

# TOWN NOTES

*News from La Plata Town Hall*



## MAYOR'S CORNER

**H**APPY FALL! I hope everyone is well and adjusting to our new virtual way of life. It seems as if it has been an eternity since we have been able to gather and see each other. I am looking forward to the day when we can all safely come together again to enjoy the great sounds and sights of La Plata. Rest assure, despite Covid-19, great things continue to happen in La Plata.

**GREAT NEWS** – The Town of La Plata has been very busy applying for grants. We are so pleased to announce that we are the recipient of several grants.

- The Maryland Heritage Area Authority awarded La Plata \$50,000 to implement a program to “Attract Tourists to the First Bird City in Maryland.”

- The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development FY21 Operating Assistance Grant Program granted the Town \$25,000 for the Downtown Revitalization Plan and Charles Street Streetscape Concept Design.

**NEW BUSINESSES IN TOWN:** Please welcome to La Plata the following businesses:

Burger M is in the Rosewick Shopping Center in the old Five Guys restaurant and Stingray Welding LLC is operating their business in the Baldus Office Building on Charles Street. Welcome to La Plata and we wish you much success with your new businesses!

**A FOND FAREWELL TO STEVE MURPHY:** Please congratulate Steve Murphy on his recent retirement from the Department of Public Works.

Continued on page 2

## Shop Small Saturday

American Express launched Small Business Saturday on November 27, 2010 as a way to encourage people across the country to support small, local businesses.

Fast forward to November 28, 2020 where you have the chance to shop your small, local businesses in La Plata the entire holiday season and beyond.



## 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.



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

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

He devoted 48 years of hard work, dedication, and excellence for the betterment of our Town. While he will be greatly missed by all of us in the Town, I am quite confident that he will find much happiness and joy in his retirement! Best of luck, Steve!!

**KEEP UPDATED ON WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LA PLATA:** La Plata is hopping – Our Staff has been busy welcoming new businesses to Town; processing multiple annexation requests; finalizing the Comprehensive plan update; and reviewing several major development proposals. As a resident of La Plata, I invite and encourage you to attend our virtual public meetings to stay engaged on issues and up to date on municipal decisions that impact our Town.

Agendas, schedules, and minutes for all public meetings are typically posted on the week before the meeting.

**Regular Council Work Session Meetings** – Held on the second and third Monday of each month. Work sessions are informal and intended to provide opportunities for Council to review material that will directly impact the Municipality, listen to presentations and/or concerns from applicants, study various issues, and gather and analyze information. No official actions are taken at these meetings.

**Regular Council Business Meetings** – Held on the fourth Monday of each month. The public is provided an opportunity and encouraged to speak during the Business Meeting on a resolution, ordinance, or public hearing.

**Planning Commission** – Held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm. The Planning Commission reviews applications, holds public hearings and will make recommendations to the Town Council on rezoning, Town code amendments, Comprehensive Plan updates, and other land use within the Incorporated Town limits.

**Other Boards and Commission** – For more information on times and dates of our other Boards and Commissions including Beautification Commission, Design Review Board, Historic Preservation Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission, or Board of Appeals, please visit our website at [townofaplata.org](http://townofaplata.org) or sign up to receive email notifications.

Receive email notification of meetings – If you are interested in being notified of any upcoming Town meetings, please contact Danielle Mandley, Town Clerk at (301) 934-8421 or by email at [dmandley@townofaplata.org](mailto:dmandley@townofaplata.org).

**THE TOWN OF LA PLATA NEEDS A FEW GOOD VOLUNTEERS:** Do you have a couple of free hours each month and are looking for a way to give back to your community? Why not consider serving on one of our several committees? We are looking for people to serve on several committees including Board of Appeals, Keep La Plata Beautiful, and Mainstreet Maryland. Please contact Danielle Mandley at [dmandley@townofaplata.org](mailto:dmandley@townofaplata.org) for more information. We need your help in shaping the future of La Plata!

**COVID-19 UPDATE:** Great news - We have now entered Governor Hogan's Stage 3 of the Roadmap to Recovery. In Stage 3, movie theaters and live entertainment can reopen at 50% capacity, or up to 100 people at indoor venues and 250 at outdoor venues and retail and religious facilities can increase their capacity to 75%. The Town continues to operate virtually with hopes of opening to the public soon.

Just a reminder, that although we are slowing opening up, that doesn't mean that this crisis is behind us. Please continue to stay vigilant and continue to practice safety measures to reduce COVID-19 exposure:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer of at least 60 percent alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough and sneeze with a tissue, dispose of the tissue, and wash your hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Your Town Council and Staff continue to work hard to make La Plata the premiere place to dine, shop, and live!

We would love for you to become part of this journey. If you are interested, please let me know. Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much. Please feel free to call my office at (301) 934- 8421 or send me an e-mail at [jjames@townofaplata.org](mailto:jjames@townofaplata.org) with any questions, suggestions, or concerns. Your opinion matters!

# COUNCIL COLUMN

## Councilman Matthew Simpson - Ward 1

There are several annexations, large and small that come before the Council and Planning Commission in the months of September and beyond. There will be no shortage for the final year of our term. Some of the annexations are small, single home additions due to failing septic or water needs, and they benefit from becoming citizens like you or I with the availability to them now of our infrastructure. Others before us loom large, in the hundreds of acres or impact. What I would ask of the citizens of the Town to look at it is the need for growth to improve everything from infrastructure to quality of services and shops. The Town needs to continue to grow to thrive and survive. I understand however the real desire to stay small, to stop growth, and to keep things as they are. Change is inevitable. Please help guide our decisions by recognizing that we will continue to try and balance the growth with the very real concerns you all have. Tell

us those concerns in a civil manner, and do not assume that because something will develop that it must be as the developer wants. Most of those seeking to come into Town want to work with the citizens already here to bring the best use and project. To that end, let us help them, for it only helps us. In some cases, the development will happen with or without annexation, building on the border of the Town, just a matter of which side. In these instances, I am a firm believer that the Town benefits by having various checks, controls, and oversight of the projects the County does not offer us. It also means revenue from a development and improved infrastructure from something that will bring its negatives no matter what. I look forward to hearing from you, and hope that you trust that the leaders you elected are working with information from all sides and weighing what is best for the Town, not always what the Town wants.

## Steve Murphy, Assistant Director of Public Works Retires After 48 years of Service



Steve Murphy started what would be a career with the Town of La Plata on August 20, 1972, just one day short of his last day employed as the Assistant Director of Public Works. Over the last 48 years Steve has done every aspect of work in the Public Works Department. Due to COVID

19 we couldn't send Steve off with a huge congratulatory celebration, but his immediate coworkers were able to have a social distance lunch and present Steve with various accolades. Mayor James sent Steve a message where she said, "I would like to personally congratulate you on your retirement. The Town of La Plata owes you a debt of gratitude for 48 years of hard work, dedication, and commitment. You have made our Town a better place!"

We all wish Steve the best in his retirement, he certainly has earned it!



## Maple Cottages Resident Turns 100!

Maple Cottages Resident Deanie Fairfax turned 100 on August 15th. The Maples community celebrated by going to her cottage to sing



Happy birthday and showered her with a cake, chocolates, a birthday balloon and a poster signed by all the residents.

### TOWN OF LA PLATA OFFICIALS

Mayor: Jeannine E. James

Council:

Matthew Simpson . . . . Ward 1

Brent Finagin . . . . . Ward 2

Emily Mudd Hendricks Ward 3

Paddy Mudd . . . . . Ward 4

Town Manager: Brent Manuel

Treasurer: Kevin Greenville

Assistant Town Manager:

Michelle D. Miner

Director of Legislative Services/

Town Clerk: Danielle Mandley

Police Chief: Carl H. Schinner

Director of Planning: Jeanine Harrington

Director of Operations: Robert F. Stahl, Jr.

Director of Public Works:

Jeffrey S. Garner

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. 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.

## 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.*

## Water or Sewer After Hours Emergency

If you have a water or sewer emergency, call (301) 932-3870 for Public Works and follow the instructions given to report your emergency. The automated response system will alert staff to respond to you.

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Household hazardous waste collection occurs on the first Saturday of each month from 9 am to 3 pm from April through December 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.



CHARLES COUNTY  
HOUSEHOLD  
HAZARDOUS WASTE  
COLLECTION

Items accepted free of charge include pesticides, herbicides, fertilizer,

gasoline, oil-based paint, cleaning supplies, pool chemicals, fluorescent lights, mercury thermometers, and other poisons found in the home. Please keep the materials in their original containers whenever possible, and bring them to the collection site in cardboard boxes to ease unloading.

Unacceptable materials include bio-medical waste (sharps, needles, anything with bodily fluids), latex paint, prescription drugs, and ammunition. Used motor oil, anti-freeze, propane tanks, and batteries are accepted on a regular basis at various collection sites. Latex paint is not considered hazardous waste and can be placed in your household trash as long as it is solidified. This can be accomplished by adding kitty litter, shredded paper, paint hardener, or sawdust to aid in drying it out.

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

## Commercial Recycling

Many of our La Plata businesses have asked for commercial recycling and now we are happy to announce that the Town of La Plata now provides recycling to our commercial customers.



Applications are available on the Town’s web site at [https://townofaplata.org/.../Commercial\\_Recycling\\_Application...](https://townofaplata.org/.../Commercial_Recycling_Application...) Locations will be inspected to determine that there is reasonable access.

Please contact Mary Trollinger at 301-934-8421 or email at [mtrollinger@townofaplata.org](mailto:mtrollinger@townofaplata.org) with any inquiries.

## Trash Collection Schedule Adjustment

### If your regular trash collection day is:

- Wednesday, November 11, 2020
- Tuesday, November 24, 2020
- Wednesday, November 25, 2020
- Thursday, November 26, 2020
- Friday, November 27, 2020
- Thursday, December 24, 2020
- Friday December 25, 2020
- Monday, December 28, 2020
- Friday, January 1, 2021

### Trash will be picked up on:

- Thursday, November 12, 2020
- Monday, November 23, 2020
- Tuesday, November 24, 2020
- Tuesday, November 24, 2020
- Tuesday, November 24, 2020
- Wednesday, December 23, 2020
- Wednesday, December 23, 2020
- Tuesday, December 29, 2020
- Thursday, December 31, 2020

### Yard Waste Pick Up

- Friday, November 27, 2020
- Friday, December 25, 2020
- Monday, December 28, 2020

- No Pick Up
- No Pick Up
- No Pick Up

# LA PLATA POLICE DEPARTMENT

## From the Desk of the Chief



At no time in recent history has it been more important for local law enforcement agencies to be partners with its community. These important partnerships include working with other governmental agencies, non-profits, faith-based organizations, the business community, special interest groups, homeowners' associations, and of course our residents. Over time efficient and effective law enforcement agencies become a part of the community's fabric.

When you pull a community thread from Lifestyles of Maryland's Summer Meals Plus Program, you'll find the La Plata Police Department's (LPPD) Stuff a Squad Car event printed in the fabric. The Stuff a Squad Car event each year collects sufficient food items to supply over 1,500 lunches to children and youth who may not have had a midday meal when school is out of session.

Pull a community thread from La Plata's largest healthcare provider, Charles Regional Medical Center (CRMC), and you'll find LPPD's public/private partnership officer, Jimmy Buckles' image. Officer Buckles staffs CRMC's emergency department forty-hours a week ensuring the safety of patients, doctors, nurses, medical technicians, and visitors.

When you pull a thread on community safety, you'll find LPPD's officers and administrative staff. However, you will also find printed in the fabric crime prevention initiatives such as Operation Prevent Porch Piracy, a program that allows residents and small businesses to have their holiday packages delivered to LPPD. This prevents losses from parcel thefts. LPPD's #9PMRoutine reminds our residents to lock their car doors and to close the garage every evening. As thefts from unsecured vehicles is a nationwide problem. Moreover, the threat also contains images of LPPD's home mini-grant program. The mini-grant program allows residents to purchase video systems for the exterior of their homes.

Pull a community thread from the Kent Avenue Corridor and you will find the images of the Kent Avenue Block Party where dozens of LPPD's community partners interact with residents providing medical screenings, school supplies, food items, important information, and a plethora of other services. Moreover, you are beginning to see this threat at the Dorchester Community Center (DCC). The DCC is an alliance between the Town of La Plata, La Plata Police Department, Lifestyles of Maryland, Haven of Rest Ministries, and Southern Maryland Sports and Learning

Center Association. The mission of the DCC is to bring about active participation of community volunteers in engaging youth in sports, mentoring, tutoring, and social and life skills development.

When you pull a thread for local care of foster children, you will find the images of the La Plata Police Department's partnership with the Blue-Ribbon Project-Backpacks of Love program. Anytime a child is placed in foster care in Charles County, a LPPD officer or one of our allied law enforcement partners will deliver an age appropriate backpack with clothing, hygiene products, school supplies, and an age appropriate toy or game. The backpack is delivered within the first few hours of placement to ease the trauma on the child and the workload of the foster parent.

These are just a few examples of how the La Plata Police Department is woven into the fabric of our vibrant and strong community. It is our goal as an agency to make the community stronger and united by being a part of everyday life in La Plata. Working with our community partners building an inclusive fabric that provides safety for all.

See you on the road!

Chief Carl Schinner

## Crime Solvers

The La Plata Police Department in partnership with Charles County Crime Solvers debuted its Crime Solvers cruiser.

Charles County Crime Solvers and local law enforcement work together to solve crimes and hold criminals accountable for their offenses. Crime Solvers offers rewards of up to \$1,000 for information that leads to the arrest or indictment of a person involved in criminal activity.

Have a tip, call 1-866-411-TIPS.



# LA PLATA POLICE DEPARTMENT

## 7th Annual Kent Avenue Corridor Block Party

On August 22 the La Plata Police Department hosted its 7th Annual Kent Avenue Corridor Block Party. Because of COVID-19, the event was drive-through/walk-through style.

Over 225 boxes of fresh produce, staple food items, school supplies, diapers/baby needs, pet food, and informational pamphlets were provided to members of the community. Hundreds of Frisbees and miniature footballs were given to local children and youth. LPPD provided everyone with a bagged lunch (hot dog, chips, water, and cookie). It was a great day of commUNITY! LPPD would like to thank our partners who came out for the day.



Town of La Plata

LifeStyles of Maryland, Inc.

Charles County Department of Social Services

Charles County Department of Health

Charles County, Maryland NAACP Branch #7016

Charles County Sheriff's Office

Maryland State Police - La Plata Barrack

Zoe Outreach Ministries, La Plata MD

Help For Pets in Charles County, MD

Catherine Foundation

Historical Willing Helpers Society

Dorchester Community Center

Rhema Worship Center

Haven of Rest Ministries

According to the Word Church



## Stuff a Squad Car Event

The La Plata Police Department's Stuff the Squad Car event held at the Safeway in La Plata on July 18 was able to donate needed food donations to Lifestyles of Maryland, Inc. for their Summer Meals Plus Program. Hoping to fill a couple of squad cars with food donations, but the generosity of Charles County residents was go great, they ended up filling the Lifestyle's bus.



## Beware of Porch Pirates

Package theft is at an all-time high, with 1.7 million packages stolen or lost every day in the U.S., according to researchers at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.



Operation Prevent Porch Piracy, a La Plata Police Department (LPPD) community policing initiative, is the agency's way of keeping your holiday season theft free. To prevent these thefts, LPPD is encouraging citizens to have online purchases delivered to the La Plata Police Department, 101 La Grange Avenue, La Plata, MD 20646. LPPD will accept packages from November 16, 2020 through December 22, 2020. LPPD will not accept delivery of any oversized, flammable, explosives, fireworks, or firearms. If you have any questions, please call (301) 934-1500.

# OCTOBER 2020

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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\* See page 10 for the full loose leaf pick up schedule.

# NOVEMBER 2020

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1	 Daylight Savings Time Begins	Yard Waste Pick Up					
2		Yard Waste Pick Up Special Pick Up call by 4:00 pm on 10/30	 Crime Watch Council Meeting; 7:00 pm Planning Commission Meeting; 6:00 pm				
3				 Farmers Market; 9:00 am to 2:00 pm			
4				 Town Hall Closed No Loose Leaf Pick Up No Trash Pick Up; Pick Up 11/12 Recycling as Normal Farmers Market; 9:00 am to 2:00 pm			
5					 Town Hall Closed Recycle as Normal		
6		Yard Waste Pick Up					
7				 Farmers Market; 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Household Hazardous Waste Collection			
8		Yard Waste Pick Up Town Council Work Session; 6:00 pm					
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\* See page 10 for the full loose leaf pick up schedule.

# DECEMBER 2020

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
		Planning Commission Meeting; 6:00 pm	Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting; 7:30 am		Yard Waste Pick Up	Siren Testing; 10:00 am Household Hazardous Waste Collection 
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Yard Waste Pick Up	Yard Waste Pick Up	Crime Watch Council Meeting; 7:00 pm	Design Review Board Meeting; 9:00 am		Yard Waste Pick Up	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Special Pick Up (call by 4:00 pm on 12/4)	Toy for Tots - Last Day to Donate 				Yard Waste Pick Up	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
First Day of Winter Yard Waste Pick Up	Recycle as Normal Trash Pick Up for 12/24 and 12/25			Town Hall Closed No Trash Pick Up; Pick Up on 12/23	Town Hall Closed No Trash Pick Up; Pick Up on 12/23 	
27	28	29	30	31		
Town Hall Closed	No Loose Leaf Pick Up No Yard Waste Pick Up	Christmas Tree Pick Up 	Recycle as Normal	Trash Pick Up for 1/1/21 	Town Hall Closed No Trash Pick Up; Pick Up on 12/31	



\* See page 10 for the full loose leaf pick up schedule.

# LOOSE LEAF PICK UP SCHEDULE

The Town of La Plata Public Works Department will be offering loose leaf collection from October 12, 2020 to December 18, 2020. The crews will be picking up per this schedule, 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 and Stormwater Management programs by mulching your leaves and using them to fertilize your yards.

## Mulching Leaves Benefits Everyone

Nutrients released from decaying leaves are a great fertilizer for lawns and gardens, but an unwelcome guest to storm drains, ponds, and streams. Leaves and yard debris in the street gets washed directly to lakes and streams via storm drains when it rains or clog inlets, ditches, and grates causing flooding and slow drainage. Additionally, rainwater running over the leaves in gutters and ditches make a nutrient-rich “tea” that runs to the streams and ponds through stormwater pipes promoting algae growth. The good news is that together we can take simple actions to keep leaves and nutrients out of our waters.

- **Mulch** - Mulch leaves directly on the lawn. Shredded leaves act as a natural fertilizer returning nutrients to the lawns making them healthier and naturally greener. If your lawn mower has a bagger, empty the shredded leaves on gardens, flowerbeds, or around trees and shrubs.
- **Compost** - Mix leaves (shredded or whole) with other compostable items and spread it on gardens next spring. It saves money and water, helps your gardens, and benefits the environment. If you don't have the room in your yard we do offer collection.



If you choose to have the Town collect leaves please be advised that:

**Leaves and yard waste should be placed at the edge of your yards or at the edge of street. They should NEVER be placed in gutters, inlets, or ditches.** This helps prevent flooding and improves the health of our local streams.

For our residents who wish to bag their leaves, that pick-up will be part of our yard waste schedule of Mondays and Fridays.

The loose leaf pick up schedule will be as follows, but is subject to change at any time:

October 12, 2020 – October 16, 2020 and November 2, 2020 – November 6, 2020  
Kings Grant, Agricopia, Quailwood, Port Tobacco Road, West Hawthorne Drive and adjacent side streets.

October 19, 2020 – October 23, 2020 and November 9, 2020 – November 13, 2020  
St. Mary's Avenue, Oak Avenue, Kent Ave, Washington Avenue, Charles Street, Hickory Ridge and adjacent side streets.

October 26, 2020 – October 30, 2020 and November 16, 2020 – November 20, 2020  
Clarks Run.

November 30, 2020 – December 18, 2020  
Final pickup of the entire Town.

There will be no pick-up on Wednesday November 11, 2020 or the of week of November 23, 2020.

There will be no loose-leaf pickup after Friday December 18, 2020, all leaves must be bagged after this date and will be picked up on the yard waste schedule.

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

Many La Plata residents may remember the stately old home “Argyle” which stood for over 100 years facing Rt. 6. just southwest of the current site of the United Methodist Church. The large Victorian era home incorporated features of Gothic architecture as well, blending the styles into a impressive seat for its builder and first owner General Lemuel Allison Wilmer. The original lot consisted of 21 acres, including land that had been part of La Grange. The property encompassed land that today houses the Deluxe Motel, the Mobile Gas Station, the United Methodist Church and land to the west of the church along Rt. 6’s south side.

Sadly, an effort to save the crumbling structure from development in the late 1990’s failed. Argyle was lost to La Plata, but not to history. The house was home to several prominent owners who devoted much of their lives to the service of La Plata, Charles County, Maryland and the United States.

Argyle was built in 1894 by General Lemuel Allison Wilmer, a Port Tobacco attorney who embraced the development of La Plata from its inception and worked with fellow attorney Adrienne Posey to guide the town towards becoming the new county seat. The 21 acre property was consistent with the trend towards mini-farms (farmettes) that characterized many of the earliest La Plata homes whose owners were not quite comfortable with totally abandoning the self-sufficient lifestyle of the family farm.



General Wilmer enlisted in the Maryland National Guard as a private in 1877, rising to the rank of Captain by 1880. After leaving the Maryland National Guard he was elected captain of the Howard Rifles. He developed the local militia company into a well respected unit known for their professionalism and marksmanship. They regularly performed exhibitions to enthusiastic crowds at La Plata events and eventually became part of the Maryland National Guard.



General Wilmer was the 16th adjutant attorney general for Maryland, the highest state court possible at the time. He was also appointed Assistant Attorney General by President Theodore Roosevelt, whom he served in Alaska. Not only did General Wilmer serve his town, county, state and nation, his son Harry White Wilmer also left an indelible mark on La Plata’s history.

Born January 20, 1890, Harry White Wilmer entered military service in 1914, apparently in while working as a lumberman in Canada. He joined the 21st Battalion at Kingston Ontario and was shipped to England for training.

While awaiting his deployment to the battlefields he wrote home to Argyle saying “I think of you and all ‘back home’ ever so often and while absent in body I am forever there in spirit.”

In 1916 he was awarded the Military Medal for Bravery in the field, by the King of England after volunteering to capture a hostile enemy trench. He succeeded in capturing and then commanding the holding of the trench for 24 hours “under most trying circumstances.”

Discharged by the Canadian forces by January of 1917, Harry enlisted with the American Army October 10, 1918. He became an Observer, flying in the seat behind the pilot’s seat in a Dehaviland DH-4 as part of the 20th Aero Squadron.



Just 8 days later while flying at 11,000 feet over the forest by Fay-en-Haye, German Lt. Leibfried and his crewman Vzfcie Trautman encountered the DH-4 while on patrol in their own fighter. They opened fire. The DH-4’s gas tank caught fire and the bi-plane rolled over, diving down quickly to just 600 feet. It managed to right itself and was heading back towards the American lines when it apparently encountered a German battery that riddled it with bullets, killing everyone on board.



Respectfully buried by the Germans at Barricourt, Ardennes, the bodies of the two men were eventually exhumed and moved to the Suresnes American cemetery in Suresnes France where they remain to this day, buried side by side. First Lt. Harry White Wilmer occupies Plot B, Row 17, Grave 3.

Argyle is now gone. Few will recall the many contributions to La Plata and the nation of its builder, Lemuel Allison Wilmer. While this Veterans Day may not be marked with a parade thanks to the pandemic, the La Plata Historic Preservation Commission hopes residents will note the name Harry White Wilmer on American Legion Post 82 on Crain Highway whenever they drive by and take time to remember the kind of service and sacrifice that has kept our nation strong and free for over 200 years.

# TOWN OF LA PLATA SNOW POLICY

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

## Snow Preparation Procedures

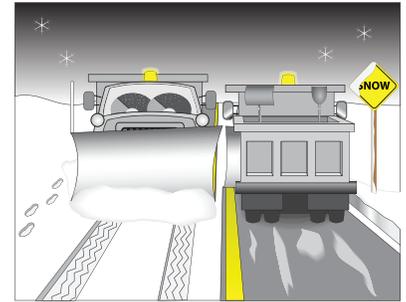
- Snow removal crews will be put into action at the call of the Director or Asst. Director of Public Works
- Snow removal will begin when 2–3 inches of snow has accumulated on roadways.
- Snow removal efforts will be ongoing during the event and will continue until all streets in the Town are cleared.
- 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 East Patuxent Drive Oriole Lane Shining Willow Way	St. Mary's Avenue Washington Avenue Heritage Green Parkway	Llano Drive Martin Drive	Baltimore Street Cecil Street Calvert Street Howard Street

## 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

# TOWN OF LA PLATA SNOW POLICY (CONTINUED)

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 \$50.00. 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.

## Snow Removal – What You Can Expect When It Snows

When it snows, Town and contracted crews concentrate on keeping primary Town roads and major residential neighborhood streets passable. These roads are cleared down to pavement as soon as possible after a storm is over.

Plowing generally begins when snow becomes 2 – 3 inches deep and the temperature indicates there will be no melting. Even after plowing, snow that has been hard packed by traffic often remains on the street, and the plows are unable to remove it completely. In this type of situation, a mixture of sand and salt is spread to provide adequate traction.

- It takes a minimum of 12 hours following the end of a 3" to 4" snowfall to plow and/or treat every primary Town road once.
- After a 5" to 7" snowfall, you can expect primary and major residential Town roads to be plowed within 18 to 24 hours.
- After an 8" to 10" snowfall, you can expect primary and major residential Town roads to be plowed within 24 to 36 hours.
- 15" of snowfall will require about 36 to 48 hours, and 24" of snowfall will require 48 to 60 hours.
- Please note, the type of snow (wet or powder) the temperatures and wind conditions following a storm can alter this schedule.
- In some cases, where snow is drifting and blowing, snow plows will concentrate on snow emergency routes and primary roads. This may decrease response time to residential or neighborhood roads.
- Please be patient, streets are plowed per their priority.

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

## TESTING OF EARLY WARNING DEVICES/SIRENS

The Town of La Plata will test early warning devices/sirens on **Saturday, December 5, 2020 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.

# MI.NET<sup>®</sup>

a **MUELLER** brand

## MI.NET<sup>®</sup> & RADIO FREQUENCY SAFETY Mueller Infrastructure Network for Utilities and Radio Frequency (RF) Safety

### BACKGROUND

Smart water meters were developed to improve conservation of a vital natural resource, increase the operational efficiencies of utilities and give consumers more control over their water usage. This is increasingly important given recent droughts and growing demands being placed on a water distribution system that is inefficient, outdated and in need of upgrade.

While smart metering has many benefits, certain consumer groups have questioned the long-term health effects associated with radio frequency (RF) transmissions generated by smart meters. The issue has been studied by a wide variety of government, industry and scientific organizations, including the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the Environmental Defense Fund and the Utilities Telecom Council. Their findings indicate that the RF transmissions generated by smart meters are as safe as those generated by other household appliances and devices, including microwave ovens, cellular phones and laptop computers.

According to the Environmental Defense Fund, “By making smart investments in a “smart” green grid, we can greatly reduce our use of dirty energy, improve air quality and the health of millions of Americans affected by dangerous air pollution, and advance our energy independence and economic growth.”

### THE MI.NET<sup>®</sup> SYSTEM

The Mi.Net<sup>®</sup> Mueller Infrastructure Network for Utilities, Mueller Systems’ advanced metering infrastructure system, is fully compliant with FCC guidelines governing RF transmissions. These guidelines were adopted in 1985 and are based on recommended guidelines published by the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements.

The Mi.Net System operates in the 900 MHz band. The 900 MHz system is a band used by multiple consumer and household electronics and the output power is closely regulated by the FCC. RF transmissions in this unlicensed band are typically far fewer than for many other devices. Additionally, the effective radiated output power of the Mi.Net System is one watt or less.

***For more information about Mueller or to view our full line of water products, please visit [muellersystems.com](http://muellersystems.com) or call Mueller customer service at 1.800.423.1323.***

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## KEY POINTS

- 1. RF transmissions decrease as the distance from the device increases.** A cell phone placed directly against a person's ear generates 5,000 uW/cm (micro-watt per centimeter) compared to 40 uW/cm generated from three feet away from a smart meter that is always on, (California Council of Science and Technology). In other words, a cell phone's RF transmissions are 125 times more powerful than a smart meter under these parameters.
- 2. Radio devices transmit RFs when they are in use, and a smart meter is in use only a fraction of the time compared to other household devices.** For example, the Mi.Net System transmits once a day for a fraction of a second, while a typical cell phone or laptop may be used almost continuously throughout the day.

## CONCLUSION

RF transmissions have been and will continue to be part of our daily lives, and it is important to separate fact from rumor. We appreciate the enormous amount of third-party research that has been conducted by government, industry and scientific organizations, which indicate that the RF transmissions generated by smart meters are as safe as those generated by other household appliances and devices.

According to the World Health Organization, "From all evidence accumulated so far, no adverse short- or long-term health effects have been shown to occur from the RF signals produced by base stations. Since wireless networks produce generally lower RF signals than base stations, no adverse health effects are expected from exposure to them."

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

*California Council on Science and Technology Health Impacts of Radio Frequency Exposure From Smart Meters*

<http://www.ccst.us/publications/2011/2011smart-final.pdf>

*Environmental Defense Fund What consumers need to know about the smart grid and smart meters*

*Federal Communications Commission Evaluating Compliance with FCC Guidelines for Human Exposure to Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields August* [http://transition.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Engineering\\_Technology/Documents/bulletins/oet65/oet65.pdf](http://transition.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Engineering_Technology/Documents/bulletins/oet65/oet65.pdf)

*World Health Organization Electromagnetic fields and public health*

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs304/en/index.html>

# TOWN OF LA PLATA

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

**A friendly reminder to FALL BACK!**

**Remember to set your clocks back one hour on  
Sunday, November 1st.**

