

# TOWN NOTES

*News from La Plata Town Hall*



Celebrating 125 years

1888

2013

## MAYOR'S CORNER

In today's world of rapid communications, most individuals use multimedia devices to keep family and friends advised of what they are doing or planning on doing. Sometimes it may be more information than is necessary or desired, but it is effective. Information is important and this Newsletter is one method that the Town of La Plata utilizes to keep people informed. I hope that you find time, on a regular basis, to read the entire Newsletter.

An important topic, that surfaces from time to time, is annexations. The Town does not solicit annexations but it does periodically receive a formal request from an individual or group of individuals who own property adjacent to our Town borders and wish to have their property included within the Town boundaries. La Plata's most recent Comprehensive Plan included a growth area outside its immediate borders. This growth area was required by the State to depict areas in which future annexations may occur. To be favorably considered, an annexation petition must fall within the designated growth area.

An annexation request is a lengthy process that includes Public Hearings by both the La Plata Planning Commission and the Town Council. This is a fair process that permits residents to voice their opinions concerning any annexation before the matter is presented to the Council for a vote.

The Town Council is in receipt of an annexation petition entitled: The HUB

Continued on page 3

## Stay in La Plata for the Holidays

La Plata businesses invest a lot to serve this community. When considering where to do business, it is important to support La Plata businesses with shopping, dining, and service dollars.

Our local businesses are a big part of the La Plata community and contribute to our daily lives and our sense of place. When faced with a choice of where to shop or where to dine, please consider La Plata businesses first. By investing in La Plata, these businesses add to property values and keep the tax base strong. The resources from local businesses help support law enforcement, utilities, special events, parks, and other valued municipal services. The choice to spend your money in La Plata gets the added benefit of investing back into the community.

La Plata businesses are where you see the friendly faces of friends and family doing business in your hometown. Bring out of town guests with you to enjoy the unique places in La Plata. There are many great options to satisfy everyone on your shopping list. There are many businesses to choose from whether you support an independent business or a chain; the owners and employees of the businesses often live right in our community.

By shopping and dining in La Plata you help to support your neighbors and your community, keeping and multiplying our resources locally. The success of our local businesses helps maintain the success of our community. It adds to the character and vitality that all our establishments provide to the Town. Thank you and Happy Holidays.

## Toys for Tots



The La Plata Police Department, 101 La Grange Avenue and the Town Hall, 305 Queen Anne Street will be drop off locations for Toys for Tots. If you would like to give please drop off a new unwrapped toy. All of the toys will be picked up by the Waldorf Jaycees and will be distributed by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve to less fortunate children in Charles County for Christmas. The last day to drop off a toy is December 20.

Toys for Tots Foundation, 501(c)(3) is a non-profit organization.



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Town of La Plata

## COUNCIL COLUMN

### Councilman Wayne Winkler, Ward 1

Well, Old Man winter has finally arrived. I so enjoy being outside walking around Tilghman Lake and enjoying our summer concerts. Now it's time for Christmas tree lighting, looking at the beautiful lights that SMECO puts up and all of the wonderful winter events that we have. I really want to thank the Town Staff for all they do to make La Plata a wonderful place to live and play.

Just want you to know that our sewer plant has been upgraded and we probably have one of the cleanest and efficient plants in the State of Maryland. Also, you received a report this summer about how clean our drinking water is. To brag a little more about this wonderful Town I know you have noticed the Explorers that work with our Police Department to make La Plata a safer place to live.

Over the years I have attended many conferences discussing what make a town a great place to live. One of the top items is a school system. We have one of the best rated in the State. Another is safety and low crime. Each month we get a report from our Police Department and our crime rate is next to nothing. In the Town we are covered by the State Police Department, as well as the County Sheriff and Town Police. It doesn't get any better than that.

Now on to what you would like to see happen with some of our parks. At one time people wanted a place for dogs to run, another time people wanted a new community center. Then again, there was a thought about a

computer workstation location for people to use. Another thought was a place to walk and exercise with different exercise stations. One last idea was a skate board park. We will be going into the budget session before long and, as there is little extra money to spend, if we could have your ideas we can start planning for the future. Please contact us with your thoughts/ideas and we can plan accordingly.

Hope you had a great Thanksgiving and hope you have a wonderful and safe Christmas.

### Councilman Keith Back, Ward 2

Before discussing some of the things that are going on within the Town of La Plata, I want to wish all of the citizens and visitors to the Town a safe and Merry Christmas. I hope that everyone gets to spend some quality time with friends and relatives during the Holiday season. And please take time to think about those that cannot be home during the Holidays including our military serving in locations around the world.

There are a lot of things going on within the Town including multiple requests for annexation both large and small that are in various phases of development. While these all require time and careful consideration, some would have more impact to our Town as a whole than others. The request that is being worked on called "The HUB at CSM" has the potential to bring a large number of employment opportunities to the Town in the future. While it would take many years to build out if approved, it would provide the opportunity for many current and future residents to both live

and work here in La Plata and avoid the long commutes that are common for many of us today. There is still a lot of work to be done on this annexation proposal. Please come out to the Town Council and Planning Commission meetings to hear more and provide your input to this proposal that could potentially provide a great benefit to the Town.

The Town Council will also begin discussing new service priorities and budget during upcoming meetings. If there are things that you would like to see done differently or are things you would like to make sure the Town continues doing then please voice those opinions to members of the Town Council or to the Town Staff. With property values staying relatively flat over the next few years the Town will have to evaluate how to continue providing the services that are required in an environment with increasing costs but flat levels of revenue coming in to cover those expenses. One area that we are looking into is how to restart our road maintenance program in an environment where the State of Maryland continues to not provide the funds previously provided to the Towns from the "Highway User Revenue" or Gas Tax.

We can only take actions on things that matter to you, the Citizens of our Town, if we know what those concerns are. Please make your concerns known through coming to the Town meetings, sending a written message to the Council or Staff, or by giving one of us a call. We look forward to your input.

Have a great Christmas Season and a prosperous and safe New Year.

## NEW EMPLOYEE

### Carl Schinner

Carl Schinner joined the Town of La Plata as Police Chief on November 12. Prior to working for the Town he served 26 years with the Greenbelt, Maryland Police Department. During his tenure in Greenbelt he served in two command positions, Commander of Patrol and Commander of the Office of Professional Standards. Currently, Chief

Schinner also serves as an assessor for the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Carl holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and master's degree in Management and Leadership from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia.



## CHARLES STREET SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS

In early fall you may have noticed sidewalk improvements beginning along Charles Street. This project is being funded and constructed by the Maryland State Highway Administration using Federal funds to upgrade existing sidewalks, bring existing sidewalk ramps into compliance with

the American Disabilities Act, and make improvements at existing pedestrian crosswalks and pedestrian signals at Washington Avenue and Garrett Avenue intersections. The scope of this project is for existing sidewalk improvements from 301 to 488 along Charles Street.

## BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED

### Commercial Building Permits issued

**9/1/13-10/31/13**

Retail Space – 6613 Crain Highway

CVS (remodeling) – 6260 Crain Highway

### Commercial Occupancy Permits issued

**9/1/13-10/31/13**

Wireless Junkies – 602 East Charles Street Suite 101

Lyter Group, Inc. (office space) – 107 Centennial Street Ste 100A

Tangles Hair Salon – 600 Charles Street

Southern Maryland Oil Call Center – 102 Centennial Street, Ste 104B

Potomac Early Learning Center – 112 Charles Street

XpoAmerica – 204 Washington Ave, Ste 102

Lifestyles – 101 Catalpa Drive, Ste 103

Ultimate Flooring – 6525 Crain Highway

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

at CSM/La Plata. The petitioners are Hawthorne Rosewick Limited Partnership and the proposal has been under development by them for the past 27 years. The petition does not include the property of the college and the college is not participating in the petition. Some land included in the annexation petition is near the La Plata Campus, however. The land associated with this petition does fall within the designated growth area for the Town of La Plata.

This is not a small project. It includes approximately 472 acres of land located in the Northwest quadrant of the Town. It includes land directly across Rt. 301 from Rosewick Road to a point adjacent to Rt. 225. The petitioner seeks to develop over 5 million square feet of office park which would include professional offices, a potential Federal Agency, as well as attorneys, accountants, architects, engineers, financial service providers, and technology firms. Also included in the proposal are medical office space and retail to support the employment park. The centerpiece for the project is a proposed hotel conference center with convention capabilities supported by restaurants and related facilities. The development is designed as a LEED Certified "Green Building/Green Site" and would include substantial open space.

The project is designed to be the home of the "Virtual Office" whereby individuals who live in the area can work at this site to perform their functions through telecommuting rather than travelling long distances to their normal work sites. This concept would not be unique to Southern Maryland but follows a trend of moving jobs closer to the residential base.

The proposal is now working its way through staff, Planning Commission, and Council reviews. Public Hearings will be held where more information will be made available and individuals will have the opportunity to speak concerning this annexation request. As always, information about what the Town Council is working on is available through the My Community link on the Town's website. In recent months the Town received two other petitions for annexation, each of which have gone back to be revised by the petitioners. They include the Towns at Potomac Square, and Hawthorne Yards.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please join us at Town Hall for all our Holiday events.

## Town Hall Closed

The Town Hall will be closed on the following days:

|   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Christmas Eve</b>                    | <b>Tuesday, December 24, 2013</b>   |
| <b>Christmas Day</b>                    | <b>Wednesday, December 25, 2013</b> |
| <b>New Year's Day</b>                   | <b>Wednesday, January 1, 2014</b>   |
| <b>Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday</b> | <b>Monday, January 20, 2014</b>     |

If you have a **water or sewer emergency** after hours, call (301)934-8421 and follow the instructions given to report your emergency. The automated response system will alert the appropriate department to respond to you.

## TOWN OF LA PLATA OFFICIALS

Mayor: Roy G. Hale

### Council:

Wayne Winkler ..... Ward 1

C. Keith Back ..... Ward 2

Lynn D. Gilroy ..... 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

### Police Chief: Carl H. Schinner

### Director of Planning and Community

Development: David M. Jenkins

Director of Operations: Robert F. Stahl, Jr.

Director of Public Works:

Jeffrey S. Garner

Project Manager: Steven F. Schroeder

Senior Planner: Theresa C. Dent

Manager of Inspections: James Q. Yates

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

## 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. Billing for special trash pickup is included on your quarterly utility bill.

## Yard Waste Pick Up

Residential yard waste pickups will only take place on Monday and Fri-

days. 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 50lbs. per bundle, and the branches may not be larger 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:

Tuesday, December 24, 2013  
Wednesday, December 25, 2013  
Wednesday, January 1, 2014  
Monday, January 20, 2014

### Trash will be picked up on:

Monday, December 23, 2013  
Thursday, December 26, 2013  
Thursday, January 2, 2014  
Tuesday, January 21, 2014

### Recycling Collection Adjustment

Recycling for Wednesday, December 25, 2013 will be picked up **Saturday, December 28, 2013.**  
Recycling for Wednesday, January 1, 2014 will be picked up **Saturday, January 4, 2014.**

### Yard Waste Pick Up Schedule Adjustment

There will be no Yard Waste pick up on Monday, January 20, 2014

### Christmas Tree pick up

Thursday, December 26, 2013 through January 10, 2014

# KRIS KRINGLE CHRISTMAS

In Southern Maryland December 6-8, nine nonprofit sites will join together to form the Charles County Holiday Trail. The trail begins on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> with the Kris Kringle Christmas Market at the Charles County Fair. Admission is \$1 or one nonperishable food item. All admission will go to the Southern Maryland Food Bank. Modeled after the markets in Germany, visitors can expect plenty of food, lights, greens, art, music, shopping, and a living nativity.

Other sites on the trail include the African American Heritage Society, the Port Tobacco Courthouse, Mount Aventine at Chapman State Park, the Dr. Samuel A. Mudd House Museum, the Thomas Stone National Historic Site, Friendship House at the College of Southern Maryland, the Carmelite Monastery, the Mattawoman Creek Art Center, and the General Smallwood Retreat House.

For an up-to-date schedule of events and information, visit [www.charles-countyholidaytrail.com](http://www.charles-countyholidaytrail.com).

DECEMBER 6-8, 2013



Heritage Christmas · Tidewater Christmas · Colonial Christmas  
Early American Christmas · Antebellum Christmas · Victorian Christmas  
Carmelite Christmas · Country Christmas · Contemporary Christmas



CHARLES COUNTY  
2013 Holiday Trail

[www.charlescountyholidaytrail.com](http://www.charlescountyholidaytrail.com)

# DECEMBER 2013

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

|                                       |  |                              |  |   |  |   |
|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| 1                                     | 2  | 3                            | 4  | 5 | 6                                      | 7   |
| Older Lyme Holiday gathering: 3:00 pm | Yard Waste Pick Up<br>Special Pick Up (please call by 11/29 to be put on list) | Planning Commission; 7:00 pm | Design Review Board; 9:00 am<br>Crime Watch Council Meeting; 7:00 pm |   | Yard Waste Pick Up<br>Pearl Harbor Day | Breakfast with Santa (reservations required)<br>Early Warning Device Test; 10:00 am |

|                    |  |   |  |    |                    |    |
|--------------------|--|---|--|----|--------------------|----|
| 8                  | 9  | 10                                      | 11   | 12 | 13                 | 14 |
| Yard Waste Pick Up | Christmas decoration contest (have lights on by 5:00 pm) | Mayor and Council work session; 7:00 pm | Parks and Recreation Commission meeting; 5:00 pm |    | Yard Waste Pick Up |    |

|  |   |  |                              |    |                    |               |
|--|---|--|------------------------------|----|--------------------|---------------|
| 15   | 16  | 17   | 18                           | 19 | 20                 | 21            |
| Christmas decorating contest; lights on by 5:00 pm<br>Yard Waste Pick Up | Beautification Commission meeting; 4:00 pm<br> | Mayor and Council Regular Meeting; 7:00 pm | Design Review Board; 9:00 am |    | Yard Waste Pick Up | Winter Begins |

|  |    |   |  |  |                    |  |
|--|----|---|--|--|--------------------|--|
| 22   | 23 | 24  | 25   | 26   | 27                 | 28   |
| Trash Pick Up for 12/24/13<br>Yard Waste Pick Up |    | Town Hall closed<br>No trash Pick Up (will be picked up on 12/23) | Town Hall closed<br>No trash Pick Up (will be picked up on 12/26/13)<br>No recycling Pick Up (will be picked up on 12/28/13) | Trash Pick Up for 12/25/13<br>Christmas Tree Pick Up | Yard Waste Pick Up | <br>Recycling Pick Up from 12/25/13 |

|    |                    |    |  |  |  |  |
|----|--------------------|----|--|--|--|--|
| 29 | 30                 | 31 |  |  |  |  |
|    | Yard Waste Pick Up |    |  |  |  |  |



# SPECIAL EVENTS

Due to Mother Nature the Town's Fall Festival was rained out on October 13<sup>th</sup>, but here are the Charles County Chamber of Commerce's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Scarecrows Winners

### Career

- 1<sup>st</sup> Silberman Dental Group
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Edward L. Sanders Insurance Agency
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Facchina Construction

### Scary

- 1<sup>st</sup> La Plata Beautification Commission
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Community Bank of Tri-County
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Charles County Freedom Landing

### Fictional Characters

- 1<sup>st</sup> Spring Dell Center
- 2<sup>nd</sup> County First Bank
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Charles County Public Library

### Sports

- 1<sup>st</sup> Roy Rogers – La Plata



La Plata Beautification Commission



Charles County Freedom Landing



County First Bank



No tricks, just treats were passed out at the Harvest Halloween Party. Children enjoyed making Halloween crafts and enjoying yummy treats at Town Hall on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>.



## Town of La Plata "Salute to Veterans" Parade

Thank you to all the parade participants especially the Veterans and service members who marched on Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Joann Worden and Dan Merrick for manning the food tent at the parade. We appreciate the community's strong support for our hometown parade.



## Olde Tyme Holiday Gathering

Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> from 3 pm to 6 pm

Celebrate the season with music, children's activities, horse-drawn carriage rides, refreshments, and visit from Santa.



## Breakfast with Santa

Visit with Santa at the Town Hall on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. Each child is asked to bring a homemade card for nursing home residents or a canned good for the Sacred Heart Church Food bank.

4 time slots: 8-8:45 am, 9-9:45 am, 10-10:45 am, and 11-11:45 am  
Space is limited and reservations are required. To register, call Town Hall at (301) 934-8421.



### Neighborhood Event Mini-Grant

Is your neighborhood interested in organizing an event like a block party or cook out to bring your community together? If so then help is here. The Town of La Plata Neighborhood Event Mini-Grant is designed to provide an opportunity for Town of La Plata residents to strengthen their neighborhoods through producing community events. The Town of La Plata invites neighborhood associations and communities to submit the neighborhood grant application for review. There will be 5 grants awarded up to \$500 each during through June 2014. Deadline to submit application is March 3, 2014. Grant applications are available for download from the Town's website or email Colleen Wilson, Special Events Coordinator at [cwilson@townoflaplata.org](mailto:cwilson@townoflaplata.org) or (301) 934-8421 ext. 142.

# TOWN OF LA PLATA SNOW POLICY



| County Plowed Roads  | Town Plowed Roads   | State Plowed Roads   |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Glen Albin Road</p> <p>St. Mary's Avenue from Frederick Drive to Rt. 301</p> <p>Washington Avenue from Route 301 to Route 6</p> <p>Radio Station Road</p> | <p>St. Mary's Avenue from Rt. 6 to Frederick Drive</p> <p>Quailwood Parkway from Hawthorne to Route 6</p> | <p>Route 301</p> <p>Route 6 - Charles Street</p> <p>Route 225 - Hawthorne Drive west beginning at Route 301</p> <p>Route 488</p> |

## Snow Preparation Procedures

- Snow removal crews will be put into action at the call of the Director or Asst. Director of Public Works
- Snow removal will begin when 2" of snow has accumulated on roadways.
- Snow removal efforts will be ongoing during the event and will continue until all streets in the Town are cleared.
- It may be necessary to pile snow in front of mailboxes, especially in smaller courts and cul-de-sacs.

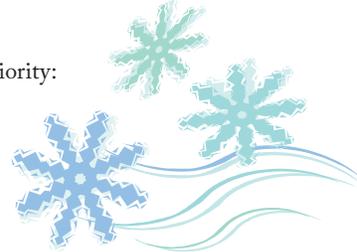
## Plow Routes

- The Town will normally plow to provide better access to the higher traveled streets first (Primary Roads, Collector Streets and Major residential roads). In addition, the Town has agreed to provide snow removal and salting for treatment of ice accumulation from all roadways, parking areas, vehicle entrances, sidewalks, and bus stop location at the MTA lot located on Washington Avenue.
- Secondly secondary streets and municipal buildings are plowed.
- Lastly cul-de-sacs and dead-end streets are plowed.



## Icy Conditions

- Salt distribution will be determined based on the following criteria and priority:
  - Main Collector Streets
  - Streets with Hills
  - Difficult intersections – stop lights and stop signs
  - Major residential roads
- Cul-de-sacs and courts may not receive salt treatment



## Sidewalks

- Town crews are responsible for clearing sidewalks at public facilities, Town Hall and Parks.
- Town of La Plata property owners are responsible for keeping all sidewalks along their property clear and free of snow and ice.

## Parking

- Residents are asked not to park vehicles on any street.
- If you must park on the street park as close to the curb as possible and on one side of the street.

## Examples of Street designations:

|                     |                      |                   |               |
|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Primary Roads       | Collector Streets    | Major Residential | Secondary     |
| Agricopia Drive     | St. Mary's Avenue    | Llano Drive       | Baltimore St. |
| East Patuxent Drive | Washington Avenue    | Martin Drive      | Cecil St.     |
| Oriole Lane         | Heritage Green Pkwy. | Laurelwood Court  | Calvert St.   |
| Shining Willow Way  |                      |                   | Howard St.    |

## Snow Emergency Routes

Parking of vehicles on marked snow emergency routes is prohibited when the snow emergency plan is in effect for Charles County. Parking shall continue to be prohibited until the snow emergency plan has been cleared. Any vehicles that are illegally parked, that are obstructing traffic, or interfering with the clearing of snow and/or ice are subject to a parking violation or the vehicle being towed at the owner's expense.

## Mailbox Replacement Policy

Please contact the Public Works Department at (301) 934-8421, if your mailbox is damaged during snow removal. The Public Works Department will investigate the claim to determine if the damage was caused by the Town or contracted equipment making physical contact with the mailbox. If it is determined by the Public Works Department that the mailbox damage was at fault of the Town or contracted equipment the following options are available.

1. Replacement by the Town of existing mailbox with a standard wooden post and mailbox.
2. Property owners may be reimbursed at a flat rate of \$45.00. It will be the responsibility of the property owner to replace the mailbox.

Mailboxes damaged by snow flowing from plows will not be replaced or reimbursed.

## WEBSITE POLL



Visit the Town of La Plata's website at <http://www.townofaplata.org> to participate in an online poll. Click on the 'Snap Poll' link on the left side of the web page to go to the poll and see the results to date. The current question is:

Given the challenges in the economy, would you support a revenue measure that would provide your most desired municipal service that is currently not provided?

Strongly Support

Somewhat Support

Neither Support nor Oppose

Somewhat Oppose

Strongly Oppose

Don't Know

### October Website Poll Results

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

Where do you volunteer most of your time?

Local Government - 3%

Local Schools - 10%

Medical Services - 3%

National Organizations - 0%

Neighborhood - 0%

Non-Profit - 7%

Religious - 10%

Senior Services - 0%

Service Organization - 3%

Youth Services - 10%

Youth Sports - 7%

Other - 45%

Part of what makes a strong community is people giving of their own time to benefit others. There are a large variety of places that your time can be given to benefit the community. Many people will serve when asked. Others

will offer to volunteer even before being asked.

Consider what aspect of the community you care for most. What do you have that can most benefit that group, time, a skill, information, money, meeting space, or another need? If you can think of something to benefit, reach out to that group. Your help would likely be appreciated.

The Town of La Plata has positions available on various Boards and Commissions. Each of these bodies plays an important role in providing the resident role in community government. Please take some time to fill out an application to express your interest in helping your community. Applications are available online under the Commissions tab of La Plata's website at <http://www.townofaplata.org>.

## VOLUNTEER FOR LA PLATA

Your Mayor and Council are looking for members of the community who are dedicated to help form the future of La Plata.

If you are motivated to make a difference in your community you are invited to apply for a position on one of the various Boards, Commissions, and Committees.

*Citizen volunteers are a valuable part of the decision making process.*

Currently there are vacancies as an Alternate on the Planning Commission, Board of Appeals, and Design Review Board.

The Planning Commission develops the Comprehensive Plan for the Town, reviews all subdivision plats and major construction in the Town, and makes recommendations to the Town Council on requests for zoning amendments. *Meetings are held the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7 PM.*

The Board of Appeals hears petitions for special exceptions, variances to Town Code, zoning appeals, and appeals to administrative decisions of the Zoning Administrator. *Meetings are held on an as needed basis, usually the fourth Thursday of the month.*

Design review is conducted by the Design Review Board based on the adopted Design Guidelines and Town Code, including siting of buildings, building size, shape and materials, location of parking, landscaping, and signage. *Meetings are held the first and third Wednesdays of the month, on an as needed basis.*

Please contact Danielle Mandley via phone (301) 934-8421 or email [dmandley@townofaplata.org](mailto:dmandley@townofaplata.org) if you have any questions. Applications may be downloaded from the Town web site [www.townofaplata.org](http://www.townofaplata.org), under the forms and applications tab.

### Siren Testing

The Town of La Plata will test early warning devices/sirens on **Saturday, December 7, 2013 at 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.

### IT'S JUST AROUND THE CORNER...

#### Holiday Decorations Contest Monday, December 16 – lights on by 5:00 p.m.

The Town's Beautification Commission will again be the judges in our annual Holiday Decorations Contest. All businesses will be considered, but individual homes must register to have their outdoor decorations judged in this contest. Call Danielle Mandley at the Town Hall (301) 934-8421 by 4:00 p.m. Friday, December 13 if you want your outdoor Holiday decorations to be judged. You may also register a neighbor's home that you believe should be in the contest.

There are 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners in each of the following categories:

- Residential – Traditional
- Residential – Whimsical
- Commercial

## KEEP THE LID CLOSED



Keeping the lid closed on your trash container is a good idea. A closed lid helps keep the trash in to prevent the wind from blowing waste around the neighborhood. As a means to keep critters, rodents, and birds out, the lid helps to limit proliferation of vermin. For these reasons, keeping the lid shut on dumpsters and trash containers helps to improve the public health and appearance of La Plata's neighborhoods.

There is a financial reason to keep the lids closed as well. When the lid is open, it is susceptible to rain or snow. Precipitation like rain and snow makes the trash inside wet; and wet trash is heavy trash. When the trash is taken to the landfill, the La Plata's trucks are charged for dumping based on weight. Wet trash in the can adds to the cost for dumping by having to pay to dump water absorbed by the trash. The more spent

on dumping water will result in higher costs for La Plata customers for their trash service. So by keeping the lid closed, La Plata residents could benefit in more ways than imagined. Thank you for keeping the lids on dumpsters and trash containers closed to keep water and vermin out and trash in. Don't forget to recycle to reduce the weight of your trash even more.



### Town Clerk receives Local Government Archives and Records Management Administration Certificate.

As part of her ongoing education Danielle Mandley, Town Clerk, attends training courses to help her obtain a base knowledge which will help to more effectively care for and manage the Town's records. This training is offered by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC), in partnership with the

National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators (NAGARA).

NAGARA's Local Government Archives and Records Administration Certificate (LGARA) requires participants to engage in at least 40 hours of study in educational sessions that will help them develop competencies in at least eight of eleven core subject areas.

After completing all of the requirements, Danielle was awarded the LGARA Certificate on October 30, 2013.

## TOWN POSTS SNOW EMERGENCY ROUTES

Old man winter is just around the corner, this means the possibility of snow. The Public Works Department has posted snow emergency routes throughout the Town. Parking will be prohibited on these streets while a snow emergency plan is in effect for Charles County. Vehicles parked along these roads will be ticketed or towed at the owner's expense during a snow emergency. To aid snow removal crews and improve safety, please do not park along streets when winter weather is in the forecast. Instead park in your garage, driveway, or designated parking space. The following is a list of the Town's snow emergency routes:

Agricopia Drive  
Bath Drive  
Clarks Run Road  
Cornwall Drive  
East Patuxent Drive  
Fescue Circle  
Garrett Avenue  
Hawthorne Drive (between Rt. 301 and Washington Avenue)  
Heritage Green Parkway  
Hickory Circle  
Hickory Lane  
Kent Avenue  
La Grange Avenue  
Llano Drive  
Magnolia Drive

Norfolk Drive  
Oak Avenue  
Oriole Lane  
Quailwood Parkway  
Queen Anne Street  
Redwood Circle  
Savanna Drive  
Shining Willow Way (between Rt. 301 and Washington Avenue)  
Somerset Street  
St. Mary's Avenue  
Suffolk Drive  
Wales Drive  
Wicomico Street  
Willow Lane

# STORMWATER IN LA PLATA

The Town of La Plata has a large network of storm drains consisting of approximately 40 miles of pipe that convey polluted stormwater runoff within the Town limits. Additionally, the Town contains approximately 94 stormwater management ponds and other facilities, which includes those within Town right of way, residential neighborhoods, and non-residential developments. Per the Maryland Department of the Environment and state law, localities are responsible for all polluted stormwater runoff within their limits and the effects that polluted runoff has on downstream streams, rivers, lakes, and other receiving bodies of water. Those localities are required to ensure proper maintenance is conducted by appropriate parties. In order to provide for this required inspection and maintenance of the Town's stormwater infrastructure, the Town developed a stormwater utility to provide for its inspection and maintenance. The maintenance and inspection process for the stormwater management infrastructure have been designated into a three categories: one for properties within the Town right of way, one for properties within residential neighborhoods, which includes individual homes, homeowners associations, townhomes, etc., and one for properties within non-residential developments, which includes commercial, government, institution, and similar property. The Town's stormwater management fee generates funding to provide for the inspection of all facilities and maintenance of the stormwater management infrastructure within Town right of way and residential neighborhoods.

The stormwater infrastructure and downstream water bodies (i.e. Clarks Run, Zekiah Swamp, Port Tobacco River, and associated tributaries) serve as a receiving body for polluted stormwater flows off all properties within the Town. As mentioned above, localities are responsible for ensuring the inspection and maintenance of the stormwater infrastructures within their jurisdiction and preventing downstream erosion and sedimentation in receiving water bodies. To comply with this, all stormwater management facilities within the Town are now inspected by Town staff or designee at least once every three years. The Town uses the stormwater utility maintenance fee to provide for the inspection of all stormwater

structures and facilities within the Town.

For structures within the Town right of way, public stormwater pipes, ponds, and other infrastructure, which services stormwater flows that discharge from residential and non-residential properties within the Town of La Plata, are maintained by the Town. This maintenance includes a variety of tasks including the removal of accumulated sediments from pipes, outfall structures, ditches, and other stormwater management facilities for the purpose of maintain designed capacity; replacing pipes and structures when they fail or reach the end of their lifecycle; refreshing stone outfall protection to prevent erosion and structural failure around this infrastructure; and other required operations necessary to maintain the functionality of the stormwater management system within the Town. For residential structures, the stormwater infrastructure will be maintained by the Town in a manner similar to those structures and facilities within the Town right of way.

For the non-residential structures, the fee is used to provide for the inspection by Town staff or designee of the on-site non-residential stormwater management infrastructure. Once inspected, the non-residential property owners will be required to conduct needed maintenance as deemed necessary by the Town.

The Town recently undertook several projects that were funded through the stormwater utility maintenance fee. One such activity was the replacement of approximately 25% of the pipe that travels under Redwood Circle and drains stormwater overflow from Redwood Lake. The pipe failed resulting in the draining of the lake and a collapse of the surrounding ground which threatened the roadway. Another project was on Caroline Dr. where a stormwater management pond that had been neglected for more than 20 years, was cleared of existing vegetation, which was blocking and limiting the capacity of the pond and endangering the stability of the dam structure. The pond was upgraded to provide some quality control by detaining the stormwater within the structure to allow some of the sediments and associated nutrients to settle out before it reached the downstream ecosystems.

In order to conduct required inspections

and needed maintenance, the Town must first obtain stormwater management easements over the pipe and stormwater management facilities within the residential properties where current easements do not exist and the Town must develop inspection and maintenance agreements for all 94 stormwater management ponds and other facilities within the Town.



*Phoenix Run Stormwater Management Pond preconstruction - Caroline Drive*



*Post maintenance of Phoenix Run Stormwater Management pond - Caroline Drive*



*Collapsed pipe at Redwood Lake*

# TOWN OF LA PLATA

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