

TOWN NOTES

News from La Plata Town Hall



MAYOR'S CORNER

I would like to personally congratulate each of the other members of the La Plata Town Council who were successful in the May 7th General Election. I look forward to working with them and the Town Staff as we move forward into the next four-year term. To those who were unsuccessful, I realize it is a major disappointment but you deserve tremendous credit and a deep appreciation for your willingness to run for elected office.

I would also like to extend a sincere appreciation to all those who came to the polls on Election Day to cast their vote for Mayor and Councilpersons for each of our four wards. I appreciate the opportunity to serve another term as your Mayor, and as I hope I have demonstrated during my 15 years on the Town Council, I will remain dedicated to keeping La Plata a place in which we are proud to live and work. There will be many issues that we will need to address over the course of the next four years but I am confident that the Town Council will, like it has in the past, work together to find workable solutions to issues as they arise.

I would be remiss not to thank Hammad Matin for serving on the Town Council for the past several months. He was willing to step forward and fulfill the remaining term of Paddy Mudd who moved out of Ward III into Ward IV and thereby had to surrender her seat on the Council. Hammad quickly became a productive member of the Council and we all benefited from his legal expertise and his warm and outgoing personality.

The past Council set a budget for Fiscal-Year 2013-2014 and now the cur-

Continued on page 3

Director of Operations receives award as Decision Maker of the Year



Bobby Stahl and William F. Eckman, former Mayor

Robert "Bobby" Stahl was awarded the William F. Eckman Decision Maker of the Year Award for 2013 by the Maryland Rural Water Association at their annual conference held in early May. The award is given each year to nominees based on their experience, exceptional effort and dedication in performance of duties, special project implementation, creative problem-solving skills and attitude, and outstanding efforts under difficult circumstances during the past year.

Bobby joined the Town in February of 2008 in the newly created position of Director of Operations. Under his supervision Bobby oversees the Town's Public Works Department, as well as the Town's Sanitation, Water, Sewer and Storm Water utilities. Bobby has a big job on a routine bases, yet has taken on numerous special projects to improve La Plata's infrastructure including the Waste Water Treatment Plant Enhanced Nutrient Removal upgrade, the installation of new water meters, the construction of the new Willow Lane Pump Station, installation of a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System for water and sewer, along with numerous other efficiency and infrastructure improvement projects. Congratulations on this deserving award!

Bobby joined the Town in February of 2008 in the newly created position of Director of Operations. Under his supervision Bobby oversees the Town's Public Works Department, as well as the Town's Sanitation, Water,

Councilman Hammad Matin Thanked by Town Council



On May 28, 2013 the Mayor and Council thanked Councilman Hammad Matin at its regular business meeting for filling the vacant Ward III council seat from January until the May 2013 election. Mr. Matin represented the citizens of La Plata and worked on budget development and other policy issues before the Town Council. Councilman Matin also served as ex-officio member to the Beautification Commission. Following the business meeting a reception was held to say "thank-you" to for his service to the community.

Town Election

The Town of La Plata held a General Election on Tuesday, May 7, 2013. Voters elected Mayor Roy Hale, Ward I Councilman Wayne Winkler, Ward II Councilman Keith Back, Ward III Councilman Lynn Gilroy, and Ward IV Councilman Joseph Norris to four year terms, all expiring May 2017.



Town of La Plata

COUNCIL COLUMN

Councilman Lynn Gilroy, Ward 3

I would like to first thank all the voters that showed up on that rainy day in May to entrust me with representing you in Ward 3. It is my honor to be your voice on the La Plata Town Council. I will do my best to represent your best interests.

By the time you read this summer will be in full swing. We all will be traveling on vacations and participating in numerous outdoor activities. I hope that you can make Tilghman Lake as one of your stops. I think that you will be pleasantly surprised with what you will find.

Our concert series at Town Hall is back for another season and we look forward to seeing you there. To view the schedule of all the events the Town has to offer go to our website (www.townoflaplata.org) and click on events.

As most of you know I am a member of the La Plata Volunteer Fire Department, and have been for over 20 years. We are always looking for new members. Please come by the station and obtain an application. This is another way that all can give back to our community.

I am asking Fire Chief Matthew Gilroy (yes he is my son) and the Fire Prevention Committee of the La Plata VFD to provide us with some safety tips for future bulletins. We hope this will give you some insight into how we can prevent home fires and other calamities.

Finally, I look forward into working with all of the Town Council, the Mayor, and the Town Manager in making La Plata a greater place to work and live into the future. I do not claim to have all the answers to all the issues we face but I do look forward to hearing from you so maybe we can solve them together. Please feel free to contact me at lgilroy@townoflaplata.org, by calling Town Hall at (301) 934-8421 or by cell at (301) 653-1440.

Councilman Joe Norris, Ward 4

As you know the town elections took place on May 7. I want to take this opportunity to welcome Lynn Gilroy to the Council serving Ward III. Congratulations also to Wayne Winkler on his successful re-election campaign. I also want to thank and congratulate Robyn Sprague and Scott Lucas for stepping up and being willing to run for office. To make the town the best it can be we need interested people to run for office and to serve on our citizen boards and commissions. Please consider signing up for one of the boards for when we have an opening.

As I write this we are continuing to work on the Town of La Plata FY 2013/2014 Budget. We expect the tax rate to remain the same at .32 per \$100 of assessment as it has been for many years. The Council has had to make some hard decisions concerning some of the things we would like to accomplish this

upcoming year but felt we must put off until the economy is more stable. We are not cutting any services but are not able to fund everything that we would have liked to have done. I am happy to say though that we are really in good financial shape and intend to work hard to stay that way.

Summer is upon us and with it our Friday Night Concert Series. Bring your blanket or chair and join us on the lawn of Town Hall for some great entertainment. Check our Website www.townoflaplata.org under EVENTS for more information on all of our events. If you have any questions or thoughts concerning any of the events please contact Colleen Wilson our Special Events Coordinator at (301) 934-8421 or cwilson@townoflaplata.org.

A reminder to please take advantage of our recycling programs. Regular curbside pickup takes place each Wednesday. We also have a drop off program for most small batteries, and for cell phones, with containers located in the lobby of Town Hall for each item. Also there is a drop off opportunity for used oil at our old public works shop at the corner of Potomac Street and Dorchester Avenue.

Please remember to use the town website (www.townoflaplata.org) for your information resource for all town activities and schedules.

As always if you have any questions, comments or issues, I may be reached by phone at (301) 934-9230 or by email at jnorris@townoflaplata.org. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

WiFi IN LA PLATA



There are now over 2,600 users of the Town of La Plata's free WiFi system in downtown La Plata. In many parts of downtown you can access the internet by logging onto the 'Town of La Plata' network. With the expansion in the use of mobile devices, the

need for internet connectivity continues to increase. Many businesses in La Plata also offer WiFi to their customers. Island Music located at 403 Charles Street is among the most recent to add connectivity for their customers. Just down the street Charles Street Bakery has offered WiFi longer than many other businesses. Whether at Panera, Lowe's, or Starbucks La Plata businesses support their customers by connecting them

in this digital age. If you know of a La Plata business that offers WiFi to the community, please email dmears@townoflaplata.org. La Plata is building a list of locations that provide public WiFi access on its webpage at www.townoflaplata.org under the WiFi tab. Help spread the word about the great connected community La Plata is, and support the businesses that bring the community forward in the use of technology.

BAY RESTORATION FUND FEE EXEMPTION



In accordance with the Maryland Bay Restoration Fund (BRF) law (HB 446/2012 Session), the Town of La Plata has established a BRF fee exemption plan for residential water/sewer users based on financial hardship. Under the plan, homeowners that apply and qualify, annually, will be exempted from paying the Bay Restoration Fee for

a maximum of one fiscal year. A detailed description of the plan, including an overview of what the qualifying factors for the exemption are, how to apply, and a copy of the application form are available on-line under the Finance section of the Town's website at <http://www.townoflaplata.org> or can be picked up at Town Hall.

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.

Efficiency in Tilghman Restroom

When the Town of La Plata began design

for the new restroom facility in Tilghman Lake Park, it was recognized that constructing the building to conserve resources was important. The restroom includes sink faucets that automatically shut off, to prevent water from inadvertently being left on. Electric air dryers are installed to eliminate the need for paper towels and paper waste from hand drying. Lighting fixtures are controlled by occupancy sensors inside the building to ensure lights are on

only when they are needed. Interior lighting is also supplemented with solar tubes which bring in natural sunlight into the restroom through the roof. Exterior lighting is controlled with motion and dusk to dawn sensors to ensure that light only comes on when it is needed. The facility is also covered with cameras to help deter vandalism at the restroom, pavilion, and in the parking lot.

KIDS' ART CONTEST!



Do you have a young artist in the house? Fanning Law, LLC, the La Plata law firm focusing on Family Law, is sponsoring a Kids' Art Contest this summer! The theme is "What FAMILY Means to Me".

The winning artist will receive a \$100 grand prize! Twenty-five dollar prizes will be awarded for the best artwork in each of the three age groups: 12-10, 9-7, and 6 & under. The grand prize winning artwork will be framed and hung proudly in the Fanning Law, LLC offices and featured on our website and Facebook page.

Entries must be received by July 31, 2013. All artwork must be on an 8½-by-11-inch sheet of white paper and include the child's name, age, mailing address and parent's phone number. Mail entries flat and unfolded to: Art

Contest, c/o Fanning Law, LLC, P.O. Box 398, La Plata, MD 20646. See www.FanningLawLLC.com for more information.

MAYOR'S CORNER (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

rent Council will have to review that budget, hold a Public Hearing, and approve a budget before the Fiscal Year begins on July 1. The fact that we were able to hold our real estate tax rate at 32 cents per hundred dollars of assessed value, the same rate that has been in affect for many years, while other taxing jurisdictions have or will raise their tax rates, speaks highly of our determination to provide a high level of service without adding more to the economic burden of our residents than is absolutely necessary.

If you attended the Celebrate La Plata Day on April 27th I am certain you had a very good time. With numerous events for all ages, our traditional bed races, plenty of food and lots of sun, the event was a huge success. A time capsule was placed on the grounds of Town Hall to be opened in April 2038. A warm thank-you to all you contributed items for the time capsule. Having the opportunity to pass on something from today to a generation twenty-five years in the future is unique and a very worthwhile endeavor.

As your Mayor, I will always be interested in your comments, be their positive or critical. You may reach me at Town Hall (301) 934-8421 or at home (301) 934-4850.

Town Hall Closed

The Town Hall will be closed on the following days:

Independence Day

Thursday, July 4, 2013

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

Acting Police Chief: W. Wayne Wathen

Director of Planning and Community

Development: David M. Jenkins

Director of Operations: Robert F. Stahl, Jr.

Director of Public Works:

Jeffrey S. Garner

Project Manager: Steven F. Schroeder

Senior Planner: Theresa C. Dent

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@townoflaplata.org

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

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Household hazardous waste collection has resumed and is on the first Satur-



CHARLES COUNTY
**HOUSEHOLD
HAZARDOUS WASTE
COLLECTION**

day of each 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. Household hazardous waste collection is a contracted service and items cannot be accepted when the contractor is not on site.

Items accepted free of charge include pesticides, herbicides, fertilizer, gasoline, motor oil, antifreeze, paint, cleaning supplies, pool chemicals, batteries, expired prescription drugs, and other poisons that are around your house. Please keep the materials in their original containers whenever possible, and bring them to the

collection site in cardboard boxes to ease unloading.

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

Yard Waste Pick Up

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

Trash Collection Schedule Adjustment

If your regular trash collection day is:
Thursday, July 4, 2013

Trash will be picked up on:
Wednesday, July 3, 2013

COMPTROLLER PETER FRANCHOT VISITS LA PLATA TWICE



Left to right: Sherry Hancock, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Mayor Roy Hale, Comptroller Peter Franchot, The Crossing at Casey Jones owner, Lisa Bales, and Lorraine Hennessy, Register of Wills

On April 2, Comptroller Peter Franchot made a visit to The Crossing at Casey Jones restaurant to meet the owner and staff and to recognize them for their success and contributions to the community by presenting them with a proclamation.

On May 13, Comptroller Franchot visited La Plata again this time to present a procla-



mation to Martin's Service Station. Owners Marty and Caroline Martin were also recognized for their success and contributions to the community.

NEW RECYCLING CONTAINERS:



You may have noticed your neighbors with the new 95 gallon recycling containers. These containers are on wheels, with closing lids, painted blue and designated as recycling containers. Demand for the new containers was so great the Town council approved the purchase of an additional 400 containers. If you are interested in receiving

one of the containers or have additional questions please contact Mary Trollinger at the Public Works Department (301) 934-8421 or email mtrollinger@townoflaplata.org.

Thank you for your interest and improving recycling in La Plata.

JUNE 2013

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

								1
							Farmers Market 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	8

2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
Yard Waste Pick Up Special Pick Up (please call by 4:00 p.m. Fri., May 31)	Yard Waste Pick Up	Planning Commission Meeting; 7:00 p.m.	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.	Farmers Market 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Yard Waste Pick Up "The John Luskey" Band; 7:00 p.m.	Yard Waste Pick Up 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Charles County Arts Alliance Show		

9	10	11	12	13	14	15		
Yard Waste Pick Up	Yard Waste Pick Up	Mayor and Council work session; 7:00 p.m.	 Farmers Market 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Parks and Recreation Commission meeting; 5:00 p.m.	 Farmers Market 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	 Yard Waste Pick Up United States Air Force "Max Impact" band; 7:00 p.m.	 Farmers Market 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.		

16	17	18	19	20	21	22		
 Father's Day	Yard Waste Pick Up Beautification Commission Meeting; 4:00 p.m. 	Mayor and Council business meeting; 7:00 p.m.	 Farmers Market 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Design Review Board Meeting; 9:00 a.m.	1st day of Summer	Yard Waste Pick Up "Four of a Kind" band; 7:00 p.m.	 Farmers Market 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.		

23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29		
Yard Waste Pick Up	Yard Waste Pick Up	No Mayor and Council meeting	Farmers Market 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.		Yard Waste Pick Up US Navy Band "Country Current"; 7:00 p.m.	 Farmers Market 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.		

July 2013

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1	Yard Waste Pick Up Special Pick Up (please call by 4:00 p.m. on 6/28)	2	Planning Commission meeting; 7:00 p.m.	3	Trash Pick Up for 7/4 Farmers Market 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Design Review Board Meeting: 9:00 a.m. Crime Watch Council Meetings: 7:00 p.m. Recycling as normal 	4	 4th of July Watermelon Bash; 11 a.m. No Trash Pick Up, Pick Up 7/3 Town Hall Closed	5	Yard Waste Pick Up "Sara Gray" band; 7:00 p.m.	6	 Farmers Market 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
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7	Yard Waste Pick Up	8	Mayor and Council Work Session; 7:00 p.m.	9	Farmers Market 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Parks and Recreation Commission meeting; 5:00 p.m.	10	Farmers Market 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Parks and Recreation Commission meeting; 5:00 p.m.	11	Yard Waste Pick Up US Naval Academy Band "Electric Brigade"; 7:00 p.m.	12	Farmers Market 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Community Yard Sale; 8:00 a.m. 
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14	Yard Waste Pick Up Beautification Commission meeting; 4:00 p.m. 	15	Mayor and Council Work Session; 7:00 p.m.	16	Farmers Market 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Design Review Board Meeting; 9:00 a.m. 	17	Farmers Market 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Design Review Board Meeting; 9:00 a.m. 	18	Yard Waste Pick Up "Jay Armsworthy & Eastern Traditions" band "Port Tobacco Pickers" band; 7:00 p.m.	19	Farmers Market 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. 	20	Farmers Market 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. 
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21	Yard Waste Pick Up	22	Mayor and Council Business Meetings; 7:00 p.m.	23	Farmers Market 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. 	24	Farmers Market 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. 	25	Yard Waste Pick up "Roadhouse" band; 7:00 p.m.	26	Farmers Market 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. 	27	Farmers Market 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. 
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28	Yard Waste Pick Up	29	Mayor and Council Business Meetings; 7:00 p.m.	30	Farmers Market 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. 	31	Farmers Market 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. 				
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SPECIAL EVENTS

On Monday, April 1st the Easter Bunny hopped into Town Hall to visit with the children one last time. The children had fun making spring crafts and ice cream sundaes with all the toppings. Special thanks to Carvel of La Plata for providing delicious ice cream sundaes, Joann Worden, and the La Plata Key Club volunteers.



Celebrate LA PLATA!

Great weather and lots of fun activities brought the community out to Celebrate La Plata on Saturday, April 27th. Chin Hamaya Culture Center kicked off the event with a performance of Japanese dancing and the Magic of Joe Romano wowed the crowd with his tricks.

Children bounced the day away in the Beagle Bounce and Candy Land play house. Art Smart Studio provided hands-on art activities for the children. Throughout the day, the La Plata Police Department welcomed visitors to their open house and provided tours of the station. Thank you to the many craft and food vendors that were on hand for the event.



Left to right: Mayor Roy Hale, Councilmen Winkler, Norris, Back, and Matin

In honor of the Town's 125th Anniversary, the Mayor and Town Council dedicated a time capsule that will be opened in 25 years. The time capsule included items donated by: Archbishop Neale School, Charles County Chamber of Commerce, College of Southern Maryland, Cornerstone AME Church, Grace Lutheran School, La Plata United Methodist Church, La Plata High School, Milton Somers Middle School, the Town Council, and Town staff.

The crowd lined La Grange Avenue in anticipation of the La Plata Bed Races at 3 pm. As the horn sounded, the teams raced against each other

to see who would be crowned the Bed Race Champion. Thank you to the 2013 teams: Archbishop Neale School, Charles County Correctional Officers Association, Chick-fil-A at La Plata, Coca-Cola, Longevity Studios, Sherry's Angels, St. Mary's Bryantown Catholic School, and the 253rd Engineer Company, Maryland Army National Guard.

2013 La Plata Bed Races Awards

1st Place Team – Sherry's Angels

2nd Place Team – 253rd Engineer Company, Maryland Army National Guard

Best Decorated Bed – Chick-fil-A at La Plata

Best Decorated Team – Coca-Cola

Golden Bed Pan Award – Chick-fil-A at La Plata

It was a great day for the community to come together to Celebrate La Plata!



Bed Races photo courtesy of Southern Maryland News Net.com

Town of La Plata
July 4th
WATERMELON BASH!

Thursday, July 4th from 11 AM to 2 PM

How fast can you eat a slice of watermelon? Find out on Thursday, July 4th at the Watermelon Bash. Celebrate the 4th of July at Town Hall from 11 am to 2pm. Join us for hot dogs, games, water slide, and plenty of watermelon.



Summer Fun at Town Hall

The Town of La Plata will host three kids summer shows at Town Hall. 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. 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.



Tuesday June 18th at 10 am -
 The Funny Magic Dude,
 Brian Garner

Tuesday July 9th at 10 am -
 Mad Science of Washington, Spectacular Science



Tuesday August 6th at 10 am -
 Class Acts Art, DinoRock

For more information about the shows please visit the Events page at www.TownofLaPlata.org.

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. For more information, contact La Plata Town Hall at (301) 934-8421, or check the full concert schedule at www.townoflaplata.org.

Upcoming Concerts

Friday June 7th: 7PM to 9PM

John Luskey Band—Pop, Country, & Rock

Friday June 14th: 7PM

United States Air Force Band Max Impact—Classic/Contemporary Rock & Country

Friday June 21st: 7PM to 9PM

Four of a Kind—Oldies, Classic Rock, Country, Funk, & the Blues

Friday June 28th: 7PM

US Navy Band Country Current—Country & Bluegrass

Friday July 5th: 7PM to 9PM

Sara Gray Band—Top 40 Country/Classic Rock

Friday July 12th: 7PM

US Naval Academy Band Electric Brigade—Pop & Rock Favorites

Friday July 19th: 7PM to 9PM

Jay Armsworthy & Eastern Traditions & Port Tobacco Pickers—Bluegrass

Friday July 26th: 7PM to 9PM

Roadhouse—Classic/Contemporary Rock & Country

Yard Sale

The next Community Yard Sale is scheduled for Saturday July 13th from 8AM to 12 PM on the grounds of Town Hall. To reserve your table to be a vendor, download the registration form at our website.

Go to www.TownofLaPlata.org, click on Events, then click on Community Yard Sales. You can also pick up a form at La Plata Town Hall, or contact Colleen Wilson at (301) 934-8421 x 142 or CWilson@TownofLaPlata.org.

TOWN HOSTS MARYLAND NATIONAL GUARD MARCH AGAINST HUNGER

On Saturday, March 16 nearly 500 service members, civilian first responders, and community members gathered for the first Norwegian Challenge: Maryland Army National Guard's March Against Hunger at Town Hall. On behalf of the Town, Mayor Hale received a plaque of appreciation for hosting the start of the event.



National Guard Representatives, Commissioner President Candice Quinn Kelly, Mayor Roy Hale, and Commissioner Ken Robinson.

WEBSITE POLL



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

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

- all gainfully employed.
- employed, but not to their potential.
- working part time.
- looking for work.
- continuing their education in place of work.

April Website Poll Results

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

Where will younger children in your family spend the days of summer?

At home with a parent - 31%

With a relative - 7%

In day care - 4%

Summer camps - 18%

At home alone - 7%

Vacation - 33%

Summer school - 0%

Kids look forward to the long days of summer. It is a time when they play outside, interact with friends more outside of school, and get to form lasting memories with their families. One of the great things about living in a small town is some of the unique events and activities that bring the entire community together. This summer has many options that are all great options for families. As in years past, all summer long there is a concert every Friday night at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall. For the past few years Town Hall has been host to a Watermelon Bash on July 4th. For those that don't travel, the day has family activities and lots of free watermelon to enjoy. In August many neighborhoods gather together for National Night Out, where neighbors and law enforcement get to meet each other and promote a connected community.

New for 2013 are three kids summer shows at Town Hall.

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. Full information is available on the Town's website at www.townoflaplata.org.

The shows include The Funny Magic Dude, Brian Garner on June 18th, Mad Science of Washington, Spectacular Science on July 9th, and Class Acts Art, DinoRock on August 6th. These new events occur during the week to add to the options for parents looking for something to do with their families. Weekends during the summer tend to be full of recreation options, and these shows fill a little of the need for activity during the week. With good participation, the Town hopes to add more small events for the community.

SCHOOLS OUT TRAFFIC

Traffic Safety Tips

As the school year comes to a close, the La Plata Police Department remind motorists and students to take extra traffic safety precautions during summer break. During the summer children are at increased risk of transportation related injuries from pedestrian, bicycle, and motor vehicle crashes. The La Plata Police Department offers the following tips for making summer safer for motorists and students.

Tips for Motorists

- Slow down and obey all traffic laws, speed limits and traffic signals.
- Keep an eye out for children walking or bicycling in the street, especially where there are no sidewalks.
- Be alert for children playing and for those who may dart into the street without looking for traffic.
- When backing out of a driveway or leav-

ing a garage, watch for children walking, biking, skating, or skateboarding.

Tips for Parents

- Be a good role model. Always buckle up in the car, always wear a helmet when biking, and always follow pedestrian safety rules.
- Supervise young children as they are walking, biking, or skating.
- Provide your children with bright clothing so motorists can easily see them.
- Make sure that your child is properly buckled up in the appropriate child safety seat and in the back seat. Safety experts advise that all children under the age of 12 should ride in the back seat.
- Make sure that your teen driver understands and obeys all state traffic laws.

Tips for Students

- Always buckle up when riding in a car. Always ride in the back seat. It's the saf-

est place for young people.

- Always wear a helmet and follow traffic safety rules when riding your bike.
- Learn and practice the safety rules for pedestrians. It's extremely important for you to use the sidewalk when available, look left-right-left when crossing the road, and always walk facing traffic.
- Always cross at crosswalks, obey all traffic signs and traffic lights.
- Teen drivers should avoid speeding and minimize distractions (texting, talking on cell phones, eating, adjusting the radio) while driving. Never overload your vehicle. Require everyone riding in your vehicle to use a safety belt.
- Teen drivers should be a good role model for your younger brothers, sisters, and friends, and help them learn and follow vehicle safety rules.

TILGHMAN LAKE PARK OPENS



From left to right: Councilman Wayne Winkler, Councilman Joseph Norris, Parks and Recreation Commission member Victoria Kelly, Charles County Commissioner Ken Robinson, Charles County Director of Community Services Eileen Minnick, Mayor Roy Hale, Parks and Recreation Commission Chair James Goldsmith, and Councilman Hammad Matin.



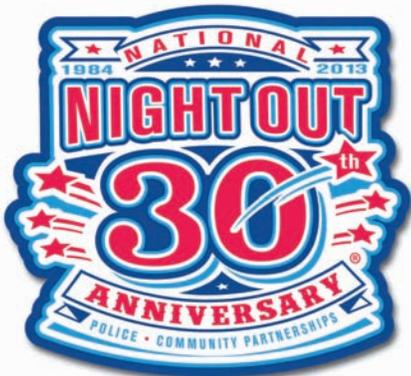
The Town of La Plata held the Grand Opening of Tilghman Lake Park on Sunday, April 21st. Tilghman Lake Park is located 10598 Boxer Elder Road off of Radio Station Road. With 61 acres of nature to explore, Tilghman Lake

Park is the largest park in the Town limits. The grand opening event featured a fishing derby for children ages 4-15, scavenger hunt, Geocaching, and refreshments. "We are so pleased to open Tilghman Lake Park for the local community. The park features a one mile walking trail that connects to Laurel Springs Park, fishing and a picnic pavilion for families to enjoy," said Mayor Roy Hale.

The Town of La Plata received funding for Tilghman Lake Park through the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Maryland Community Parks and Playgrounds Program. Over the years grant money received from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and funds from the Town have been used to install the park's parking lot, construct restrooms, and construct the large and smaller picnic pavilions.

The large picnic pavilion is available for residents to rent for parties, family reunions, and other events. With a beautiful serene outdoor setting, and convenient parking, Tilghman Lake Park is certain to be a favorite for La Plata residents for many years to come. Visitors are encouraged to pick up trash to help keep this park beautiful for everyone to enjoy.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT—TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2013



National Night Out (NNO) is designed to bring residents, law enforcement agencies, community groups, and businesses together to celebrate crime prevention awareness while sending a message that crime will not be tolerated in our community. Each year, on the first Tuesday

in August, people across America gather in their own communities to take a stand against crime.

For NNO, neighbors plan barbecues, picnics, cookouts, safety fairs, and other events to celebrate their efforts to maintain safe and healthy neighborhoods. They also get organized to promote police and community partnerships, crime, drug and violence prevention, safety, and neighborhood unity.

The purpose of NNO:

- ❖ Heighten crime and drug awareness.
- ❖ Through block-by-block organizing, support anti-crime efforts such as community oriented policing and safe streets.

- ❖ Strengthen neighborhood spirit and unity.
- ❖ Support community police relations and cooperation.
- ❖ Send a clear message that our neighborhoods are organized and are not prey for illegal activity.

Please join with your neighbors and law enforcement in this year's event. For additional information on how your community can participate in NNO contact Sergeant William Brooks of the La Plata Police Department at wbrooks@townoflaplata.org or call (301) 934-1500.

COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS RECEPTION



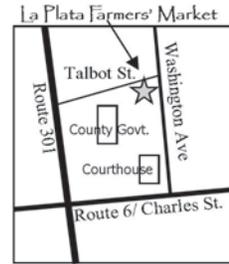
Members of the Beautification Commission
 Left to right: Margaret Boggs, Helen Lucas, Judy Norris and Mayor Roy Hale (not pictured is member Rose Goldsmith and staff member Danielle Mandley)

On March 27, 2013 the Mayor and Council hosted a reception to express their appreciation to all of the volunteers who serve as members on Town commissions and boards. Each member was thanked for their volunteer service to the Town, and given a leather portfolio with "Town of La Plata" and a picture of the Town Hall embossed on the front. Volunteer service is a valued asset to the Town of La Plata, and residents fill a vital role representing their local government, and working toward the betterment of the community.

LA PLATA FARMERS' MARKET



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



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



BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED

Commercial Building Permits Issued 3/1/13-4/30/13

- Law Offices – 102 Centennial Street, Ste 102
- Office Space – 113 Howard Street
- Office Space – 101 Centennial Street, Ste 111 & 112
- Pizza Hut Express – 210 Rosewick Road

Commercial Occupancy Permits Issued 3/1/13-4/30/13

- Century 21 – 9405 B Chesapeake Street
- Charlie Nails & Spa – 9375 Chesapeake Street, Ste 115
- Echard Medical Supply – 504 E Charles Street
- Labella Hair Salon – 6253 Crain Highway
- Office Space – 113 Howard Street, Stes 104, 301, 303, & 304

Are you interested in Law Enforcement?

If so, come and join the La Plata Police Explorers! Explorers meet every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at the La Plata Police Department, 7:00 pm located at 101 La Grange Avenue. For more information contact Jason Posey at jposey@townoflaplata.org or Michael Payne at mpayne@townlaplata.org. Interested participants must be at least 14 years old or in the 9th grade.



TOWN OF LA PLATA

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

Town of La Plata 4th of July



WATERMELON BASH!



Thursday July 4th,
11AM to 2PM

Join us for hot dogs, games, wet fun, and
plenty of watermelon. More details at
www.TownofLaPlata.org
(301) 934-8421

