ISSUE 45

SPRING 2014



TOWN OF INDIAN HEAD

SMOKE SIGNALS

Town Happenings

A lot will be happening around Town this Spring! Come out and enjoy a few!

Town Meeting: Town Meetings are the 1st Monday of every month unless it happens to fall on a holiday. The Spring Town Meetings will take place on Mon. March 3 Mon. April 7 and Mon. May 5 at the Village Green Pavilion 7:30pm.

Community Activities Committee: Thurs. March 11, & Tues. May 13 7pm Village Green Pavilion. No meeting will be held in April.

Indian Head Business Association: Wednesday Mar. 12, Apr. 9, May 14 8:30am Dales Smokehouse.

Planning Commission: Wednesday Mar. 19 (Joint meeting with EDC), Tuesday Apr. 15, May 20, 7pm Village Green Pavilion.

Economic Development Commission: Wednesday Mar. 19 (Joint meeting with PC), Apr. 16, May 21, 7pm Village Green Pavilion.

Green Team: Thursday Mar. 13, Apr. 10, May 8, 7pm Back room at the Senior Center.



Charles County Sheriff's Office Annual Bike Ride: Saturday, Mar. 22, Village Green Pavilion. Check In: 9am, Start: 10am, Finish: 2pm. Registration fees: Individual $25, Family of 2 $40, Family of 3 $50, Family of 4 or more $15 each. Proceeds benefit United Way of Charles County & Spring Dell Center Inc. Registration forms will be available in the Town Hall or online at the site listed below. For more information call 301-609-4844 or visit www.unitedwaycharles.org Registration fee includes event backpack, lunch, and beverages. Helmets are mandatory for all riders. Rain date: Saturday Mar. 29.

Charles County Sheriff's Office Annual Crime Watch Kick-Off: Wednesday Mar. 26, 7:00pm, Waldorf Jaycees Hall. Public Welcome!

Children's Spring Party & Easter Egg Hunt: Sunday, April 6, 2pm to 4pm, Village Green Pavilion. Ages birth to 12 years accompanied by an adult. Cost: $2.00/all ages at the door. Includes lunch, carnival & guessing games, petting zoo, children's craft making, door prizes & Easter egg hunt. Photo with the Easter Bunny $1.00 each.





Town FY15 Budget Public Hearing: Thursday, April 10, 7pm. Village Green Pavilion

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner: Thursday, Apr. 24, 7pm, Village Green Pavilion.

2nd Annual Taste of Indian Head: Saturday, May 3, Village Green Park & Pavilion. A Family Day of Fun! Vendors include local restaurants, crafters, artisans, businesses, youth groups, and churches. Entertainment provided by the Black Box Theater, Hope You Dance, Doc Stevens Band, and other local talent. Reserve your food booth or indoor/outdoor space for only $20 with Pam Hundley 301-743-6777. If you would like to volunteer your talent or demonstration call Kay Cotton 240-508-0090. This even is co-sponsored by the Indian Head Business Association and the Town of Indian Head.

Bike to Work & Wellness Day: Friday, May 16, 7am to 11am, Village Green Pavilion. FREE ADMISSION & Fun for the whole family! Continental breakfast served 7am to 9am. Displays, handouts & giveaways, demonstrations, kid's color table, door prizes including new children's bicycles. Official Welcoming Ceremony at 9:45am. Picnic lunch served 10:30am to 11am, inside and outdoor porch dining available. Lively entertainment provided by the Charles County Senior Show Troupe, 10:15am to 11am. For more information call 240-375-4061. Register free at Biketoworkmetrodc.org



Memorial Day Ceremony: Friday, May 30, 11am, Village Green Pavilion. Complimentary luncheon served immediately following the Ceremony. Public Welcome! Monetary donations accepted at the door to benefit local families in need.



I.H. Village Green Flea Market: Saturdays, 7am to 1pm, May 10 thru Oct. 25. No market May 3 (Taste of Indian Head), May 24 (Memorial Day weekend), Jul. 5 (4th of July), Aug. 30 (Labor Day weekend). $7 wkly permit fee collected on site, bring own tables and chairs. NO pet sales/giveaways allowed. NO food sales without Town permit. More information call 240-375-4061

For additional information on Town events contact Karen Williams at 240-375-4061 or email karen@townofindianhead.org

Mayor's Message by Dennis J. Scheessele

Indian Head has experienced a surge in boarded-up buildings adding to the blight in town. I want to let you know what's being done about the blighted property in Town. I'm sure that all of you have noticed the boarded-up buildings and other blighted property in town, particularly along our "Main Street" (Indian Head Hwy). We have received many inquiries and complaints about the appearance of these properties and the horrible image and the bad impression that these properties present to our citizens and the visitors to our town and the Navy Base. The Town Council, the Town Manager, and the entire staff of the Town of Indian Head share your disgust with this situation. We have been working diligently to achieve satisfactory remediation of these properties. And I know you haven't seen any results yet. Now we have some progress to report.

We have started with the blighted properties along Indian Head Hwy and will continue with blighted properties throughout Town. The first four properties include the house at the corner of Poplar Avenue and East Poplar Avenue (near the Family Dollar store) and three properties along Indian Head Hwy, two between the Navy Base and Mattingly Avenue and one at the corner of Raymond Avenue and Indian Head Hwy. As you can see, we are starting at each end of Town and moving toward the middle.

Our primary tool to achieve remediation of blighted property is through code enforcement. This involves following "due process", which is following the procedures specified in our Town Code. That process is a legal process that involves multiple steps starting with sending letters identifying the violations and requiring corrective action within a specified time period, issuing citations with fines for failing to take corrective action, and proceeding to taking legal action, when necessary, to sue the property owner in court if corrective action still isn't completed. Each step has response periods associated with it for the property owner to take corrective action. This process is complicated if the property changes ownership along the way or if the property owner starts corrective action but stops before completing it. The reason for telling you a little about the process is to let you know that the process is neither simple nor short.

First, I will address the property on Poplar Avenue. In the course of going through the code enforcement process, the property changed ownership several times. Finally, our Town Attorney was able to track down the current owner, which is a bank, and arrange for a resolution. The bank has agreed to demolish the structure and regrade and re-establish the lawn. The bank has filed for and received a demolition permit and a grading permit. The structure has been demolished and the grading and seeding will be completed as soon as weather permits.

The three properties along Indian Head Hwy have been more of a problem. All three properties are owned by one person and he has resisted multiple attempts to get corrective action taken to resolve the code violations on all three properties. So, we have filed court cases for each of the three properties. The cases were scheduled for hearings on three different days, but the Town filed to have the three cases heard on the same day to minimize the Court's time and our court costs. The cases are currently scheduled to be heard during the third week of February. The Town is petitioning the Court to issue Consent Orders to require the property owner to remediate each of the three properties within a specified period of time. The Town Manager and the Town Attorney have been meeting with the property owner and his attorney to work out the details of the Consent Orders and to agree on the terms of the Consent Orders so that they can be filed with the court before the cases come up for their hearings. The Consent Orders have been finalized and filed with the court. If the property owner doesn't complete the corrective actions listed in the Consent Orders for each property by the respective deadlines, he will be held "In Contempt of Court" and be faced with incarceration and/or fines. We are hoping that the property owner will follow through with the corrective actions within the time periods specified in the Consent Orders.

We are also working to get the Super Fresh/CVS stores and the shopping center properties across Indian Head Hwy back into productive use. We have had three inquiries from business people and/or developers about bringing three new businesses to Town. We have referred each of them to the respective property owners or their representatives. Additionally, we have been in contact with the heirs to the shopping center properties to open discussions with them about their plans for those properties.

TOWN OF INDIAN HEAD OFFICIALS / BOARDS / PERSONNEL

Mayor
Dennis J. Scheessele

Council
Edward "Ed" W. Rice, Vice Mayor
Randy L. Albright, Councilman

Town Manager
Ryan L. Hicks

Planning Commission
Richard Allen, Chair
Thomas S. Blake, Sr.
Warren Bowie
Wayne Higdon
Bryan Leslie
Michael Pellegrino
Mary Thompson
William Rau, Base Liaison

Board of Zoning Appeals
Edward Joell, Chair
Rose Chase
Rickie J. Posey
3 Open Seats

Economic Development Commission
Peggy Palmer, Chair
Dave Dixon
Pam Hundley-Hayes
Mike Jones
Betsy Wallman
John Wheeler
2 Open Seats

Ethics Commission
Mark Hobgood
2 Open Seats

Town Hall Staff
Annie Brady, Town Clerk
Ginger Foster, Finance Officer
Diane Campbell, Deputy Finance Officer
Karen Williams, Community Affairs
PFC Elliot (#482),Community Police Officer
Richard Wilcher, Code Enforcement
Eric Woodland, Head of Operations
Calvin Barnes, Field Supervisor
EAST, Inc., Water/Wastewater

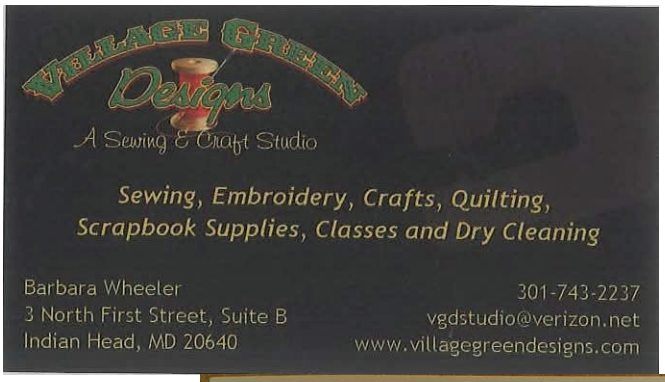
Town Website
www.townofindianhead.org

Mayor's Message Continued...

We are hoping to have face to face discussions with them in the next few weeks. Any one or, hopefully, all three of these potential businesses will provide much needed impetus to economic development in the Town.

The Town Council, Town Staff and I wish each of you a safe and enjoyable spring.

BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS





If you are interested in being featured in the business highlights section of the Smoke Signals please email a short write up to annie@townofindianhead.org. One to two businesses will be featured each quarter free of charge.

ATTENTION LOCAL BUSINESSES!

If you are interested in advertising in the Smoke Signals please email a business card size advertisement to annie@townofindianhead.org 10 to 12 businesses will be advertised in the Smoke Signals each quarter for FREE.

CIVIC EVENTS CALENDAR

American Legion Meeting
2nd Wednesday of each month - 8:00pm
Senior Community Center
301-283-0105

Western Charles/Indian Head Chapter 126 of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) meets the 1st Thursday of each month (Except July & August) 301-743-9445 or 301-743-3055

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

St Mary's Star of the Sea Church
Sunday Services 7:30, 9:00 & 11:00am
Saturday Services 5:00 pm
Confessions Saturdays 4:00 to 4:30pm
Special Devotions 7:30am mass on the 1st Friday and 1st Saturday of each month
301-753-9177

Indian Head Baptist
Sunday School 9:15am
Sunday, Morning Worship 10:30am
Sunday Bible Study 6:00pm
Thursday Prayer Meeting 6:30pm
301-743-3707

St James Episcopal
Sunday 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30am
Sunday School 9:45am
301-743-2366

Indian Head Church of the Nazarene
Sunday School 9:45am
Sunday AM Worship 11:00am
Sunday PM Worship 6:00pm
Wednesday Adult Bible Study 7:00pm
301-743-5768

Indian Head United Methodist Church
Sunday School 9:30am
Worship 11:00am
301-743-2312

Greater Spiritual Fellowship Community Church
Sunday School 9:30am
Sunday Worship 11:00am
Tuesday Discipleship Training 7:30pm
Thursday Bible Study 7:30pm
301-743-6014

Congregation SHA'ARE Shalom
Services 1st Friday, 2nd & 4th Saturday every month.
301-645-4606
www.shaareshalomsomd.org
301-645-4606

Indian Head Worship Center
Sunday Christian Education 9:30am
Sunday Morning Service 11:00am
Sunday Youth & Young Adult Service 6:30pm
Tuesday Bible Study 7:30pm
Friday Evangelical Service 7:30pm
301-743-7772

Cornerstone AME
Sunday Morning Service 10:30am
301-743-6607

New Life Christian Ministries, Int'l
Worship Service—Sunday 11:00am
Bible Study—Tuesday 7:00pm
240-377-8919

Make Spring Cleaning a Fire Safety Priority : Chief Jeff Williams

As we finally say good bye to a winter that we all will not soon forget, our thoughts turn to warmer temperatures and cleaning our homes and yards. In an effort to remind everyone that your "Spring Cleaning" project is also a time to remember fire safety, the Indian Head Volunteer Fire Department would like to remind everyone of the following safety tips.

When cleaning the inside of your home, don't forget to check these vital life safety devices and areas thoroughly.

- Smoke alarms increase your chances of surviving a home fire by 50% so be sure to check these devices for proper operation and be sure to clean them by vacuuming them as part of your cleaning.
- Never borrow smoke alarm batteries for other devices such as toys, clocks or other equipment, many times people forget to replace the batteries leaving the devices inoperable.
- Check the age of the smoke alarms, they should be replaced every ten years according to the manufacturers of the devices.
- **As a reminder, in the state of Maryland, if you replace your smoke alarms you must replace them with a new 10 year battery life battery alarm.**
- When you change your clocks, you should also take the time to clean and test the batteries in your smoke alarms. If they are not working properly think about replacing them.
- If you have a fire extinguisher in your home this is a good time to check it and replace if necessary. If you have an ABC Dry Powder extinguisher it needs to be replaced every 12 years.
- This is a good time to check all electrical equipment and appliances for damaged or frayed cords and replace them if necessary.
- Be sure to check your electrical outlets to ensure that they're not overloaded or damaged.
- Remember to check for lint buildup from your dryer in the hose and vents.
- Clean your oven and stove making sure you get all the grease and unwanted buildup to prevent a fire.

Pay special attention to more than the pretty flowers when outside!

- Be sure to remove all outdoor debris and dead vegetation away from home to help reduce the potential of a fire starting in your yard and extending to your home.
- **As a reminder, there is no outdoor burning permitted within in the Town limits.**
- Be sure your address number is in good condition and visible for all Emergency Services to see in the event of an emergency and if needed replace the numbers with new ones.
- All fuels for lawn and garden equipment should be stored in an approved container and never stored in your home or attached garage.
- Barbeque gas grills should be thoroughly inspected, including gas hoses, connections, burners and propane tanks should be inspected prior to use.
- As part of our Spring Cleaning, many of us take this opportunity to get rid of many of the old and/or unwanted household chemicals and yard fertilizers. As a reminder these chemicals should be sorted in their original containers and property disposed of at the Charles County landfill at no cost to you.

Here are a few examples of these types of products:

- Pesticides, fertilizers and weed killers
- Pool chemicals
- Paint and thinners
- Gasoline or other flammable/combustible liquids
- **NEVER** dispose of these types of products in the trash as they could leaks causing a chemical reaction and possibly start a fire.

While performing your annual Spring Cleanup and by following these simple safety tips you can greatly improve your family's safety and reduce your chances of a fire in your home during this annual event. If you or a neighbor are in need of a 10 year battery smoke alarm or if you have any questions or concerns about Fire Safety/Prevention please contact the department at 301-753-9400 or 301-743-3900.

If you are interested in serving your community and becoming part of our team, please stop by and see us.



Indian Head Business Association

2nd Annual Taste of *Indian Head*

May 3, 2014

Indian Head Village Green

A Family Day of Fun!



Vendors include local Restaurants, Crafters, Artisans, Businesses, Youth Groups, and Churches. Entertainment provided by The Black Box Theater, Hope You Dance, Doc Stevens Band and other local talent. Reserve your food booth or Indoor/Outdoor space for only $20.00 with Pam Hundley at 301-743-6777. If you would like to volunteer your Talent or Demonstration, call Kay Cotton at 240-508-0090. This event is Co-sponsored by the Indian Head Business Association and the Town of Indian Head.



Indian Head Elementary School

March 7th PTO Quarterly Meeting & Family Event

March 17th Donuts with Dad

May 12th Muffins with Mom

Please contact the school for details and times. 301-743-5454



Pet Waste 101: Part 2

By Nieda Tice, Town Resident & Green Team Member

Why Clean Up?

Cleaning up pet waste may seem like just another unpleasant chore, but it is important for several reasons. First, remember your neighbors. They don't want to step in waste from your pet any more than you want to step in waste from theirs. Please be especially thorough in your clean up effort if your pet "goes" in someone else's yard. Cleaning up is also necessary because pet waste that is left in public areas can contribute to the spread of disease between animals.

Pet waste makes its way more easily into our local waterways when it is left on a hard surface such as a road or sidewalk. (This is also true of waste from wild animals, but we haven't found a baggie they are able to use!!) The Town of Indian Head has stations available to help with pet waste clean up. These can be found at Meekins Park, Mattingly Park, and at the Village Green. There are also several stations along the Rail Trail. When walking your dog, keep in mind the safety of our community, pets, and waterways, and clean up!

Sources: http://www.epa.gov/safewater and http://water.ky.gov

Indian Head Volunteer Fire Dept. & Rescue Squad Events

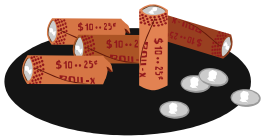


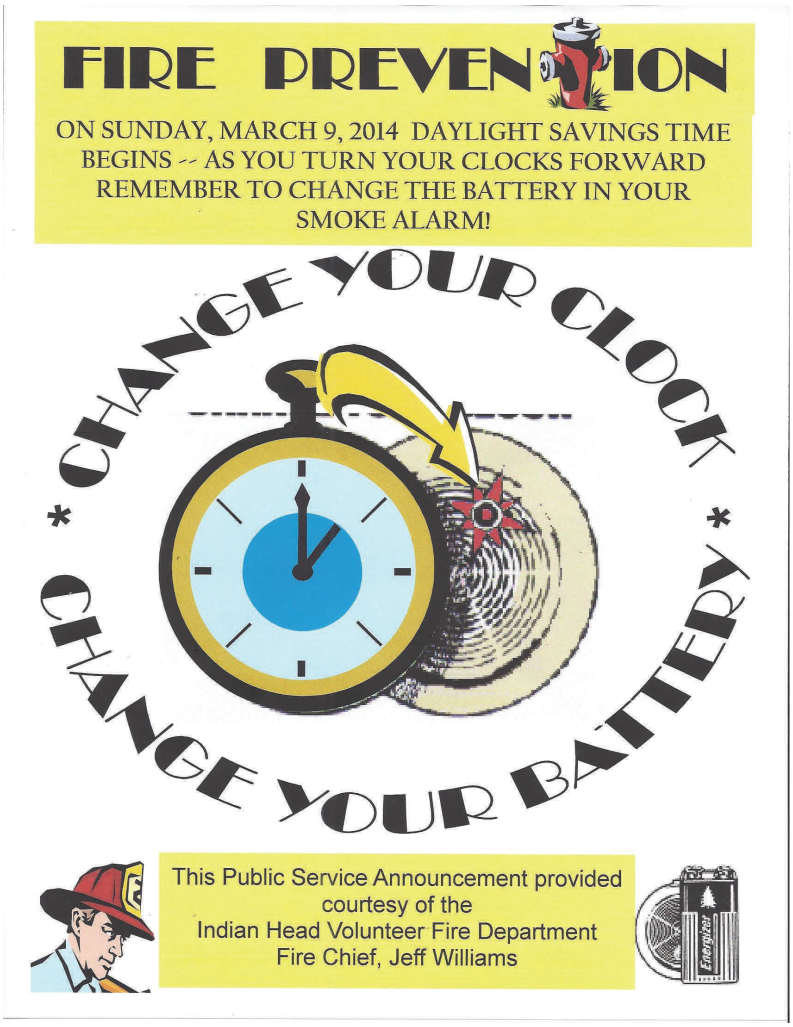
Drive-Thru Fried Chicken Dinner - Mondays, March 3, April 7 and May 5 from 10:30am until 1:30pm, at the Indian Head Volunteer Fire Department. Menu: 1/2 fried chicken, parsley potatoes, green beans, roll, butter and beverage. $8.00 plate, carry out only. Call ahead to place your order 301-753-9400 / 301-743-3900.



Spaghetti Dinner - Saturday, April 26. $10 Adults, $5 children 3yrs-12yrs. Free children under 3yrs. Dinner includes spaghetti with meat sauce or without, salad, garlic bread, apple sauce, and baked goods for dessert donated by the auxiliary. Take out available.

Quarter Auction: Hosted by the I.H. VFD Ladies Auxiliary, 4095 Indian Head Highway. Saturday, May 17. Doors open at 5pm, Auction begins at 6pm. Paddles are $3 each. Flyers to follow at a later date.





Town of Indian Head Useful Information

Holiday Closings

Town Hall, Public Works and the Community Affairs Office will be closed on the following days this quarter in observance of the holidays listed:

Good Friday
Friday, April 18

Memorial Day
Monday, May 26

If you have a water or sewer emergency after hours, call 301-743-2222 to report your emergency. On-call Town personnel will be contacted and the problem will be handled accordingly.

After hours non-emergency type problems can be reported by leaving a message on the Town Hall office number 301-743-5511. Be prepared to furnish your name, address, phone number and brief, but detailed description of the type of problem. Water cut-offs for non-payment are not considered emergencies and are only handled during Public Works regular business hours.

Town Codes

- **Burning**—No burning is allowed within the Town limits.
- **Animal Control**—Dogs must be kept on the owner's property unless properly restrained. The Charles County Animal Control provides animal enforcement within the Town. Call 301-932-1713 if you have a problem.
- **Abandoned or Inoperative Vehicles** are prohibited within the Town and may not be kept on the street for more than 24 hours or on private property, with certain exceptions. Call Code Enforcement at 301-743-5511 ext. 101 with any questions.
- **Property Maintenance**—Every dwelling and lot shall be kept free from trash and garbage. Weeds and grass must be cut and kept shorter than 10 inches.
- **Building Code**—The Town has an adopted building code. Any new construction or remodeling, including, but not limited to porches, fences, sheds and garages, requires inspection and a building permit from the Town.

Town Meetings

1st Monday every month at 7:30pm at the Village Green Pavilion. Televised 8 p.m. first two Fridays each month on Comcast Channel 190. Meetings will also be televised on CCGTV on Mondays at 10am and Wednesdays at 7pm. Comcast channel 95 and FIOS channel 10.

Town Hall

Office Hours : Monday—Friday 8:30am—4:30pm
Phone Numbers : Ofc: 301-743-5511
Fax: 301-743-9008

Recycling/Yard Waste

Solid waste products such as glass jars and bottles, newspapers, plastic bottles and metal cans will be picked up at the curb every Wednesday within the Town of Indian Head. Place these items in your recycling bin - no need to separate them. Have them curbside by 7:00am.

Yard waste will be collected on Wednesdays, year-round, weather permitting. Grass clippings and leaves must be placed in brown paper bags or in a trash container marked "Yard Waste" and placed at curbside. Brush must be bundled and must not be any longer than four feet (4') in length. Individual pieces of brush must not be any larger than six inches (6") in diameter.

Bulk trash can now be scheduled year-round on Wednesdays. Fee of $50 (cash or money order **ONLY**) per scheduled pick-up must be paid in advance at time of scheduling at Town Hall. All items must be curbside by 7:00am on the prescheduled pick-up day but not earlier than 48 hours prior to pick-up day.

In case of inclement weather recycling will be picked up on Saturday.

Utility Rates

The Town bills for utilities on a quarterly basis. Please make note that you will be receiving a bill four times a year (July, October, January and April). ***You are encouraged to make an estimated payment monthly toward your quarterly bill.*** For more information you can call Town Hall at 301-743-5511

Water & Sewer Rates

Minimum rate for all residential customers **$70.40**
(per dwelling unit per quarter) plus
$6.85 for every 1,000 gallons used
Minimum rate for all commercial customers **$212.80**
(per unit per quarter) plus
$6.85 for every 1,000 gallons used

Bay Restoration Fee

$15.00 to State of Maryland Comptroller's office for the Bay Restoration Fund

Trash Rates

Residential/Multiple Residential Rate: **$80.00 (per dwelling unit per quarter)** - Billed quarterly for twice a week curb-side pickup and one (1) recyclable products pickup per week. (Trash must be in a 20 to 32 gallon metal or hard plastic trash container with a secured lid)

Commercial Rate:

Category I	Dumpster (4cu yds)	$495.00 per qtr
Category II	Maximum 2 cans (per unit)	$95.00 per qtr
	Each additional can	$46.00 per qtr

All residential and commercial units within the Town of Indian Head shall avail themselves of the Town's curb-side trash collection service.

FREE Countywide Household Hazardous Waste Collection & Recycling 2014

1st Saturday April-December

Apr. 5, May 3, Jun. 7, Jul. 5, Aug. 2, Sep. 6, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6

LOCATION:
Department of Public Works
10430 Audie Lane, off Radio Station Road, La Plata
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Items accepted free of charge include pesticides, herbicides, fertilizer, gasoline, paint (except Latex-can be dried out in can and included in regular trash), cleaning supplies, pool chemicals, batteries, and other poisons.

Items Accepted ANYTIME at the C.C. Landfill & Pisgah\ Recycling Center, 6645 Mason Springs Road, Pisgah, Monday-Saturday, 7:00am-7:00pm
Batteries, empty gas grill propane cylinders, motor oil, antifreeze

Old computers & electronics are accepted ONLY at the C. C. Landfill, Billingsley Road East, Monday-Saturday, 7am-7pm

24-Hour Oil & Antifreeze Drop Off Site—located at Ruth B. Swann Park, Bryans Road accepts used Oil & Antifreeze—open 24 hours

Please keep materials in their original containers whenever possible, and bring them to the collection site in cardboard boxes to ease unloading.

For more info. call Charles County—(301)932-3599 or 870-2778

For TOWN Trash Collection, Recycling or Special Bulk Pick-up Information—Contact Town Hall (301)743-5511

