

# TOWN NOTES

*News from La Plata Town Hall*



## MAYOR'S CORNER

Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley visited La Plata on July 26, 2007 and proclaimed our Town "Capital for a Day." The Governor declared that the Southern Maryland area is experiencing extreme drought conditions and requested that the federal government offer low interest loans to farmers.

The Town of La Plata is proud to announce that the La Plata Town Hall has been certified as Southern Maryland's first "green" building. The designation by the U. S. Green Building Council means Town Hall is among the nation's most energy-efficient buildings. The voluntary standards set by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design's (LEED) Green Building Rating System evaluate properties on how well they reduce waste going into landfills, energy and water consumption, and greenhouse gas emissions. One area in which the Town received recognition was water conservation. The Town Council has endorsed a plan to landscape the Town Hall grounds with drought resistant vegetation. The Town further plans to utilize rain barrels and a



*Mayor Gene Ambrogio holds the Proclamation from Governor Martin O'Malley, second from right, declaring La Plata "Capital for a Day" on July 26, with Councilman Scot D. Lucas (left) and Councilwoman Paddy Mudd.*

cistern system to irrigate the new lawn in the concert area. This truly is an innovative approach to water conservation and is an encouragement to the development of "green" buildings.

Please plan to come to the Fall Festival and "Festival of Scarecrows" kick off on October 28, and to a new event called "Taste of La Plata," where you will be able to sample various culinary fare from eateries located in our Town. Hope to see you there.

## Patti Bembe thanked by Town Council



*Patti Bembe holds the Town Seal presented to her by the Town Council on August 31, her last day of working for the Town. Standing with Patti are Council members Scot D. Lucas (left), Paddy Mudd and Jim Goldsmith, and Mayor Gene Ambrogio.*

Patti Bembe, who served as Assistant Town Manager from April 2000 through August 2007, was presented with a framed Town of La Plata Seal on August 31. Signed by the Town Council, the Town Seal expressed the Council's "sincere appreciation for your seven years of dedicated and faithful service to the Town of La Plata as Assistant Town Manager, and especially for your leadership in helping to implement the Town's Vision Plan and helping to create the Design Guidelines. La Plata is a better place because of your efforts and hard work."

# COUNCIL COLUMN

## Councilman Jim Goldsmith, Ward 1

The Maryland Transportation Authority has completed initial construction of the Park and Ride on Washington Ave. Since permanent lights have not been installed as yet, portable pole lights are being provided for the safety of the patrons of the lot. This Park and Ride is a joint venture of the State, County, and Town. The State will complete building the lot, the County will pay for the utilities for the lot and the Town will provide maintenance (grass cutting, snow removal, etc.) for the lot. The State built the shelters to a higher standard than seen at most other lots (wood and slate roofing), but a safety concern was created. The shelters are solid wood siding to the north side. This was probably done to protect against the cold winds in the winter. At the same time, people in the shelter cannot be observed from the road. The Town recognizes

this safety issue and will be putting clear windows in each shelter to allow more visibility from the roadway.

I wanted to provide a couple updates on what is happening in the Town from the Planning Commission actions. At the August meeting, final plat approval was given for the construction of 293 homes in the Heritage Green development. This development is to the east of the railroad off Washington Avenue. Upon final build-out this development will have over 3000 dwelling units, retail, a golf course, and a downtown bypass created by a parkway through the development from Route 6 at Willow Lane to Rosewick Road. They are also working with CSX for an "at grade" crossing at Heritage Green Parkway.

A concept plan was presented for a commercial development for property south of Oriole Lane, just south of the Pepsi Plant. A Kohl's department store would be the anchor store for the center. There would

be additional out parcels for more specialty stores/businesses. A key requirement for this development would be a traffic signal at Route 301 and Oriole Lane. There are always positives and negatives for each new development. A new light would necessitate the closure of the crossover in front of the McDonald's Restaurant. This has been a dangerous crossover/intersection. As I write this, the developer is still awaiting an answer from the State Highway Administration on the ability to put a stoplight at the intersection.

If you have any input on either of these issues or any other issue please contact me via email at [jgoldsmith@townoflaplata.org](mailto:jgoldsmith@townoflaplata.org).

## Councilman Scot D. Lucas, Ward 2

The National Speed Awareness Month ended September 1st with some great results. Chief Gittings of the Town of La Plata, Sheriff Rex Coffey of the Charles County Sheriff's Office, and Lt. Randy Stephens of the Maryland State Police all reported some fantastic preliminary numbers. My goal for next year is to involve more agencies in more locations to truly make this a national event. If you did not get a chance to read about the initiative in the *Maryland Independent*, please allow me to tell you a little about it. In today's ever increasing pace, where time is money, people are doing everything faster – including driving. It was my idea to educate drivers on the dangers of speeding in neighborhoods. Our children are more at risk when speeding cars are around. The police force does an excellent job of patrolling the neighborhoods the first couple of weeks that school begins, but I wanted to be proactive – let's get the police in the neighborhoods and slow these people down before the children are standing at the bus stop. The Town of La Plata has also purchased some other speed deterring devices. Even though the speed aware-

## Town Hall Closed

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

**Veterans Day** (observed) Monday, November 12, 2007  
**Thanksgiving Day** Thursday, November 22, 2007  
Friday, November 23, 2007

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: Gene Ambrogio  
Council:

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

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

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

305 Queen Anne Street,  
La Plata, Maryland 20646  
Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.  
Telephone: 301-934-8421 / 301-870-3377  
La Plata Police Department: 301-934-1500  
Email: [mminer@townoflaplata.org](mailto:mminer@townoflaplata.org)  
Website: [www.townoflaplata.org](http://www.townoflaplata.org)

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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.: October 6, November 3 and 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.*

## 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:**

**Trash will be picked up on:**

**Thanksgiving Day**  
Thursday, November 22

Wednesday, November 21

# NOW OPEN IN LA PLATA AND COMING SOON TO LA PLATA

[This information is current as of September 4, 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](mailto:crollins@townoflaplata.org) or 301-934-8421, ext. 116.]

The following businesses were issued Commercial Occupancy Permits during July and August:

### PETCO

19 Shining Willow Way

### Famous Footwear

50 Shining Willow Way

### Dash-in/La Plata Shell

6305 Crain Hwy.

### Paige's of Time Early Learning Center

207 Kent Ave.

### Ivest Diagnostics

105 Centennial St., Ste. 302

### Spirit Halloween

6515 Crain Hwy.

### La Plata Brewhouse Coffee

103 Centennial St., Ste. E

### Reflections Hair Studio

6390 Crain Hwy.

### The Hour Glass, Inc. (stained glass studio)

6 St. Mary's Ave., Ste. 100B

### Education Association of Charles County

105 Centennial St., Ste. 309

### Liberty Title

9375 Chesapeake St., Ste. 111

### Shenandoah & Company Salon (hair salon)

404 Baltimore St., Ste. 2

## COUNCIL COLUMN (CONTINUED)

ness month is over, please continue to slow down. If you are aware of a street that is particularly troublesome with speeders, please e-mail me at [lucas4laplata@yahoo.com](mailto:lucas4laplata@yahoo.com).

GP Homes was given approval in August by the Planning Commission for the final plat and final plan of subdivision of Phase 1A for Heritage Green Community. This subdivision, which will be in Ward II, will take many years to complete and has several phases. Phase 1A will consist of 149 single family homes, 102 townhouses, and 42 live/work units for a total of 293 units. This project was originally annexed into the Town of La Plata in 1990 and stretches from Route 6 at Willow Lane to north of Rosewick Road. As I stated previously, I want to keep La Plata a small family like community and I will do everything that I can to ensure Heritage Green reflects that community. Look for more information in the coming *Town Notes* newsletters.

### Councilman Paddy Mudd, Ward 3

I love Kohl's! Please don't misunderstand me. However, I believe that the increased traffic through Quailwood

Parkway and Oriole Lane and an additional Route 301 traffic light would be a detriment to the residential areas of Quailwood, Jamestown and Hawthorne Greene. The Council has asked to be included in the planning of the Waldorf bypass, which as proposed at this time -in both the western and eastern versions- is to end at Turkey Hill Road and would then feed into the Route 301 traffic lights through La Plata. I would like to talk with the Commissioners about locating Kohl's on the south side of Rosewick Road. At the time of the annexation this area was designated for professional office development, but it is my understanding that this could be changed if mutually agreed upon. There is already a Route 301 traffic light at Rosewick Road, and with the new St. Charles Parkway-Rosewick Road extension, this location would serve the southeast side of Waldorf as well as La Plata and south.

My thanks to all at the state and county level who have assisted La Plata in our quest to obtain the CSX crossing at Heritage Green Parkway. This must be accomplished for fire and rescue service to the new GP homes development as

well as to facilitate completion of the parkway as an eastern route to help alleviate our downtown traffic problems.

I commend our entire staff, especially Patti Bembe, Cathy Flerlage and Dan Mears for our Town Hall LEED certification (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) by the U.S. Green Building Council. Our proposed landscaping plan is exceptional! Work should have begun on the fall planting by the time this is published.

The Kent Avenue Partnership will meet on September 20<sup>th</sup>. I plan to propose a "take back our neighborhood" campaign and reorganization of the group. Our small group has worked hard at this but we need new blood from within the community to take charge! Cornerstone AME Church of La Plata and Lifestyles had a very successful back to school outing at the Caroline Street playground on September 1<sup>st</sup>. A clean up day will be planned for October. Suggestions for other events to unify the community are always welcome.

Please e-mail me with your concerns and comments. [paddymudd@comcast.net](mailto:paddymudd@comcast.net)

## 2ND ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF SCARECROWS



The Charles County Chamber of Commerce is partnering with the Town of La Plata and Civista Health Foundation to bring the community together for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Festival of Scarecrows. Everyone is invited to participate in this community event. The Chamber encourages merchants, business people, individuals, church groups, school groups, clubs, organizations and families to participate in making a scarecrow. This event's proceeds will benefit Civista Health Foundation.

The scarecrows will be displayed throughout the town from October 25<sup>th</sup> to November 11<sup>th</sup>. There will be a contest with awards for different categories, and the Charles County Garden Club will conduct the judging again this year. Awards will be presented at noon, October 28<sup>th</sup>, on the grounds of the La Plata Town Hall.

Please visit the Chamber's web site at [www.charlescountychamber.org](http://www.charlescountychamber.org) for additional information and to register on-line, or contact Michelle Lekan, Communications and Events Manager, at 301-932-6500.

# OCTOBER 2007

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

# NOVEMBER 2007

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

# BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY TIPS FROM THE LA PLATA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Town of La Plata children and parents are back in the fall routine of squeezing five more minutes of sleep before hastily throwing together breakfast and lunch, then going off to work and school. These daily treks during the time we commonly refer to as “rush hour” represent the time that most pedestrian and fatal crashes occur. Here are some tips to help motorists and school-bound children stay safe.

## 🔗 School Bus Safety

For motorists:

- Maryland State Law forbids the passing of a stopped school bus while its lights are flashing and its stop arm is extended.
- Stay alert. Watch for children playing and congregating near bus stops.

- ***Slow down.*** Watch for children walking in the street, especially if there are no sidewalks in the neighborhood.

For children riding the bus:

- Stay away from the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the driver signals you to enter.
- Make sure the driver can see you
- Be aware of the street traffic around you. Drivers are required to follow certain rules of the road concerning school buses, however, not all do. Protect yourself and be on the look out.

## 🔗 Safety when walking or biking to school:

- Work out a safe route to school with your parents.

- Choose the quickest route with the fewest street crossings.

## 🔗 The correct way to cross the street:

- All pedestrians should always stop at the curb or the edge of the road and look left, then right, and then left again before crossing. Pedestrians should continue looking in this manner until they are able to cross safely.
- Use intersections with crossing guards.
- Walk your bike through intersections.
- Walk with a buddy.
- Wear reflective material...it makes you more visible to street traffic.
- Make sure if you are riding a bike to school, you wear a helmet.

# NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC CALMING

Safety in our neighborhoods is important to our community. Each year the Town of La Plata receives many requests from concerned citizens seeking assistance to address neighborhood traffic concerns. Often the focus of these concerns is vehicle speeds. Speeding is usually not the result of an intentional decision to break the law but is instead a poor habit. Violators in many cases are local residents who live within the neighborhood who are unaware they are speeding.

The Town has tools to help educate drivers and increase awareness about speed and other unsafe driving habits. Traditionally, the Town has used a speed trailer which houses a radar unit and reader board placed on Town streets that displays the speed of all approaching vehicles and flashes the speed. Please pay attention to these boards and be aware of your speed and the posted speed limit.

The Town's newest tool is more subtle. You may have seen the life size photo of a young child placed near the street. The desired result is that motorists will see the “child” near the street and slow down. Our Town Police place this sign throughout the community as a reminder that there are children in the area, and we must not only mind our speed, but also be aware of our surroundings. You have probably driven by one of these children since Town Police started using them in August. Have you noticed one?

Awareness of speed is an important first step in ensuring motorists travel safely. Please monitor your speed and be extra vigilant in neighborhoods where children play and people exercise along our roads. Let's keep our neighborhoods and streets safe.

# LA PLATA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION



The La Plata Business Association would like to welcome the recent new members: El Dorado Restaurant, El Ranchito Restaurant, Fit-Life Training Center, Hawthorne Rosewick Associates, LP, La Plata True Value Hardware, Martins Service Station, Olde Towne Insurance, Ouzo's Restaurant, Pizza Hotline, SunTrust Mortgage, Inc., The Lucas Insurance Agency, and Winkler Real Estate.

If you would like to join the Association please contact Michelle Miner at 301-934-8421 for an application.

## Law firm of Mudd, Mudd & Fitzgerald, P.A. is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

In 1907, John Francis Mudd began the practice of law in La Plata, Maryland, a newly incorporated municipality and the new County Seat of Charles County. Mr. Mudd opened his practice on the second floor of Stumble Inn, a La Plata landmark until 1966, when it was razed to make way for the Mercantile Bank of Southern Maryland on Charles Street.

In 1933, John Francis Mudd was joined in the practice of law by his oldest son, Francis DeSales Mudd (1933-1972), practicing under the firm name of Mudd & Mudd Attorneys. Thereafter, the firm was joined over the years by Calvin Maurice Flinn (1950-1974), Melvin Wayne Munday (1962-1983), Thomas Finan Mudd (1965- ), the oldest grandson of John Francis Mudd, John Francis Mudd (1969- ), a younger grandson of John Francis Mudd, Franklin George Heinze, III (1974-1978), Stephen Patrick Fitzgerald (1978- ), John Edward Ray (1989- ), and Mark Dolan Mudd (1999 - ), a great-grandson of John Francis Mudd.

Over the Century, Mudd & Mudd Attorneys, now Mudd, Mudd & Fitzgerald, P.A., has provided legal services in the general practice of law to Southern Maryland citizens from offices in Stumble Inn on Charles Street, the Idamont Building at 112 La Grange Avenue (destroyed in the 2002 tornado and now the medical practice building of B. Larry Jenkins, M.D.) and the Sydney Mudd Home at 106 Saint Mary's Avenue. This law office was also destroyed in the tornado but rebuilt and remodeled as it now stands.

The law practice begun by John Francis Mudd has mentored many attorneys during its 100 years of existence, including John C. Hancock who resigned his association to become Charles County's State's Attorney, Franklin B. Olmsted, now practicing law with his two sons in the partnership of Olmsted & Olmsted, Frank G. Perrin, who graduated to a solo practice and the Maryland House of Delegates, Lee F. Holdman, now an Estate Planning Specialist, James Tucker, a Water Rights Specialist in his native state of Idaho, Stephen J. Braun, now practicing in his native state of Florida, Mary T. Rice, now Charles County Bar Association Librarian, Thomas G. LaHood, now a Roman Catholic Priest, The Honorable Richard A. Cooper, now Judge of the Charles County District Court, Robert M. Burke, now a solo practitioner in Charles County, Patrick B. Murphy, now Corporate Counsel for Egan McAllister, Associates. The current associates of Mudd, Mudd & Fitzgerald, P.A. are Mistey L. Metzgar and Bradley B. Fowler.

In celebration of its Century Anniversary, the profiles and achievements of John Francis Mudd and the nine law partners who succeeded him have been published in a monthly series in the Business Section of the Maryland Independent beginning in February 2007. The series will continue through December of this year.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Olde Tyme Holiday Gathering Sunday, December 2, 3:30 p.m.**

#### **La Plata Town Hall**

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 Michelle Miner 301-934-8421

### **Breakfast with Santa Saturday, December 8**

#### **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 19 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 17 – 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 17, 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 Gayle Curry at the Town Hall (301-934-8421 or 301-870-3377) by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, December 14 if you want your outdoor Christmas decorations to be judged.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Fall Festival and "Festival of Scarecrows" Kick off

Sunday, October 28, noon to 5:00 p.m.

#### Grounds of the La Plata Town Hall

The Town of La Plata will kick off the "Festival of Scarecrows" with the awards ceremony beginning at noon on the steps of the Town Hall. Immediately following the awards ceremony there will be continuous entertainment, including free children's activities and fun.

Festival organizers are trying to bring a new component to the annual Fall Festival: "Taste of La Plata". All restaurants and food establishments in the Town have been invited to set up and provide bite-size samples of dishes they serve. In addition, there will be a contest highlighting the various displays. A panel of judges will have determined the best displays prior to the opening of the festival. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place awards will be acknowledged on the displays for all attendees to admire. For more information please contact Michelle Miner at 301-934-8421.

### "Salute to Veterans" Parade and Ceremony

Sunday, November 11, 2007, 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. The guest speaker is Robert D. Reilly, Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy. If you would like to participate in the parade please contact Gayle Curry at 301-934-8421 for a registration form.

## LA PLATA TOWN HALL IS LEED CERTIFIED

The La Plata Town Hall recently achieved Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). LEED is the USGBC's leading edge system for designing and constructing the world's greenest, energy efficient and high performing buildings. The Town Hall was designed to achieve LEED certification for sustainable sites in site selection, reduced site disturbance, and landscape and exterior design to reduce heat islands; water and energy efficiency; materials and resources in material use; indoor environmental quality, and a variety of other sustainable strategies.

Sustainable design was part of the Town's desire to be respectful of the Town Hall's physical surroundings, the environment and the employees who would occupy the building. Some of the building's sustainable features include:

#### ❖ Reduced site disturbance

- ♦Restoration of 50.7% of the site area, excluding the building footprint, by replacing the tornado-damaged trees and invasive non-native plants with trees and drought-tolerant shrubs and flowers which are native to the Southern Maryland area.

#### ❖ Water and energy efficiency

- ♦Reduction by 50% of use of potable water for landscape purposes; use of drought-tolerant and native plants.

- ♦Geothermal heating and cooling system.

#### ❖ Materials and resources

- ♦Use of construction materials with recycled content; use of construction materials manufactured or harvested locally/regionally.

- ♦Reduction of waste disposed of in the landfill by implementation of a post-occupancy recycling plan, which

includes individual recycling bins at each employee's desk, which are emptied into a central recycling container in a dedicated space, and regular weekly pick-up by a contractor.

#### ❖ Indoor environmental quality

- ♦Implementation of an Indoor Air Quality Management Plan during the construction and the pre-occupancy phases of the building.

- ♦Use of low-emitting materials during construction, including adhesives, sealants, and paints.

- ♦Providing for daylight in 75% of indoor spaces; use of low-E insulating glass.

- ♦Use of "green housekeeping" products and practices.

- ♦Use of reduced mercury fluorescent lighting.

## TRICK OR TREAT EVENING

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

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

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

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Port Tobacco Players (PTP) productions

#### *Death of a Salesman*

**September 28 – October 14: Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m.; Sundays at 3:00 p.m.**

Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* is considered by many to be both the playwright's masterpiece and a cornerstone of contemporary American drama. Through his main character, Willy Loman, Miller examines the myth of the American Dream and the shallow promise of happiness through material wealth. He uses Willy as an example of how undivided faith in such a dream can often yield tragic results, especially when it goes largely unfulfilled.

#### *2007 Holiday Show*

**November 23 - December 9: Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m.; Sundays at 3:00 p.m.**

#### *Act I: North Pole Exposure - Presented by the Encore Kids*

Thanks to the exploits of a brave and curious group of young people, you'll get a first-hand look at all the famous

characters that make Christmas dreams come true: Santa's well-trained, volunteer reindeer, the overworked elves, snowmen who dream of tropical vacations, what Mrs. Claus really does, and the true spirit of the season.

#### *Act II: 1940's Radio Hour*

The spirit of a bygone era is evoked in this show with music by various composers. The world was at war and pop music meant "The Chattanooga Choo-Choo" and the "Boogie-Woogie Bugle Boy." This is a look at behind the scenes radio as you view a live, Christmas time broadcast of a musical variety hour from the Hotel Astor's Algonquin Room on December 21, 1942: *The Mutual Manhattan Variety Cavalcade*.

Ticket information: \$15 – Adults; \$12 – Seniors (60 and over) and Students (through high school). For reservations, call the PTP box office at 301-932-6819. Visit the PTP web page at [www.ptplayers.com](http://www.ptplayers.com).

*Fire Prevention Week is October 7 – 13, 2007. This would be a good time to put fresh batteries in your smoke alarms.*

**La Plata Volunteer Fire Department**, 911 Washington Avenue, will be hosting a **Fire Prevention Open House** on Sunday, **October 14, from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.**

**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 20, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** There will be a variety of crafts, baked goods, and food items for purchase. If you would like more information, please contact Leslie Chaplin at 301-392-9066, or by e-mail at [dragongr@msn.com](mailto:dragongr@msn.com).

## Meet the Town Staff – Donna Shorter



Donna Shorter has worked for the Town since June of 2007 as permit clerk/receptionist. Before coming to work for the Town, Donna was employed for eleven years as a senior teller with the Bank of America in La Plata. Donna is a graduate of Henry E. Lackey High School and has a 16-year-old son who also attends Henry E. Lackey High School. In her spare time, Donna enjoys eating crabs and spending time with her family.

## La Plata Residents,

There was a disappointing article in the Washington Post regarding La Plata and its communication with the media. To assist the Town with being more responsive to media inquiries, we established a central point of contact at the end of August. Similar to a public information officer, our contact can receive inquiries and ensure response by appropriate individuals in the Town. The goal is to ensure a response by the next business day.

The Town contacted its regular media partners and asked them to take benefit of an established contact point. Unfortunately, the Washington Post contacted the Town on a Tuesday afternoon asking the Town Council and Town Manager to respond why access to the Town was being limited. This was opposite from our goal of being more efficient and effective.

Statements of unresponsiveness in the article were not accurate. Our elected officials, as always, will communicate with the media as each deems appropriate. Establishing a point of contact provides them with flexibility to know someone can receive media inquiries on their behalf.

La Plata's elected officials do address issues with the media and constituents. We are disappointed in the article but the Council remains committed to tracking down information when needed and improving accessibility.

We want to be able to improve and build on an excellent relationship we now cherish with the community.

**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](mailto:frrazier@townoflaplata.org).

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