland may not be driven on Maryland highways. Maryland vehicle law defines highways as the entire width between the boundary lines of any way or thoroughfare of which any part is used by the public for vehicular travel, whether or not the way or thoroughfare has been dedicated to the public and accepted by any proper authority. This means ATVs, motorized skate boards, motorized bicycles, motorized mini-bikes, go-carts and golf carts can only be driven on private property with the permission of the owner or agent.

Mopeds and Motor Scooters



A moped is a bicycle that is designed to

be operated by human power with the assistance of a motor and is equipped with pedals that mechanically drive the rear wheel or wheels. Mopeds have two or three wheels that are all more than 14 inches in diameter and have a motor with a rating of 1.5 brake horsepower or less. If the motor is a combustion engine,

mopeds have a capacity of 50 cubic centimeters piston displacement or less.

Motor scooters are non-pedal vehicles that have a seat for the operator, have two wheels, one of which is 10 inches or more in diameter, and have a step-through chassis. Motor scooters have a motor with a rating of 2.7 brake horsepower or less, or if the motor is an internal combustion engine, with a capacity of 50 cubic centimeters piston displacement or less. Motor scooters are equipped with an automatic transmission. Motor scooters do not include a vehicle that has been manufactured for off-road use, including a motorcycle and all-terrain vehicle. Motor scooters are generally found at motorcycle shops and usually cost at least \$1,500. If they are 50 cc's or less, they do not require tags. The driver must have a valid driver's license of any class from any state or country in which they reside or have a moped operator's permit issued by the Maryland MVA.

Any person operating a bicycle, including a moped, or motor scooter should ride as close to the right side of the roadway as practical and safe, except when attempting to make a left turn, operating on a one-way street or passing a stopped or slower vehicle. Two people can ride side-by-side when it does not impede the flow of traffic. The law also states operators may walk the bicycle or motor scooter on the right side of a highway if there is no sidewalk. These vehicles cannot be operated on a roadway with a speed limit of more than 50 miles per hour and cannot be operated in excess of 30 miles per hour, and all riders must wear a helmet.

Gas or Electric Motorized Toy Scooters

Whether they are gas or electric, motorized toy scooters often called "pocket bikes" are self-propelled and therefore meet the Maryland vehicle law's defini-

tion of a motor vehicle. They cannot be operated on a sidewalk. Because these



vehicles do not have a wheel that is 10 inches or more in diameter or a step-through chassis and because they are self-propelled, they are considered motor vehicles. But just as an ATV, go-cart, golf cart and dirt bike motorcycle, they do not need to be registered and are for use on private property only, with the permission of the property owner or agent.

Electronic Personal Assistive Mobility Devices (EPAMDs)



EPAMDs are self-balancing, pedestrian devices that have two wheels that are not in tandem. They may be operated on sidewalks and only roadways

with speed limits that do not exceed 30 miles per hour and that do not have an adjacent sidewalk.

Driving on Sidewalks

Driving on sidewalks is prohibited unless the sidewalk is a permanent or authorized temporary driveway. Where permitted, unicycles, bicycles – not including mopeds – and play vehicles may be ridden on a sidewalk or sidewalk area. Play vehicles are defined as a vehicle that has two or three wheels, is propelled only by human power and is not a bicycle. Also, unless prohibited by a local ordinance, an individual with a disability may use a special vehicle on sidewalks or sidewalk areas.

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 07-1: Election Ward Boundaries Map - Updates the Election Ward Boundaries Map to include within councilmanic wards the "Potomac Investment Group, LLC and Maryland State Highway Administration" and the "Rosewick Limited Partnership" properties.

Ordinance 07-2 (number assigned to ordinance which was not adopted)

• Ordinance 07-3: Board of Appeals – Notice of Hearings and Time Limitations – Alters the filing procedures and time required to set a hearing date for matters to come before the Town Board of Appeals; alters the length of time when certain decisions of the Board shall lapse.

• Ordinance 07-4: Purchasing – Competitive Bidding – Amends the amount of expenditure exempt from certain competitive bidding and advertising requirements.

• Ordinance 07-5: Separation of Title of Clerk-Treasurer to Town Clerk and Town Treasurer – Separates the title Clerk-Treasurer to the titles of Town Clerk and Town Treasurer; defines certain terms.

• Ordinance 07-6: Town of La Plata FY2007-2008 Tax Rate – Adopts the Town's FY2007-2008 Tax Rate.

• Ordinance 07-7: Amended: Town of La Plata FY2007-2008 Financial Plan/Budget – Adopts the Town's FY2007-2008 Financial Plan/Budget.

• Ordinance 07-8: Amended: Fee Schedule - Adopts the Fee Schedule, dealing with fees set by the Town.

• Ordinance 07-9: Traditional Neighborhood Development – Frontage on Public Green Space;

Thoroughfare Designs – Allows a principal building's front door to open directly to a frontage line on a public green space, under certain circumstances; provides clarification as to the location within the Code of design criteria for standard Town thoroughfares; specifies that the Planning Commission shall have flexibility to consider and approve alternative thoroughfare designs within a designated TND only.

Ordinance 07-10 (number assigned to draft ordinance)

• Ordinance 07-11: Design Review Board Membership – Alters the composition of the Design Review Board membership by converting one regular membership to be an Alternate Member; specifies the term of office of the Alternate Member.

• Resolution 06-10: Amendment to authorization to execute documents in connection with the "EPA Appropriations Act Fiscal 2003, Town of La Plata, Maryland" Grant – Amends the name of the person authorized to execute documents on behalf of the Town in connection with the "EPA Appropriations Act Fiscal 2003, Town of La Plata, Maryland" Grant.

• Resolution 06-11: Civista Medical Center Wall Sign – Determines that the wall sign to be located on the north side of the proposed Civista Medical Center is of significance to the Town and not contrary to the public interest; specifies a design and square footage allowance for a certain sign; requires the materials, lighting and colors of a certain sign be submitted for approval by the Design Review Board; requires an amendment to the Master Sign Plan of Civista Medical Center.

• Resolution 07-1: La Plata Commerce Center Indenture – Waives the Town's right to enforce a certain August 22, 1978 Indenture involving the La Plata Commerce Center with respect to a proposed Site Plan submitted on behalf of Levin Construction Corporation for the construction of a building to house the High Road School.

• Resolution 07-2: Charter Amendment – Purchasing – Competitive Bidding – Amends the Charter to amend the amount of expenditure exempt from certain competitive bidding and advertising requirements.

• Resolution 07-3: Charter Amendment – Separation of Title of Clerk-Treasurer to Town Clerk and Town Treasurer – Amends the Charter to separate the title Clerk-Treasurer to the titles of Town Clerk and Town Treasurer.

• Resolution 07-4: Pipeline Crossing Agreements with CSX Transportation, Inc. – Authorizes Joseph W. Norris, Acting Town Manager of the Town, to execute and deliver on behalf of the Town documents related to the Pipeline Crossing Agreements.

• Resolution 07-5: Adoption of "Hazard Mitigation Plan, Charles County, Maryland, April 2006" - Adopts the "Hazard Mitigation Plan, Charles County, Maryland, April 2006."

• Resolution 07-6: Employment Agreement between the Town of La Plata and Daniel J. Mears – Approves an Employment Agreement, dated April 26, 2007, between the Town and Daniel J. Mears, and authorizes Mayor Ambrogio to execute and deliver on behalf of the Town said Employment Agreement.

• Resolution 07-7: Schedule of Holidays – FY2007-2008 – Adopts the schedule of holidays to be observed by the employees of the Town for FY2007-2008.

• Resolution 07-8: Amendment to authorization to execute documents in connection with the "EPA Appropriations Act Fiscal 2003, Town of La Plata, Maryland" Grant – Amends the name of the person authorized to execute documents on behalf of the Town in connection with the "EPA Appropriations Act Fiscal 2003, Town of La Plata, Maryland" Grant.

• Resolution 07-9: Support for a new rail crossing for Heritage Green Parkway – Urges federal, state and local elected representatives and railroad officials to support and assist the Town's effort in obtaining a new rail crossing for Heritage Green Parkway in the Town.

2007 CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Olde Tyme Holiday Gathering and Christmas Tree Lighting

Sunday, December 2, 3:00 p.m.

La Plata Town Hall

The Town Council will be hosting the 3rd annual Olde Tyme Holiday Gathering at the Town Hall. There will be entertainment inside and outside, including miniature train rides, holiday craft stations and light refreshments. **All who are attending are encouraged to bring a canned food item, which will be donated to an area food bank.**

3:45 – Southern Mix Barbershop chorus performing holiday music

4:00 – Speed & Thro High Energy Magic and Illusions show

5:15 – Santa’s arrival by fire truck

5:30 – Christmas Tree Lighting and Visit with Santa

6:00 – “Sing in the Season”, a celebration of holiday songs led by the Town Council and the Charles County Commissioners, on the front steps of the Town Hall

Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 8

La Plata Town Hall

Children 10 years old and under are invited to have Breakfast with Santa at the La Plata Town Hall. Donuts and juice will be served, and Santa will have a small gift for each child. 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 7, so Santa’s helpers will know when you’ll be here.

Christmas Decorations Contest

Monday, December 17 – 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 Gayle Curry at the Town Hall (301-934-8421 or 301-870-3377) by 4:00 p.m. by Friday, December 14 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. in anticipation of the Beautification Commission judges.**

Christmas Tree Disposal

The Town will pick up Christmas trees **Wednesday, December 26, 2007, through Friday, January 11, 2008.** 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 composting 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 Wednesday, December 26, through Saturday, January 12.**

THE NATIONAL CITIZEN SURVEY™

La Plata residents will have an opportunity to participate in The National Citizen Survey™ in early 2008. Questionnaires will be sent to a random sample of 1,200 Town of La Plata residents, asking for feedback on the quality and usefulness of Town services. The results will be included in a final report that the Town Council can use in planning and budgeting for the future.

Residents are encouraged to look for the survey in the mail and to complete and return the survey. It will assist the Town of La Plata in addressing service needs throughout the Town. More information about when the survey will be delivered will be communicated in January.

The National Citizen Survey™ is sponsored by the International City/County Management Association in cooperation with National Research Center, Inc. The questionnaire and survey procedures were designed based on the experience of hundreds of local governments of all sizes. Scientific sampling and weighting of the responses ensure accurate and reliable results. Because each survey is developed using a standard template, The National Citizen Survey™ is a very efficient way to measure citizen opinion.

Invitation to Apply for Vacancies on Beautification Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, and Future Vacancies on the Town's Boards and Commissions

To assist in carrying out its responsibilities, the Town Council has established a number of Boards and Commissions staffed by volunteers. These Boards and Commissions are very much a part of the decision-making process.

Currently, there are openings on the Beautification Commission and the Parks and Recreation Commission. Any Town resident interested in being considered for appointment to either of these commissions, or to any future vacancies on any of the boards and commissions, is encouraged to fill out the Town's personal history/application form and send it along with a letter of interest to the Town Clerk. A printable version of the form is on the Town's web page at www.townoflaplata.org, or you can call the Town Hall to have one sent to you, or stop by and pick one up.

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

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