

# TOWN NOTES

*News from La Plata Town Hall*



## MAYOR'S CORNER

**T**he adage, be careful what you wish for, came true this Winter. The limited snow fall over the past several years, the lack of a White Christmas, and limited snow days for schools all came to a halt over the span of a few weeks. It was a beautiful sight but I am certain there are enough sore arms and backs, from shoveling snow, to last a very long time.

I commend the Town Staff for the effort expended to clear our roads and streets. It required a tremendous effort to move the quantity of snow that fell from three major storms. The December storm produced some major problems on our main arteries due to traffic that helped pack the snow which then froze to the roadway. We learned some important lessons from this first major snowfall which helped with the storms that followed. Compared with our surrounding communities, I feel the Town Staff performed a Herculean effort in an outstanding manner. The comments received from many residents support this commendation.

A year ago the Town embarked on a new plan to seek federal funding to jump start infrastructure projects that were stalled by the economy and lack of private investment. One of these projects is the Willow Lane Pump Station and collection system currently under construction. This project is vital for upgrading the Town's existing sewer system and will, when complete, replace the current Willow Lane and Phoenix Run pumping stations and reduce the instance of sanitary sewer overflows and breaks in the force main along Route Six. In addition, the State of Maryland is paying the cost of upgrading

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## Testing of Early Warning Devices/Sirens

The Town of La Plata will be testing our early warning devices/sirens on **Saturday, May 8, 2010 at approximately 10:00 a.m.** Testing is done twice per year in early May and early December. The testing lasts about a half hour. The tests consist of both siren alerts and audible notifications. The tests are 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
- \* 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.

### TORNADO SIREN MESSAGE

Twice a year, the Town of La Plata and the Charles County Emergency Operations Center test the tornado sirens located throughout Town. When there is a threat of a tornado the Charles County Emergency Operations Center sounds the Town's tornado siren. The siren is followed by a pre-recorded message to advise people in the community what to do in the event of a tornado warning. The pre-recorded message states "Attention! A tornado warning has been issued. Seek shelter now. Do not delay. Seek shelter now. Attention! A tornado warning has been issued. Seek shelter now. Do not delay. Seek shelter now." This message is used during all threats of a tornado.

When you hear the siren going off, please do not delay in seeking shelter. Get indoors, get to an interior small room or basement, and get low. It can be loud during a storm. You do not need to wait by a window or door to listen to the pre-recorded message. For some tornado tips, please visit the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's site at <http://www.spc.noaa.gov/faq/tornado/safety.html>

## Town Hall Closed

The Town Hall will be closed on the following days:

**Friday, April 2**  
**Monday, May 31**

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 Wayne Winkler, Ward 1

I would like to report on two exciting items. First, our Parks and Recreation. The Town is entering into a contract with Environmental Resource Management (ERM) to provide a complete inventory of our existing parks/recreation facilities. The end result will also provide recommendations for future parks and recreation areas and facilities based on population projections and industry standards, and include related maps. It will also provide recommendations on how the Town can implement, operate, and maintain these facilities.

La Plata now has a population of approximately 10,000 residents and we expect to grow to a population of 25,000 within the next several years. This plan is much needed to tell us what we have, what we should have, and what is needed in the future.

Second, going Green. I believe this is an item of interest to all of us. We are seeing more residents using Waste Management recycling bins and that should be a major help to the environment. I am attending a three day class on Going Green for residential houses. In the next issue I will report on what I learned and see if any HOA's would like me to come and talk with them. SMECO has a program were they will come to your house and do an energy audit and I want to work with them to find out what is included in their audit and I will report on that also. Hope each of you has a happy spring and summer and thank God the snow is gone.

## Councilman Keith Back, Ward 2

It has been a very active few months for your Town Council as we have gone through the "Snows of the Century" in February, held various public hearings on new zoning ordinances, and are currently going through the budgeting process and setting priorities for services for the next fiscal year. Some of the issues being discussed include ways that the Town can continue to provide the services our residents have come to expect even in this time of tighter and tighter budgets due to the overall economy.

Without the growth associated with stronger economic times, the Town Council will be faced with some important decisions in the next few budget cycles. This has been

compounded by the reduction in funding that the Town had previously received from the State of Maryland in the form of a share of Highway User Fees and Police Aid.

The Town Council and Town Staff are looking at many alternatives for how to reconcile the services to be provided with the available funding. This will be the subject of many meetings and debates over the next few months as we lay out the plans for the next Fiscal Year.

I know that sometimes there are many issues that residents feel very strongly about and are concerned that the Council may not be listening to their views. Please voice your concerns by either contacting your Councilman or attending a Business meeting of the Town Council. There is a Public Forum at the beginning of every month's Town Council Business meeting where you can provide input to the Council.

## Councilwoman Paddy Mudd, Ward 3

Spring is about a week away as I write this. I believe we all will be a lot happier as we approach the Town's spring and summer activities beginning with Ice Cream Sundaes with the Easter Bunny on April 5th and our popular Celebrate La Plata Day on April 17th. We have so much to celebrate with the re-birth of our Town after the devastating tornado on April 28, 2002.

Your Council has commissioned a comprehensive parks study after you requested more parks and recreation facilities and activities in several recent surveys. This study will take about 8 months to complete. We will continue with the park upgrades that we had started with grant money last fall while the study is in progress. This study will be a look at where we are now and what we will need as we grow to a town of 25,000. I hope to see lots more green space and many more walking and bike paths in the plan as well as pocket parks and a Town Square in the old part of Town. We also need recreation facilities for all – youth to seniors – if we are to remain a viable community.

Your Beautification Commission plans to have the Town Hall grounds "spruced up" and planted with spring annuals in time for Celebrate La Plata Day. The food trailer will be permanently placed on the concrete slab behind the building with picnic tables and a play area for our Concerts on the

Lawn. We also plan to put more lighting in the dark area along the path. Please continue to support the food trailer even though it will be in a new location!

All proceeds go to Lifestyles of Southern Maryland – located on Charles Street – which helps so many in need.

I hope to see all of you at many of these activities. I welcome your calls and e-mails on any subject.

## Councilman Joseph W. Norris, Ward 4

Welcome to April Showers and May Flowers. My hope after this winter is that the only S word I hear is SPRING. Again I want to think all of our employees for their hard work during this past winter. It is very difficult to carry out our regular tasks such as trash removal with the harsh winter we have experienced. A big THANK YOU to our citizens for their patience and understanding as we struggled to keep the roads clear and everything working.

The Council has been busy the last couple of months with the budget. We will continue to work through the process until complete in late May. We are in good shape financially compared to most jurisdictions. Even with that we must plan carefully during these unusual financial times. There are so many good things that we want to accomplish, but we will need to make some tough decisions in setting our priorities. We welcome the input of our citizens in this process, as it is your money after all. We do pay attention to our citizen surveys and any other input when making our decisions.

As you get busy with your gardening and yard work, please remember that the Yard Waste pickup days are Monday and Friday. Also remember to put your grass clippings etc. in the biodegradable paper bags not in plastic. The landfill will not take yard waste in plastic bags.

Please remember to use the Town website ([www.townofaplata.org](http://www.townofaplata.org)) for your information resource for all Town activities and schedules.

As always if you have any questions, comments or issues, I may be reached by phone at 301 934-9230 or by email at [jnorris@townofaplata.org](mailto:jnorris@townofaplata.org). Thank you for allowing me to serve.

## CHOPTICON HIGH SCHOOL'S FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS OF AMERICA VISIT ASKEY, ASKEY & ASSOCIATES, CPA, LLC

January 26, 2010 – *Askey, Askey & Associates, CPA, LLC* welcomed Chopticon High School's Future Business Leaders of America to spend the day and learn "how we do business" in the accounting world. Robert W. Askey, CPA, CFE, CFFA introduced the students to the Askey team while providing them valuable insights of everyday business. The visit was designed to expose the students to the accounting profession and open their eyes and minds toward degrees in accounting by showing them that accounting is more

than just crunching numbers.

The students are scheduled to revisit Askey, Askey & Associates to engage in additional activities such as preparing sample tax returns designed to teach them the necessary steps in completing an accurate return. Askey will guide the students on a step-by-step approach.

"Working with the Chopticon FBLA members has been a pleasure. It is an enjoyable vehicle for Askey, Askey & Associates, CPA,

LLC to give back to the community and help our future business leaders in the process", said Robert Askey.

According to the president of FBLA-PBL chapter, Jonathan Munshaw, everyone learned a lot and had a great time. "Bob Askey is obviously a fantastic business person and a devoted family man and we are looking forward to visiting Askey, Askey & Associates, CPA, LLC again", said Mr. Munshaw.

## LA PLATA POLICE PARTNER WITH NIXLE

La Plata community members can enroll in a new online messaging program. It's an e-mail blast that works like Twitter, targeting crime reports and other public safety information to your phone and email.

Nixle is a community information service provider built exclusively to provide secure and reliable communications. It is the first authenticated and secure service that connects municipal agencies and community organizations to residents in real time, delivering information to geographically targeted consumers over their cell phones (via text messages), through e-mails and via Web access. Nixle has secured a partnership with Nlets (the International Justice and Public

Safety Network), allowing local police departments nationwide to send immediate alerts and advisories. Privately funded Nixle, which has offices in New Jersey and California, is free to all governments, their agencies and organizations, nongovernmental organizations and consumers.

"If you want to know what's going on in the community, this is an effective tool and you can receive information on your cell phone or via email," Chief Gittings said.

Signing up is easy, you just enter your street name and zip code.

For more information and to register, visit <http://www.nixle.com>.

## MAYOR'S CORNER (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

our wastewater treatment plant to a higher state of efficiency in nutrient removal. These projects demonstrate that the Town is moving ahead to ensure that we have a wastewater treatment system that will meet current and projected demands.

We have solicited bids for a study of our Town parks and recreational facilities to ensure that we are addressing the needs of the community. A grant in the amount of \$100,000 is included in the Governor's budget for the installation of bathroom facilities at Tilghman Lake Park, the Town is hopeful that will be approved by the State Legislature this session. Other improvements are in the mix this Spring in our existing parks as well. Things are looking up.

The Town Council, together with Town Staff, has commenced the annual review preliminary to setting a budget for the next fiscal year commencing on July 1. During these sessions we look at every aspect of Town government together with anticipated revenues and expenses. The decision making process is much more difficult this year due to the uncertainty of the economy, but we are dedicated to a thorough review that will permit the Council to set priorities and reasonable goals. The responsibility of allocating taxpayers funds is a heavy one and I assure you that this responsibility is always on the table when projects are under consideration.

The 2010 Census forms will be sent to all households in March. It is extremely important to the Nation, our State, our County, and our Town that you complete the forms and return them in a timely manner. I trust that everyone will do their part in making this Census a success.

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).

## PORT TOBACCO PLAYERS (PTP) PRODUCTION

### The Secret Garden

April 30-May 23, 2010: Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 pm; Sundays at 3:00 pm

Ticket information: \$17 - Adults; \$14 - Seniors/Students/Military

For reservations, call the PTP box office at 301-932-6819 or visit the PTP web page at [www.ptplayers.com](http://www.ptplayers.com) for on-line tickets.

## TOWN OF LA PLATA OFFICIALS

Mayor: Roy G. Hale

Council:

Wayne Winkler ..... Ward 1

C. Keith Back ..... Ward 2

Paddy Mudd ..... Ward 3

Joseph W. Norris ..... Ward 4

Town Manager:

Daniel J. Mears

Treasurer: Robert W. Oliphant

Assistant Town Manager:

Michelle D. Miner

Town Clerk: Danielle Mandley

Project Manager: Steven F. Schroeder

Police Chief: Cassin B. Gittings

Director of 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:

Jeffrey S. Garner

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)

# LA PLATA TOWN SERVICES

## Hazardous Waste Collection

The Charles County Commissioners announce that household hazardous waste collection days for 2010 will resume on the first Saturday in April and continue on the first Saturday of each month through December from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Charles County Sanitary Landfill on Billingsley Road East between Piney Church Road and Route 5 in Waldorf.

Items accepted free of charge include pesticides, herbicides, fertilizer, gasoline, motor oil, antifreeze, paint, cleaning supplies, pool chemicals, batteries, expired prescription drugs, and other poisons that are around your house. Please keep the materials in their original containers whenever possible, and bring them to the collection site in cardboard boxes to ease unloading.

Household hazard waste collection dates during 2010 are: April 3, May 1, June 5, July 3, August 7, September 4, October 2, November 6, and December 4.

For more information, call the Charles County Department 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: \$12.50 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 on Mondays and Fridays

*Yard waste pickups will only take place on Mondays and Fridays. If a holiday falls on one of those pickup days, there will be no yard waste pickup on that day.*

Containers of yard waste ONLY - leaves, grass and shrub clippings, brush or branches - may be put out on Mondays and Fridays. The containers must be marked "Yard Waste." Brush or branches must be bundled, weigh no more than 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

**If your regular trash collection day is:**  
Friday, April 2  
Monday, May 31

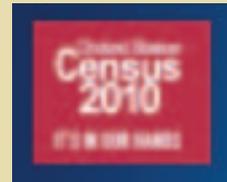
**Trash will be picked up on:**  
Thursday, April 1  
Tuesday, June 1

## UNITED WAY OF CHARLES COUNTY ANNOUNCES BACK-TO-BACK GOLF TOURNAMENTS AT SWAN POINT

The United Way of Charles County will sponsor back-to-back Golf Tournaments at Swan Point Yacht and Country Club in Issue, Maryland on Wednesday, April 21, 2010. Cost of \$125 per player includes greens fees, cart, pre-tournament refreshments, use of the driving range, beverages

on the course, snacks, and lunch or dinner. Entry fee guarantees a round of golf with cart at Swan Point in case of rainout.

Deadline for Registration is Wednesday, April 7, 2010. For details, call the United Way of Charles County office at (301) 609-4844



Please make sure you complete and return your Census 2010 Questionnaire.

## LA PLATA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

### Go Wild for a Great Cause at the 4th Annual Potomac Wildlife Art & Decoy Show

**La Plata, Maryland** - Come out and watch the wild come to life as award-winning artists showcase their world class wildlife art, and experience all this while helping those in need. Join with the Community Foundation of Charles County as the group celebrates the 4th annual Potomac Wildlife Art & Decoy Show on May 14 and 15, 2010 at the

College of Southern Maryland.

The show opens Friday, May 14 with the "Cattails and Cocktails" Reception, Art Show and Grant Program from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. The Wildlife Art and Decoy Show continue on Saturday, May 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Admission to the show is free, though donations to the Community Foundation are welcome. Tickets for the Cattails and Cocktails event on Friday are \$35 per person

and must be purchased in advance. For more information, please contact foundation board member and Chairperson of the event, Burkey Boggs at 301.934.1366 or send him an email at burkeyboggs@verizon.net.

For more information, please visit: [www.charlescommunityfoundation.org](http://www.charlescommunityfoundation.org).



# APRIL 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 <b>Town Hall closed</b> (Trash will be picked up April 1) No Yard Waste Pick Up	3 Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
4 Special trash pickup day (call by 4:00 p.m. April 1 to schedule.) Ice Cream Sundas with the Easter Bunny noon to 2:00 p.m. Yard Waste Pick Up	5	6 Planning Commission meeting; 7:00 p.m.	7 Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Design Review Board meeting; 9:00 a.m.	8	9 Yard Waste Pick Up	10 Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
11	12 Yard Waste Pick Up	13 Town Council work session; 7:00 p.m.	14 Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Parks and Recreation Meeting; 5:00 p.m.	15	16 Yard Waste Pick Up	17 Celebrate La Plata; noon to 4:00 p.m. La Plata Police Department open house noon to 4:00 p.m. Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
18	19 Yard Waste Pick Up Beautification Meeting; 4:00 p.m.	20 Town Council work session; 7:00 p.m.	21 Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Design Review Board meeting; 9:00 a.m.	22	23 Yard Waste Pick Up	24 Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
25	26 Yard Waste Pick Up	27 Town Council regular meeting; 7:00 p.m.	28 Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sustainable Landscaping; 7:00 p.m.	29	30 Yard Waste Pick Up	

# MAY 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
2 Yard Waste Pick Up	3 Special Pick Up (please call by 4:00 p.m. April 30 to schedule)	4 Planning Commission meeting; 7:00 p.m.	5 Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Design Review Board meeting; 9:00 a.m.	6	7 Yard Waste Pick Up	8 Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Early warning device testing; 10:00 a.m.
9	10 Yard Waste Pick Up Green Building Mini-grants due	11 Town Council work session; 7:00 p.m.	12 Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Parks and Recreation Meeting; 5:00 p.m.	13 Water Conservation; 7:00 p.m.	14 Yard Waste Pick Up	15 Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
16	17 Yard Waste Pick Up Beautification Meeting; 4:00 p.m.	18 Town Council work session; 7:00 p.m.	19 Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Design Review Board meeting; 9:00 a.m.	20	21 Yard Waste Pick Up	22 Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
23/30 Yard Waste Pick Up	24/31 <b>Town Hall closed</b> Monday's trash will be picked up on June 1. No Yard Waste Pick Up Memorial Day Ceremony, 11:00 a.m.	25 Town Council regular meeting; 7:00 p.m.	26 Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	27 Energy Conservation; 7:00 p.m.	28 Yard Waste Pick Up Concert: 25th Hour Band	29 Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

## Conservation Corner

The Town of La Plata will be sponsoring a series of Green Education classes entitled "Making Green As Close as Home" that will introduce sustainable landscaping, water, and energy saving techniques that save you money and allow you to maintain your current lifestyle, while benefitting the environment. Classes include



sustainable landscaping, water saving features, and energy savings opportunities appropriate for both the business and home communities. La Plata's Green Building Committee is organizing the event, and is proud to partner with the Green Building Institute who is facilitating the classes. The classes will be held at 7:00 PM at Town Hall on the following dates:

**Sustainable Landscaping** on Wednesday April 28th

**Water Conservation** on Thursday May 13th

**Energy Conservation** on Thursday May 27th

To offset the cost of the program the price will be \$15 per participant. Door prizes will be awarded! Please see the Town of La Plata's website to sign up or for more details, or email Rose Haft on La Plata's Green Building Committee at rhaft@townofaplata.org, or call 301-934-8421.

The Green Building Institute is an education center that helps to support a community network of green-minded and green-curious companies and individuals. Their office is an energy efficient and water smart space that "fosters and inspires harmony with the earth". With solar panels, radiative heating, cross wind cooling, bamboo flooring, recycled carpeting, rain barrels, and natural lighting, their office building acts as a model for sustainable living that reduces the costs of their usage and increases the health of the office environment. They hold classes in Maryland, DC, and Northern Virginia that teach a wide range of subjects from green renovation to building with LEED and include the classes we are bringing to Southern Maryland. Past classes in Charlotte Hall have included building deconstruction, materials reuse, green products, and green updates without remodeling.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Ice Cream Sundaes with the Easter Bunny

Monday, April 5  
Noon to 2:00  
Town Hall atrium

Create your own ice cream sundae with a variety of yummy toppings and when you are good and full visit with the Easter Bunny and enjoy making Easter crafts.



### Email addresses wanted



After our recent series of snowstorms the Town was able to get the information that residents need out to them quickly. In an attempt to provide residents with information easily, quickly and cost-effectively we are continuing to collect email addresses of residents. Providing your email address to the Town is completely voluntary. The Town is simply seeking an additional means to be able to communicate with you. Don't miss important and timely information updates.

If you would like to have your email address included in our database for future communication, please send your email address to Carolyn at [cjohnson@townofaplata.org](mailto:cjohnson@townofaplata.org) along with your name and street address.

### Celebrate La Plata

Saturday, April 17

Noon to 4:00

On the grounds of the La Plata Town Hall

12:00 Enjoy a variety of food vendors, Free children's activities that include a wide array of inflatables.



Southern Maryland Blue Crabs parade of players along La Grange Avenue at the Town Hall

12:00-4:00 La Plata Police Department Open House, 101 La Grange Avenue

12:30-1:30 Meet, Greet and get an autograph of the Players and Staff of the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs

12:30-1:15 Port Tobacco Players Encore Kids "From the Elephant Pit"

1:00-3:00 "Roadhouse" Band



1:45-2:45 Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center, CCPS

Raptor Conservation Program

2:00-2:45 Speed & Thro: High Energy Magic Show

3:00 Bed Races along La Grange Avenue



### Memorial Day Ceremony

Monday, May 31, 2010

11:00 a.m.

La Plata Town Hall



The Town will host the annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Monument at the La Plata Town Hall. The guest speaker is Commander James D. Cox. Included in the programs is, a wreath laying ceremony, and patriotic musical performance by the Port Tobacco Players Encore Kids. If your organization would like to participate in the wreath laying please contact Julie Lemmon and 301-934-8421 or [jlemmon@townofaplata.org](mailto:jlemmon@townofaplata.org). Refreshments will be provided following the ceremony.

### 2010 Summer Concert Series

All concerts begin at 7:00 p.m. and are free and open to the public. Bring a blanket or a lawn chair for a great night of family entertainment. Refreshments available for purchase.

May 28 "25th Hour Band"

June 4 "Roadhouse Band"

For information on any of the events listed please contact Julie Lemmon, at 301-934-8421 or via email at [jlemmon@townofaplata.org](mailto:jlemmon@townofaplata.org)



# 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:

*Does the Town of La Plata provide sufficient parks, playgrounds, and recreational programs and facilities?*

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Don't Know

## February Website Poll Results

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

La Plata has been making significant investment in its sewer and water systems to ensure the infrastructure is in good condition. How do you feel about the level of effort and progress with the upgrades?

- Very Satisfied – 19%
- Somewhat Satisfied – 25%
- Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied – 12%
- Somewhat Dissatisfied – 9%
- Very Dissatisfied – 16%
- Don't Know – 19%

The Town's sewer system was built in 1955 to serve a population of 1,500. As the population of the Town increased to nearly 10,000, the collection system was not upgraded enough to handle the additional flow. As the amount of sewage generated in the Town increased from 350,000 gallons a day to 1,000,000 gallons per day, some of the pipes became overloaded. At the same time, they began to deteriorate with age and ground water began to get into the system during major rain events causing the system to overflow.

The Town is in the process of building a sanitary sewer system that will accommodate the needs of all the users both now and in

the future. The largest problem for the Town has been the pump station at Willow Lane and Route 6 and the force main that runs from there up Route 6. The force main is not large enough to handle existing flow, and frequently breaks from the age of the pipe. Emergency repairs have been made numerous times, each resulting in an interruption of service and a spill of sewage. During rain events, a significant amount of water enters the sewer system in this area. Sewage regularly overflows from a manhole on Willow Lane when the pump station can not keep up, and the heavy flow results in an overflow at a manhole at Centennial and 301.



The new Willow Lane pump station currently under construction and the new sewer line from Willow Lane to Crain Highway are an important part of the plan to remedy these significant environmental problems. They will replace the fifty five year old pump station and its associated force main. The new pump station will not only provide the increased capacity the system needs, but it will eliminate much of the inflow of groundwater that has been responsible for most of the overflows in the past.

The Town was awarded a loan as part of the Federal stimulus program and the project will be completed by December 31, 2010. The new sewer line goes right through the center of La Plata, down Caroline Drive and across Washington Avenue, and there will be times when traffic will be impacted. The short term challenge of construction will be rewarded with a substantially improved sewer collection system. This project has been the top infrastructure priority for the Town of La Plata for

many years, and is finally underway.

Many of the other improvements the Town is making are difficult for people to notice. The new water tower at Rosewick Road, and the repainting maintenance of the other two elevated towers over the past year are obvious, but other changes go unseen. Our water system is now monitored with a state of the art SCADA system. Refinements at the treatment plant have increased its treatment capacity. New sewer lines and rehabilitated lines have reduced rainwater infiltration also extending capacity. Valve and hydrant maintenance are now standard in our maintenance regime. Our system is also being mapped in a GIS system which enhance our ability to maintain, upgrade, and plan for improvements to the system. Not everything is as visible as the construction underway at Route 6 and Willow Lane, however the Town Council has established the reliability and quality of these utilities as a priority.



*One of the newly painted water towers in Town. Located at 500 Dorchester Street, the tower was originally erected in the early 90's and holds 750,000 gallons of water.*



In early March, students from Mrs. Jones 5th grade class from Grace Lutheran Church and School visited the Town to learn about water and wastewater operations. Their tour began with a power point presentation given by Bobby Stahl, Director of Operations at the Town Hall, they then visited the Waste Water Treatment Plant for a tour and completed their day by visiting Well #8 located at Tilghman Lake.

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

Commercial Building Permits Issued

**Civista**  
Dialysis Unit

Commercial Occupancy Permits Issued

**Outsource IT**  
6810 Crain Highway

**Hometown Car & Van Rental LLC**  
6825 Crain Highway

**Royal Cleaners**  
210 Rosewick Road

**East Coast Tattoo**  
6478 & 6482 Crain Highway

# GRANT FUNDS AWARDED TO LA PLATA POLICE DEPARTMENT

The La Plata Police department has been awarded a Byrne Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$19,400.

The purpose of this grant application is to help the Town of La Plata Police Department offset the cost of purchasing new software that will interface mobile data terminals (MDTs) with the Department's records management system (RMS). In short, the software will enable the MDTs to access the RMS.

The objectives of this grant are to:

- Reduce the amount of time that officers are out of service at the police station.
- Increase the amount of time that officers are on routine patrol and/or involved in COPS related activities; i.e., interacting with local community/business members.
- Provide officers in the field with real-time integrated access to the Department's database.

-Enable officers in the field to complete reports, instant message other units, and access national & state databases, including warrants databases.

This funding will enable the La Plata Police Department to maintain its cutting edge in technology that assist in making this a safer community for all.

## GREEN BUILDING MINI-GRANTS

The La Plata Green Building committee is soliciting applications for the next round of projects that will add to the green benefit of La Plata. Projects can cover a variety of areas including storm water, energy efficiency, and conservation education, just to name a few.

Home Owner Associations, Scout groups, School projects, civic organizations, individuals, businesses, and other community members are encouraged to apply. Grant applications are available for download from the Town's website, or you may get them directly from Town Manager, Daniel Mears 301-934-8421 or [dmears@townoflaplata.org](mailto:dmears@townoflaplata.org). Applications are due by May 10, 2010.

## BLUE CRABS WORKING WITH LA PLATA

The Southern Maryland Blue Crabs Professional Baseball Club has scheduled two major events for this spring in the Town of La Plata. The pre-season of Blue Crabs baseball will get off to a great start on Saturday, April 17 with a "meet the team" event and parade, coinciding with the bed races. The 2010 team will be on hand for a short parade beginning at Noon, and will remain in La Plata next to Town Hall after to greet fans and sign autographs until 1:30 p.m.

When the Blue Crabs take on the Camden Riversharks Thursday, May 6 at 7:05 p.m. at Regency Furniture Stadium in Waldorf, it will mark one of the most special nights

in the team's history. The evening has been coined "La Plata Remembrance Night," in regards to the April 28, 2002 tornado. The team is asking La Plata residents to loan materials to the club in order that a satisfactory tribute be put together for May 6. Submissions can range from, but are not limited to: photographs, newspaper clippings, videos or any appropriate memento. Materials may be dropped off at Regency Furniture Stadium care of Marketing Manager Courtney Freeland at any time, and digital submissions may be e-mailed to [cfreeland@somdbluecrabs.com](mailto:cfreeland@somdbluecrabs.com). Anything loaned to the team will be returned.

## EMPLOYEE PROFILE



### Julie Lemmon, Special Events Coordinator

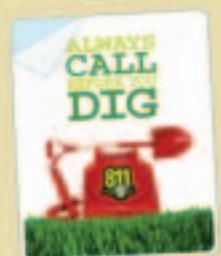
Julie Lemmon has been hired as the Special Events Coordinator for the Town. Julie has been the Event Coordinator for the Town of Leonardtown for the past three years and has thoroughly enjoyed building relationships with residents and business owners and is anxious to do the same in La Plata. She has lived in Southern Maryland on and off for 16 years – the Navy was nice enough to send them here three times, and this time she and her family are putting down roots. Julie is originally from Champaign, Illinois and graduated from the University of Illinois. As a Navy family, they have lived on the East and West Coast and have enjoyed diverse experiences that each place has given them.

### Code Corner

There are a variety of utility services running underground – do you know where they are? If you plan on any type of excavation or digging on your property, call Miss Utility first. Miss Utility is your partner when it comes to safe digging.

Miss Utility is a one-call notification center that informs subscribing facility/utility owners of proposed excavation. So, if you plan to install a new mailbox or plant a garden, contact the Miss Utility Call Center at least (48) business hours prior to your intended digging. Miss Utility will notify your facility/utility owner of your proposed plans to dig; they in turn will locate (mark your dig site or verify the site is clear) before you put the shovel in the ground.

The phone number for the Miss Utility Call center is **1-800-257-7777** or call **811**. Visit **Miss Utility on the web at <http://call811.com>**



## RECENTLY ENACTED LEGISLATION

Ordinance 09-20	Planned Business Park and Enterprise District	repealing Section 191-25.1 I-P Industrial Park District  adding  Section 191-25.1 Planned Business Park and Enterprise District	12/15/09	3/10/2010
Resolution 10-1	EnerNOC Agreement		2/11/10	2/11/10
Resolution 10-2	Charles County Public Library Agreement for Wi-Fi Services.		2/23/10	2/23/10

## COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HOSTING FIRST ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMIT

The Charles County Commissioners are pleased to announce a kick off of Earth Week 2010 with the first "Charles County Going Green Summit".

Charles County's Going Green Summit will be held April 17, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at North Point High School in Waldorf. This new event is FREE and open to the public.

At 10:00 a.m. the event will begin with an update highlighting previous successful environmentally friendly programs initiated by the County and the private sector. The program will also detail future projects and plans to make Charles County more energy efficient and environmentally conscious.

As part of the "Going Green" trade show, there will be exhibits showcasing information and products to benefit consumers and small businesses in the process going green and saving money while doing it. There will also be several displays, some of which will feature "green" vehicles, state of the art technology in alternative energy, and other ways citizens can lessen their carbon footprint.

In December 2009, crews finished installing new playground equipment in Phoenix Run and Patuxent Ct. Partial funding for the new equipment was from a grant received by the Department of Natural Resources Community Parks and Playgrounds.



*Phoenix Run*



*Patuxent Court*

# TOWN OF LA PLATA

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



*Some members of the Town's Vision Team*

In mid February the Town Council held a reception for members of all the Town's voluntary boards, commission, and advisory groups to say "Thank-You" for all of their hard work they provide to the Town and its residents.



## Oath of Office – Officer Matthew Norris

February 16, 2010, Mayor Hale administered the taking of the Oath of Office by Matthew Norris, Police Officer of the Town of La Plata. Chief Gittings presented Officer Norris with his badge and identification card. Officer Norris graduated from the Police Academy February 19, 2010.