

# TOWN NOTES

*News from La Plata Town Hall*



## MAYOR'S CORNER

Summer is over and it is back to school and work for most of our residents. Fall is a bright time of year for many outdoor activities before winter arrives once again.

As you move about Town you will notice improvements made to our streets and roads. Oak Avenue has new sidewalks, improved storm water management systems and new asphalt. A Safe Route to Schools grant will permit the completion of the sidewalk on the west side of Oak Avenue beginning at Martin's Crossing. The grant was issued by the State of Maryland and the state highway administration will complete the work. Restriping of Heritage Green Parkway has improved traffic on this busy road. A paved pathway from Tilghman Lake Park to Route 488 and a hiker biker path from the entrance of the park to Radio Station Road will improve access to the park. An upgrade to the pier and physical fitness stations are also scheduled for Tilghman Lake Park.

The traffic situation in La Plata has been addressed several times in this column and I will continue to do so because it is the number one complaint I receive. La Plata is similar to many communities with a limited number of roads and a heavy influx of traffic

Continued on page 3

## Trick or Treat Evening

Trick or Treat evening in La Plata is **Saturday, 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.*



## Captain Wayne Wathen retires

The La Plata Police Department would like to wish a very happy retirement to Wayne Wathen. Wayne has dedicated the last 30 years of his life protecting and serving the citizens of Maryland. Twenty-seven (27) of those years with the La Plata Police Department.



TownofLaPlata



LaPlataPD

## COUNCIL COLUMN

### Councilman Lynn Gilroy, Ward 3

It is hard to believe that here we are approaching fall again so quickly. Where did the summer go?

I hope everyone enjoyed themselves at all the venues we had at Town Hall which included all the concert's and the children's shows during the week days. Mostly all of our concerts had great attendance. Our staff does a great job of organizing all of our events and we hope that will see you at all the ones this fall.

As most you have noticed Oak Avenue has been completely repaved and new sidewalks and storm water piping replaced. There was some residents that was inconvenienced for a few days but the end result was well worth it. Hats off to our Public Works staff for the hard work.

We have been advised that we are in receipt of a Community Park and Playground Grant for improvements to Tilghman Lake. This grant will cover the installation of exercise stations, shoreline restoration, and installation of a floating dock. Great job to our staff in the preparation of this grant.

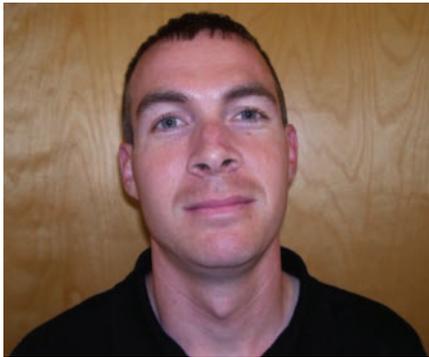
As we go to press we wish all of our best to Lieutenant Wayne Wathen of our police department in his retirement. Wayne has given us all 30 years of outstanding law enforcement service to our town citizens and businesses. His knowledge and dedication will be missed but his retirement is well deserved.

As Wayne leaves we welcome our new police officer Philip Thompson. He comes to us after receiving his law enforcement training and we wish him well as he starts his new career with us.

Mark your calendars for upcoming events in the town that are within this Town Notes and also on our website. The La Plata Volunteer Fire Department will be having a Fire Prevention Open House on Sunday October 25, 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.

## NEW EMPLOYEES



### Philip Thompson

Philip Thompson is the newest member of the La Plata Police Department. He has been a Maryland resident for nearly all his life. In 2005, he received his high school diploma from Chesapeake High School in Anne Arundel County and then went on to graduate from Liberty University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice in 2009. Immediately following graduation, Philip entered the Maryland State Police Academy and

became a Maryland State Trooper.

In his free time he enjoys fishing and any type of outdoor sporting activity. An interesting fact about Philip is that while in college, he ran 3 separate 50k ultra marathon (over 30 miles each) trail races through the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia. More than anything, he loves spending time with his wife and two little boys.

Philip said, "My life's journey has now brought me to La Plata, MD. Ever since the first time I drove into this town, I felt like I was home. Out of all the places I could have been a police officer, the Lord has placed me here and I couldn't be more eager to serve. I look forward to serving the citizens of this town as a La Plata Police Officer".



### Glen Welch

Glen Welch joined the Public Works Department in July as a Public Works Tech. I. Glen was born in Fredericksburg, Va. and raised in Charles County, Md. He is a 2012 graduate of La Plata High School. In his spare time, Glen enjoys hunting, fishing, and playing baseball.

## 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.

### Bullet Proof Vest Grants

The Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP), created by the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 1998 is a unique U.S. Department of Justice initiative designed to provide a critical resource to state and local law enforcement.

While relatively low dollar, the vest grant provided two new vests this year, when the Town purchased two. The investment is a simple one for local governments to make, in order to keep their officers safe, with the latest vests. All La Plata officers on the street are required to wear bulletproof vests. The new vests are used to replace existing vests that were made under older styles.

Whether the dollars received from other sources than tax dollars in the millions, like a sewer plant upgrade, or a little over a thousand like the vest grant, La Plata employees are on the lookout for more ways to provide service to the community as efficiently as possible.

## BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED

### Commercial Building Permits issued 7/1/15-8/31/15

- 5720 Washington Avenue – 2 story office building
- 500 Charles Street – UMCRMC – rehab exam rooms
- 200 Kent Avenue – office space
- 40 Drury Drive – Walmart – interior renovation

- 5 Garrett – UMCRMC – interior renovations
  - 204 Washington Avenue – interior improvements
  - 68 Drury Drive – interior expansion
- ### Commercial Occupancy Permits issued 7/1/15-8/31/15
- 54 Drury Drive – Sports Clips Hair Salon

## LA PLATA POLICE DEPARTMENT IN THE COMMUNITY

Community Partnerships are very important. A retiring LPPD cruiser was donated to the University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center to give its security staff greater mobility. The vehicle will serve the community well, by providing security to the hospital campus.



### Town Hall Closed

The Town Hall will be closed on the following days:

- Wednesday, November 11, 2015**
- Thursday, November 26, 2015**
- Friday, November 27, 2015**

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

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)

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

especially in the morning and late afternoon hours. Three of our principal routes, Washington Avenue, Charles Street and Route 301 are either county or state controlled. CSX Railroad, of course, owns the railroad track that bisects Charles Street. With the shared responsibility for traffic issues, extensive coordination is required even on minor recommended corrections.

A major road improvement planned for La Plata for many years is the La Plata Parkway that would run from Willow Lane to Heritage Green Parkway including an at-grade railroad crossing. The intent of this parkway is to relieve some of the traffic congestion from Charles Street in the downtown area and from Washington Avenue. This new roadway is part of the Heritage Green Annexation Agreement and the responsibility to build this road rests with the developer. Approved over twenty years ago this development has not commenced operations and therefore the road remains a critical yet unfilled need for the Town. The Town Council will study alternative solutions on an ongoing basis and in the interim we must be good citizens in our driving habits and be especially cognizant of our pedestrian traffic. School is back in session so that means we must be constantly aware of stopped school buses embarking or debarking our children.

Our Friday Night Concert Series is over for the year and it was, once again, a huge success. I know of no other event where so many people, of all ages, can enjoy an evening together in a friendly and open environment. Our Event's Coordinator, Colleen Wilson and the town staff that support her deserve a Well Done for another outstanding season. There are many more events planned for the remainder of the year so check the town's web site for further information.

Have a great fall.

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

# 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.



CHARLES COUNTY  
HOUSEHOLD  
HAZARDOUS WASTE  
COLLECTION

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Hazardous waste collection is held the first Saturday of the 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. Items accepted free of charge include pesticides, herbicides, fertilizer, gasoline, motor oil, antifreeze, oil based paint, cleaning supplies, pool chemicals, batteries, 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 pick ups 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:

Wednesday, November 11, 2015  
Thursday, November 26, 2015  
Friday, November 27, 2015

### Special Pick-Up

Monday, October 5, 2015  
Monday, November 2, 2015

### Recycling

Wednesday, November 11 pick up as scheduled  
Wednesday, November 25 pick up as scheduled

### Loose Leaf Collection

See complete schedule on page 10

### Trash will be picked up on:

Thursday, November 12, 2015  
Wednesday, November 25, 2015  
Wednesday, November 25, 2015

## Code Corner

### Rental Licenses

If you are renting a house, an apartment, or part of your home, it must be inspected and licensed. Renting a property that has not been inspected or licensed may increase the liability of the property owner in the event of an incident with a renter. All rental dwellings, dwelling units, and rooming units, let or rented for human habitation, shall be licensed and regulated in accordance with chapter 155 of the Town Code to ensure the protection of the health, welfare, safety, and morals of persons residing in those units and rooms.

No person shall let or rent for human habitation any dwelling, dwelling unit, or rooming unit unless its owner possesses a current operating license issued by the Town for that specific dwelling. Operating licenses are issued for a period of two years from the date of issuance.

If you suspect a property is being rented without a license, contact La Plata's Manager of Inspections, James Yates at [jyates@townoflaplata.org](mailto:jyates@townoflaplata.org) or (301) 934-8421.

## Don't forget November 1, 2015



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS**

**Set Clocks  
back one hour**

# OCTOBER 2015

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Loose leaf pick up begins 10/12/15 see page 10 for complete schedule.



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

4



Fire Prevention Week  
begins 10/4-10/10

Yard Waste Pick Up

Special Pick Up  
(please call by 10/2 to be  
put on list)

5

Planning Commission  
meeting; 7:00 p.m.

6

Design Review  
Board meeting;  
9:00 a.m.

Farmers Market:  
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Crime Watch Council  
meeting; 7:00 p.m.

7



Parks and Recreation  
Commission meeting;  
10:00 a.m.

Farmers Market:  
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

14

8

Beautification  
Commission  
meeting; 10:00 a.m.  
Yard Waste Pick Up

9



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

10



17



Fall Festival;  
noon to 3 p.m.

Yard Waste Pick Up

Columbus Day

Loose Leaf Pick  
Up begins

11

12

13

Mayor and Council work  
session; 7:00 p.m.

14

15

16

Yard Waste Pick Up



24

Yard Waste Pick Up

Mayor and Council  
Business meeting;  
7:00 p.m.



21

Design Review Board  
meeting; 9:00 a.m.

Farmers Market:  
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

22

Yard Waste  
Pick Up

23

Harvest Halloween Party;  
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



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

Community Shred and  
Electronics Recycling;  
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

25

26

27



28

Farmers Market:  
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

29

30

Yard Waste Pick Up

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

31

Trick or Treat  
6:00 p.m. to  
8:00 p.m.



La Plata Volunteer Fire  
Department Open House

Yard Waste Pick Up

# NOVEMBER 2015

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



Daylight Savings  
(fall back 1 hour)



Veterans' Day Parade;  
1:00 p.m.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Yard Waste Pick Up Special Pick Up (please call by 10/30 to be put on list)	Yard Waste Pick Up	Planning Commission meeting; 7:00 p.m.	Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. 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. Recycling Pick Up as scheduled	Yard Waste Pick Up	Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
Veterans' Day Parade; 1:00 p.m.	Yard Waste Pick Up	Mayor and Council work session; 7:00 p.m.	Veterans' Day Town Hall Closed Trash Pick Up will take place on 11/12 Recycling Pick Up as scheduled	Trash Pick Up from 11/11	Beautification Commission meeting; 10:00 a.m. Yard Waste Pick Up	Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. La Plata Garden Club Holiday Design Show	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
Yard Waste Pick Up	Yard Waste Pick Up	Mayor and Council work session; 7:00 p.m.	Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Design Review Board meeting; 9:00 a.m.	Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Yard Waste Pick Up	Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
Yard Waste Pick Up	Yard Waste Pick Up	Mayor and Council business meeting; 7:00 p.m.	Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Recycling Pick Up as scheduled Trash Pick Up for 11/26 & 11/27	Thanksgiving Town Hall Closed No Trash Pick Up, Pick Up will be 11/25	Town Hall Closed No Trash Pick Up, Pick Up will be 11/25	Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Shop La Plata	
29	30	<p><b>Save the Date!</b>                      Olde Tyme Holiday Gathering                      Sunday, December 6th</p>					
Yard Waste Pick Up	Yard Waste Pick Up						

## SPECIAL EVENTS

Fill out the 2015 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 16 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 and to Joann Worden and Dan Merrick for manning the food trailer.



## FALL FESTIVAL

Sunday October 11th: 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

## HARVEST HALLOWEEN PARTY

Stop by the Town Hall on Friday, October 23 from 5 pm to 7 pm for the Harvest Halloween Party. Come in costume and enjoy crafts, snacks, and treats for the little ones.



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

Come out on Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> 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 are available on the Town's website or contact [cwilson@townoflaplata.org](mailto:cwilson@townoflaplata.org).

## Town of La Plata Holidays 2015



### Olde Tyme Holiday Gathering

Sunday, December 6th 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 12th

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 4<sup>th</sup> and general public registration will open Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. To register, call Town Hall at (301) 934-8421.



## COMMUNITY POLICING INITIATIVES

The La Plata Police Department provides a wide range of Community Policing Initiatives to serve the citizens and business owners of the Town. From insuring a child safety seat is installed correctly to conducting a business survey to help a local business owner understand how to minimize thefts, LPPD is committed in taking a holistic approach to problem solving and community relations. Listed below are a few of the Department's Community Policing Initiatives:

- **HOME AND SMALL BUSINESS VACATION CHECKS:** The La Plata Police Department wants you to have an enjoyable and worry-free vacation. Whether you're planning a trip to beach, the mountains or attending a business conference in Vegas, the La Plata Police Department will conduct a daily house/small business check while you are out-of-town. If something looks out of place, the officer will contact you by email or cell phone.
- **CHILD SAFETY SEAT INSPECTION/INSTALLATION:** The La Plata Police Department performs child safety seat inspections to help ensure that seats are being used correctly. These inspections are done by appointment only. We recommend that the primary caregiver of the child be present. Appointments may take up to 90 minutes, depending on the number of car seats being used.

- **RADAR TRAILER:** Throughout the course of the year, the La Plata Police Department receives dozens of complaints about speeders, mostly in neighborhoods. In an effort to make La Plata's roadways safer, the Department has two RADAR trailers to set up in neighborhoods throughout the Town. The Department's newest unit will provide the number of vehicles, speeders, and the timeframes when the most violations occurred.
- **RIDE ALONG PROGRAM:** The La Plata Police Department Ride Along Program is designed to help educate the community about what the police department does daily, and to help residents become familiar with the officers and the department. The program is intended to develop partnerships with the community through interaction. The Ride-Along Program is designed to foster a better understanding of the challenges, hazards, and rewards of being a police officer in the La Plata community.
- **HOME/BUSINESS SECURITY SURVEYS:** Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, or CPTED (pronounced sep-ted), is a crime prevention philosophy based on the theory that proper design and effective use of the building environment can lead to a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime, as well as an improvement in the quality of life. The La Plata Police De-

partment provides a free home/business security surveys. We will come to your home or business and provide recommendations on security improvements that may reduce the chances of becoming the victim of a burglary or theft.

- **SAFE INTERNET TRANSACTIONS:** In a proactive effort to safeguard our citizens, the La Plata Police Department is welcoming the public to the police department to close their online transactions in a safer way. The public can take advantage of the department's lobby or parking lot to meet and handle their online transactions. In addition, La Plata Police officers will be available to stand by to increase both a buyer's and seller's sense of security.

Along with our commitment to the personal safety of both the buyer and seller, the La Plata Police Department is also committed to ensuring the transactions are free of stolen merchandise. With this, La Plata police officers will be available to check serial numbers against the State of Maryland and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) computer database to ensure every item is clear and not wanted or stolen.

For more information about any of these programs or to schedule a home security survey, ride along, or any of the other Community Policing Initiatives please give us a call at (301) 934-1500.

## BLUE RIBBON PROJECT

The Blue Ribbon Project is an Annapolis-based nonprofit that works with abused and neglected children, raises public awareness of child abuse and neglect, and acts as a support network for survivors of child abuse, child sexual assault, and foster care. The La Plata Police Department in collaboration with the Blue Ribbon Project, Charles County Sheriff's Office, Charles County Department of Social Services and the Charles County Foster Parent Association kicked off the Backpacks of Love Program here in Charles County on Friday, August 7 with the delivery of 72 backpacks to the La Plata Police Department to be distributed by law enforcement to children entering



foster care. Anyone interested in donating backpacks and supplies for the backpacks

should contact the Blue Ribbon Project through <http://blueribbonproject.org>.

## WEBSITE POLL

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

Select the option that best describes adequate employment opportunities for young adults in La Plata. Young adults in our family are \_\_\_\_\_

- all gainfully employed.
- employed, but not to their potential.
- working part time.
- looking for work.
- continuing their education in place of work.

### August Website Poll Results

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

New employment opportunities in La Plata would benefit the community?

- Strongly Agree - 88%
- Somewhat Agree - 6%
- Neither Agree nor Disagree - 2%
- Somewhat Disagree - 0%
- Strongly Disagree - 3%

The 2010 census showed that about two thirds of Charles County residents commute outside of the County for work.

With many people commuting to Washington DC, area military bases, and nearby counties, La Plata often gets questions about whether the Town will bring more employers to the area.

Like most local governments, La Plata does not bring employment to the community directly, although employment opportunities are a goal of the Town. Deciding to locate a business, whether an office use, retail, restaurant, manufacturer, or others is made by the employer themselves. The primary role that local government plays in employers choosing to locate in a community revolves around land use.

Local governments with land use control like La Plata determine zoning for all property within the community during a comprehensive zoning process. That public process determines which land homes may be built on, which land can have businesses, and which land may have a mixture of homes and businesses. The complexity of this will vary from local government to local government. La Plata, for example, has 14 different base zoning categories and seven of those allow for business uses within them. Any business may purchase land within those areas and as long as they comply with the zoning, construction, and related approvals; they may start their business and employ people from the area.

Often residents let elected officials know that they want a particular business to locate in the community. With zoning you cannot allow one business and restrict a business of the same type. Often people ask for more unique restaurants and fewer chains. The zoning for the Central Business district and the Commercial Highway district list a 'restaurant' as a permitted principal use. The Town does not determine the nature of that business; it is a decision of the market. If people choose to patronize one type of business over another, that will determine the success or failure of that business.

When it comes to providing employment, the Town operates in much the same way. Land is zoned to allow for employers to build their businesses in certain places. With the available land, if someone wishes to sell, and an employer chooses to build, new employers come to the community.

The decision of the local government comes with how much land is available for use in each zoning category. In La Plata, comprehensive rezoning last took place in 2009. During that time, the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Town Council agreed to create two new zoning categories for the Town which could

encourage employment. The Planned Business and

Enterprise District was a new zone created, to allow for land outside of the Central Business district and the Commercial Highway district to be a destination for employers. The Planned Redevelopment and Infill District Overlay Zone, was a new category that was allowed that could allow for a variation from base zoning in a few areas of Town. Since that time neither of those new zoning categories have been used to date.

A function of the changed economy has limited new business growth in the community, although the new zoning options are available. The other way that a local government could encourage new employers is through annexation, which would bring new land into the Town, which would have employment friendly land use associated with it. The majority of interest from land owners surrounding La Plata wanting to be annexed into the Town is for new residential development. Over the past ten years, there have been only two annexation proposals approved. They were both for commercial development, and one was overturned by a vote in 2014.

While land use regulations allows certain land in the Town to be available for new employers, it also limits the available land as well. Land that is zoned for residential uses limits employers from buying land in areas designated for homes and turning them into a commercial activity. La Plata's volunteer citizen Planning and Zoning Commission and elected Town Council have the responsibility of land use regulation to protect the interests of the existing community, while looking for opportunity to encourage desired employment areas as well.



## 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 govern-

ment 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 27, and will the display a flag with the logo MGW, "Municipal Government Works," to promote their local government.

## LOOSE LEAF PICK UP SCHEDULE

The Town of La Plata Public Works Department will be offering loose leaf collection from October 12, 2015 to December 11, 2015. 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 for fertilizer for 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 12, 2015 – October 16, 2015  
and November 9, 2015 – November 13, 2015

Kings Grant, Agricopia, Quailwood,

Port Tobacco Road, West Hawthorne Drive and adjacent side streets.

October 19, 2015 – October 23, 2015  
and November 16, 2015 – November 20, 2015

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

October 26, 2015 – November 6, 2015  
and November 30, 2015 – December 11, 2015

Clarks Run

There will be no pick-up on Wednesday, November 11, 2015 and the week of November 23, 2015

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

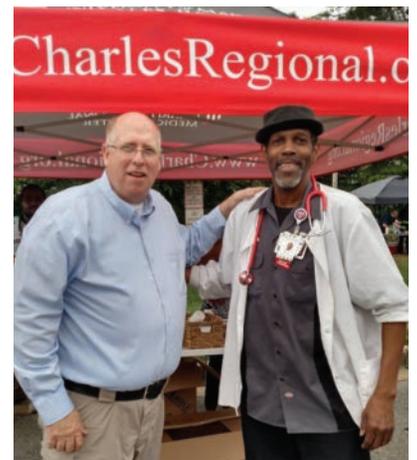


## KENT AVENUE BLOCK PARTY

On August 8, the La Plata Police Department in collaboration with its community partners held the Kent Avenue Block Party. A great time was had by all!

A big shout out to LPPD's partners: Charles County Children's Aid Society, Charles Regional Medical Center, Lifestyles of Maryland, Charles County Department of Social Services, State's Attorney's office of Charles County, Chick-Fil-A of La Plata, Carroll La Plata Village/La Plata Grande Gar-

dens, Charles County Chapter of the NAACP, Mary's Pantry at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Charles County Sheriff's Office, Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO), College of Southern Maryland, La Plata Business Association, Island Music, La Plata Baptist Church, Zoe Outreach Ministries, Charles County Humane Society, QCI Behavioral Health, Town of La Plata Department of Public Works/ Planning/ Inspections and Special Events.



## THE LA PLATA GARDEN CLUB HOLIDAY DESIGN SHOW

The La Plata Garden Club will host their annual Holiday Design show on Saturday, November 14, 2015. The 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 Carol Inskip, AIFD. Carol has been in the floral industry for 20 years and is currently serving as treasurer for the Southern Chapter of AIFD. Carol has selected "Holiday Transformations", as the title of her presentation. The Floral Design presentation will start at 1:00 p.m. This event will have many 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, Silent Auction Table, and Holiday Greens table with items for sale, some of the floral designs that Carol has created 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. For tickets or other information please contact the following: Linda Abbe (301) 934-9755

or [l.abbe@verizon.net](mailto:l.abbe@verizon.net); Barbara Evans (301) 934-3342 or [evansag@verizon.net](mailto:evansag@verizon.net); or Mary Paesch (301) 934-3786 or [mpaesch@comcast.net](mailto:mpaesch@comcast.net).

Admission includes Vendors, Shabby Chic items, and light refreshments provided by members of the La Plata Garden Club. La Plata Garden Club's website - <http://laplatagardenclub.weebly.com>.

We hope to see many of you at this year's show.

## TOWN EMPLOYEES AND ELECTED OFFICIALS SERVE ON VARIOUS ASSOCIATIONS AROUND THE STATE

In addition to regular job duties some of the Town's staff and elected officials serve on various associations around the state.

The Southern Maryland Municipal Association is comprised of municipal elected officials from the Southern Maryland Region. Known as SMMA the group meets bi-monthly at rotating towns to discuss issues facing each community. This year we are proud to announce that Councilman Joe Norris was elected President, Councilman Lynn Gilroy is Vice President, and Town Clerk Danielle Mandley is Secretary/

Treasurer of the organization.

The Maryland City/County Management Association, MCCMA is an association of professional local government managers in the State of Maryland. It is an affiliate of both the Maryland Municipal League (MML) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). During its annual conference Michelle Miner, Assistant Town Manager was elected Vice President and Daniel Mears was elected Secretary. Their terms run for one year.

The MML has a variety of committees that represent municipal issues across

the State. This year the Town's Director of Public Works Jeff Garner serves as a member of the Legislative Committee that reviews all legislation filed in the State of Maryland for municipal impact, and recommends new statewide legislation as well. Jeff also serves as Vice President of the Maryland Municipal Leagues Directors of Public Works Association. Governor Larry Hogan has also appointed Jeff to a two year term on the Maryland Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Authority.

## BATTERY RECYCLING

### Got Batteries?

Rechargeable batteries are a cost effective way to power all types of electronic devices. So what do you do with all your dead batteries, rechargeable or otherwise?

Recycle them! The Town Hall is a recycling station for your old AA, AAA, C, D, 9-volt, cell phone and button batteries. Bring your old, dead batteries into the Town Hall and place them in the designated container in the front lobby and we will do the rest. Please

don't throw your old batteries away in the trash. La Plata will make sure they are properly processed and don't end up in the landfill.

# 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.

## Community Shred and Electronics Recycling

Saturday, October 24th from 8 am to 11 am

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.townoflaplata.org](http://www.townoflaplata.org) or call 301-934-8421.

