

# TOWN NOTES

*News from La Plata Town Hall*



## MAYOR'S CORNER

We have experienced one of the more dynamic winters in many years and I trust that everyone is tired of snow and cold weather. On the bright side, by the time you receive this newsletter, spring will have arrived with all the good things that we attribute to this time of year. Once again, we owe our Public Works Department a well done for repairing all the water main breaks, keeping our roads and streets clear, and picking up the trash under difficult weather conditions.

The adage that it takes a village to raise a child may or may not be true, but it is a fact that a growing and active community requires a strong business presence to ensure its continued viability. We are very fortunate in La Plata that most of the businesses that were impacted by the tornado elected to build back and remain in our town. Since the tornado we have seen many new business open their doors to provide the products and services that our residents require in their daily lives. Our Commercial Highway District, Route 301, has been very active in the past few years and appears to have been well received based upon the number of cars that can be found in the parking lots. Our smaller businesses that provide quality service as well as specialized products and personal services are situated throughout the Town. It is a

Continued on page 3

## Tilghman Lake Park

Tilghman Lake Park is still La Plata's best kept secret. Many have found it by going north on Radio Station Road and turning right onto Box Elder Road and following it into the park. The new parking area behind the bathrooms for fifty vehicles has made it easy for everyone across La Plata to enjoy the park. Others have found it when walking the pedestrian trail around Laurel Springs Park. They have spotted the pedestrian access that connects the two parks on the south side of the loop, and explored a new area and finding a beautiful lake they never knew was there.

People that grew up in La Plata remember going to the lake as kids, and are now grateful that the Town has reopened the park to the public after many years closed off from the community. Many people came out to the Grand opening of the Park a year ago in April of 2013, and have come back again and again to enjoy walks, fishing, and get together under the large pavilion.

The pavilion is available to rent. There are several grills available for cooking, and parking for fifty vehicles makes it a great place to bring a good sized group. The park is perfect for those looking for a quiet natural setting.

If you go, please park in the parking lot, not along the road or in front of the pavilion. Please keep your pets on leash and clean up after them. If you see trash or debris, your help picking it up is appreciated. There are still several places where some debris was dumped over the years, and is hidden in the bushes and under leaves. Follow the rules posted at the entrance and if anything is askew, let the Town know so it can be fixed right away.

This park is for La Plata and is there for its residents to enjoy it. Please enjoy it, and treat it well so others may enjoy it too.



The Town of La Plata Public Works Department will be conducting a fire hydrant testing/flushing program. Flow testing/flushing will begin on or around April 28, 2014 and will continue until all fire hydrants have been tested and flushed. Fire hydrant flow testing/flushing programs are required to assure that adequate supply of safe, quality

water is available for consumer use and an adequate quantity of water is available for fire protection.

During the flow testing/flushing program customers may experience temporary low pressure and/or discoloration of water. Customers experiencing persistent problems in regard to pressure or water discoloration may contact the Public Works Department at (301) 934-8421, ext. 272 or at [mtrollinger@townoflaplata.org](mailto:mtrollinger@townoflaplata.org).

Thank you for your anticipated patience and cooperation during the flow testing/flushing program.



Town of La Plata

# COUNCIL COLUMN

## Councilman Wayne Winkler, Ward 1

By the time you read this article we will have survived one of the worst winters I can remember. Additionally the decision to annex 14 acres of land so developers can build a 181,000 square foot Wal-Mart Supercenter, a 50,000 square foot office building, three more commercial buildings, along with the numerous conditions of the Town Council on the development will be decided by the residents of La Plata, not by the Mayor and Council at the April 9<sup>th</sup> election. I must tell you that I am truly glad the residents are making the decision since it has become such a hot item. One rumor that I have heard ever since Wal-Mart wanted to build the Supercenter was that taxes would increase. Since I have been a member of the Council, the Town has never increased the Town's tax rate and it is my belief that annexing commercial property into La Plata helps keep our residential tax base low. I would argue this point with anyone. Commercial assessed value is higher, businesses don't impact our school system by adding children to overcrowded schools, and businesses usually don't require as many Town services as residential property. With saying all of that I am not a proponent of big box stores because I have to walk so far to find what I want then when I go outside I can't find my car. The good side is that I don't have to go to Waldorf for supplies.

Our summer season is about to start with the Farmers Market going into full swing, we

have a shredder truck coming to Town Hall for residents to use on April 10, our concerts are about to kick off, and our Celebrate La Plata day will soon be here including bed races. We also celebrate Memorial Day and the Fourth of July with events at Town Hall.

With the warmer weather finally here why not take your family out to Tilghman Lake and go for a nice walk. The Town has installed bathrooms, a parking lot, and a pavilion to be used for picnics with barbecue grilles. You can also fish and release. To get there go out Route 6, and 488, turn on Radio Station Road, then right on Box Elder road to the parking lot. It's really worth the trip.

Hope you have a great summer and please take advantage of some of the fun things La Plata has to offer.

## Councilman Keith Back, Ward 2

After the very cold and snowy Winter we just had here in the Town of La Plata, the first thing I would like to do in this version of the Town Notes is to wish you all a Happy Spring! Enjoy the warmer weather we will be having and take time to spend some time outdoors with your family and friends in this wonderful area in which we live. Before you know it, Summer will be here! Don't forget to take a look at all of the events planned around the Town during the Spring and Summer.

I want to encourage everyone who is a registered voter in the Town of La Plata to

visit Town Hall on April 9<sup>th</sup> and cast your vote either for or against the annexation at the corner of Crain Highway (301) and Rosewick Road. The vote by the Citizens of La Plata has been delayed and held up by the court system for the last few years. It is now time to make YOUR wishes known about this action. Whether you are for or against the addition of this land into the town, please come out and cast your vote so that the majority of the Town's Citizens will decide the future of this action. In past elections the number of voters has been low and a few people can decide an issue. Please make sure that your opinion counts by casting your vote.

The Town Council is continuing to work on another annexation request, "The HUB at CSM", which could have the potential to bring a large number of employment opportunities to the Town in the future. Please come out to future 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.

As I have stated before, the Town 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. Remember to vote on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

# SPECIAL ELECTION:

The Town of La Plata will hold a Special Election on Wednesday, April 9, 2014, between the hours of 12:00 noon and 8:00 p.m. The polling place for all qualified voters of the Town is the La Plata Town Hall, 305 Queen Anne Street. The Town will be using paper ballots.

## BALLOT

On September 27, 2011, Resolution 11-12a annexed into the Town of La Plata 14.111 acres, more or less, of land on northbound U.S. Route 301, south of Rosewick Road, subject to certain terms and conditions set forth in the Resolution. The annexation includes 10 acres of land owned by Johel Limited Partnership where the vacant Mitchell Supply presently sits, and the adjacent 4.111 acres of U.S. Route 301 right-of-way. Resolution No. 11-12a zoned the annexed land in the Town's CH- Commercial Highway zoning classification.

Qualified voters of the Town of La Plata are permitted to vote for or against the annexation. A vote to "APPROVE the Resolution" will affirm the annexation and confirm that the land is part of the Town of La Plata. A vote to "REJECT the Resolution" will invalidate the annexation and the land will not be part of the Town of La Plata.

### INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: MARK ONE BOX **BELOW** WITH X

Shall Resolution No. 11-12a, the September 27, 2011, annexation of 14.111 acres be **approved** or **rejected**?

APPROVE the Resolution

REJECT the Resolution

## Efficiency Corner

### Making La Plata More Efficient

With resources strained by challenges in the economy, it is vital that the Town explore ways to make its operations more efficient to save money, time, and add value to the services provided. Town staff is charged with finding new ways to improve services, and the Town regularly invests in technology or implements process changes to drive efficiencies.

### Community Shred and Electronics Recycling at Town Hall

The Town of La Plata creates many paper files and records in the course of doing business. Some records are permanent, and must be kept indefinitely. Other records must be kept for a certain amount of time, then can be disposed of per the Town's document retention schedule. Since locating in the new Town Hall in 2005, the Town has been accumulating many of its records, and has had room to keep many documents beyond the time required in the retention policy. In an effort to improve organization, make room for future records, and to efficiently store what is required, the Town will be disposing of many old records on April 10<sup>th</sup> from 2pm to 6pm at Town Hall.

The Town has hired a shred company to

bring a shredding truck out to dispose of those records. While incurring the expense for that activity, the Town is turning its housekeeping into an opportunity for the community to do some spring cleaning of its own. Residential material of a sensitive nature such as tax documents, financial records, and other paper items that you don't want to recycle are appropriate. Please recycle junk mail and magazines through your normal recycling service.

In addition, the Town will be having Electronics recycling at the same time. Please see a list on the Town's website for acceptable electronic items. Data destruction for hard drives, recycling of CRT monitors and CRT televisions will be charged a small fee to cover some of the regulated disposal costs. All payments must be made on site prior to destruction/recycling.

By combining the Town's needs along with an event open to La Plata residents and businesses to get rid of old files and electronics, cost and time savings are achieved. This also provides a new service to the community, which can be difficult to do on your own. Be sure to mark your calendar for April 10<sup>th</sup>, and make your home office more efficient as well.

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

combination of all these businesses that provide La Plata residents with the opportunity to fulfill most of their daily needs without resorting to other more distant establishments. I trust that we will look locally first for a suitable business establishment and thereby support the business community that helps make La Plata a unique and wonderful Town.

On occasion, I have the opportunity to speak to groups about La Plata and the importance of municipal government. It is one of the highlights of being Mayor.

Speaking to a room full of adults can lead to an interesting and stimulating discussion, but speaking to a fourth grade class is a totally different experience.

Each year I speak to fourth grade students in La Plata or the surrounding area in association with the annual 'If I was Mayor, I would...' contest promoted by the Maryland Municipal League, an association of municipalities throughout the state of Maryland. Having an elected official visit the classroom is a unique experience for the students and I assure you they are ready and waiting with numerous questions and comments. The students are just starting to grasp the functions of government, at all levels: federal, state, county, and local. The level of questions asked impresses me, and as well as the sincerity of the students in wanting to know more about what it is that we do in our daily tasks of operating a governmental entity. I always leave the classroom with a renewed respect for our educational system and the youth who will be, in the not to distant future, the foundation upon which this country will continue to grow and prosper.

On April 26<sup>th</sup>, we will hold our annual Celebrate La Plata Day with numerous events including our unique bed races. This is always a great event and I hope that you have already made plans to attend. At the end of May we will commence our Friday evening summer concert series on the lawn of Town Hall. These are great opportunities for family and friends, of all ages, to assemble to hear some outstanding musical groups.

As your Mayor, I am always interesting your comments whether they are positive or critical. You may reach me at Town Hall (301) 934-8421 or at home (301) 934-4850.

## Town Hall Closed

The Town Hall will be closed on the following days:

**Good Friday**  
**Memorial Day**

**Friday, April 18, 2014**  
**Monday, May 26, 2014**

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

Website: 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 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.

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Household hazardous waste collection re-



CHARLES COUNTY  
**HOUSEHOLD  
HAZARDOUS WASTE  
COLLECTION**

cannot be accepted when the contractor is not on site.

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

sumes in April on the first Saturday of each month, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the parking lot of the Department of Public Works building, located at 10430 Audie Lane, off of Radio Station Road in La Plata. Household hazardous waste collection is a contracted service and items

bring them to the collection site in cardboard boxes to ease unloading.

For more information, call the Charles County Department of Public Facilities, Environmental Resources Division at (301) 932-3599.

## Yard Waste Pick Up

Residential yard waste pickups will only take place on Monday and Fridays. 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:

Friday, April 18, 2014  
Monday, May 26, 2014

### Yard Waste Pick Up Schedule Adjustment

Friday, April 18, 2014  
Monday, May 26, 2014

### Recycling Pick Up

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

### Trash will be picked up on:

Thursday, April 17, 2014  
Tuesday, May 27, 2014

No Pick Up  
No Pick Up

Pick Up late in Day 5/28 or 5/29

## NEW RECYCLING CONTAINERS:

The Town Council is developing its budget for FY 2014/15. Part of the budget consideration will be funds for more large recycling containers. You must contact the Town if you are interested in a larger recycling container. All of the 95 gallon recycling containers purchased in FY 2013/14 have been distributed. To ensure adequate funding for the next order of containers in July, please contact the Town to be put on the recycling container waiting list. If you are interested in receiving one of the containers or

have additional questions please contact Mary Trollinger at the Public Works Department (301) 934-8421 or email [mtrollinger@townoflaplata.org](mailto:mtrollinger@townoflaplata.org). To ensure you will receive a container after the next order and there are enough to meet demand please be sure to have your name added to the list. Due to a limited budget, large recycling containers are only being ordered to meet demand, not for every recycling customer. Thank you for your interest.







## BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED

### Commercial Building Permits issued 1/1/14-2/28/14

610 Charles Street - University of MD Charles Regional Medical Center  
608 Charles Street - University of MD Charles Regional Medical Center  
200 Rosewick Road - Giant Interior Renovation  
109 North Maple Ave - Dash In Food Stores  
204 Washington Ave Ste 202 - office space  
200 Howard St, Ste 101 - office space

### Commercial Occupancy Permits issued 1/1/14-2/28/14

78 Drury Drive - Community Bank  
109 St. Mary's Ave, Ste 101 - Accountable Solutions  
406 Charles Street - Live Out Loud Yoga  
101 Drury Drive - Community Bank  
6223 Crain Highway - Galazio Restaurant  
200 Washington Ave - office space  
10210 La Plata Road, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor - CCNRC

## TESTING OF EARLY WARNING DEVICES/SIRENS

The Town of La Plata will be testing our early warning devices/sirens on **Saturday, May 3, 2014 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>

## NEW EMPLOYEE - KARINA LARSEN



Karina Larsen joined the Town of La Plata Finance department as the Accounting Supervisor in March 2013. In 2008 she graduated from University of Maryland University College with a Bachelors' in Accounting. She comes to the Town of La Plata with over 9 years of accounting experience.

She was born in Maryland, raised in Southern Maryland and currently lives in St. Mary's County. She has one adorable son, three loving cats, and one sweet rabbit. In her spare time, she can be found exploring local, state, and national parks, hitting the tennis courts in the summer, and occasionally bakes and decorates cupcakes.

### Health and Wellness Event

Put on by  
La Plata Physical Therapy in June  
(exact date to be announced soon)

Spring into health this summer with the staff and health professional friends of La Plata Physical Therapy. La Plata Physical Therapy will be able to provide fall risk, body mass index, strength, healthy exercise habit, and mental wellness assessments. While participating in the event, all visitors will be able to enjoy healthy food & drink, recipes, and door prizes.

101 Centennial Street Suite C  
La Plata, MD 20646

For more information call:  
(301) 392-3700 or (301) 392-5054

## TRAFFIC SAFETY MESSAGE

Motor vehicle crashes are frequent events. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), in 2008 there were an estimated 5,811,000 crashes. That is the equivalent of a crash occurring every 5.4 seconds somewhere in the United States. It is interesting to note, that 40% of these crashes occurred at intersections. Of the estimated 2,324,400 annual intersection crashes, 733,000 involved injuries to at least one occupant. Moreover, 7,421 of these crashes caused one or more of the occupants to receive fatal injuries. That is one American dying every 78 minutes in an intersection related crash.

In La Plata, according to the Maryland State Highway Administration, the most active intersection for collisions is Crain Highway (MD 301) and Hawthorne Road (MD 225). From January 2010 through December 2012, there were 28 total crashes involving 61 vehicles. One of the crashes involved more than six vehicles. As a result of these events 31

people were sent to the hospital suffering from a variety of injuries.

So how can the intersection of Crain Highway and Hawthorne Road become safer? According to NHTSA intersection traffic safety is achieved through a combination of engineering, education, and enforcement. Red light photo enforcement has been used increasingly over the past decade to assist and facilitate enforcement against red light running at signalized intersections. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), red light cameras are in use by over 400 cities in the United States and at least 22 countries.

Our society enthusiastically embraces technology in a plethora of forms, from innovations such as smart phones and computers to medical devices that save lives on a daily basis. Technology advancements in traffic enforcement are also saving lives on roadways across the United States. According to a study

completed by the Texas Transportation Institute in 2010, red light photo enforcement substantially reduces red light running. The study also concluded that red light photo enforcement technology also reduces right angle collisions, which tend to be more severe than most other types of crashes. The study did find however, that red light photo enforcement can cause an increase in less severe type crashes such as rear end collisions.

Progressive communities across the United States are embracing cutting-edge traffic technologies to include a variety of photo enforcement to change motorists' behavior. This technology has proven to keep roadways safer and reduce motoring crashes, injuries, and fatalities. In short, more people are arriving home alive. To keep this trend and you alive, remember to "Please Drive Gently" ...it's the Maryland way!

## COMMUNITY POLICING INITIATIVES BY THE LA PLATA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Vacation season is quickly approaching. That means trips to the beach, the mountains, or maybe an exotic resort. While you're away, have the La Plata Police Department conduct a house check for you. To schedule a house check while you are

out of town, call (301) 934-1500.

Is your home vulnerable to a burglar? Is your driveway or yard attractive to a thief? If you're not sure of the answers to these questions, have a home security survey

performed on your house and yard. A La Plata police officer certified in home security surveys can conduct an analysis on your home for free. To schedule an appointment, call (301) 934-1500.

## EMAIL ADDRESSES WANTED

After this winter's storms residents that have provided their email address to the Town have been able to get the needed information out to them quickly. When there has been a change in waste collection services, announcements of an emergency nature, or other needs, the Town can contact those who have provided an email address.

In an attempt to provide residents with information easily, quickly, and cost-effectively the Town is 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.

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@townoflaplata.org](mailto:cjohnson@townoflaplata.org) along with your name and street address.

# Conservation Corner

The months of high water use in La Plata are now starting. By filling swimming pools, watering lawns and plants, washing vehicles, and pressure washing, there is a significant increase in the amount of water used by La Plata residents and businesses. Please

be aware of your water use. Below are some active landscaping steps you can take to reduce your water consumption, and your utility bill.



**Reduce the turf** – Turf grasses consume more water than trees, shrubs, and other plants. By expanding your garden areas, installing a new rain garden, and planting native plants, you can reduce the amount of water your landscape needs.

**Mulch plants** – It adds organic material to soil, helps retain moisture, and keeps roots cool during warm months.

**Remove weeds** – They take ground water away from desired plants.

**Don't fertilize** – It encourages plants to grow fast and increases water needs. Instead plant native species that are accustomed to growing in natural conditions and don't need fertilizer to thrive.

**Reduce pruning** – Branches keep plants and turf shaded and cooler in summer.

**Plant shade trees** – New trees will add to the shade of your property keeping you and your landscape cooler.

**Replant lost plants** – If plants have died or are not performing well,

plant new ones this spring. Plant low water-use and native varieties in place of the failed varieties.

**Redirect downspouts** – Collect rain water from your roof into rain barrels to use for irrigation. Direct surface water to a low point on your property and build a rain garden.

**Watch your watering** – Don't water when it recently rained. Install a moisture sensor on irrigation systems instead of watering on a specific timed schedule.

**Irrigation restrictions** – Irrigation in La Plata is only permitted between the hours of 6:00pm and 10:00am each day. By limiting the hours less water is lost to evaporation and peak demand is reduced. Individuals who irrigate during restricted hours will be faced with an infraction and fines.

An Internet search on Bayscaping will provide all of the resources you need to help prepare your landscape for the warm summer months, and get away from the need to irrigate with potable water.

Thank you for your help in conserving water.

## 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. 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 special 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. Deadline to submit application is May 30, 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.

## 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:

- What is your favorite activity in Tilghman Lake Park?
- A quiet lunch/escape from the day
- Exploring the woods
- Feeding ducks
- Fishing
- Get togethers in the large pavilion
- Jogging/Walking
- Nature watching

### February Website Poll Results

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

Do you plan on participating in or watching the bed races at Celebrate La Plata this year on Saturday, April 26th?

- Yes, my team will race. - 0%
- Yes, my family will watch. - 29%
- No, I can't this year. - 71%

The La Plata Bed Races have had a long tradition in La Plata, and have been organized by a variety of groups over the years. After several years without them, the Chamber of Commerce organized a restart of the races five years ago, and the Town hosted them during Celebrate La Plata. For the second year, the races are now organized by the Town and are a great way to engage in the community in a fun spirited way.

While many teams like to make their own beds, the Town has a few beds of its own. Even those who are not handy, but want to participate can do so easily. Most racers dress in costumes, promote their business or organization, or just come out for the fun. Other racers are focused on speed and come out to win. Whichever category you fall into, you are sure to have a great time at this year's races.

As of the writing of this article in early March, there are eight teams that have

expressed interest in participating in the La Plata Bed Races during Celebrate La Plata on April 26<sup>th</sup>. There is still time for teams to sign up, and it is very easy to participate. It is now free to participate. You may use one of the Town's beds to race. You only need to find three other friends, family members, or even people you just know who run fast. Fill out the application on the Town's website, and you are ready to go.

Look for the Bed Races under the Events section of [www.townoflaplata.org](http://www.townoflaplata.org) for the free registration form and additional information. This is a great way to get your name recognized in the community, get exposure for your organization or business, but most of all to have a great time while supporting our community spirit. Please sign up your family, church group, coworkers, social club, friends, or other 4 person team by April 18<sup>th</sup>!





# Celebrate LA PLATA!

**Saturday, April 26th**  
**12 PM to 4 PM**  
**On the grounds of**  
**La Plata Town Hall**

Enjoy activities for children of all ages; face painting, art activities, displays, craft vendors, entertainment, refreshments for sale from local favorites, and Bed Races!



### Entertainment Schedule

**Humane Society of Charles County - 12:15 pm to 12:35 pm**  
Presentation on Foster Kittens and how you can help save lives

**Reggie Rice The Super Magic Man - 12:50 pm to 1:50 pm**

**Recycle Art Contest Winners Announcement - 2:35 pm**

**La Plata Bed Races - 3 pm**



### **SmArt EArth Arts Celebration; Recycle Art Contest at Celebrate La Plata!**

Instead of throwing things away into the landfill, let's recycle them to create beauty! This contest will be a chance for people of all ages to show their love for the arts and our Earth all at once, during Celebrate La Plata event. The instructions are to create 2D or 3D art using at least 60% of materials that would ordinarily get thrown away, into a beautiful piece of art functional or not. These art pieces will be judged using these criteria:

- Materials; 60% or more are recyclable locally, (besides; glue, tape & string).
- Entry is handmade by participant
- All materials are clean safe and neat
- Entry shows creativity
- Entry is aesthetically pleasing to look at

Category 1: 5-11 yrs; Category 2: 12-17 yrs; Category 3: 18 yrs and up

To register contact Art Smart Studio at [art.smart.studio1@gmail.com](mailto:art.smart.studio1@gmail.com). Prizes will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and crowd's favorite. Winners will be announced during the Celebrate La Plata event.



### **Get Ready to Roll!**

There's still time to register for the Bed Races. Gather three of your friends, family or co-workers and sign up today. Registration deadline is April 18! For more information or to register for the Bed Races, contact Colleen Wilson at (301) 934-8421 or [cwilson@townoflaplata.org](mailto:cwilson@townoflaplata.org). Participation form is available on the Town's website [www.townoflaplata.org](http://www.townoflaplata.org).



*Photos from 2013 Bed Races courtesy of Southern Maryland News Net.*

### Code Corner



The following information has been printed in a previous editions of the Town Notes, however summertime projects makes the information worth repeating.

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>.

# SPECIAL EVENTS

## Ice Cream with the Easter Bunny



Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup>: 11 AM to 1 PM

Hop on in for ice cream with the Easter Bunny! Stop by the La Plata Town Hall on the Monday

after Easter, April 21<sup>st</sup> from 11 AM to 1 PM. Bring the kids for ice cream, crafts and visit with the Easter Bunny.

## Community Shred and Electronics Recycling at Town Hall

Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup> from 2 PM to 6 PM



Dispose of your personal documents and recycle unwanted electronics in a safe and secure manner. Drop off your documents and items at Town Hall on Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup> from 2 PM

to 6 PM. Data destruction for hard drives is available for \$10. CRT monitors will be charged \$20 and CRT televisions will be charged at \$2.00 per diagonal inch to be recycled. All payments must be made on site prior to destruction/recycling.

Residents and businesses may bring up to 4 file boxes of personal papers for shredding. Please see list of accepted and prohibited items on the Town's website.

Procedures for the Community Shred and Electronics Recycling event are outlined on the Town's website under the Events page. For more information please contact Colleen Wilson, Special Events Coordinator at (301) 934-8421 or [cwilson@townofaplata.org](mailto:cwilson@townofaplata.org).

## Memorial Day Ceremony



Monday, May 26, 2014  
11 AM at La Plata Town Hall

Please join us to remember and honor

the men and women who died while in the military service.

To remember and honor those who have served in the armed forces, the Town will have stars available for loved ones to write a message on. The stars will be displayed at the Memorial Day Ceremony on May 26<sup>th</sup>. Stars will be available in the Town Hall lobby from May 5 to May 22. Town Hall is open from 9 am to 4 pm Monday to Friday

and there will be a box in the lobby to place the stars. Stars will also be available at the ceremony. For more information please contact Colleen Wilson at (301) 934-8421 or [cwilson@townofaplata.org](mailto:cwilson@townofaplata.org).

## Friday Night Summer Concert Series

Join us for the Friday night Summer Concert Series. The weekly concerts take place from 7 pm to 9 pm on the lawn at La Plata Town Hall at 305 Queen Anne Street. Concert goers are encouraged to bring blankets and lawn chairs for sitting. Coolers are allowed, but no alcohol, please. Concessions are available from the Town's food trailer located in the back of the parking lot; an ice cream truck is stationed there for your enjoyment. A play area for children, the Kids' Zone, allows parents to enjoy the concert while keeping an eye on the little ones.

Check out the schedule for May and June! For a complete concert schedule please visit the Events page on the Town's website



Friday May 23<sup>rd</sup>: 7PM to 9PM  
25th Hour Band  
Motown, Jazz, Classic & Contemporary Rock

Friday May 30<sup>th</sup>: 7PM to 9PM  
The Colliders  
50s & Rockabilly

Friday June 6<sup>th</sup>: 7PM to 9PM  
Four of a Kind  
Oldies, Classic Rock, Country, Funk, & the Blues

Friday June 13<sup>th</sup>: 7PM  
United States Air Force Band Max Impact

Classic/Contemporary Rock & Country  
Friday June 20<sup>th</sup>: 7PM to 9PM  
360 Band  
Rock n' Roll, Country, Disco, Funk & Pop variety

Friday June 27<sup>th</sup>: 7PM  
US Navy Band The Commodores  
Jazz

If a concert has to be cancelled due to the weather we will post the information in the following locations:

[Town of La Plata website](#) - on the home page and concert page

[Town of La Plata facebook page](#)

Call (301) 934-8421 for a recorded message, press #7 for special events

Town of La Plata emails - to sign up please send your email address to [cwilson@townofaplata.org](mailto:cwilson@townofaplata.org)

## Summer Fun at Town Hall

The Town of La Plata will host five kids' summer shows at Town Hall. The shows are geared towards preschool and elementary age children and are approximately 45 minutes long. The shows are free and open to the public. Shows will be held outdoors on the West lawn where the Friday night concerts take place (weather permitting - shows will not be moved indoors). Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets and lawn chairs for sitting. No concessions will be available, but you are welcome to bring drinks and snacks along.

**Tuesday June 24<sup>th</sup>: 10 AM**  
Stevens Puppets

**Tuesday July 8<sup>th</sup>: 10 AM**  
The Great Zucchini

**Tuesday July 15<sup>th</sup>: 10 AM**  
Chin Hamaya Culture Center

**Tuesday August 5<sup>th</sup>: 10 AM**  
Billy B Live!

**Tuesday August 19<sup>th</sup>: 10 AM**  
Funny Magic Dude

More information about the performers listed on the Events page at [www.townofaplata.org](http://www.townofaplata.org).

# TOWN OF LA PLATA

305 Queen Anne Street  
P. O. Box 2268  
La Plata, Maryland 20646-2268

PRESORTED  
FIRST CLASS MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
WALDORF, MD  
PERMIT NO. 10131



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



# Celebrate LA PLATA!

**Saturday, April 26th  
12 PM to 4 PM**



For more information, contact Colleen Wilson at  
301-934-8421 ext 142,  
CWilson@TownofLaPlata.org or visit  
www.TownofLaPlata.org.