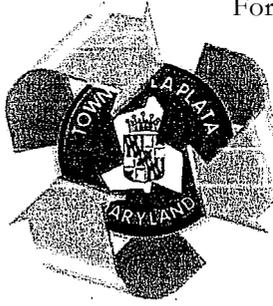


Conservation Corner



For over a year *Town Notes* has featured ideas, tips, and information to encourage all La Plata community members to conserve our natural resources. In particular conserving water and limiting pollution of our natural environ-

ment. Conservation is an emphasis for the Town, and the recent Citizen Survey showed 82% of residents agreeing that the Town is on the right track. In the past year the Town has installed a non-potable water irrigation system at Town Hall which utilizes captured rainwater. It also instituted a tiered water bill which charges customers who use more water higher rates. It has adopted a resolution requiring LEED certification of new Town buildings, and is currently pursuing LEED certification for its Public Works Facility.

La Plata's new Green Building Committee would like to identify residents and businesses who are doing their part to conserve, and share their stories of what is being done in Town to help inspire others. Selected conservation stories will be profiled in *Town Notes*, and on the Town's website. To share your conservation success, simply write down what you have done and how it benefits the community's natural environment and mail it to the attention of the Town Manager, Daniel Mears at Town Hall, or send via email to dmears@townoflaplata.org.

La Plata's Green Building Committee recommended the La Plata Town Council adopt two pieces of legislation related to irrigation. In January, the Town Council unanimously adopted legislation that would

require new irrigation systems to be permitted and inspected, when they had previously been unregulated. Requirements for new irrigation systems include having a plan be submitted to the Town showing a backflow preventer, a rain control sensor, an irrigation automatic control system, and the water tap after the water meter. Additionally, all new irrigation systems would be inspected and part of the inspection would be to verify the system is scheduled to irrigate between 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m.

The second item of legislation was introduced at the Town Council's February 24th business meeting and is scheduled to be considered for adoption at the March 24th business meeting. The legislation restricts the time of day that irrigation could occur. By limiting outdoor watering and irrigation between 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. those who choose to irrigate would reduce their water waste because less of the water applied would be lost to evaporation. Individuals and property owners who do water during the restricted time of day would be faced with an infraction and fines for not complying with Town Code. This restriction does not apply to the application of water to outdoor planted material by means of a hand-held hose or by a watering device, such as a hand-held watering can.

These steps are the latest in a series of efforts made by the Town to help curb the amount of seasonal water use. The Town has seen water use increase 55% during summer months, with much of that water being used for irrigation. La Plata is the third municipality in the State of Maryland to consider restrictions on the time of day for irrigation. Irrigation of landscaping is discouraged in the Town to conserve potable water in our aquifers. The community is reminded to use native and drought resistant landscaping that does not require irrigation.