

# TOWN NOTES

*News from La Plata Town Hall*



**MAYOR  
VICTOR B.  
BOWLING, JR.**

In August the Town of La Plata lost former Mayor Victor B. Bowling, Jr. Mayor Bowling dedicated 16 years of elected service to the betterment of the Town of La Plata. Mayor Bowling was first elected as Councilman for a two year term in May, 1967 and was re-elected in May, 1969, and May, 1971, serving as Councilman for six years. Mayor Bowling was elected May, 1973 as mayor and was subsequently re-elected in 1975, 1977, 1979, and 1981, serving as Mayor for 10 years. The contributions Mayor Bowling made prior to, during, and after his terms in office, have helped to shape the Town into the thriving community it is today. The Town values the many years of dedicated service, volunteerism, and commitment to the community provided by Mayor Victor B. Bowling, Jr., who worked tirelessly for the residents and businesses of our Town and also to help to ensure the continued quality of life the residents have come to expect.

Mayor Bowling was born December 17, 1929 to the late Victor Benjamin Bowling Sr. and the late Evelyn Young Bowling and raised in Charles County. He served 3 years aboard the escort carrier USS Mindoro, including one extra year of service during the Korean

Continued on page 3

## Trick or Treat Evening

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

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

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

## Municipal Government Month

Since 1993, cities and towns throughout the state have been celebrating Municipal Government Works Month each November in an effort to educate their citizens about the role and function of the government closest to them.

To promote municipal government awareness, many cities and towns will recognize November as Municipal Government Works Month with local proclamations, such as the proclamation which will be adopted by the Town Council on October 28, and will the display a flag with the logo MGW, "Municipal Government Works," to promote their local government.



## Don't forget November 2, 2014



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS**

**Set Clocks  
back one hour**



Town of La Plata

## COUNCIL COLUMN

### Councilman Lynn Gilroy, Ward 3

In February 2011 the Town of La Plata enlisted the services of Environmental Resources Management in conjunction with Municipal Financial Services Group and Oasis Design Group for the development of the Town's Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Within that plan there were a considerable amount of elements that were carefully reviewed.

This plan established an inventory and outlined existing and planned recreation and open space resources in and around the Town of La Plata. Key questions that this plan posed included:

- What **new** parks and open spaces will be needed to serve the Town's projected population?
- What **new** recreation facilities such as community centers, ball fields, basketball courts, and playgrounds will be needed?
- How can the **new** developments best help meet the Town's future parks and recreation needs?
- What will it cost to create and maintain the parks and recreation system the Town envisions? Will the system be affordable to the Town?
- How will the Town manage its parks? Should the Town have a parks and recreation department? How should it share responsibilities with Charles County government?

Most all of these questions have no easy answer and each one has a price tag associated with it. One of the areas that the plan did focus on was the improvements to Wills Memorial Park. While Wills Park is located on the south end of town it still needs our attention for improvements and continues to serve as a local community facility. The com-

munity building is aged and needs replacing. It has a considerable amount of use by the citizens with parties, meetings and the like and that could be expanded with a new facility. We could also add pavilions and picnic tables throughout the area.

By the time this goes to press the meeting to present and discuss these improvements will have already occurred. There is still plenty of time for input as we will struggle to find a funding source to make these improvements, whatever they may be.

On another note I want to give kudos to our Chief of Police Carl Schinner for obtaining from the 1033 program a Humvee and two emergency generators. The Humvee will be used during inclement weather to access areas that cannot be reached by normal patrol cars. The generators will be used for backup power for the Police Station and Town Hall.

Finally, the La Plata Volunteer Fire Department will be having Fire Prevention Open House on Sunday October 26, 2014 from 12:00 Noon until 4:00 pm at the fire station at 911 Washington Ave. Look for Sparky, McGruff, free hot dogs, sodas and water, fire truck rides, and other demonstrations and information focused on fire prevention.

I look forward in hearing from you so we can try and solve our future issues together. Please feel free to contact me at [lgilroy@townoflaplata.org](mailto:lgilroy@townoflaplata.org), by calling Town Hall at (301) 934-8421 or by cell at (301) 653-1440.

### Councilman Joe Norris, Ward 4

It is hard to believe that fall is here already and the children are busy back in school. I hope you had the opportunity to attend some of our Friday Night Concerts. They have been well attended but there is always room for a few more people.

Our National Night Out in early August was

a great success. Many of the Neighborhood Watch Councils in town sponsored their neighborhood get togethers with food and games. The purpose of the National Night Out is for all of us to stand up against crime. If your neighborhood does not have a Crime Watch Council get in touch with Sgt. Bill Brooks of the La Plata Police Department and he will guide you through the process. He can be reached at (301) 934-1500 or [wbrooks@townoflaplata.org](mailto:wbrooks@townoflaplata.org). If you would like to attend a Crime Watch Council meeting to observe or learn more, they take place the first Wednesday of the month 7:00 P.M. at the La Plata Police Department on La Grange Avenue.

My family has been enjoying the fresh vegetables from the La Plata Farmers Market this summer. Stop in and see what they have to offer. They are in the Court House Parking Lot off Washington Avenue, and operate each Wednesday and Saturday starting at 8 A.M.

Please check elsewhere in this newsletter for upcoming fall events. I would like to mention a couple of the upcoming events: La Plata Fall Festival Sunday October 12 Noon to 3 P.M., Community Shred and Electronics Recycling, and our Salute to Veterans November 9 starting at 1 P.M. and ending at Town Hall. Also remember Daylight Saving Time ends November 2. A big thank you to Colleen Wilson for planning and putting together all of our events.

For information on all the activities in town visit our website ([www.townoflaplata.org](http://www.townoflaplata.org)). Also to help us get specialized information to you quickly please register your email with the town. Just send it to Carolyn Johnson at [cjohnson@townoflaplata.org](mailto:cjohnson@townoflaplata.org).

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

## BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED

### Commercial Building Permits issued 7/1/14-8/31/14

Office space – 113 Howard Street, Ste 201

Office space – 107 Centennial Street

### Commercial Occupancy Permits issued 7/1/14-8/31/14

Cosmetology – 600 Charles Street, Unit D

Shellac Nails & Spa – 80 Drury Drive

Charles County Volunteer Fire Association Inc – 109 La Grange Ave, #101

La Plata Pediatrics & Women's Health – 103 Centennial St, Ste C-

Southern Maryland Martial Arts & Fitness – 140 Drury Drive

Centerpiece Boutique & Design, LLC – 406 Charles Street Ste 100

White Glove Drug & Alcohol Testing, Inc. – 403 Charles Street, #3

# KENT AVENUE CORRIDOR BLOCK PARTY

The La Plata Police Department (LPPD) and its community partners held a block party at Caroline Park on Saturday, August 30, 2014. The Block Party was a big success! LPPD's community partners included Charles County Child Aid Society, Charles County Regional Medical Center, Lifestyles of Southern Maryland, Charles County Department of Social Service, Charles County State's Attorney's Office, Chick-Fil-a of La Plata, Greater Baden Medical Services,

Carroll La Plata Village/La Plata Grande Gardens, Charles County Chapter of the NAACP, Mary's Pantry at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Charles County Sheriff's Department and the La Plata Public Works and Planning Departments.

During the event, our community partners handed out backpacks full of school supplies, provided needed food items to include 20 pallets of fresh produce and cereal, conducted medical screenings and referrals, and

provided legal resource referrals and information on other topics from school lunch programs to childcare assistance.

During the event over 500 hotdogs, 400 bags of chips, and 200 snow cones were prepared by LPPD and LPPD Explorers. Chick-Fil-a provided many gallons of tea for our guests. A large waterslide and moon bounce kept the children and some adults busy.



## MAYOR VICTOR B. BOWLING, JR. (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

War. He returned to Charles County, got married and settled down. He opened Vic's Service Station on Washington Avenue where he dispensed Sinclair gasoline for several years. As his family grew he sold the station and opened Vic's Magic Wash Laundromat which he successfully ran for over 30 years until he retired. He was also a salesman for Motrol Electric Corp. and was partner in the Bow-Mar Carwash in La Plata.

He joined the La Plata Volunteer Fire Department in 1943, serving as a fireman for a number of years when manpower was short due to World War II. He was later inducted into the Southern Maryland Volunteer Fire Association's Hall of Fame. But his greatest love and devotion to service was to the Charles County Rescue Squad.

He joined the Rescue Squad in 1952, becoming one of the County's first EMTs and maintained an active relationship with the Squad until his health no longer permitted. Before the squad had officially formed he ran emergency calls with other local teens by helping to transport people in need to the hospital. Affectionately known as "Uncle Vic," he shared his knowledge and expertise training generations of new squad members for over 50 years. He responded to over 10,000 calls during his years of service and received recognition from many sources including the Mayor of La Plata, the La Plata Town Council, the Charles County Commissioners, the Maryland Senate, the Governor of Maryland, The United States Congress, and the President of the United States. He was awarded the status of "Squad man Emeritus" and proudly displayed the first Life Rescue service license plate issued by the state of Maryland on his truck until the day he died.

## Town Hall Closed

The Town Hall will be closed on the following days:

- |                     |                                    |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Veterans Day</b> | <b>Tuesday, November 11, 2014</b>  |
| <b>Thanksgiving</b> | <b>Thursday, November 27, 2014</b> |
|                     | <b>Friday, November 28, 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,

Jeremy D. Hurlbutt

Director of Operations: Robert F. Stahl, Jr.

Director of Public Works:

Jeffrey S. Garner

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.

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Household hazardous waste collection is on the first Saturday of each month, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the parking lot of the Charles County 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 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



CHARLES COUNTY  
HOUSEHOLD  
HAZARDOUS WASTE  
COLLECTION

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.*

## Loose Leaf Pick Up Schedule

The Town of La Plata Public Works Department will be offering loose leaf collection from October 13, 2014 to December 12, 2014. The crews will be picking up this year on the same schedule as last year, so there will be no

need to contact the Town Hall for pick-up service. The Town would like to ask our residents to support our going green program by mulching your leaves and using it to fertilize your yards. For our residents who wish to bag their leaves, the pick-up will be on our yard waste schedule of Mondays and Fridays.

The loose leaf pick up schedule will be as follows and is subject to change:

October 13, 2014 – October 17, 2014 and November 10, 2014 – November 14, 2014

Kings Grant, Agricopia, Quailwood, Port Tobacco Road, West Hawthorne Drive and adjacent side streets.

October 20, 2014 – October 24, 2014 and November 17, 2014 – November 21, 2014

St. Mary’s Avenue, Oak Avenue, Washington Avenue, Charles Street, Hickory Ridge and adjacent side streets.

October 27, 2014 – November 7, 2014 and December 1, 2014 – December 12, 2014

Clarks Run

There will be no pick-up on Tuesday November 11, 2014 and the week of November 24, 2014

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Public Works Department at (301) 934-8421 or [mtrollinger@townoflaplata.org](mailto:mtrollinger@townoflaplata.org).

## Trash Collection Schedule Adjustment

### If your regular trash collection day is:

Tuesday, November 11, 2014

Thursday, November 27, 2014

Friday, November 28, 2014

### Special Pick-Up

Monday, November 3, 2014

### Yard Waste Pick Up

Friday, November 28, 2014

### Recycling

Wednesday, November 12 may be delayed or not picked up until Thursday, November 13.

Wednesday, November 26 is a regular recycling pick up day.

### Loose Leaf Collection

See complete schedule listed above.

### Trash will be picked up on:

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Wednesday, November 28, 2014

Wednesday, November 28, 2014

# OCTOBER 2014

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

			1 Crime Watch Council meeting; 7:00 p.m. Design Review Board meeting; 9:00 a.m. Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	2	3	4  Farmers Market; 8:00 am to 3:00 p.m.
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5  Fire Prevention Week Oct-5-11	6 Yard Waste Pick Up Special Pick Up; Call before 4:00 p.m. on 10/3 to be put on list	7 Planning Commission Meeting; 7:00 p.m.	8  Farmers Market; 8:00 am to 6:00 p.m. Parks and Recreation Commission; 5:00 p.m.	9	10 Yard Waste Pick Up	11  Farmers Market; 8:00 am to 3:00 p.m.
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12  Fall Festival; noon to 3:00	13 Columbus Day Loose Leaf pick up begins see page 4 for schedule	14 Town Council work session; 7:00 p.m.	15  Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Design Review Board Meeting; 9:00 a.m.	16	17 Yard Waste Pick Up	18  Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
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19	20 Yard Waste Pick Up Beautification Commission meeting; 4:00 p.m. 	21 Town Council work session; 7:00 p.m.	22  Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	23	24 Yard Waste Pick Up	25 Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Harvest Halloween Party; 10:30 to 12:30 Shred Event; 8:00 a.m. to noon
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26 LPVFD Open house; noon to 4:00 p.m.	27 Yard Waste Pick Up	28 Town Council Business meeting; 7:00 p.m.	29  Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	30	31  Trick or Treat; 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	
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# NOVEMBER 2014

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

## November is Municipal Government Works Month



1

Farmers Market;  
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



8

Farmers Market;  
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



15

Garden Club Holiday  
Design Show  
11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Farmers Market;  
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



22

Holiday Bazaar  
and Bake Sale  
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Farmers Market;  
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



29



2

Yard Waste Pick Up

Special Pick Up,  
call before 4:00 p.m. 10/31  
to be put on list

3

Planning Commission  
Meeting; 7:00 p.m.

4

Design Review Board  
meeting; 9:00 a.m.  
Crime Watch Council  
meeting; 7:00 p.m.  
Farmers Market;  
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

5

Yard Waste Pick Up

6

7

9



10

Yard Waste Pick Up

11

Town Hall Closed  
Veterans Day  
No trash pick up,  
pick up 11/12

12

Farmers Market;  
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Parks and Recreation  
Commission meetings  
5:00 p.m.  
Recycling may be delayed  
Trash pick up from 11/11

13

14

Yard Waste Pick Up

16

Yard Waste Pick Up

18

Town Council  
Work session; 7:00 p.m.

19

Design Review Board  
meeting; 9:00 a.m.  
Farmers Market;  
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

20

21

Yard Waste Pick Up

23/30

24



25

Town Council  
Business meeting;  
7:00 p.m.

26

Trash Pick up for  
11/27 & 11/28  
Recycling picked up  
as usual

27

Thanksgiving  
Town Hall closed  
Trash pick up 11/26

28

Town Hall closed  
Trash pick up 11/26

Yard Waste Pick Up

Farmers Market;  
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Fill out the 2014 Summer Concert Survey and be entered to win a prize!

Your opinion matters to us and the Town wants the community to have an enjoyable experience so please take a few moments and tell us what you think. Complete the survey and include your email or name with phone number by October 13 and you will be entered to win a prize. Four winners will be randomly selected. The electronic version of the survey is available on the Town's website under the Events page and paper copies are available at Town Hall. Thank you to all who came out to enjoy a great concert season!



Special thank you to Chick-fil-A of La Plata for providing the meals for the bands and raffle prizes each week.

## LA PLATA Fall Festival

Sunday October 12th: 12 noon to 3 PM

Live entertainment from the Sara Gray Band

Craft and food vendors

Petting zoo

Pedal cars

Art tent for kids

Vote for your favorite Scarecrow at the Charles County Chamber of Commerce Booth



### Calling all Creative Pumpkin Carvers!

This year for the first time at The Town of La Plata's Fall Festival, we are asking you to bring your completed, amazing, creatively carved pumpkin, to represent yourself, your family, a school, or a group; to be in the running for a prize!

Please only bring one entry per person, family, or entity.

Prizes will be awarded for first place through honorable mention, and crowd's favorite too. Register today to let us know you will participate – send your name, phone number & email, and title of their pumpkin entry to Colleen Wilson, Special Events Coordinator at [cwilson@townofaplata.org](mailto:cwilson@townofaplata.org) or (301) 934-8421.

This is a family event, so please keep your subject clean for young children. We reserve the right to remove any pumpkins that we think are questionable from the contest.

The contest winner will be announced at 2:40 pm. You must be present to win. Please be sure and collect your pumpkin at the end of the contest, or it will be sent to the compost pile. We can't wait to see what you come up with!

### HARVEST HALLOWEEN PARTY

Stop by the Town Hall on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm for the Harvest Halloween Party. Come in costume and enjoy crafts, snacks, and treats for the little ones.

## Community Shred and Electronics Recycling

Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> from 8 am to 12 pm  
La Plata Town Hall  
305 Queen Anne Street

#### Help Prevent Identity Theft

Dispose of your personal documents and recycle unwanted electronics in a safe and secure manner.

**Free document shredding on site.** Residents and businesses may bring up to 4 file boxes of personal papers for shredding.

**Get rid of your unwanted electronics** – cell phones, radios, CD/DVDs, etc. can be recycled for no charge.

Please see list of accepted and prohibited items on the Town's website. There is a fee associated with certain electronic items.

For more information please visit [www.townofaplata.org](http://www.townofaplata.org) or call 301-934-8421.



## Town of La Plata Holidays 2014

### Olde Tyme Holiday Gathering

Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 3 pm to 6 pm

Celebrate the season with music, children's activities, refreshments, horse-drawn carriage rides, and visit from Santa. The full event schedule will be posted on the Town's website soon!

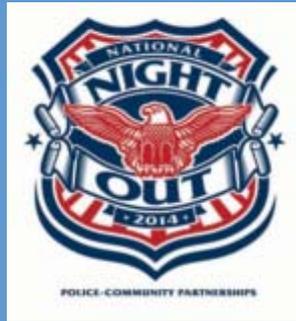
### Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>

4 time slots: 8-8:45 am, 9-9:45 am, 10-10:45 am and 11-11:45 am (25 kids per slot)

Town residents can register for time slots starting Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> and general public registration will open Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. To register, call Town Hall at (301) 934-8421.





Thank you to all the communities for making the 2014 National Night Out a success!



## PRESS RELEASE



### Corporal Michael Payne Receives Maryland Traffic Safety Specialist Award

Corporal Michael Payne received the Maryland Traffic Safety Specialist I Award from the Maryland Highway Safety Office during an awards banquet in Linthicum, Maryland. Corporal Payne is the first La Plata officer to earn the honor.

The Maryland Traffic Safety Specialist (TSS) Program is a statewide initiative recognizing police officers, troopers and deputy sheriffs who have attained distinctive levels of experience, education, training and proficiency in Highway Safety and Traffic Enforcement methods and procedures.

Currently, there are over 780 officers enrolled in the program, representing 66 law enforcement agencies throughout Maryland.

The TSS Program is a collaborative initiative of the Maryland Highway Safety Office, the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association, the Maryland Sheriffs' Association, and the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions (MPCTC).

The program is administered by MPCTC, and is funded through a grant by the Maryland Highway Safety Office, as part of Maryland's Strategic Highway Safety Plan. The TSS Program is overseen by the TSS Executive Committee.

## LA PLATA GARDEN CLUB

The La Plata Garden Club will host their annual Holiday Design Show on Saturday, November 15, 2014. This event will be held at Grace Lutheran Church, 1200 Charles Street, La Plata, MD from 11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. This year's Floral Designer is Teresa Godfrey, AIFD who owns Floral Innovations in Silver Spring, MD. Teresa (Terry) has worked as a freelance designer for many of the premier event designers and florists in the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area since 2001 and also currently teaches at the Washington Flower School. The Floral De-

sign presentation will start at 1:00 pm. The show will have a number of vendors with lovely and unique items for sale just in time for the Holidays. In addition to the vendors the La Plata Garden Club will have a Shabby Chic table and Holiday Greens table with items for sale. The floral designs created by Terry will be raffled off at the end of her presentation. Tickets will be available for the raffle during the day.

Admission is: \$15.00 in advance and \$18.00 at the door. Admission includes Vendors,

Shabby Chic items, and light refreshments provided by the members of The La Plata Garden Club. For tickets or other information, contact Janice Clark at (301) 932-2911 or email [janiceclark8@verizon.net](mailto:janiceclark8@verizon.net) or Gingie Winkler at (301) 934-9069 or email [jeanmwinkler@aol.com](mailto:jeanmwinkler@aol.com).

We hope to see many of you at this year's show. For information about our club please visit our website at: [laplatagardenclub.org](http://laplatagardenclub.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:

The larger recycling container on wheels has enabled me to recycle more.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- I did not request a larger container yet
- I don't recycle

## August Website Poll Results

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

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

- 0 – 20% - 7%
- 21 – 40% - 20%
- 41 – 60% - 27%
- 61 – 80% - 13%
- 81 – 100% - 33%

The majority of La Plata's property tax revenue comes from residential properties. With

72% of the revenue attributed to residences and 28% to non-residential property, La Plata is a community that relies heavily on the support of its residents. When a community is mostly supported by the people that live within the community, the elected officials recognize that the costs of service delivery are borne at home. Therefore decisions to change services, or add to the service offered to the community are mostly locally financed. Fiscal decisions tend to be more conservative, and the government representatives look toward the residents for support for added service expense.

The portion of revenue that comes from non-residential property is partially borne by people from outside of La Plata's borders. While the business owner still pays a property tax, and they may be residents as well, their customer base is made up of residents and non-residents. The more non-residents that make up the customer base, the higher the percentage of revenue that comes from outside of the community.

In practice, two things need to happen for a given cost of government services to be reduced on the community. First, the overall percentage of local government revenue

from non-residential property should increase. Second, business revenue should pull from areas surrounding the community, to lower the reliance on residents of the Town. In La Plata, there has been a trend toward a larger percentage of property tax revenue coming from non-residential property. At 28% today, non-residential property tax revenue has increased over 5% since 2007. This is due in part to declining residential property assessments.

To take advantage of revenue from outside the community, a government should seek non-residential development that attracts people from outside of the community, to pull dollars into its own. In addition, residents should choose to spend their dollars locally, so they are not pulled out of the community for the benefit of other areas.

## 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.

### Emergency Generators

During the tornado the Town found that major power outages caused problems with critical infrastructure throughout the Town, and the Town has been working to add emergency power generation since that time. The Police Department had been sharing a portable generator which could be moved from the Police Station to sewage pumping stations if they were in need. The use of portable generators enabled the Town to be flexible with providing emergency power, when power outages occur in parts of the community. In the event of a major power outage, some items could go without power until a generator could be moved to their location. This process has been beneficial for the Town to conserve funding, instead of having many dedicated generators costing tens of thousands of dollars each.

The Town has acquired two generators through the Federal Government's 10-33 program. The program provides surplus military equipment to local governments at no cost. Utilizing the program saves the Town about \$40,000 for each generator acquired, depending on the size. One of the generators is dedicated to the Police Station for emergency power generation, the other is a portable generator able to power Town Hall or sewage pumping stations. Now with the generators from the 10-33 program, the Town will be better equipped for major power outages.

Adding to the generators the Town had purchased before, every major utility need, the Police Station, and Town Hall will be able to operate in the event of power outages. The remaining need is dedicated power backup to the Town's Public Works facility. If possible, the Town will utilize the federal government's excess inventory to meet that need, saving La Plata taxpayers money and meeting the emergency preparedness goals of the community.

## Open House at La Plata VFD



The La Plata Volunteer Fire Department will hold their annual Fire Prevention Open House on Sunday, October 26 from noon until 4 pm at, 911 Washington Ave.

There will be Fire Safety Videos and literature, Fire Extinguisher Demonstrations, Fire Truck Rides, an Automobile Extrication Demonstration (Come see the Jaws of Life in Action).

There will be guest appearances from McGruff the Crime Dog, Sparky the Fire Dog, the Chick-fil-A Cow and The Washington Redskins Cheerleaders.

Come spend the afternoon at your local Fire Station and enjoy some refreshments while you are there, it's all free. See you there!

## COMMUNITY POLICING

We hear the term “community policing” frequently. But what is community policing? How is it defined? More importantly, how does it manifest itself into the daily routine of the police officers who the public interacts with on a daily basis? According to the Department of Justice, community policing is defined as “a philosophy that promotes organizational strategies, which support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques, to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime.” This is quite the textbook answer!

Across the United States law enforcement executives from La Plata to Baltimore and Los Angeles to Jacksonville can tell you how many calls for service their departments responded to last year, how many crimes occurred and the agency’s overall crime clearance rate. Although these numbers tell a story, for agencies that embraced a community policing philosophy, have fostered relationships with community partners and have taken a proactive problem solving approach to crime and quality-of-life issues, what these executive cannot quantify is how many crimes did not occur. Moreover, they cannot tell you how many calls for service the department did not have to respond to because a holistic approach to a problem resolved the matter at its source. Though they are impossible to quantify, the best statistics in law enforcement are the ones that do not occur.

To provide an example of an unquantifiable statistic, suppose a local area has an issue with

driving while intoxicated collisions. The local police department could proactively have officers patrol for vehicles that are driven by individuals who exhibit the driving habits of an intoxicated motorist. If the officer stops a vehicle and makes a DUI arrest than no one will ever know if a serious or fatal motor vehicle collision would have occurred had the intoxicated driver proceeded further up the roadway. This is a great unquantifiable statistic, right?

The answer to the above is yes and no. A community policing approach would have included proactive enforcement; however, this requires officers to spend more time on the highways and less time in neighborhoods and business districts. Enforcement should just be one prong in a multipronged plan that would enlist the assistance of various community partners. Education would be the second prong. This would take place by having a law enforcement partner ensure that liquor establishments are not over serving patrons. This effort would be carried out by the local liquor board. Education efforts might also include social media blasts to alert the community of the problem. The educational prong might also include having members of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) discuss responsible drinking and driving at a local community college, home owner association meetings, and at a business owners breakfast. Although the plan would be more complex, the overall goal is to eliminate the behavior altogether, thus leading to a plethora of unquantifiable statistics to include motor vehicle collisions, DUI arrests, and

reduced number of calls for other incidents involving intoxicated individuals.

The La Plata Police Department is committed to taking a holistic approach in problem solving crime and quality-of-life issues that includes increasing citizen interaction and fostering and strengthening partnerships with a variety of groups and organizations. It is our goal to build and strengthen bridges with all members of the community we serve.

Municipal police departments have a unique opportunity to be a positive influence in the community its officers have sworn to protect and serve. Recently, the La Plata Police Department held a block party with some of its community partners. These partners included the Charles County Child Aid Society, Charles Regional Medical Center, Lifestyles of Southern Maryland, Charles County Department of Social Services, Charles County State’s Attorney’s Office, Chick-Fil-a of La Plata, Greater Baden Medical Services, Carroll La Plata Village/La Plata Grande Gardens, Charles County Chapter of the NAACP, Mary’s Pantry at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Charles County Sheriff’s Department, and the La Plata Public Works and Planning Departments. There will be more block parties planned in the future.

The purpose of the block parties is to improve communication and meet the needs of the community, while fostering trust with the community’s most visible stewards of government, the men and women of the La Plata Police Department. It is our pleasure to serve and protect all those who live, work, trade, and visit the Town of La Plata.

The La Plata United Methodist Church will have a Holiday Bazaar and Bake Sale November 22, 2014, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

The church is located at 3 Port Tobacco Rd., La Plata MD 20646. Local crafts will be featured - come to purchase the unique gifts for the difficult people on your list. Delicious baked items prepared by members of the church will be for sale to enjoy or stock up for the holidays. Breakfast and lunch foods will be sold in the kitchen, recycled holiday decorations and used books will be for sale and door prizes will be drawn during the entire event. Rental craft tables/spaces are available. Contact: [msvance79@comcast.net](mailto:msvance79@comcast.net) for rental applications. Profits from this event will finance the United Methodist Womens’ mission outreach projects.

## 2014 CITIZEN SURVEY

The last Citizen Survey was conducted in 2012. The results of these surveys are very important in helping the Town Council plan for the future, service delivery, and budgeting.

A randomly selected group of 1,200 Town of La Plata residents will receive the National Citizen Survey questionnaire. The questionnaire will be asking for feedback on the quality and usefulness of Town services. Residents who receive the survey are encouraged to complete and return it. Prenotification postcards will be delivered the week of October 15, 2014 with the 1<sup>st</sup> wave of surveys being delivered the week of October 22, 2014. The second wave of surveys will be delivered

the week of October 29, 2014. Surveys will need to be completed and mailed back not later than November 26, 2014.

“This citizen survey is a convenient and effective way to enhance communication between the Town of La Plata and citizens who can’t come to meetings, but vote, pay taxes and make decisions for their families,” said Mayor Roy Hale, “I encourage everyone that receives a survey to complete it and make sure your government knows what you want as a resident.”

# Smoke Alarms at Home

**SMOKE ALARMS ARE A KEY PART** of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.



### SAFETY TIPS

- » Install smoke alarms inside and outside each bedroom and sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
- » Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- » It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds they all sound.
- » Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- » There are two kinds of alarms. Ionization smoke alarms are quicker to warn about flaming fires. Photoelectric alarms are quicker to warn about smoldering fires. It is best to use both types of alarms in the home.
- » A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- » People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- » Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

### FACTS

- ❗ Smoke alarms should be installed inside every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level. Smoke alarms should be connected so when one sounds, they all sound. Most homes do not have this level of protection.
- ❗ Roughly 2 out of 3 fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or the alarms are not working.



 Your Source for SAFETY Information [www.nfpa.org/education](http://www.nfpa.org/education)  
NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

# Fall Craft Fair

Saturday, October 11, 2014

9 AM to 2 PM

La Plata Volunteer Fire Department

911 Washington Ave., La Plata, MD

Door  
Prizes

Vendors

Kids  
Table

Raffles

\*Hosted by LPVFD Ladies Auxiliary\*

\*No Admission Fee\*

However, a \$1.00 donation is Appreciated

For further information, please email

[lpvfdlacraftfair@yahoo.com](mailto:lpvfdlacraftfair@yahoo.com)

# CUB SCOUT GOOD TURN FUN RUN at Tilghman Lake



Sunday, November 9, 2014

Tilghman Lake  
(10598 Box Elder Road)  
La Plata MD

Pre- Race Activities: Pick up your bib and teeshirt at the main pavilion as early as 7:30am.

Race will begin at 9am!

Grab your Pack, Troop, Den, Family,  
Friends and Co-Workers for a FUN RUN!!  
How many laps can you complete in 1  
hour??

\*\*\*Sign up with a team of 5 or more and receive a \$5 discount per team member! FOR REGISTRATION AND MORE INFORMATION, visit WEBSITE TO PAY/REGISTER!! PARKING WILL BE AT LAUREL SPRINGS PARK ADJACENT TO TILGHMAN LAKE.

Registration:  
Individual Adult  
Participants Fee:  
\$35 Adults

Scouts and Seniors  
(65 and older) \$15



# TOWN OF LA PLATA

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

## Town of La Plata "Salute to Veterans" Parade Sunday, November 9th at 1 pm

Join us to honor the men and women of the US Armed Forces. The Salute to Veterans Parade starts at 1PM at the Courthouse on Charles Street in La Plata. Parade registration form is available at the Town's website under the Events page.

Bring the kids, and come enjoy an old-fashioned, hometown parade!

