

# TOWN NOTES

*News from La Plata Town Hall*



## MAYOR'S CORNER

As another year draws to a close and the Holiday Season is eminent, it is a good time to be a resident of this great town we call La Plata. Being the Mayor, I am expected to be the principal ambassador for the Town and I strive diligently to accomplish this important task. Truthfully, we are all ambassadors and it is evident when I represent the Town at many events throughout the year. People know about our Town and want to visit or move here on an expanding scale.

La Plata has many things to offer and this will promote some managed growth over time; however, we have still been able to retain the small town atmosphere that so many people want and expect. We strive to highlight the things that contribute to our small town atmosphere and work to overcome those issues that distract from this feeling. When asked, people have their individual preferences on what promotes a small town atmosphere, but some common themes prevail. Our community events are always at the top of the list. The recent Veterans Day Parade, with numerous participants and spectators, is more than just a patriotic event. It is a community coming together to demonstrate our strong bonds and our ability to unite behind an important cause: showing our respect for all our veterans both active and inactive.

On November 28<sup>th</sup>, the La Plata business community hosted the second Shop La Plata event. This event brought out residents and many others to shop our local businesses and provided an outstanding opportunity to highlight our great Town. The La Plata Town Council

Continued on page 3

## Stay in La Plata for the Holidays

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

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

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

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

*It's just around the corner...*

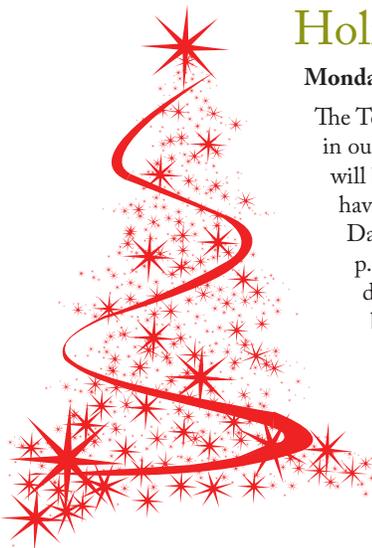
## Holiday Decorations Contest

**Monday, December 14 – lights on by 5:00 p.m.**

The Town's Beautification Commission will again be the judges in our annual Holiday Decorations Contest. All businesses will be considered, but individual homes must register to have their outdoor decorations judged in this contest. Call Danielle Mandley at the Town Hall (301) 934-8421 by 4:00 p.m. Friday, December 11 if you want your outdoor Holiday decorations to be judged. You may also register a neighbor's home that you believe should be in the contest.

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

- Residential – Traditional
- Residential – Whimsical
- Commercial



TownofLaPlata



LaPlataPD

# COUNCIL COLUMN

## Councilman Wayne Winkler, Ward 1

As we start to close out 2015 let me tell you a couple of reasons why I am proud to be a citizen of the Town of La Plata.

1. We are safe. In the Town we are represented by the State Police, the County Police and the La Plata Police Department. What more could you ask for. 7 day a week 24 hour protection. We also have the Safe Night Committee that represents many of the Home Owner Associations and tells their neighbors what is going on and to report any unusual activity in their neighborhood. Also, the La Plata Police Department will come out and do a safety audit of your house. Just give them a call and they'll be there.
2. Low taxes. Our tax rate is 32 cents on an assessed \$100 dollars but this year we get a 13.4 cents deduction on our County taxes so our tax rate is effectively only 18.6 cents on an assessed \$100.00. The Town gets the discount because we have our own Police Department, Public Works

Department, and supply our own water as well as treat our sewer. For that you have additional Police Protection, great trash collection, leaf collection, a state of the art Sewer Treatment Plant that does not pollute our rivers and streams, help from the public works department when you have a water or sewer problem and so much more that I can't think of all of it.

3. A state of the art water meter system. I have written before about our new water meters and how they help us but I finally got the experience to prove it. There was a leak at my mother's house that we (the family) did not know about. Well the La Plata meter system detected that 10 gallons of water was being used 24 hours a day. This is unusual and Public Works notified me after it ran consistently for 96 hours. Usually this means a toilet is leaking. I had plumbers check it and they found no problems. I called Public Works and they suggested I put dye in the toilet tank and if it showed up in the bowl that meant the flapper had deteriorated. Sure enough it showed up and I had the toilet

repaired. Over a period of time that saved an enormous amount of water and a large water and sewer bill.

4. We have a Beautification Committee that decorates the Town along with help from the La Plata Business Association and the La Plata Garden Club. We also have a Planning Committee that ensures all new construction follows all codes from the Town, County, and State. We have a Parks and Recreation Committee that constantly looks for improvements to our parks. Right now they are looking at putting in exercise equipment on some of our walking trails. We also have a Design Review Committee that reviews commercial signs and buildings so that La Plata will always have nice looking buildings as well as no sign clutter.
5. We have so much more to be thankful for but, my wife wants me to stop writing and rake leaves and put them by the road so Public Works will pick them up. Hope everybody has a wonderful and safe holiday season and that we all remember to keep Christ in Christmas.

# 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:



What is your main source of information about La Plata's Special Events?

- Town Notes Newsletter
- TownofLaPlata.org
- Special Events Brochure
- Town of La Plata Facebook page
- Town email list
- Word of Mouth
- Newspaper
- Other publications

## August Website Poll Results

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

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

	October 2015	June 2013
all gainfully employed. -	10%	2%
employed, but not to their potential. -	23%	14%
working part time. -	20%	0%
looking for work. -	20%	20%
continuing their education in place of work. -	26%	64%

When this question was first asked in June of 2013, the stagnation in our nation's economy had been in place for half of a decade. Unemployment levels indicated that it was hard to find work, and those with the least experience in the workplace were especially challenged to find employment. Two years later economists point to some signs of economic recovery. Unemployment rates are falling, the Fed talks about raising interest rates, and stock values have made gains from two years ago, despite recent losses.

It is still a difficult time in the nation's

economy. New home sales have slowly been picking up pace, lost property value has stabilized, but is not really increasing, many jobs that have been lost remain gone, and replacements are often in lower wage sectors of the economy. Companies are choosing to use the assets gained in their stock value to invest in technologies and efficiencies more than in people.

In this area, unemployment was not as significant as other parts of the country, due in large part to the economy being supported

Continued on page 11

# LA PLATA POLICE OFFICERS IN THE COMMUNITY

## La Plata Police Department Receives Two Traffic Safety Awards:

Lieutenant Michael Payne and Police Officer First Class Tommy Johnston were awarded the Washington Regional Alcohol Awareness Program's - Innovation in Traffic Safety Award and the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association's Traffic Safety Award.

Both awards were in recognition LPPD's Prevent the Mourning After 50 DUI Campaign. The holistic traffic safety initiative developed by Lt. Payne and PFC Johnston. on used public education through handouts at checkpoints and social media posts to remind the public of the dangers of impaired driving. The initiative also used saturation patrols in area areas of alcohol related collisions and prior DUI arrests.

Police chiefs and sheriffs from around Maryland, as well as other law enforcement commanders attended the awards ceremony in Ocean City.



Left to right Havre De Grace Police Chief Teresa Walter, LPPD Thomas Johnston, LPPD Michael Payne, La Plata Chief of Police Carl Schinner, and Washington County Sheriff Douglas W. Mullendore, President of the Maryland Sheriffs Association.

## TOYS FOR TOTS



The La Plata Police Department at 101 La Grange Avenue and the Town Hall at 305 Queen Anne Street will be drop off locations for Toys for Tots. If you would like to give please drop off a new unwrapped toy. All of the toys will be picked up by the Waldorf Jaycees and will be distributed by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve to less fortunate children in Charles County for Christmas. The last day to drop off a toy is December 18, 2015.

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

### Town Hall Closed

The Town Hall will be closed on the following days:

<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>Thursday, December 24, 2015</b>
<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>Friday, December 25, 2015</b>
<b>New Years Day</b>	<b>Friday, January 1, 2016</b>
<b>Martin Luther King's Birthday</b>	<b>Monday, January 18, 2016</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

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

### MAYOR'S CORNER

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

issued a proclamation making each weekend from November 28<sup>th</sup> to the end of the year a shop La Plata special occasion. I hope everyone takes this opportunity to visit our local businesses and demonstrate that we appreciate their willingness to locate in La Plata and we want them to be successful. Meeting friends and neighbors in a local restaurant and then exploring the Town is another way to expand our small town atmosphere.

Many charitable organizations are based in or near La Plata. Helping out those in need during the Holiday Season and throughout the entire year is another way to add to our community spirit. That is truly the foundation of a small town, helping others in times of stress and finding ways to expand our quality of live. I trust most will agree.

It is our youth that will inherit everything we accomplish, both good and not well, and we all strive to build a community in which they will want to live and raise their families. If a snap shot taken at our Veterans Parade is an indicator of our youth, we are definitely in good shape. Seeing so many young people participate and demonstrate their pride in our community and our country was uplifting and provides a strong basis for the future. We have something very special in La Plata and lets keep it that way.

I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a special Holiday Season. May the New Year be one of prosperity and a sharing of good will towards all.

As your Mayor, I look forward to your comments either 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.

## 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



CHARLES COUNTY  
**HOUSEHOLD  
HAZARDOUS WASTE  
COLLECTION**

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, 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:

Thursday, December 24, 2015  
Friday, December 25, 2015  
Friday, January 1, 2016  
Monday, January 18, 2016

### Trash will be picked up on:

Wednesday, December 23, 2015  
Wednesday, December 23, 2015  
Thursday, December 31, 2015  
Tuesday, January 19, 2016

### Recycling Collection

Recycling for Wednesday, December 23, 2015 will be picked up as scheduled.  
Recycling for Wednesday, December 30, 2015 will be picked up as scheduled.

### Yard Waste Pick Up Schedule Adjustment

There will be no Yard Waste pick up on:

Friday, December 25, 2015  
Friday, January 1, 2016  
Monday, January 18, 2016

### Christmas Tree pick up

Monday, December 28, 2015 until Friday, January 15, 2016

## BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED

### Commercial building permits issued 9/1/15-10/31/15

10200 La Plata Road  
CCNRC -rehab center  
68 Drury Drive  
expansion of kitchen & bathroom  
102 Centennial St, Ste100  
interior fit-out - office space

### Commercial occupancy permits issued 9/1/15-10/31/15

6560 Crain Highway  
Divo Grandos Tire Ctr  
95 Catalpa Drive  
Mary Kay Office  
200 Kent Ave, Ste 102  
Office of Public Defender



# JANUARY 2016

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

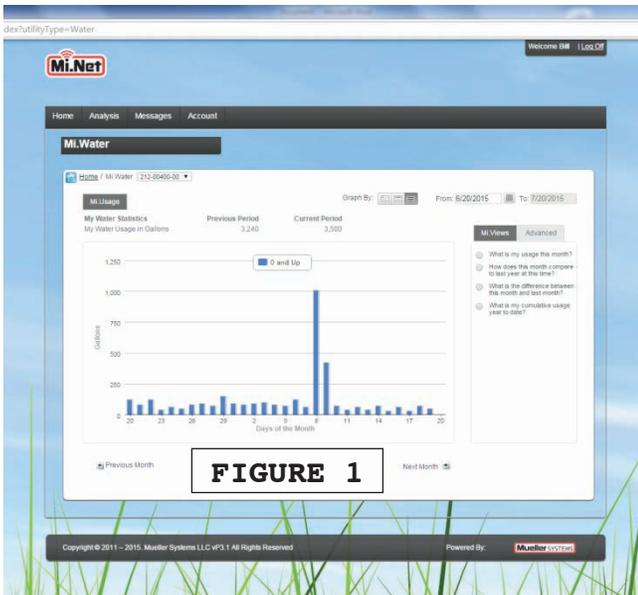


SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 New Year's Day Town Hall Closed No Yard Waste Pick Up No Trash Pick Up (pick up 12/31/2015)	2
3	4 Yard Waste Pick Up Special Pick Up (call 12/31/2015)	5 Planning Commission meeting; 7:00 p.m.	6 Design Review Board meeting; 9:00 a.m. Crime Watch Council meeting; 7:00 p.m.	7	8 Yard Waste Pick Up	9
10	11 Yard Waste Pick Up	12 Mayor and Council work session; 7:00 p.m.	13 Parks and Recreation Commission; 10:00 a.m.	14	15 Yard Waste Pick Up Christmas Tree Pick Up ends	16
17	18 Town Hall Closed No Trash Pick Up (pick up 1/19)	19 Mayor and Council work session; 7:00 p.m.	20 Design Review Board meeting; 9:00 a.m.	21	22	23
24	25 No Yard Waste Pick Up	26 Trash Pick Up from 1/18	27	28	29 Yard Waste Pick Up	30
31	Yard Waste Pick Up	Mayor and Council regular meeting; 7:00 p.m.			Yard Waste Pick Up	

# CONTROL YOUR WATER BILL

By: Bill Eckman

The Town has installed an Automated Meter Reading System for its water system. Each of the connections has a meter installed that records the amount of water that is used. Once a day each meter sends this data to an Operations Center in Massachusetts. The Center processes the data and



sends a report of how much water went through each meter the previous day to the Town every morning. The Town then uses this information to prepare the water bill that is sent to each user quarterly.

The operations center also sends an alert to the Town Public Works Department when the data seems to indicate that there is a leak. These alerts are only generated when a suspicious reading continues for at least four days. The Town then sends out a notice to the user, but the leak may have persisted for several days. When that happens, precious water is lost and the user may incur a significant bill for water they received, but never used. Individual users can arrange to have an alert sent directly to them by email within 24 hours of the time the leak occurs by taking advantage of the Customer Portal into the system.

After I set up my customer portal account, I found out that our household was using about 65 gallons per day. I set up my account so that I would be notified any time my consumption exceeded 100 gallons on any one day. On July 9, I received an email "WARNING - You have exceeded your water consumption threshold of 100 gallons per day on July 8<sup>th</sup>. Your consumption was 114 gallons." I looked at my account as shown in Figure 1. It was obvious there was a major leak somewhere. I found a problem with one of my toilets and immediately turned off the water. I called a plumber to repair it, and my consumption went back to normal as shown on Figure 2.

Just call the Town Hall on (301) 934 - 8421 and they will be glad to set up an account for you.



# SPECIAL EVENTS



## LA PLATA Fall Festival

The sun was shining and fall was in the air for the Town's Fall Festival on Sunday, October 11. The Sara Gray Band kept the crowd rocking while the children enjoyed craft activities and pumpkin decorating in the Art Smart Studio tent. The children also had a fun time in the moon bounces and visiting the petting zoo. Lots of crab cakes, popcorn, ice cream, and hot dogs were enjoyed by many and the craft/business vendors displayed their products for sale. The Charles County Chamber of Commerce sponsored the Annual Scarecrow Festival and people had the opportunity to vote for their favorite scarecrow at the Fall Festival. Thanks to all who came out to support the event!



## HARVEST HALLOWEEN PARTY

So many cute costumes at the Harvest Halloween party on Friday, October 23rd.



### Hawthorne Greene Event Mini-Grant Recipient

Hawthorne Greene hosted a First Responder Appreciation Gathering on November 4. Members of the Hawthorne Greene Community welcomed



*Bruce Fried thankful for these three First Responders who were part of the team who helped save his life when he had a cardiac arrest in August 2014.*

La Plata Police Officers, Charles County Sheriff's Officers, Charles County Department Emergency Services, La Plata Fire Volunteer Fire Department, and Charles County Volunteer Rescue Squad. Funds were awarded from the Town of La Plata's Neighborhood Event Mini-Grant for this event. A great time was had by all!



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

Thank you to all the parade participants especially the Veterans and service members who marched on Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Joann Worden and the volunteers for manning the food tent at the parade. Thank you for supporting our veterans!



# TOWN OF LA PLATA SNOW POLICY



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

## Snow Preparation Procedures

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

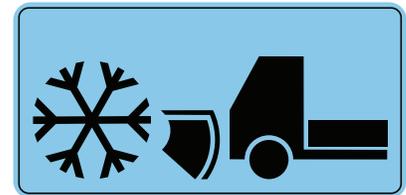


## Plow Routes

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

## Icy Conditions

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



## Sidewalks

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

## Parking

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

## Examples of Street designations:

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

## Snow Emergency Routes

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

## Mailbox Replacement Policy

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

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

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

## 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.

### LGIT Training Grants

The Town of La Plata is insured through the Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT). This organization specializes in the insurances need of local governments in Maryland. One of the best ways to keep insurance costs down is to pursue policies and practices that minimize the risk of loss. By having a low claims record, the Town can potentially see premiums paid to the trust, returned to the Town.

One of the ways that La Plata seeks to minimize its claims exposure is through adequate training of the Town's staff. Recently the Town applied for a grant to offset the cost of specialized training for its Police Department. The training grant was offered by the LGIT. After applying the LGIT Risk Management Committee met in September and the Town of La Plata's Training Grant application in the amount of \$3,057.76 was approved.

## Council Business Meeting TV Schedule

Council Business meetings are broadcast on Comcast Channel 99 and Verizon Channel 11 (CCCTV).

Tuesdays at 9:00 PM, Fridays at 8:00 PM, and Saturdays at 10:00 AM.

## EMPLOYEES HIGHLIGHTS



### Judy Bitzer

Judy Bitzer joined the Town of La Plata in September as a Receptionist/Cashier. She was born in Hartford, CT and raised in Windsor, CT. She retired from the United States Navy Reserve in 1996 as a Chief Aviation Storekeeper and went on to work for the Federal Government retiring in 2014 as an Information Tech-

nology Specialist. In her spare time she enjoys reading, spending time with family and friends, and working out with Southern Maryland CrossFit.



### James Vincent Buckles

James has lived most of his life in Suitland, MD and attended Forestville High School for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade. His Family moved to Ft. Washington where he attended and graduated from Friendly HS. James joined the United States Army in 1986 and was honorably discharged in 1992. He joined the Prince George's

County Police Department in October 1992 and served the citizens until retirement on September 30, 2015. James has an 18 year old daughter, Gabrielle, who is a college freshman at Stevenson University in Baltimore, MD. He is married to Sandra Sanna-Buckles and has 2 step sons, Nicholas and Jody. Some of his interests include bowling, to which he bowls in a Friday night league in Waldorf. He also enjoys bicycling and loves motorcycles.



## Siren Testing

The Town of La Plata will test early warning devices/sirens on **Saturday, December 5, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.** Testing is done twice per year in early May and early December. The testing lasts about a half hour. The tests consist of both siren alerts and audible notifications. The tests are conducted in conjunction with the Charles County 911 Communications Center, which controls and operates the system for the Town.

The devices are installed at the following locations:

- On Charles Street in front of the Charles County Courthouse
- On Curley Hall Road at the Town's Wastewater Treatment Plant (near Quailwood Subdivision)
- In Clarks Run Subdivision
- In King's Grant Subdivision
- On Shining Willow Way next to the La Plata Volunteer Fire Department

Emergency Management Officials remind you that in the event of a real emergency to stay tuned to local radio stations for more information, to have emergency supplies on hand - including a radio which can be operated during a power outage, and to know where the safe haven is in your home. It is everyone's responsibility to plan for an emergency.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Olde Tyme Holiday Gathering

**Sunday, December 6th  
from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm**

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

#### Schedule of Events

Lighting Ceremony  
3:10 pm

Horse Drawn Carriage Rides  
3:30 pm to 5:00 pm

#### Activities in the Tent

**Crafts for children  
3:00 pm to 6:00 pm**

Story time with the Charles County Public Library  
3:30 pm and 4:30 pm

Meet and Greet with Holiday Characters  
Gracie's Guys and Gals Show Troupe  
4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

#### Entertainment in the Council Chamber

John the Fifer  
3:20 pm to 3:45 pm

Valerie Holt, Sha'are Shalom  
3:50 pm to 4:00 pm

St. Maries Choral Arts  
4:00 pm to 4:35 pm

Southern Mix Barbershop Chorus  
4:45 pm to 5:10 pm

Holiday Sing-Along  
5:15 pm (outside)



**SANTA  
ARRIVES  
at 5:30 pm!!**

Refreshments served in the activities tent and in the atrium throughout the afternoon

## WEBSITE POLL

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

by federal employment and society support services like medicine and education which are all strong employers in the area. As recovery is happening, it is also slower to be seen here, than other areas that were harder hit. The local economy is less volatile than other places in our nation.

Dollars coming back into the economy through adding value and finding new customers is slow to reach government and government spending. The sources of government revenue like property taxes and income taxes have been slow to recover as property values remain flat, and wage growth is stagnant. Since government dollars are a driver of local investment, the impact is different here than in other parts of the nation.

While all of this is going on, the children of our community continue to grow up, graduate from school, and enter the workforce. From the snap poll results, there have been some gains in employment, however we are a long way from full employment for young adults. This is a challenging time to begin a career, and that leaves families with adult children at home longer and more pressure for young adults to look for employment far away from where they grew up.

As a safe, attractive, and welcoming place for people to live, La Plata is also a safe, attractive, and welcoming place to do business. La Plata is an economic and employment center for Charles County. In the latest data put out by Charles County Economic Development, private employment in La Plata's 20646 zip code was 7,301 paid employees, surpassing Waldorf's 20601 zip code with 7,209 paid employees (Waldorf is covered by three other zip codes with 6,328 employees, 5,409 employees, and 355 employees, so total employment in the entire Waldorf area of the County is much higher in total). Annual payroll in the La Plata zip code is also the highest in Charles County at \$273 million annually, with the Waldorf zip codes at \$227 million, \$226 million, \$157 million, and \$8 million.

Many of the businesses that have chosen to locate in La Plata do so to provide service to the residential population. Over time this will change as those with an entrepreneurial spirit will look to their hometown as a place to start a new venture to avoid the commute out of the County or to replace the income for lost employment. External forces can have a profound impact on this Town and the landscape for employment and business opportunities will change just as the economy continues to change.

## NEIGHBORHOOD EVENT MINI-GRANT



Time to start thinking about a way to get all your neighbors together for some fun – throw a block party, health fair, or neighborhood cleanup. Apply for the Neighborhood Event Mini-Grant today.

Town of La Plata Neighborhood Event Mini-Grant is designed to provide an opportunity for Town of La Plata residents to strengthen their neighborhoods through producing special events. The Town of La Plata

invites neighborhood associations and communities to submit the neighborhood grant application for review. There will be 5 grants awarded up to \$500 each. Deadline to submit application is March 11, 2016. Grant applications are available for download from the Town's website or email Colleen Wilson, Special Events Coordinator at [cwilson@townoflaplata.org](mailto:cwilson@townoflaplata.org) or (301) 934-8421 ext. 142. Do not apply for National Night Out activities, the Town will offer a grant opportunity specifically for National Night Out events in May.



# 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.

## TOWN POSTS SNOW EMERGENCY ROUTES

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



- \* Agricopia Drive
- \* Bath Drive
- \* Clarks Run Road
- \* Cornwall Drive
- \* East Patuxent Drive
- \* Fescue Circle
- \* Garrett Avenue
- \* Hawthorne Drive (between Rt. 301 and Washington Avenue)
- \* Heritage Green Parkway
- \* Hickory Circle
- \* Hickory Lane
- \* Kent Avenue
- \* La Grange Avenue
- \* Llano Drive
- \* Magnolia Drive
- \* Norfolk Drive
- \* Oak Avenue
- \* Oriole Lane
- \* Quailwood Parkway
- \* Queen Anne Street
- \* Redwood Circle
- \* Savanna Drive
- \* Shining Willow Way (between Rt. 301 and Washington Avenue)
- \* Somerset Street
- \* St. Mary's Avenue
- \* Suffolk Drive
- \* Wales Drive
- \* Wicomico Street
- \* Willow Lane

