

TOWN NOTES

News from La Plata Town Hall



MAYOR'S CORNER

Summer has arrived and the Town of La Plata is well situated for another great time of year with many activities and events for people of all ages. Our Friday Night Concert Series is well underway with another season of outstanding bands and a lot of people enjoying good music on the lawn of Town Hall. This series will continue to the end of September. Our 4th of July Watermelon Bash was a great event, albeit rain was a constant concern, but everyone seemed to have a wonderful time and consumed substantial amounts of hot dogs and watermelon. It was a perfect way to celebrate our National Birthday in our own hometown. I recommend checking the Town's web site to stay current on all the events scheduled for the remainder of the year.

La Plata is a medium size town in the State of Maryland and our growth over the past decade has been relatively moderate. Since growth seems to be on just about everyone's mind these days, your elected and appointed officials are cognizant of this and we spend considerable time developing and implementing planning documents so that growth, when it occurs, is handled in such a manner that it does not overwhelm our community, infrastructure, or our ability to provide required resources. A considerable portion of this work goes on behind the scenes and is not readily apparent to most residents. I believe it is important that you know we take each proposal or project in the Town or the surrounding area very seriously and do the required due diligence necessary prior to reaching a decision on how to respond in any given situation.

As the county seat for Charles County,

Continued on page 3

La Plata receives Banner Town designation for eighth year in a row!



The Banner Town designation is the Maryland Municipal League's (MML) highest member achievement award. The program is designed to encourage and reward exceptional participation in MML programs and activities and to foster teamwork among municipal officials. The program criteria consists of participating in all of the following: Visits to at least one school to encourage 4th graders to participate in the "If I Were Mayor, I would..." essay contest, have at least one representative from the Town attend four Southern Maryland Municipal Association chapter meetings, send a representative to the annual MML fall conference and have at least one elected official participate in at least one of the following: serve on the MML Board of Directors, enrollment in the Academy for

Excellence in Local Governance program or participate in the Student Shadowing Experience Program. All of the criteria must have been accomplished between June 1, 2014 and May 25, 2015. The Council has already begun working toward next year's requirements.

Thanks to the La Plata Garden Club...again...



Thanks to the La Plata Garden Club, the entrance to Tilghman Lake Park has been enhanced with a beautiful landscape bed and eight large spring bulb beds. In cooperation with the Town's Beautification Commission and Wentworth Nursery, the club organized, coordinated and funded the beautification project to enhance visitors experience in the park.

Additionally, in 2011 the La Plata Garden Club coordinated the installation of landscaping and signage for Wills Memorial Park. Their collective efforts, on this and their many other projects, demonstrates outstanding commitment to our community and a desire to improve the appearance for residents, businesses, and visitors!

Thank you for continually striving to make the Town of La Plata a better place!



TownofLaPlata



LaPlataPD

COUNCIL COLUMN

Councilman Wayne Winkler, Ward 1

Every other month I am supposed to write an article for the newsletter and I never know what to say. During the aftermath of the tornado and the rebuild of the downtown business district there was always interesting subject matter and a lot going on. The problem now, is that things are running smoothly, and actually that is a good thing. Our sewer plant is state of the art, and probably the best in the State of Maryland. Our water system is state of the art and we now don't need to send two employees to read meters, and if someone has a leak we can identify it at Town Hall, and all Town residents can monitor their water usage from their home computer or any computer if they are away. Also, Public Works are busy doing pothole and road repair and restriping.

As you probably know we have a new Police Chief and he has replaced several vehicles with SUV's for better patrol during inclement weather conditions. He is also a big believer in training and our Police

Department has received, and continues to receive, much needed training to make the Department State of the Art. Because of these improvements our crime rate remains low and should stay that way. Another great thing that is happening within the Department is we have more officers on bike patrol interacting with residents as well as business owners.

I want to get away from Town News for a moment and get political. Recently Town Staff, the Mayor, and Council had the opportunity to attend a yearly conference for all of the 157 Municipalities in the State of Maryland. We started the convention with two wonderful speakers, one Republican and the other Democrat. They selected a subject and came at it from the liberal point of view as well as the conservative side. The end result was, after a lengthy debate they came to consensus which all politicians need to do for the good of all of us. At the Town level we really don't know, and don't care, who is Republican or Democrat, we are here to serve the people of La Plata as best as we can.

When I am weak enough to turn on the television and watch the news I am so tired of hearing about what is wrong about the Republicans from the Democratic point of view and visa-versa. These people work for us and must come to consensus so we can continue to be the strongest country in this great nation.

We have a very important election next year and I hope you don't focus on what party a candidate represents but more on how they can unite this country again. We need to be military strong, have better education for our children, bring jobs back to the United States, and keep our borders secure.

So far today I have called three major corporations and the first statement made was: press 1 for English and 2 for Spanish. If you are an American citizen you are supposed to know English. Let's get rid of number 2. Also let's keep God on our currency and in our Pledge of Allegiance.

To finish, God bless each and every one of you and I hope you have a great summer, and if you call me you don't need to press 1 or 2, just ask for old Wayne.

WEBSITE POLL

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

New employment opportunities in La Plata would benefit the community?

Strongly Agree
Somewhat Agree
Neither Agree nor Disagree
Somewhat Disagree
Strongly Disagree

June Website Poll Results

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

The visual appeal of La Plata (architecture, clean streets, landscaping, signage, building configuration) is more attractive than other parts of Charles County?

Strongly Agree - 44%
Somewhat Agree - 35%

Neither Agree nor Disagree - 10%
Somewhat Disagree - 1%
Strongly Disagree - 8%

The visual appeal of a community reflects largely of the overall impression of a place. People enjoy well-kept neighborhoods, shopping in attractive retail spaces is desired, and dining in clean restaurants is highly valued. The aesthetic value of La Plata is something that is the responsibility of everyone in the community. The owners of property are important participants in that, and the high response to the visual appeal of La Plata speaks directly to their efforts.

The Town does its part to encourage attractive spaces. The Town has codes which are enforced, that promote property maintenance of commercial and private property throughout Town. Commercial properties in La Plata are built after a review by the Town's Design Review Board. Put in place just after the tornado, the Design Review Board's citizen volunteers review the site layout, landscaping, signage,

architecture, and more, to ensure conformance with the Town's Design Guidelines.

Public spaces in La Plata receive the input of citizen volunteers, like the Town's Beautification Commission. They serve the community working to enhance the many public spaces in La Plata. In this newsletter you will see where they worked with several small businesses in La Plata to enhance the downtown, and also with the La Plata Garden Club on a project at Tilghman Lake Park. All these people from the community work to make La Plata a visually appealing place. For the past few years, the Beautification Commission has offered Mini-Grants to neighborhoods and individuals to further enhance La Plata. Please consider applying for one of these grants, or find other ways to make La Plata Beautiful.



PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISPOSAL

Do not flush medicines down the drain... Simply take the medicine to any of the Charles County Sheriff's Office district stations located in Waldorf, La Plata, or Indian Head, remove personal information from the container, and drop the medicines in a locked box located in the station's lobby. The Sheriff's Office will take the medicines to a hazardous waste incinerator where they will be disposed. The Sheriff's Office accepts prescription and non-prescription medication, pet medication, and vitamins. Tablets, capsules, and all other solid dosage forms can be collected but intravenous solutions, injectables, and syringes will not

be accepted. There is no need to fill out paperwork.

The effect of medicines entering the water system is being studied, but there is an increasing level of medicines able to be detected in the water system. Please do your part, don't contribute to contamination of water by medicines.

Charles County Sheriff's Office District I station is located at:

District I - La Plata
6855 Crain Highway
La Plata, MD 20646
(301) 932-2222

NEIGHBORHOOD EVENT MINI-GRANT

Is your neighborhood interested in organizing an event like a block party or cook out to bring your community together? If so then help is here. 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 during the fiscal year. Deadline to submit application is September 9, 2015. Grant applications are available for download from the Town's website or email Colleen Wilson, Special Events Coordinator at cwilson@townofaplata.org or (301) 934-8421 ext. 142.

Town Hall Closed

The Town Hall will be closed on the following days:

Monday, September 7, 2015

If you have a **water or sewer emergency** after hours, call (301)934-8421 and follow the instructions given to report your emergency. The automated response system will alert the appropriate department to respond to you.

TOWN OF LA PLATA OFFICIALS

Mayor: Roy G. Hale

Council:

Wayne Winkler Ward 1

C. Keith Back Ward 2

Lynn D. Gilroy Ward 3

Joseph W. Norris Ward 4

Town Manager:

Daniel J. Mears

Treasurer: Robert W. Oliphant

Assistant Town Manager:

Michelle D. Miner

Town Clerk: Danielle Mandley

Police Chief: Carl H. Schinner

Director of Planning:

Jeremy D. Hurlbutt

Director of Operations: Robert F. Stahl, Jr.

Director of Public Works:

Jeffrey S. Garner

Manager of Inspections: James Q. Yates

305 Queen Anne Street,

La Plata, Maryland 20646

Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Telephone: (301) 934-8421 / (301) 870-3377

La Plata Police Department: (301) 934-1500

Email: mminer@townofaplata.org

Website: www.townofaplata.org

Code Corner

181-14 Vision Obstructions

Part of safe driving is to ensure that there is adequate visibility when turning, or accessing another roadway. At times obstructions on private property may inhibit the visibility of motorists, which could endanger motorists and pedestrians.

When there exists on any private property within the Town any trees, bushes, vines, weeds, undergrowth, loose earth or other obstructions, except buildings and similar structures affixed to the ground the owner will be notified of the obstruction, including steps necessary to correct such conditions and given a stated period of time to correct. Should the obstruction not be corrected, the Town could enter the property and remove the obstruction at a cost to the owner.

Please ensure your property does not impede visibility of others in the community.

MAYOR'S CORNER

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

La Plata has many governmental and not for profit agencies and facilities within the Town borders. These entities are exempt from our local property taxes and as they continue to expand, which they need to do to provide the services expected and required by local residents, additional properties are removed from the tax rolls further impacting our tax base. This is a necessary part of being a seat of government and the location of a large hospital complex. Therefore we support the expansion of these entities when it makes sense for our community and will continue to do so.

We are constantly looking for new businesses and projects that benefit the Town and help increase our overall tax base. This is important for many reasons but principally it helps keep our overall tax rate on our residents as low as possible. Our tax rate for the current fiscal year is 32 cents per \$100 of assessed value of real property: a rate that we have not changed since 2001. In a constantly changing economy this is truly remarkable and demonstrates how much effort has been expended on holding costs to a minimum while at the same time providing high-level services.

Uncontrolled growth is not smart growth and smart growth is what we are constantly striving to achieve. I trust the majority will agree with this assessment.

Have a wonderful, safe, and enjoyable summer.

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

LA PLATA TOWN SERVICES

Special Trash Pickup

Bulk items are picked up the first Monday of each month, or the following Monday if the first one is a holiday. Large amounts of loose material (such as brush) should be bundled or bagged in such a manner that the weight is less than 50 lbs. The Town reserves the right not to pick up items too heavy to safely handle. General construction cleanup and hazardous materials are not eligible. Items must be at curbside by 7:30 a.m. on pickup day. Call Town Hall before pickup day to be placed on the list. Billing for special trash pickup is included on your quarterly utility bill.



CHARLES COUNTY
**HOUSEHOLD
HAZARDOUS WASTE
COLLECTION**

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Hazardous waste collection is held the first Saturday of the month, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the parking lot of the Department of Public Works building, located at 10430 Audie Lane, off of Radio Station Road in La Plata. Items accepted free of charge include pesticides, herbicides, fertilizer, gasoline, motor oil, antifreeze, oil based paint, cleaning supplies, pool chemicals, batteries, and other poisons that are around your house. Please keep the materials in their original containers whenever possible, and bring them to the collection site in cardboard boxes to ease unloading.

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

Yard Waste Pick Up

Residential yard waste pick ups will only take place on Monday and Fridays. Containers of yard waste ONLY – leaves, grass and shrub clippings, brush or branches may be put out on Mondays and Fridays. The containers must be marked “Yard Waste”. Brush or branches must be bundled, weigh no more than 50lbs. per bundle, and the branches may not be larger than 4 feet long. *Plastic bags are not allowed – if you bag yard waste you must use paper bags.*

Trash Collection Schedule Adjustment

If your regular trash collection day is:

Monday, Sept. 7

Recycling:

Due to the Labor Day Holiday Recycling will be picked up on **Thursday, Sept. 10**

Yard Waste Pick Up:

There will be no Yard Waste Pick Up on Monday, Sept. 7

Special Pick Up

Monday, August 3

Monday, September 14

Trash will be picked up on:

Tuesday, Sept. 8

FALLEN TREES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

A tree or parts of a tree fell on my property - Who is responsible?

In Virginia and Maryland, the general rule for fallen trees, or similar accidents that may be qualified as an “Act of God,” is that the affected owner is responsible for the damages to their own property, including clean up, removal and similar expenses. Such accidents are normally covered by the affected owner’s insurance, and are usually resolved by reporting the claim. As a result, the association should encourage the affected owner to contact his or her insurance company before submitting the claim under the association’s policy, if

the damages exceed the policy deductible. Please note, however, that the exception to the general rule is that the owner of the property where the tree originated will be responsible for damage to a neighbor’s property if the owner knew or had reason to know that the tree presented a danger to adjoining properties. For example, if a tree was diseased and had been weakened by previous storms, it may be fair to say that the owner had reason to believe that the tree would fall and, judging by its size, damage a neighbor’s property. Otherwise, the accident is considered an “Act of God” and the affected owner is therefore responsible for the damage to his or her property.

I want branches removed that are overhanging my property but the tree belongs to my neighbor – Who is responsible?

Maryland follows the “Massachusetts Self-Help Rule”. This rule states that a property owner can cut off branches which are intruding over his property as long as he doesn’t kill the tree.

Source: http://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/download/licensedtreeexpertlaw-faq8_29_2011.pdf

August 2015

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



1

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



8

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

Yard Waste Pick Up
257th Army Band "The Band of the Nations' Capital"; 7:00 p.m.



15

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



22

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



29

Yard Waste Pick Up
Southern Maryland Concert Band; 7:00 p.m.

28

27



Yard Waste Pick Up

26



25

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

24/31

24th—Yard Waste Pick Up

31st—Yard Waste Pick Up

1st day of Charles County Public Schools

23/30

Yard Waste Pick Up
Special Pick Up (please call by 4:00 p.m. on 7/31 to be put on list)

2

National Night Out
Planning Commission Meeting moved to 8/5

4

Farmers Market;
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Design Review
Board meeting; 9:00 a.m.
Crime Watch Council meeting; 7:00 p.m.
Planning Commission meeting; 7:00 p.m.

5

6



Yard Waste Pick Up
257th Army Band "The Band of the Nations' Capital"; 7:00 p.m.

7

13

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

14



U.S. Air Force Band Max Impact; 7:00 p.m.

20



21

Yard Waste Pick Up
Eric Scott Band; 7:00 p.m.

27



26

Farmers Market;
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Design Review Board meeting; 9:00 a.m.

25

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

24/31

24th—Yard Waste Pick Up

31st—Yard Waste Pick Up

1st day of Charles County Public Schools

23/30

Yard Waste Pick Up

9

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

11

No Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

12



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



19

Farmers Market;
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Design Review Board meeting; 9:00 a.m.

25

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

24/31

24th—Yard Waste Pick Up

31st—Yard Waste Pick Up

1st day of Charles County Public Schools

23/30

16

Yard Waste Pick Up

Mayor and Council work session; 7:00 p.m.
Kids Show—Reggie Rice, Super Magic Man; 10:00 a.m.

19

20



21

22

29

SPECIAL EVENTS

Summer Fun at Town Hall

Tuesday, August 18th: 10 AM

Reggie Rice, SuperMagicMan

Tuesday, August 25th: 10 AM

Rocknoceros

The shows are geared towards preschool and elementary age children and are approximately 45 minutes long. The shows are free and open to the public. Shows will be held outdoors on the West lawn where the Friday night concerts take place (weather permitting - shows will not be moved indoors). Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets and lawn chairs for sitting. No concessions will be available, but you are welcome to bring drinks and snacks along.

TOWN OF LA PLATA SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Join us for the Friday night Summer Concert Series at the La Plata Town Hall. The weekly concerts take place on the lawn at La Plata Town Hall at 305 Queen Anne Street. Concert goers are encouraged to bring blankets and lawn chairs for sitting. Coolers are allowed, but no alcohol, please. Concessions are available from the Town's food trailer located near the back of the parking lot; an ice cream truck is also stationed there for your enjoyment. A play area for children, the Kids' Zone, allows parents to enjoy the concert while keeping an eye on the little ones.

Concert Schedule

AUGUST

Friday August 7th: 7 PM

257th Army Band, "The Band of the Nation's Capital"
"It's All Entertainment!" - music from the stage, the screen, and the ring

Friday August 14th: 7 PM

U.S. Air Force Band Max Impact
Classic/Contemporary Rock & Country

Friday August 21st: 7 PM to 9 PM

Eric Scott Band
Acoustic Soul/Pop

Friday August 28th: 7 PM to 9 PM

Southern Maryland Concert Band
Concert Band Favorites & Showtunes

SEPTEMBER

Friday September 4th: 7 PM to 9 PM

Dance Party with Elite Beatz Entertainment &
Chesapeake Country Cruizers

Friday September 11th: 7 PM to 9 PM

Dr. Phill's Big Band
Big Band & Swing

Friday September 18th: 7 PM

U.S. Navy Band The Cruisers
Jazz, R&B, Rock, Contemporary, & Pop

Friday September 25th: 7 PM to 9 PM

John Luskey Band
Pop, Country, & Rock

Please note military concerts are usually about 1 hour to 1 hour 15 minutes due to their regulations.

If a concert has to be cancelled due to the weather we will post the information in the following locations:

- Town of La Plata website - on the home page and concert page
- Town of La Plata face book page
- Call 301-934-8421 for a recorded message, press #7 for special events
- Town of La Plata emails - to sign up please send your email address to cwilson@townoflaplata.org

National Night Out Mini-Grant Awardees

The Town of La Plata is pleased to announce the following communities have been awarded funds to support their National Night Out events:

Clarks Run

Hawthorne Greene

Hickory Ridge

King's Grant

Panquia Oaks

Thank you for making La Plata a better place for the entire community.



10th Annual Scarecrow Festival sponsored by the Charles County Chamber of Commerce and the Town of La Plata! Register to be part of the fun! Enter your Scarecrow for official judging during La Plata Town Festival, Sunday, October 11th. Winners will be announced at Town Hall. Registration Deadline is Friday, September 25th. For more information contact the Charles County Chamber of Commerce at 301-932-6500.

Town of La Plata "Salute to Veterans" Parade

Come out on Sunday, November 8th at 1 pm for the Salute to Veterans Parade. Watch the parade make its way to Town Hall down Charles Street and La Grange Avenue. Registration forms will be available on the Town's website in September.



PRIOR EVENTS

Town of La Plata Memorial Day Ceremony

The Town of La Plata held the Annual Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, May 25 at 11 am at Town Hall. The ceremony honored the men and women who died while in the military service. Captain Mary Feinberg, Commanding Officer, Naval Support Activity South Potomac was the guest speaker at the ceremony.

The ceremony began with a blessing from Pastor Charles M. Long, Grace Lutheran Church and School. The La Plata High School NJROTC was on hand to present the colors and Veteran's Home Brass performed the National Anthem. The observance also included the roll call of deceased veterans from Charles County by American Legion Post 82. Wreaths were also laid by monument at Town Hall to remember those who have served by the American Legion Post 82, General Smallwood Chapter MOAA, La Plata Town Council, and La Plata Police Department and Explorers. The Schubert Singers of Christ Church performed patriotic selections and Bill Foreman performed TAPS. The ceremony concluded with Mayor Hale leading the audience in singing "God Bless America".



Neighborhood Event Mini-Grant

Photos from Neighborhood Event Mini-Grant Awardees



Edelen Station's Summer Bash



King's Grant Community Clean up and Block Party



Panquia Oaks Spring Fling



Villages of Steeplechase Block Party



Great time was had by all! Thanks to all who attended the July 4th event.



FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 BUDGET

The Town of La Plata adopted a smaller budget for the current fiscal year with no reduction in services for Town residents. In the last year of the current property tax assessment cycle, property tax revenue is projected to increase just under \$100,000. Contrarily, other revenue sources associated with economic activity are expected to decline, resulting in over \$200,000 less in general fund revenue, than was budgeted in the previous fiscal year.

Annually the La Plata Town Council meets to discuss its service priorities for the coming fiscal year. Your elected officials take into account the Town's Citizen Survey results and comments on Town Services and Community Perceptions. The adopted FY2015-2016 Financial Plan and Budget addresses the service priorities of the Town, to maintain and enhance the Town's services. The Town's budget covers its General fund operations and self supporting enterprise funds, which include Sanitation, Water, Sewer, and Storm Water.

The Town Council adopted the Financial Plan and Budget with General Fund Expenditures of \$7,421,555. Sanitation Expenditures are budgeted at \$1,131,015, Water Expenditures of \$1,232,360, Sewer Expenditures of \$3,648,475, and Storm Water Expenditures of \$324,965.

Repair and maintenance of streets in La Plata has been minimal over the past several years. The State collects a tax on fuel purchases which is then redistributed to local governments for street repairs. The Town had historically received over \$400,000 from the State, however cuts had significantly eroded that funding to 10% of that amount for the Town to maintain its streets. The current State budget includes funding that would provide about 57% of full road maintenance funding for La Plata. The State's continued actions indicate local street maintenance is not a priority and inadequate funding for street repairs will continue for the foreseeable future. The modest funding will allow La Plata to conduct some street maintenance in the upcoming fiscal year, as it did last fall.

Excluding street repairs, the Town is able to maintain the quality of all of the Town's services. The strained economy impacts our residents, businesses, and Town Government. The past few years of

investments in technology and other operational efficiencies have allowed the Town to continue to deliver on its service priorities. The budget does not require an increase to the Town's property tax rate. The tax rate remains at \$0.32 per \$100 of Assessed Valuation, as it has since 2001. Real Estate Property Tax is the Town's largest General Fund revenue source. In the budget, this revenue is projected to be just 0.21% higher than the prior fiscal year.

The budget has been balanced using efficiencies in operation, a new Hotel/Motel Tax, and utilization of fund balance reserve for some one time expenditures. The fiscal constraints of the economy are very tight on local government as well as the entire community.

Another area of interest to residents is utility rates. The utility budgets for Fiscal Year 2016 were developed with no increase to water or sewer rates, and a 5% reduction to sanitation rates. Below is an example of a utility bill for a typical resident using 14,400 gallons of water in a quarter.

	FY15	FY16		
	Qtrly	Qtrly	\$ Chg Qtrly	% Chg
Water	43.20	43.20	-	0.00%
Sewer	141.84	141.84	-	0.00%
Storm Water	13.00	13.15	0.15	1.15%
Sanitation	67.20	63.75	(3.45)	-5.13%
Recycling	10.25	10.50	0.25	2.44%
Bay Restoration Fee	15.00	15.00	-	0.00%
Account Maintenance	12.75	13.00	0.25	1.96%
Total	303.24	300.44	(2.80)	-0.92%

For a complete FY '15/'16 Budget and please visit the Town website at <http://www.townofaplata.org> and follow the links to Town Government, Departments, Finance, and the Town FY 16 Budget.

AUGUST IS SPEED AWARENESS MONTH

The Council of the Town of La Plata and the La Plata Police Department has declared August as *Speed Awareness Month*. August signals the end of summer and the start of another school year. The goal of Speed Awareness Month is to slow down traffic, thus saving lives. By making drivers more aware of the speed limits

and encouraging them to drive within the posted limits, the citizens and visitors of the Town will have a safer August. Drivers are encouraged to always drive within the speed limit throughout the year. Please help us reach our goal; obey the speed limit.



MARYLAND PARTNERS BANK OPENS IN LA PLATA



Mayor Roy Hale had the privilege of presenting a Town Seal and welcoming members of Maryland Partners Bank and their guest during a ribbon cutting ceremony on May 6. The full-service branch is located at 115 Charles Street on the site of the old Posey's Market.

TO DO LIST

- Post the pull out calendar on your refrigerator
- Contact Town Hall for a 95 gallon recycling container
- Sign up to be on the Town's Constant Contact email list
- Get a second Town trash container for extra heavy trash days
- Set up your utility bill for automatic payment
- Enjoy a free Friday Night concert at Town Hall
- Complete the latest Snap Poll question
- Help a neighbor in need
- Attend a Town Council meeting
- Plan to attend a Special Event at Town Hall
- Submit a Beautification Mini-Grant application
- Get alerts on your water consumption
- Stop at Stop Signs
- Pick up your pet's waste when walking them on a leash
- Like the Town's Facebook Page
- Receive Electronic Meeting Agendas
- Schedule a vacation patrol check with the Police Department
- Visit <http://www.townoflaplata.org> for more information on all of these

Thank you to local businesses for participating in the Beautification Column Flower Basket Grant Program



The La Plata Beautification Commission started the Beautification Column Flower Basket Grant program in an effort to assist businesses in enhancing the Central Business District, located in the downtown to create a welcoming experience for residents, businesses, and visitors.

The Column Basket Planter Kit contained the materials needed for the initial planting and recipients are required to maintain the column baskets for as long as they choose to participate in the program.

This first grant round was a tremendous success and 15 applications were received, 3 more than the 12 that were offered. So that no one had to be denied the Commission offered 3 businesses border column baskets which were intended for installation at Town Hall. The businesses planted the planters and the displays are wonderful!

Thank you recipients for participating in the first Column Flower Basket Program! Please stop by and check out their displays.

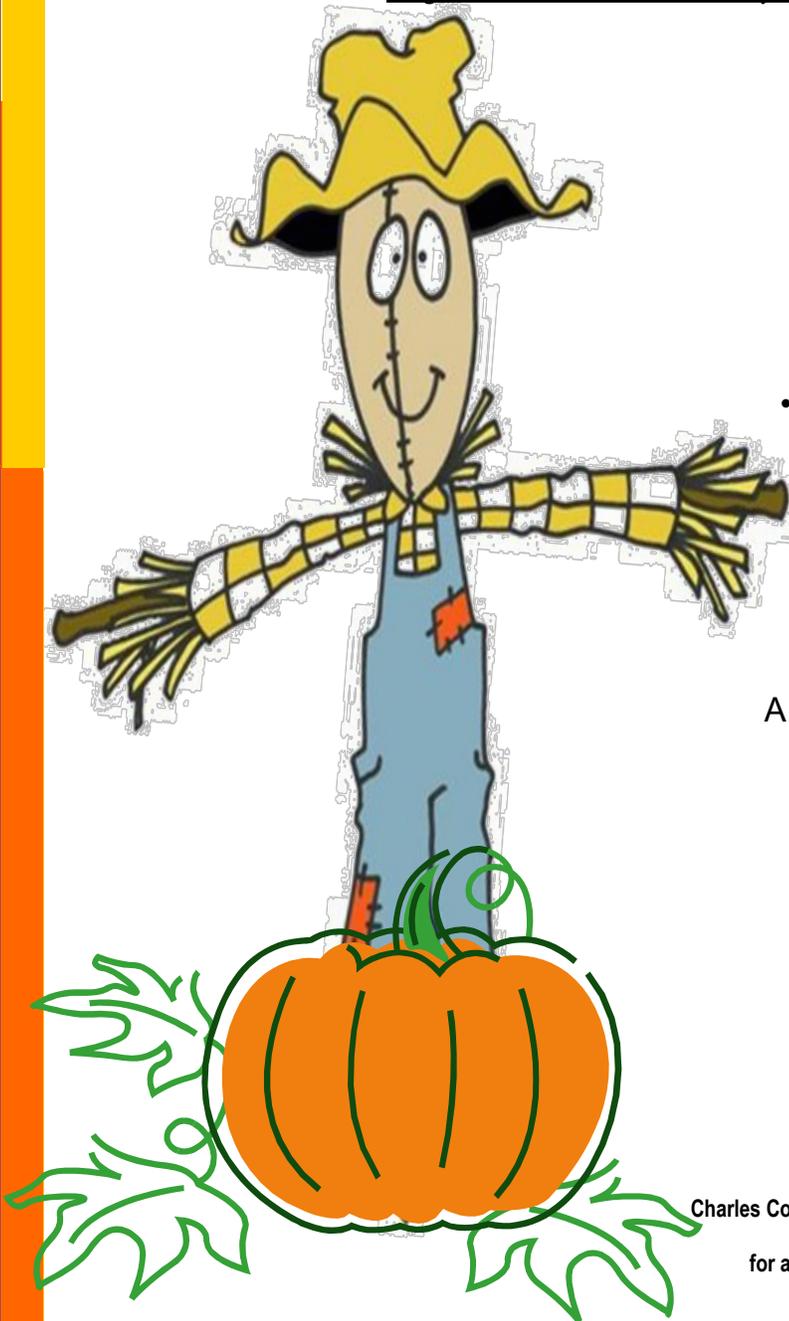
2015 Column Flower Basket Recipients	
Island Music	403 Charles Street
Coal Road CrossFit	403 Charles Street
Edward L. Sanders Insurance Agency	10 Washington Avenue
Centennial Square	201 Centennial Street
Halo Salon	103 St. Mary's Avenue
Maryland Partners Bank	115 E. Charles Street
Charles Street Bakery	507 Charles Street
Centerpiece Boutique	406 Charles Street
Color Couture Salon	505 Charles Street
Casey Jones	417 Charles Street
Bernie's Frame Shop	205 E. Charles Street
House Boutique	6 St. Mary's Avenue
Accountable Solutions Inc.	109 St. Mary's Avenue
Pizza Hotline	203 Charles Street
Children's Learning Tree	13 N. Maple Avenue

10th Annual Festival of Scarecrows

Sponsored by: Charles County Chamber of Commerce and Town of La Plata Fall Festival

Enter your Scarecrow for official judging during La Plata Town Festival, Sunday, October 11th.
Winners will be announced at Town Hall.

Registration Deadline is Friday, September 25th



Entry Fee for Judging

\$50 Family or School Group

\$100 Business or Non-Profit

Sponsorship Opportunities

\$250 INCLUDES:

- Your name listed in all web & email advertisement
- Recognition at the Town of La Plata Festival

\$500 INCLUDES:

- Your logo on Sponsor Banner at Fall Festival
- Your name listed in all web & email advertisement
- Recognition at the Town of La Plata Festival

A portion of all proceeds will benefit
the Chamber's
Non-Profit of the Year
To Be Announced

Event Co-Sponsor:



Mail form to:

Charles County Chamber of Commerce, 101 Centennial St., Suite A,
La Plata, MD 20646 or fax to 301.932.3945
for additional information, please contact the Chamber
at 301.932.6500



Registration Forms are due Friday, September 25th, 2015
 A portion of all proceeds will benefit the Chamber's Nonprofit of the Year, to be determined soon!

Team Name (will appear on sign next to scarecrow as it appears here)

Contact Name

Phone

Email

Entry Fee

All entries include reserved space with company/organization sign and scarecrow instructions.

\$50 Families & School groups only

\$100 Business or Non-Profit

Location

L A P L A T A

Sponsorship Opportunities – Deadline, Friday, October 3, 2015

\$500 INCLUDES:

- Your logo on Sponsor Banner at Fall Festival
- Your name listed in all web & email advertisement
- Recognition at the Town of La Plata Festival
- Scarecrow entry included

\$ 250 INCLUDES:

- Your name listed in all web & email advertisement
- Recognition at the Town of La Plata Festival
- Scarecrow entry included

Payment

Bill Me

AmEx

Discover

MasterCard

Visa

Check

Card Number

3-Digit Security Code

Name on Card

Credit Card Billing Address

Signature

Judging

- Scarecrow assembly can commence at the designated sites between October 1st – 3rd, but must be **fully assembled** by Monday, October 5th and must remain **fully assembled until November 1st**.
- All scarecrows will be judged on Wednesday, October 7th, starting at 9AM, based on the categories below.
- Scarecrows not assembled at the designated location **will be disqualified**.
- Scarecrows must be **fully disassembled** on Sunday, November 1st, 2015.
- The Chamber reserves the right to modify or request adjustment of any display that blocks traffic or hinders public wellbeing in any way.

Suggested Categories

Please select only **ONE** category entry for your scarecrow. Each category will be presented a First, Second and Third place award. There will be an overall award for the People's Choice award. Voting for the People's Choice Award will take place on Sunday, October 11th, at the Town of La Plata Fall Festival.

CAREER

FICTIONAL

SCARY

SPORTS THEME

CHARACTERS

Send fill form to:

Charles County Chamber of commerce, 101 Centennial Street, Suite A, La Plata, MD 20646 or fax to 301.932.3945
 for additional information, please contact the Chamber at 301.932.6500

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The La Plata Community Foundation has been busy over the summer. In June, the foundation awarded \$2,000 to Charles County Citizens for Substance Free Youth aka "Project Graduation". The funds were used to help provide a safe drug and alcohol free environment for seniors on

graduation night. The event held at the College of Southern Maryland provides food, games, entertainment, and prize giveaways.

The Foundation awarded the La Plata Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. \$2,500

in grant money in July. These funds will assist the Fire Department in purchasing equipment to perform operations and assist with fire prevention activities including the purchase and installation of smoke detectors.

BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED

Commercial building permits issued 5/1/15 to 6/30/15

- 2 Calvert Street – Charles County Rescue squad, interior fit out
- 11 Washington Ave. – Structural column and flooring

- 6591 Crain Highway – Popeyes, reinstall restrooms
- 705 Charles Street – Bank of America, modifications

Commercial Occupancy permits issued 5/1/15 to 6/30/15

- 15 Shinning Willow Way – LABCORP
- 103 Centennial St., Suite 207 F – Wheeler Accounting Group, LLC
- 114 La Grange Avenue – Mr. Fix It

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.

Park Grants

Every August the Town of La Plata applies for Community Parks and Playground Grants from the State of Maryland's Department of Natural Resources. La Plata has had good success over the past several years earning those grants. Funds have been received for basketball and tennis court resurfacing, new playground equipment, the restroom and parking at Tilghman Lake Park, and more.

Currently the Town is constructing a new trail at Tilghman Lake Park utilizing the grant funding. This past spring the Town learned of awards for a new dock, lake bank rehabilitation, and fitness stations. These will be worked on after final approval from the State's Board of Public Works this fall.

La Plata has benefitted with hundreds of thousands of dollars in State Grants due to the grant writing of the Town staff, and the great ideas from the Town's Parks and Recreation Commission. With planning, patience, and persistence, La Plata is saving money, improving services, and adding value to the services provided to the community.



On June 19, 2015 Mayor Hale and Councilman Gilroy participated in the ribbon cutting and Grand Opening of BritStyle Hair Salon located at 6549 Crain Highway.

LA PLATA FARMERS' MARKET



Featuring fresh fruits and vegetables; local, Southern Maryland seasonal produce; hand-crafted items; and homemade goods



Open all year
Every Saturday 8AM to 3PM
Every Wednesday 8AM to 6PM
In the parking lot of the Charles County Courthouse, Washington Avenue in La Plata

For more information, contact Town Hall at (301) 934-8421.

www.TownofLaPlata.org



TOWN OF LA PLATA

305 Queen Anne Street
P. O. Box 2268
La Plata, Maryland 20646-2268

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

FALL FESTIVAL

Sunday, October 11th
12 PM to 3 PM
La Plata Town Hall

Family Fun For All!

Moon bounce

Petting Zoo

**Live music from
the Sara Gray Band**

**Craft & Food
Vendors**

Pedal Cars

For more information on the Fall Festival please contact Special Events Coordinator, Colleen Wilson at 301-934-8421 ext. 142 or cwilson@townoflaplata.org.