

TOWN NOTES

News from La Plata Town Hall



MAYOR'S CORNER

La Plata is one of 157 municipalities in the State of Maryland and one of only six in the three Southern Maryland counties of Charles, St. Mary's and Calvert. Albeit municipalities may be few in number in Southern Maryland, La Plata is fortunate in many ways due to our geographical location, size, and community spirit. This was especially apparent when we came together recently to celebrate our Nation's 4th of July birthday party. The Nation's Capital provided a musical tribute at the foot of the United States Capital followed by a massive fireworks display. In La Plata our Watermelon Bash demonstrated how a small town is able to blend many parts together to produce an outstanding event to celebrate the founding of this great county.

Multiple thanks to the Town Staff, especially our Events Coordinator, Colleen Wilson, to Public Works, our Police Department and the Scout Explorer Troop, to Life Styles, the non-profit organization that always helps out at Town events, the many other volunteers, and to you the public who attended the celebration. To paraphrase a saying from the old TV show, *The A Team*, it is great when a plan comes together. Even the weather played a positive role. It is these events, including our Friday Night concerts that keep alive the small town atmosphere of La Plata.

As we begin the summer months including the start of a new fiscal year, La Plata is in good shape. Work on the repair of the railroad crossing on Charles Street is scheduled for July, a long awaited repair

Continued on page 3

La Plata receives Banner Town designation for the seventh year in a row!

The Banner Town designation is the Maryland Municipal League's (MML) highest member achievement award. The program is designed to encourage and reward exceptional participation in MML programs and activities and to foster teamwork among municipal officials. The program criteria consists of participating in all of the following: Visits to at least one school to encourage 4th graders to participate in the "If I Were Mayor, I would..." essay contest, have at least one representative from the Town attend four Southern Maryland Municipal Association chapter meetings, send a representative to the annual MML fall conference and have at least one elected official participate in at least one of the following: serve on the MML Board of Directors, enrollment in the Academy for Excellence in Local Governance program or participate in the Student Shadowing Experience Program. All of the criteria must have been accomplished between June 1, 2013 and May 25, 2014. The Council has already begun working toward next year's requirements.



Wills Park Day

La Plata residents are invited to come out to Wills Park on Saturday, September 27, 2014 from 10am to noon for Wills Park Day. Located on St. Mary's Avenue just south of Glen Albin Road, Wills Park features the Town's community building, playground, tennis court, basketball court, horseshoes, and open field play. Join the members of La Plata's Parks and Recreation Commission to see what Wills Park has to offer. When visiting, please take a few minutes to share your ideas about what you would like to see in Wills Park, or for recreation throughout the Town of La Plata. Refreshments will be provided. The Parks and Recreation Commission looks forward to meeting you there.



Town of La Plata

COUNCIL COLUMN

Councilman Keith Back, Ward 2

I hope that everyone has been enjoying the summer and all it has to offer in our area. If you have not yet done so, make sure you take the family to see the beautiful park at Tighlman Lake. This is a great natural setting to enjoy year round. If you have little ones, make sure you check out the Spray pad installed at Town Hall for the young and young at heart to use to cool down on hot days. Make sure to come out for the remaining Friday night concerts at Town Hall.

I was very happy to see the large turnout for our special election on April 9th. Hopefully that level of participation will continue to be shown at our future regular elections. Also make sure to keep informed on Public Hearings held by the Town on various issues. These are your opportunities to make sure your elected officials know how you stand on im-

portant issues. Please don't assume that someone else will be voicing a similar concern or opinion at the Public Hearings. Come out and let your voice be heard.

One issue that will be important for you to voice your thoughts on will be an annexation that is still in the planning and review stages. The Town is continuing to work on the annexation request for "The HUB at CSM". Many people through the previous annexation said that one of their concerns was to attract good paying jobs to the Town and not just more part time retail jobs. The HUB at CSM is requesting a zoning of Planned Business Park and has the intention to attract government agencies and private businesses to build office space within the Town and to attract a large number of higher paying jobs to the area. This will mean that current and future citizens of the Town can live and work within our community and

not make the large commutes that many have to take every day.

If you are concerned about bringing jobs to La Plata, please come out to future Town Council and Planning Commission meetings to hear more and provide your input to this proposal during Public Hearings to make sure that the potential for living and working within our community is possible in the future for a larger number of our citizens. This annexation has the potential to provide a very great benefit to the Town if developed as planned.

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. I hope to see you at future meetings at Town Hall.

BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED

Commercial Building Permits issued 5/1/14-6/30/14

Charlie Nails & Spa (expansion) – 9375 Chesapeake St.
Maryland Partners Bank – 115 Charles Street
Nail Salon & Spa – 80 Drury Drive

Commercial Occupancy Permits issued 5/1/14-6/30/14

Xpo America – 200 Howard St. #102E
Perfect Nails – 36 Shining Willow Way
The Vapor Vault – 78 Drury Drive
Edward Jones (office space) – 204 Washington Ave. Ste #100A
Charles County Assoc of Emergency Medical Services –
6478 Crain Highway

NEW EMPLOYEES



Austin Corbin

Austin was hired in June 2014 as a Public Works Technician I for the Public Works Department. Austin was born and raised in Prince Georges County, he is a 2010 graduate of Gwynn Park High School. In his spare time, he enjoys riding his four wheeler, hunting, and working with computers.



Jeff Stine

Jeff joined the Public Works Department in June 2014 as a Public Works Technician I. He was born and raised in Charles County and is a 2013 graduate of La Plata High School. Jeff is also a member of the Bel Alton Volunteer Fire and EMS Department, in his spare time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, and restoring vehicles.



OmeGia, a holistic health fair, offers a day of family fun, music, play, exploration, joy, learning, laughter, and feeling alive! OmeGia brings together holistic healers, artisans, and teachers to the community. Join Live Out Loud Yoga on Saturday September 20, 2014 from 8 am - 6 pm at Live Out Loud Yoga, 406 E Charles St, La Plata (rain date September 27). More info available at www.omegiasfair.org.

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:

What percent of the Town's property tax revenue comes from residential property?

- 0 – 20%
- 21 – 40%
- 41 – 60%
- 61 – 80%
- 81 – 100%

June Website Poll Results

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

What is your favorite event at Town Hall?

- Ice Cream with the Easter Bunny - 0%
- Celebrate La Plata - 1%
- Memorial Day Ceremony - 0%
- Friday Night Summer Concert Series - 6%
- 4th of July Watermelon Bash - 1%
- Kids Summer Shows - 0%
- La Plata Fall Festival - 4%
- Harvest Halloween Party - 0%
- Veterans' Parade - 86%
- Old Tyme Holiday Gathering - 1%
- Breakfast with Santa - 0%

La Plata is a small town, and one of the things that people like about living here is the small town atmosphere. While Charles County is one of the fastest growing areas of the State, La Plata works to keep events going throughout the year to help connect the people of the community to one another. Many of the Town's events like Breakfast with Santa, Harvest Halloween Party, Ice Cream with the Easter Bunny, Kids Summer Shows, and Memorial Day Ceremony are small and attract a limited number of interested people. Other events like Celebrate La Plata, the Watermelon Bash, the Fall Festival, and the Veteran's Parade draw people from outside of La Plata, and give the Town an opportunity to show its great spirit to others.

The largest event in terms of participation is easily the Veteran's Parade, where youth groups, organizations, public services, schools, service organizations, non-profits, and many others come through Town in support of our Nation's Veterans.

Over the next few months of 2014 you can still enjoy the Friday Night Summer Concert Series, Kids Summer Shows, the La Plata Fall Festival, the Harvest Halloween Party, the Veterans' Parade, the Old Tyme

Holiday Gathering, and Breakfast with Santa.

To find out more, simply visit the Events page at <http://www.townofaplata.org>. Come out with friends and family, visit with neighbors, enjoy the entertainment, and most of all take part of what a small town has to offer its residents. All of La Plata's events are free to attend, and most have food available for purchase.

MAYOR'S CORNER (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

that will improve this crossing for many years. The La Plata Business Association, in partnership with the Town, has placed flower baskets along Charles Street that add to the décor and appearance of our main street. It is anticipated that this is only one of many projects that will be forthcoming from the Business Association. Our Waste Water Treatment Plant has completed a major upgrade that will benefit the Town for a very long time. While our elected and appointed officials are charged with setting the tone and providing overall direction and guidance, the Parks and Recreation Commission is active in recommending improvements such as the recently installed spray pad at Town Hall. The Beautification Commission keeps the Town Hall looking great and all our Board and Commissions do a tremendous amount of work in making La Plata the community you want it to be. A warm thank you to all these volunteers who go about their tasks helping our community in many important ways.

I would also be remiss by not acknowledging the Home Owner Associations and good neighbors who do their part in keeping La Plata a premier community. Everyone should contribute in some way and so many do every day. La Plata may be just one municipality in 157, but is the one you and I chose or had the good fortune to be born here, and it warrants our best efforts to keep it the one to emulate.

As your Mayor, I am always receptive to your comments, be they 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:

Labor Day **Monday, September 1, 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

Interim Director of Planning,

Theresa C. Dent

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@townofaplata.org

Website: www.townofaplata.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.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Household hazardous waste collection is



CHARLES COUNTY
**HOUSEHOLD
HAZARDOUS WASTE
COLLECTION**

on the first Saturday of each month, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the parking lot of the County 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 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 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:

Monday, September 1, 2014

Yard Waste Pick Up

Monday, September 1

Recycling Pick Up

Wednesday, September 3, 2014

Trash will be picked up on:

Tuesday, September 2, 2014

No Pick Up

Pick Up late in Day 9/3 or 9/4

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.

Spray Pad

When the Parks and Recreation Commission recommended the addition of a spray pad at Town Hall, the opportunity was taken to add to its efficiency. In order to operate, the spray pad only turns on after someone steps on a blue button in the ground. The spray pad cycles on, and users enjoy ten minutes in the spray. If users want they can engage it again for another ten minute period. The demand system for using the spray pad means that it only will operate when there is a user there to enjoy it. It does not turn on, or operate unless there is someone there.

The water from the spray pad is then collected in grates in the concrete. The water flows underground to a very large cistern which collects the water. The Town installed the cistern in 2008, as a place to capture rainwater and HVAC condensate, used for irrigation of Town Hall grounds. The added water from the spray pad adds to the water available for reuse in irrigation. When you use the spray pad, the water used then will be reused that night to irrigate the concert lawn and plants at Town Hall.

SPRAY PAD OPENING



Pictured from left to right: Councilman Lynn Gilroy, Wayne Winkler, and Joe Norris, Parks and Recreation Chairman Jim Goldsmith, Parks Members Paddy Mudd and Vicky Kelly.

On Friday, June 27 members of the Town Council and Parks and Recreation Commission officially opened the Spray Pad at the Town Hall. Operating hours of the Spray Pad are daily 10:00 am to 9:00 pm.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Town of La Plata Memorial Day Ceremony

The Town of La Plata held the Annual Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, May 26 at 11 am at Town Hall. The ceremony honored the men and women who died while in the military service. Captain Peter R. Nette, Commanding Officer, Naval Support Activity South Potomac was the guest speaker at the ceremony.

The ceremony began with a blessing from Reverend Dr. Bruce A. Jones of La Plata United Methodist Church. The La Plata High School NJROTC was on hand to present the colors and Veteran's Home Brass performed the National Anthem. The observance also included the roll call of deceased veterans from Charles County by American Legion Post 82. Wreaths were also laid by monument at Town Hall to remember those who have served by the American Legion Post 82, General Smallwood Chapter MOAA, La Plata Town Council, and La Plata Police Department and Explorers. The Schubert Singers of Christ Church performed patriotic selections and Bill Foreman performed TAPS. The ceremony concluded with Mayor Hale leading the audience in singing "God Bless America".



Town of La Plata
July 4th
WATERMELON BASH!



Thanks to all who came out to enjoy the Watermelon Bash on July 4!

Upcoming Town Events

Summer Fun at Town Hall

Tuesday August 5th: 10 AM

Billy B Live!

Billy B will create an interactive song, dance and comedy show for kids and their families inspired by La Plata's local natural environment. Filled with fun and funny factually correct routines about the earth, dragonflies, mosquitoes, swamps, and the Chesapeake Bay.

Tuesday August 19th: 10 AM

Funny Magic Dude Brian Garner

Magic that is out of this world! Comedy that will make everyone - children and adults - laugh out loud! An incredible mix of dancing, laughter, and hands-on magic.

Based in southern Maryland, Brian Garner, the Funny Magic Dude has been performing magic in Maryland, DC, and Virginia for over 25 years, and has performed at such places as Disney World, Six Flags America, and The White House.

Come and experience a show that is full of audience participation, fun, and excitement for your entire family. Come and see a magician like no other, The Funny Magic Dude, Brian Garner.

TOWN OF LA PLATA SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Join us for the Friday night Summer Concert Series at the La Plata Town Hall. The weekly concerts take place 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 near the back of the parking lot; an ice cream truck is also 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. New this summer is a spray pad, where kids can splash in the spray.

Concert Schedule

Friday August 1st: 7PM

US Naval Academy Band Electric Brigade
Pop & Rock Favorites

Friday August 8th: 7PM to 9PM

John Luskey Band
Pop, Country, & Rock

Friday August 15th: 7PM to 9PM

Eric Scott Band
Acoustic Soul/Pop

Friday August 22nd: 7PM to 9PM

Appaloosa
Top 40/Classic Rock

Friday August 29th: 7PM to 9PM

Southern Maryland Concert Band
Concert Band Favorites & Showtunes
Instrumentals

Friday September 5th: 7PM

US Army Field Band Chamber Brass
Patriotic & Americana

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SPECIAL EVENTS (CONTINUED)

Friday September 12th: 7PM to 9PM

Dr. Phill's Big Band
Big Band & Swing

Friday September 19th: 7PM to 9PM

Dance Party with Elite Beatz Entertainment
Come ready to DANCE!

Friday September 26th: 7PM

US Navy Band The Cruisers
Jazz, R&B, Rock, Contemporary, & Pop

Please note military concerts are usually about 1 hour to 1 hour 15 minutes due to their regulations.

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 face book 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@townoflaplata.org

LA PLATA Fall Festival

Save the Date for the Fall Festival

Sunday, October 12th from 12 pm to 3 pm at Town Hall

Family fun and games

Live music from the Sara Gray Band, craft vendors & displays and delicious food for sale.



9th Annual Scarecrow Festival sponsored by the Charles County Chamber of Commerce and the Town of La Plata! Register to be part of the fun! Enter your Scarecrow for official judging during La Plata Town Festival, Sunday, October 12th. Winners will be announced at Town Hall. Registration Deadline is Friday, September 26th. For more information contact the Charles County Chamber of Commerce at (301) 932-6500.

Town of La Plata "Salute to Veterans" Parade

Come out on Sunday, November 9th at 1 pm for the Salute to Veterans Parade. Watch the parade make its way to Town Hall down Charles Street and La Grange Avenue. Registration forms will be available on the Town's website in September.



WATER METER CUSTOMER PORTAL

Water customers can access information about their water use online. With the Town's Automated Metering Infrastructure system (AMI), the Town reads water meters automatically and gather data about water consumption to help track down leaks. The Town currently monitors the water system for long leaks, where water runs through a meter for 96 straight hours. The system can send out email alerts about abnormal consumption or potential leaks based on defined parameters.

Customers may access the customer portal that allows viewing of individual meter consumption data online and also receive email alerts. Each customer is able to see their hourly, daily, weekly, and monthly consumption data on a 24 hour delayed basis. Each meter transmits use data to the network overnight from the previous period. This information helps customers manage their water usage and help with water conservation practices.

If you are interested accessing the customer portal please call Town Hall at (301) 934-

8421. Town staff will help you set up your account and have the system issue a user name and password. It will be necessary to have online access and be able to receive email to set up the account. A customer having direct access to their consumption information helps them to manage use, and potentially catch leaks in the home sooner.

LA PLATA POLICE DEPARTMENT BOOSTS NATURAL DISASTER RESPONSE CAPABILITY WITH HUMVEE ACQUISITION



In April 2002, a devastating tornado with a peak rating of F4 on the Fujita (F) scale struck the Town of La Plata. Lessons learned from the ...event included the challenges that emergency responders

faced when attempting to access areas with heavy damage. In an effort to mitigate those and other challenges in the future, the La Plata Police Department has acquired a Humvee through the US Military's 10-33 Program at no cost for the vehicle in an effort to ensure emergency responders are

properly equipped to respond to a variety of future unusual occurrences.

The High Mobility Multi-Purpose Wheeled Vehicle known as a Humvee is a 2005 AM General which is designed to carry personnel and equipment to areas that are not accessible by other conveyances due to the terrain, storm damage, or heavy snowfall. Additionally, LPPD's Humvee can be used during an active shooter situation or other unusual occurrence to safely, quickly, and effectively remove injured officers and/or victims.

The National Defense Authorization Act authorized the Secretary of Defense to transfer excess Department of Defense equipment to federal, state, and local law en-

forcement agencies with a special emphasis given on counter drug, counter terrorism, and emergency preparedness. Currently, there are over 13,000 local law enforcement agencies that have acquired needed equipment free of charge from this unique program.

According to La Plata Police Chief Carl Schinner, "Our hopes are we will never need the vehicle other than as a show or parade piece; however the Humvee provides officers with a tool to navigate the highways and byways of La Plata during natural disasters, critical incidents, and other unforeseen challenges." Schinner added, "We now can safely drive into harm's way and rescue a citizen without placing our officers at undo risk."

MAYOR HALE HOST GOVERNMENT TEACHERS



On June 20, Mayor Hale hosted History teachers from Charles County as part of their in-service training. Mayor Hale presented a power point presentation on the functions of the local government as it relates to the State and Federal Government. Over 30 teachers participated in the one hour sessions.

TOWN COUNCIL THANKS BOARDS AND COMMISSION VOLUNTEERS



Pictured from left to right are Steve Ball and Kwaisi Holman members of the La Plata Town Center Corporation.

During Council meetings in May, June and July the Town Council thanked volunteer members of the various Boards and Commissions of the Town. Mayor Hale said, "The volunteers on our Boards and Commissions are very important to the success of our Town. Volunteers provide additional knowledge and support to the staff and elected officials on a variety of different topics and aspects of government."

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION



Bob Rausch, President of the Charles County Arts Alliance presents Mayor Hale (center) and Councilman Joe Norris (right) a Certificate of Appreciation to the Town for being the host location of the annual ArtsFest held June 7 on the grounds of the Town Hall.

August is Speed Awareness Month

The Council of the Town of La Plata and the La Plata Police Department has declared August as *Speed Awareness Month*. August signals the end of summer and the start of another school year. The goal of Speed Awareness Month is to slow down traffic, thus saving lives. By making drivers more aware of the speed limits and encouraging them to drive within the posted limits, the citizens and visitors of the Town will have a safer August. Drivers are encouraged to always drive within the speed limit throughout the year. Please help us reach our goal; obey the speed limit.



TOWN OF LA PLATA

305 Queen Anne Street
P. O. Box 2268
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Town Notes is a publication of the Town of La Plata.



Fall Festival



Sunday, October 12th at Town Hall
12 PM to 3 PM

Come join us for a day of free family fun!

Live music from
Sara Gray Band



Petting
Zoo



Craft & Food
Vendors



Pedal
Cars



Art Tent for Kids



9th Annual Scarecrow Festival sponsored by the Charles County Chamber of Commerce and the Town of La Plata! Register to be part of the fun! For more information contact the Charles County Chamber of Commerce at 301-932-6500.

For more information on the Fall Festival please contact Special Events Coordinator, Colleen Wilson at 301-934-8421 ext. 142 or cwilson@townoflaplata.org.